

2014 Unit Board Candidates



Lamya Agelidis

Like a lot of you, I grew up in a bridge family. My grandparents were avid players, and so are my parents, still today. My dad was a Middle East bridge champion in the '70s, and he has passed his passion on to me, always feeding me with words of encouragement and endless bridge articles. Bridge throughout my College days in London was fun and memorable but a full-time career in Business Process Consulting and Project Management as well as raising a family took precedence. I discovered duplicate bridge in Nashville a few years ago and have been hooked ever since. Believe it or not, it's the superior bridge scene in San Diego that helped tip the scales for our retirement here 3 years ago!

Sure, being on the Board has its challenges, but above all, it has allowed me, as Prez, to lead a team of fellow bridge players in re-inventing some of our processes in order to make the San Diego unit the number one choice for all its members. This rewarding experience, as well as the vision of many more improvements to come, prompts me to come back for more.

Ralph Baty



As a senior in high school, I asked my parents to teach me how to play bridge. The skill has served me well ever since, although I played only intermittently for years. I worked under contract to the U.S. Army in occupied Berlin, (West) Germany in the early 1980s. It was quite an experience to play in the American, German, English, and French bridge clubs. The players – from all over the world – used systems that varied from the mundane to the exotic. In support of the American Bridge Club, drawing 34 tables on Wednesday nights, I passed the ACBL Director's exam to become a qualified director. I directed a few games, but have not used the title since I returned to the "land of round doorknobs."

Since 1987, I have hosted a small, unsanctioned, mostly friendly duplicate bridge group meeting in my house on Tuesday nights.

Bridge has been good to me over the decades, and when asked if I would serve on the board eight years

ago, I accepted, and was elected. I have served as the Tournament Chair, coordinating our open sectionals and holiday parties. I introduced the option of running compact knockouts in our open sectional tournaments. If elected for a fifth term, I will continue to work to provide quality sectional tournaments and holiday parties.

Gigette Caldwell



Gigette Caldwell is a retired Naval officer who enjoys life in San Diego with her husband, Craig. She is active in her local community, serving on its Board of Directors. She plays golf, travels, and also supports various volunteer groups in her free time. She started playing bridge in 1977 when she and Craig took lessons and played "party" bridge with Craig's parents. After a 30-year break, she has rekindled her interest in competitive bridge and plays regularly at Adventures in Bridge. Her goal is to become a Life Master.

Carolyn Casey



Since my senior year in high school (some time ago!), duplicate bridge was often the topic of conversation in our home. My mother's (Lena Jelusich) interest and enthusiasm for the game was overwhelming throughout the years. When I came to live with her 13 years ago, driving her to/from AIB 5 or 6 days a week, I decided to give it a try. Three years ago I started taking lessons and, much to my surprise, I became thoroughly hooked!

On a more personal note, I have two grown children; a daughter who is an ER RN in Orange County, and a son who works for Northrop Grumman in Boulder, Co. I also have one granddaughter who is quite a blessing! I was married to a Marine helicopter pilot who served in Vietnam, and while we were in the service we moved twelve times in six years. I'm very grateful that the children were very young at that time.

Currently I like to play at least twice a week; Lately I've been up to five or six, and have moved out of the beginner's room! I see the Board in action putting together games on all levels so that everyone in the club has a comfortable place to play. It's time for me to do my part for this Unit, as it has done so much for me!

Neil Chua



I was born and raised in the San Diego area. I first learned to play rubber bridge during a high school calculus class, and later played duplicate at the Stanford Bridge Club. At New York University (NYU), I helped teach new players at the upstart club, and also competed on the collegiate team.

I hope that my participation on the board would contribute to developing local interest in the game among newer, especially younger, players.

Barb Holles



My name is Barb Holles, and I have been the treasurer of Unit 539 for the last eight years. My background is accounting and book-keeping, and I have years of experience. We now have all of our records computerized, making them accessible to all Unit members. We also have the Treasurer's

report on our Unit website. I agree with our philosophy of serving the bridge community, not making a profit, but we still need careful records of our income and expenses.

It's fun when other units ask how we do everything from taxes to cost analysis of tournaments. I'm happy to share! I have enjoyed being the treasurer and serving on this board of directors. I would like to continue as treasurer and am asking for your vote.

Marianne Klayman



I always wanted to take up bridge. Too busy with family in the early years, but I decided that ... after I finished working at Sun Microsystems ... I would retire to finally start playing bridge and do some stained glass. I have done both, and enjoy them immensely.

I have been playing for about 8 or 9 years now, and the interest has not waned. I mostly play at AIB, though also at Redwood and La Jolla. I would love to feel more a part of the "bridge community" and give a little back. It would be an honor to serve on the board.

Joan Maden



I am a physical therapist and worked as a rehabilitation manager before retiring 7 years ago. I have been married to Ken for fifty years and have two children, one in the UK and one here in San Diego, one grandson ... and another one expected any minute now.)

I started to play occasional party bridge in the UK when I was first married. It was twenty years before I played again. We moved to the US in 1990. I started to play again with 3 other ladies. It was then that I found out I did not bid the same way as Americans. About 6 months later Ken and I decided to play at Adventures in preparation for retirement and find out about Standard American. We enjoy the game and the wonderful people we have met.

I was the NLM Chair when I was first elected to the Board. For the past two years I have enjoyed being the secretary and the educational liaison. During the last 4 years, with a group of other bridge players from Adventures, I have been teaching bridge once a week in school. I would be happy to serve for another two years to use the skills and experience which I have acquired to assist in the Board activities.

Kathy Moyer



I have enjoyed serving on the board of both the Soledad Club and La Jolla Cove Bridge Club and seek to contribute further as a board member of the San Diego Unit. I would like to see the new duplicate players excited about the game and encouraged and nurtured by the more experienced players at all levels. I want to help to create an environment where the players with less experience feel welcome and respected in the open games.

Bridge has been a part of my life since I played "kitchen" bridge in high school with my family. In college I met my husband in a co-ed dorm at SDSU over a bridge table followed by a short period of playing in novice duplicate games at the old Barcelona Hotel downtown. Fast forward thru 39 years of social bridge, three children, and a career in human resources, to 2010 when I was cajoled into joining the ACBL so a friend could get master points in a special game. Letting no good deed go unpunished, I ushered another friend into the ACBL world by signing her up.

My goal as a bridge player is to continue to learn and improve my game. I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the board of the San Diego unit.