



The Fifth Column

December, 2016

Upcoming Tournament Calendar

DECEMBER 2016

- 5-11 District 5 Winter STaC [INFORMATION](#)

JANUARY 2017

- 11-15 CLEVELAND Rock and Roll REGIONAL [INFORMATION](#)
- 27-19 Buffalo Winter Sectional

Deadlines for Columns and Tournament Information

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February Issue – January 15
April Issue – March 15
June Issue – May 15

UNIT 229 NEWS *by Lois Porter*

Happy Fall!

A belated thanks to **Dave Ruppert**, tournament chair, **George Cross**, partnership chair, and **Alex Bealles**, tournament director, for a successful Butler tournament in July. Locals won first overall in Saturday evening pairs with a 68.29% game-**Sid Steiner** of New Castle and **Bill Lindgren** of Slippery Rock.

Congratulations to those members who have earned rank changes. **Anita Demarco** became Junior Master, **Suzanne Blackburn** and **Jan Metcalfe** became Sectional Masters, **Maxine Gant** became a Regional Master, and **Philippe Westreich** became a NABC Master. **Brina Segal** of Beaver Fall achieved Bronze Life Master and **Lynn Rafferty** of Columbiana, Ohio earned Diamond Life Master. Lynn is very faithful attending games in our unit and we are very proud of her achievement. She is also an actress who is now playing the Wicked Witch of the North in *The Wizard of Oz*. She often partners with **Alex Bealles** and **Jim Wheeler**. One must realize what she has accomplished - 5,000 Masterpoints of which at least 1,000 must be red, gold or platinum. In the Unit game in New Brighton in October she and Jim were first in A with a 71.76% game. In September, she and Alex had a 75% game. You can see that she is very consistent and fine bridge player.

Some of our C players are working very hard on their game. **Carole Kinney** and **Jan Metcalfe** were first in C the November Unit game with a 57.05% game. **Bill Stewart** and **Max Rubin** were first in C in Zelienople on November 10 with a 59.63% game. **Hazel Allen** and **Pat Dotson** were first in the Pittsburgh Sectional on November 14 with a 58.33% game. **Diana Boak** and **Tom Brown** also scored. One of our older members, **Chuck Weber**, partners with son, **Chuck Weber II**, in the Zelienople game. They came in second overall with a 62.59% game. Congratulations for all your dedication!

The Ellwood City and New Castle games continue to thrive and always welcome all players. **Jane Crowley**, **Helen Greenberg**, **George Cross** and **Alex Bealles** do a great job. **Lois Porter** and **Dave Ruppert** scored a

66.67% game on November 4 and **Alex Bealles** and **Nick Tredennick** a 70% on the 11th in new Castle. In Ellwood, **Carole Kinney** and **Jane Crowley** had a first with 61.90% and the following week **Helen Greenberg** and **Larry Puntureri** had a 67.26% game.

We are looking forward to the holiday season-celebrating the social and intricate nuances of a great game. We are also thankful that **Herman Feldman** is again healthy and challenging us in bridge.

BRIDGE IN BUFFALO *by Howard Foster*

Unit 116's autumn bridge season got off to a rousing start with its Fall Sectional in September and the District 5 Spooktacular Regional in October. The Sectional tournament at the always-commodious Main-Transit Fire Hall broke attendance records and filled the space. One- and two-session pairs games on Friday and Saturday were capped by a Dupli-Swiss on Sunday. Here were the winners (by strat):

- Friday a.m. one-session:
- (A) **Jay Levy and Fred Yellen**
 - (B) **Sarah Furlow and Richard Furlow**
 - (C) **Edna Fill and Ron Fill**
- Friday p.m. one-session
- (A) **Rashid Kahn and Vera Karpenter**
 - (B) **Richard Furlow and Sarah Furlow**
 - (C) **David Larcom and Daniel Clark**
- Friday two-session
- (A) **B. Seidenberg/J. Costello**
H. Foster/M. Ryan (tie)
 - (B) **John Welte and Martha Welte**
 - (C) **Gary Schmitt and John Lyth**

Saturday a.m. one-session (A,B,C) **Phyllis Wilkinson and Elsie Rogers**

Saturday p.m. one-session (A) **Dan Gerstman and John Stevens**

(B) **Andre Reinhorn and Tova Reinhorn**

Saturday two-session (A) **Rashid Kahn and Vera Carpenter**

(B) **Gaurang Sheth and Ken Meier**

(C) **Ruth Nawotniak and Marilyn Wortzman**

Sunday Dupli-Swiss

(A) **Roger Woodin, Sam Maitra, Douglas Ross, and David Hunt**

(B) **Ten-Pao Lee, Hilda Fairweather, Peter Shui, and Penny Shui**

(C) **James Jones, Paula Jones, John Scott, and Barbara Scott**

The Spooktacular Regional, with 718 tables and 522 players earning masterpoints, grew in size for the second straight year. There were many positive comments about the prize room, the hospitality, the partnership desk, the electronic bulletins, and lectures by local bridge luminaries. The Adam's Mark Hotel again proved to be a congenial venue. Finishing among the top 20 point-winners were local players **Chris Urbanek, Jay Levy, Bud Seidenberg, John Ziemer, and Jerry Geiger**. Also among the leaders was **Doris Ryan** of Henderson, NV, who played while her sons were busy preparing for a football game. (They of course are **Rex** and **Rob Ryan**, head coach and assistant head coach, respectively, of the Buffalo Bills.) In addition to welcoming many neighbors from upstate New York and

Southern Ontario, we much enjoyed the company of players from 10 other states and several countries.

The Unit's Red and Blue Swiss Teams game was held at the Airport Bridge Club in November to celebrate the impending end of the election campaign two days hence. Players were urged to promote bipartisanship by wearing both red and blue. A red-white-and-blue cake featured Snoopy for President, recalling the movement in the 1970s. Winner of the event was a team consisting of **Alan Greer, Jim Gullo, Usha Khurana, and Elaine Kurasiewicz.**

The Unit's Annual Meeting will be held on December 3, with members enjoying both a bridge game and a barbeque-chicken lunch arranged by **Paul Zittel.** Nominations are in for the 2017 Board of Directors, and **Sue Neubecker, Gay Simpson, and Denise Slattery** were advanced by the Nominating Committee. As no additional nominations were received, they will be elected at the Annual Meeting. Congratulations and best wishes to the new Board members.

The Unit's School Bridge Program, under the active leadership of **Carol Bedell,** continues with classes at the Bridge Center of Buffalo and Transit Middle School. Teachers are **Jim Gullo, Fred Yellen, and Donna Steffan.**

The Unit's Bridge Mentoring Program has been very well received by both experts and 299ers, and will be continued into 2017 under the able stewardship of **Dian Petrov.** Twenty-nine 299ers have sharpened their bridge skills by competing in open games at higher levels and by receiving tips under game conditions. The Unit covers the game fees for the veteran players.

A number of players attained new masterpoint rankings since the last newsletter. They are:

Club Masters: **Bill Noltee, Denise Slattery, Suzanne Weathers, Ethan Xie**

Regional Masters: **Jack Cukierman, John Scott, Marilyn Wortzman**

NABC Master: **Christine Malarkey**

Life Masters: **Bill Boardman, Ron Fill**

Bronze Life Masters: **Alicia Kolipinski, Gary Schmitt, Larry Soong**

Silver Life Masters: **Shakeel Ahmad, Carol Bedell, Bill Boardman, Linda Vassalo**

The Unit welcomed new members **Jim Lanzo** and **Fred Schweiger**.

Akron Alert by Jim Sullivan

Holiday Parties - The **Akron Unit** will hold its **Holiday Party at 6 PM Friday, December 9 at the Quirk Center Ballroom**. A dinner of meat, potatoes, drinks, and tableware will be provided by the Unit. Bring your favorite special holiday hors d'oeuvres to share with everyone. At 7 PM there will be a **STaC Game** that will award Silver Points. The winners from this game receive more Masterpoints if they place in the District Overall for that session. Pre-registration is requested, but not required, so that pair assignments can be set up in advance. For more information contact **Leslie Bain** at orbain@ohio.net or 330-658-1965, **Susan Bedall** sbedall@att.net or 330-864-9396, or **Gladys Martin** luckymartin1999@yahoo.com or 330-650-1860.

Other Christmas or Holiday Parties will also be held at the individual Clubs. Check with the Managers at your Clubs and read the Akron Calendar/Newsletter for more information about these parties.

STaC Games – Many clubs will be holding STaC Games during the week of December 5 thru 11. Plan to play in these games and maybe you can win some of the big Masterpoint awards. The winners from these games receive more Masterpoints if they place in the District Overalls for that

session. Check with the Managers at your Clubs and the Akron Calendar/Newsletter for more information about these STaC Games.

2017 Mentor/Mentee Program - The Mentor/Mentee program will begin its 8th year. This Mentoring Program is for the Akron Friday Afternoon game at the Quirk Center. **Carolyn Sullivan** is the Program Registrar. Anyone wanting to improve his or her Bridge Game can sign up to be a Mentee. We need more players who are willing to be Mentors to the newer and improving players. Anyone willing to help a less experienced player improve his or her Bridge Game can sign up to be a Mentor. Mentor/Mentee can sign up as a pair or contact Carolyn Sullivan to be matched. The Mentor/Mentee fee will be \$4 each for all regular 2017 Friday Afternoon games at the Quirk Center.

The rules are: 1) Non Life Master Mentees must have a Life Master or above as a Mentor; 2) Life Masters and above, up to 1000 MP, can have a Mentor, but the Mentor must have at least twice as many Master Points as their Mentee; 3) Mentors can have more than one Mentee; 4) Mentees can use more than one Mentor; 5) Mentors and their Mentees each pay the Mentor/Mentee fee; 6) For Mentors with multiple Mentees, if the Mentor is playing with one Mentee at the same game that the other Mentees play they pay the Mentor/Mentee fee (The Mentor must be playing with another of their Mentees to be allowed to pay the \$4 Mentor/Mentee fee); and 7) A Mentor may be a kibitzer to a pair of their Mentees (The Mentees pay \$4 each and the Mentor does not pay).

Friday Unit Games - What better way to start your weekend than to play Bridge at the Friday Unit Game. Come on out and enjoy the fun, competition, hospitality and win some of the extra Masterpoints. All of the games will have pre-dealt hands with hand records and automatic scoring. If you need a partner or more information, contact **Jim Sullivan** at sullivan01@aol.com or 330-659-4707. The schedule is:

Dec. 2 - 12:30 is a Club Championship Game.

Dec. 9 – **6:00** is the **Annual Christmas Party**. The **STaC Game**, where you can win those elusive Silver points, won't begin until about 7:00 in order to allow time for socializing.

Dec. 16 - 12:30 is a Unit Championship Game.

Dec. 23 – 12:30 is a Unit Championship Game.

Dec. 31 – No Game, Holiday Weekend.

Jan. 6 – 12:30 is a Unit Championship Game.

Jan. 13 – 12:30 No Game, Independence Regional.

Jan. 20 – 12:30 is a Unit Championship Game.

Jan. 27 - 12:30 is a Junior FUND Game.

Feb. 3 – 12:30 is a Unit Championship Game.

Springtime Sectional May 19-21, 2017 - The location is the **Quirk Center** at 1201 Grant Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, 44223. Look for a flyer.

WHISTFULLY YOURS *by Bev Carter*

Our Unit mourns the passing of one of its long time members, **Wayne Ward**. He was a bright and friendly face at our game and he will surely be missed.

Congratulations to **Stephanie Alexander** for becoming a Diamond Life Master. We also congratulate **Bernie Greenspan and Brian Ellis** for coming in 2nd in Flight A and **Chuck Ladiha** and his partner **Charles Scholl** for winning Flight B of the **NAOP** held in Erie this past October. **Donna Largent and Phil MacFarlane** were 2nd in B. Our players were well represented at the finals.

Two \$6,000 awards were made to area charities by the ACBL Charitable Foundation, one to The Women's Recovery Center of Cleveland, which **Jim Zimmerman** requested, and one to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, which was requested by **Bernie Greenspan**. These were made possible with the help of **Sharon Fairchild** and District 5. A big thank you is in order to the Committee, Jim, Sharon Fairchild and District 5 for making this happen.

Our local Charity Committee, headed by Bernie Greenspan, is pleased to announce that it has also donated \$600 to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Board nominations will be coming up at our April Sectional. It is not too early to think of folks in our Unit who would like to donate time and effort to serving on the Board. It is not a tough job, requiring a couple hours every other month to attend a board meeting to discuss the business of the Unit. We even provide dinner, so how cool is that. If you would like to be a part of the happenings in our Unit, contact **Bill Hogsett** 216-692-2184 or by email at bhogsett@gmail.com. to get your name on the ballot.

In connection with that, the Board is looking for a person to do outreach for our Unit. Bridge is dying at our local clubs due to lack of attendance. Since the local papers no longer have columns or articles about bridge, there has been no way to let players know we exist and would welcome their coming to our club games. There are many ways to get information out there.....through the Office for Older Adults, Senior Centers, programs through local rec centers who offer bridge as a class, etc. etc. etc. Most of the people who would welcome an opportunity to socialize at our clubs are those recently retired and looking for new outlets for their time and recreation. If you are interested in contacting local organizations and would like to try your hand at being our Publicity Person, contact **Bill Hogsett** 216-692-2184 or by email at bhogsett@gmail.com.

Our November Sectional is now a thing of the past. We congratulate our newer players who did well in the 0-499r Event: **Joan Barzilai**, Cleveland Heights and **Suzanne Cutler**, Beachwood, who came in first, and **J Hunter and Anne Hunter**, Gates Mills, who were second. Also placing were: **Douglas Turnbull and Ken Crissman**, Strongsville, **Susan and Bernard Goodman**, Pepper Pike, **Michael Gilbert**, Westlake OH; **Jim Miklich**, North Ridgeville and **Richard Lindsley - Robert McCormick**, Westlake. To check on other event results, check out our website whistclub.org. We are now looking forward to the Regional in January. Again, for a schedule of events, check out our website under Tournaments.

Next up is our January Regional to be held again at the Embassy Suites in Independence. Check the website for dates and events.

And now: ***Humor time:***

- A couple missed a grand slam and each blamed the other for stopping at 6. They argued till the wee hours of the night and finally fell asleep. In the morning, one half-awake partner asked the other what the time was. “seven” muttered the other. “Finally you bid seven” said the other and promptly went back to sleep.
- You know you are hooked on bridge if:
 - You are a race goer and HCP no longer means a horses handicap
 - You are a Londoner and Drury no longer is a street name
 - You are a tennis player and an “ace” does not refer to your serve
 - You are an undertaker and “stiff” no longer means a cadaver
 - You are a lawyer and “honour” no longer refers to a judge
- Bridge players get a lot of exercise by jumping to conclusions, leaping to wrong contracts and skipping a few levels of bidding.

UNIT 111 NEWS *by Elizabeth Goldthwait*

Congratulations to those who recently advanced in rank:

Jim Drexler: Club Master

Timothy Kneen: Sectional Master

Janet Tentiger: Sectional Master

Richard Goldthwait: Regional Master

Brenda Merkich: Gold Life Master

The Youngstown Sectional held September 24 and 25 was a huge success. The new location in Andrews Hall at Angels for Animals was a

beautiful place to play; the director **Mike Roberts** was great; the tournament chair **Gary Singer** demonstrated amazing organizational skills; and the kitchen chair **Ruthe Mayberry** kept everything under control. The tournament committee wishes to thank everyone who donated those delicious dishes, as well as all those who helped with set up and break down. The biggest thank you goes to all the players who came to share this weekend with us. We hope to see you again next September!

The Unit 111 Mentoring Program is developing well. Currently, 15 partnerships are registered and playing together at least twice a month. The first Mentor/Mentee Unit Championship will be held on Saturday, February 11. Mentees are asked to bring a dish to share with everyone.

Congratulations to the winners of the October unit game: **Brenda Merkich** and **Mary Virginia Kundus**, **Claudia Jo Ivan** and **Maureen Irwin**; and the winners of the November unit game: **Vernon DeJong** and **Lynn Rafferty**, **Dale Fishbeck** and **Carol Beardmore**.

The Unit 111 Christmas Party will be held at Tippecanoe Country Club on Saturday, December 17. Contact **Dale Fishbeck** for reservations.

Southside duplicate bridge club will begin holding one team game a month, beginning in January. More details will be announced at a later date.

Trumbull County Bridge Club has purchased bridgemates and will begin using them soon – just as soon as we figure out how!

The Trumbull County annual Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 3, at Scope Community Center. Contact **Cathy Marsteller** for reservations.

At the pizza party held at the Trumbull County Club on October 25, our own special “Carolers” provided the musical entertainment (we love you, **Carole O’Brien** and **Carol Rich!**).

Canfield Duplicate Bridge Club elected a new board at the annual meeting. The new officers are

President: **Ron Carter**

Vice President: **Marian Smith**
Treasurer: **Dianne Leone**
Secretary: **Bill Buckley**
Directors: **Winnie Hickox**
Marge Cooksey
Jack Amstutz

On November 10, in Canfield, **Tim Kneen** and **Norm Howell** blitzed the field with an amazing 75% game.

The Canfield Christmas Party will be held on December 8th at Tippecanoe Country Club, with cocktail hour at 5:30 and dinner at 6 pm.

We wish long time member **Beverly Chorey** a speedy return to the bridge table after her nasty fall.

Recent lessons at the Thursday Morning Bridge Game have discussed defensive card play and signaling. Thank you for the lessons, **Sally Sobota!**

RECENT TOURNAMENT RESULTS

[Buckeye State Sectional](#), Nov 4-6, Parma, OH

[Buffalo Spooktacular Regional](#), Oct 18-23, Buffalo, NY

[Pittsburgh Fall Sectional](#), Oct 14-16, Pittsburgh, PA

[North American Pairs District 5 Final](#), Oct 8-9, Erie, PA



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!