

Hello Again! Mich Ravera, Unit 507 President, here.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held every month on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Due to other ACBL meetings, it will next be held on the first Tuesday, March 1. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, contact me at [michravaera@yahoo.com](mailto:michravaera@yahoo.com) in time to matter and I will send you the invitation, usually on the weekend before the meeting. We have a couple of vacant spots on the Board, so, if you are interested in molding the future of bridge in Silicon Valley, tell us. In addition to having a couple more perspectives to aid in decisions, in particular, we are looking for a Sectional Tournament Coordinator. You don't have to be a Board Member to do the job, but the decisions about holding Sectionals are among the most important decisions that the Unit makes.

If you are able to summon the courage to play live face-to-face bridge, our neighboring Unit is holding a Sectional for Non-Life Masters with less than 750 masterpoints this weekend in Mountain View. Advance registration is required. This tournament consists of all pairs events.

We are still working out how to resume face-to-face bridge on a regular basis in Silicon Valley. Check this space and other announcements for details regarding a Spring Forward Silicon Valley Sectional Tournament as well as club play.

I am happy to announce that we have been officially notified that Li Zhang achieved Club Master; Kumar Ramaiyer advanced to Sectional Master; Susan Dietz achieved the honor of Life Master; and John Stremel was promoted to Silver Life Master. Congratulations to all!

It is with great sadness that I note club director and player Carole Dietz died this past week.

The Reno North American Bridge Championships are set to go. Several events have been or will be named for, or in memory of, Silicon Valley players whom we have recently lost. Contrary to what I've said before, it appears that there will be Championship Events in the evening. My reading of the minutes of the ACBL Board is that this may be one of the last Nationals for which this is true. You can see the flyer at <https://d21acbl.org/event/2203001/>. The ACBL makes decisions on the 15th of each month for tournaments to be held the next month, so watch your email for announcements.

As I write this, it's Valentine's Day, a day that the scholars of the Roman Catholic Church eliminated from their calendar due to their inability to verify anything about either of the people who were so named. They instituted instead "Cyril's Day," honoring the purported inventor of the alphabet used in much of Eastern Europe. So, while we may not know the

truth of why we exchange greetings with those whom we hold dear, it is all together fitting that we exchange written greetings on this day. I'll see you at the tables, with your newly written Convention Card, not in Cyrillic, but please do use suit symbols!

Jeff Hack, occasional Unit Newsletter "Hacking It" author, offers the following for your consideration:

"A very long time ago I tried online bridge and I didn't like it. Then the pandemic came. After waiting six months without bridge, I tried BBO. With a lot of help from Fern, a BBO expert, I played a limited schedule.

"We were almost ready for face-to-face when Omicron appeared. I would like to commend our Board for getting us out of our Bascom contract fast and not starting again until we are ready. To me the biggest advantage of online play is the cost. Reverse \$2.29 and \$14 and face-to-face wins easily. The biggest reason to play in person is the sociability. Bridge was teetering even before the pandemic. Young people are into their online games. Hopefully, bridge will get a boost of young people to replace the older generation.

"This is my story. I'm sure many of you have pandemic bridge stories. Let Mich know."