

The Unit 507 Board continues to meet on a monthly basis via Zoom. There isn't much news to report from our last meetings.

Per the Unit's Bylaws, the Board should have between nine and 12 members. We currently have nine, so if you'd like to nominate yourself or someone else, the Board may fill one of its vacancies. You are welcome to attend our monthly meetings whether or not a Board member. To get an invitation, contact President Mich Ravera, whose email address is on our website at sjbridge.org.

Mischel Postas, while still the Vice-President of the Board, has retired as our long-time sectional coordinator, and we are looking for someone willing to serve in that capacity. There are a few duties involved that Mischel can explain.

Speaking of sectionals, in normal times the Unit usually holds a spring and a fall sectional. Last October we were able to hold a kind of mini-sectional on short notice, in between the Delta and Omicron COVID variants. This pandemic has had a dramatic effect on face-to-face bridge. The Unit Board has no one, including me, willing to lead the organizational efforts for a spring sectional, so nothing is scheduled. We will get the word out if that situation changes.

Pandemic circumstances keep changing. I hear we are about a week away from the State of California relaxing or eliminating its masking requirements and placing safety protocols in the hands of local health authorities. I also hear that Santa Clara County is going to keep mask requirements in place, so we have to stay tuned to the news. (I just got a new bundle of masks, and I intend to keep wearing them for my protection and yours.)

Elimination of mask requirements is one of the preconditions agreed on by the Unit Board before we look for a site to reopen the San Jose Bridge club. There are a number of conditions that I won't repeat here, but if you are interested, contact me as I am the head of the reopening committee. Contact information for all Board members appears on our website.

Players keep advancing through the ranks. Congratulations to the following Masters: Li Zhang (Club); Kumar Ramaiyer (Sectional); Susan Dietz (Life); Pangjie Xu (Bronze); John Stremel (Silver).

Though the Omicron variant reduced the table count for the Monterey 2022 Regional to 36% of what it was pre-pandemic in 2020, a number of unit members braved the prevailing conditions to play face-to-face (or mask-to-mask). In team events, Ken Rosenfeld, Ron Baron, Rick Jasper, & John Wachsman placed first in their knockout bracket. Ron & Ken went on to place first in another knockout bracket with H. Paul Davis. Rick & John also went on to place first in another knockout bracket with Lynn

Bartz & Brenna Wundram. First in their brackets were teams with Michael & Kevin Rosenberg, with Frank Xie & Pangjie Xu, and with Anne Wilson.

Rick & John also were first in a mid-flight pairs event. Bruce & Barbara Luttrell won a two-session open pairs game. Kevin & Michael Rosenberg tied for first in the premier barometer pairs event. Michael also had a section top in another pairs game.

I'm saddened to report the passing of Fran (Frances) Dickman, a Grand Life Master in every sense of the phrase. You can find an online memorial at <https://www.lastingmemories.com/memorial/frances-k-dickman?obituaries>.

I'm doubly saddened to report the passing of Carole Dietz, a long-time respected director at the San Jose Bridge Center. Her friendly and gruff personality charmed many a bridge player and her games were among the most popular.

The Unit's leading point earners for 2021 have been announced by the ACBL. Congratulations here will have to suffice in lieu of a unit game honoring these individuals. The Ace of Clubs ("AC") is for points earned in club games, while the mini-McKenney ("MM") is for points earned in tournaments as well. The following individuals led in both competitions at the listed masterpoint ranges: Fadi Maamari (0-5); Joan Albers (5-20); Kathy Vita (20-50); Archana Rathnakar (50-100); Betsy Wagner (100-200); Linda Kenigsberg (200-300); John Stremel (500-1,000); Ken Imboden (1,500-2,000); Bud Biswas (5,000-7,500); and Bill Langlois (7,500-10,000). The leaders differed in five masterpoint ranges: Gerald Hewitt (MM), Joanne Cornbleet (AC) (300-500); Vilas Namjoshi (MM), Preston Kauk (AC) (1,000-1,500); Kevin Rosenberg (MM), Paul Nelson (AC) (2,500-3,500); Lynn Shannon (MM), Stu Goodgold (AC) (3,500-5,000); and Michael Rosenberg (MM), Diane Shannon (AC) (over 10,000). Well done all!