



San Mateo Unit 498

September 2021

The Unitizer



Message from the President... Bob Gleason

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The Villa has proved itself a good venue to play bridge. Compared to our previous site, it is quieter, the temperature is comfortable, and the lighting is excellent. Raad Bunni's personal effort to upgrade the lighting made it perfect for bridge. Air circulation is good, and filtration has been added to improve safety during the COVID situation. I have seen a lot of familiar faces (at least from the nose up) at games there, including several friends who chose not to play on BBO during the shut-down.

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Those of us who have gained pounds or lost hair in the past 18 months (I am in both categories) might view the return to bridge in person with some trepidation, but I assure you that it offers as much fun as ever. COVID is still with us, and we recognize that measures we have taken to reduce risk of infection do not eliminate it. If you are one of those who accepts playing in these circumstances, the clubs would appreciate your support.

The ACBL offered districts an option regarding qualification in the North American Pairs (NAP) competition: either hold in-person unit-level qualifications games as normal or skip the unit stage if the COVID situation in the district made it impractical. Our parent district, D21, chose to hold unit-level qualifications. Accordingly, we have scheduled a unit NAP qualifier for September 25 at the Villa. Details of this event are posted on our web site. To participate, players must have qualified at the club-level, and present proof of COVID vaccination at registration. If you qualified at the club level, but cannot play in this game, please note that you can qualify at the corresponding games at any other unit within D21. The San Francisco, Palo Alto, and Silicon Valley units have posted information about their NAP qualifiers on their web sites. You can only play in one unit qualifier, so choose carefully.

We have reluctantly decided to cancel the NLM Sectional we had scheduled for the first weekend in October. This type of event requires some longer-term planning and commitments that could conflict with rapid developments in the COVID situation. Our next planned Sectional will be at Cañada College in February 2022.

Final tallies are in for the Longest Day Campaign to raise money for the Alzheimer's Foundation. Unit 498 contributed \$17,430, which was the 9th highest total among units in the nation. Thanks to everyone who contributed, and to Janelle, Fred, members of the committee who organized the event, and those who donated their time to play bridge with donors.

Top finishers in our August mentor-mentee game were: in Section 1, Melanie Mauldin & Robert Ipswitch at 58.3%, followed by Jeffrey Schuriner & Jennifer Stern at 56.3% and in Section 2, Marilynne Bachli & Fred Chasalow at 68.3%, with Lauren Rosen & Janice Nakao in second at 63.9%. Thanks to Art Quey for directing.

Congratulations to unit members who have achieved higher ACBL ranks in August, including Katherine Kwong (Life Master) and Patricia Frederick (Life

Master/Bronze Life Master).

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