

**President's Report**

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It seems as though summer has flown by and we are seeing back to school ads everywhere. Labor Day and our Santa Clara Regional are just a couple of weeks away, and before we know it Christmas decorations will be in all the stores even though we have hardly prepared for Halloween. I hope that the summer season was pleasant for everyone, and you are looking forward to the cooler days of fall, as am I.

There's no denying that keeping up with the demands of putting together regionals is a difficult and time-consuming task; Nancy Boyd has done an amazing job keeping her finger on the pulse of the various tournaments in our future. While preparing for the Santa Clara event she was working on game schedules for Reno and Monterey. The challenges of coordinating all the elements that make a tournament successful have been handled expertly by Nancy. Please be sure to thank her when you see her in Santa Clara.

I have been thinking about what the real business of a District is in relation to the clubs therein and the many players who comprise our membership. The first thing that comes to mind is make regional tournaments available. Next, I thought about administering Grand National events (thanks Grant Vance!) and North American Pairs (thanks Susan Mazzei!). And then, of course, the District offers support to our units and clubs. And thanks to Cornelia Gould, President of Western Conference, and our link to STaC games. She also serves on the Executive Committee for D21.

Many others work behind the scenes to keep the District viable. Anne Hollingsworth, our Vice President, manages the records for sectionals, making sure there's no conflict in the scheduling as well as answering questions to our Omsbuddy. Along with Max Schireson, Ray Yuenger continues to be involved in youth bridge and grants. Ray also participates in online activities for 199ers in addition to being the District Secretary, amazing Eagle Eyes proofreader and legal advisor. Jill Wallace has volunteered untold hours working with beginning players. Lynn Bartz as Treasurer keeps the financial records of the District up to date and keeps us on the straight-and-narrow regarding employment issues. Working in conjunction with Lynn is Tom Pajak, the chair of our Finance Committee. Email communications are the responsibility of Melanie Haddad. Ably assisted by Laura Da Costa, Melanie makes sure we have a Diamond in the Ruff every other month. Jean Barry worked with Melanie to assume the responsibility of creating flyers for our regionals. Don't forget Stu Goodgold, who represents us at the national level and keeps us up to date on the latest from Horn Lake.

The people I mention above are just a sampling of the incredible volunteers that make this District what it is today. Without Calvin Harper transporting supplies to our regionals and sectionals we would be in sad shape. And don't forget the Energizer Battery Bunny, Jackie Ortiz, who makes sure we have prizes and "stickies" at our regionals; there is no job too menial for Jackie, she tackles anything. Jackie also is chair of the District Nominating Committee. She makes the rest of us look lazy! Jeff Hack has served the District for many years as Chair of the Charity Committee and Evelyn Holtz, when not directing, takes the pictures we so enjoy for our daily bulletins. Roger Bohl and Anne Wilson have come up with a great system for online and live partnership assistance. Gail Gabiati is now chairing the Goodwill Committee.

You may wonder why I am writing about these people. It's my goal to recognize them and ask you to join me in thanking them. Without each of these volunteers doing their part in the complex system of running of the District you would really notice a difference! I recently mildly reprimanded an individual who sent an email that I perceived to be a complaint. It was a knee-jerk reaction and I shouldn't have responded quickly. Then I realized most members don't know that what makes this District tick is the many long hours unpaid volunteers put into their respective chores. More volunteers would certainly lighten the load...are you interested?



D I A M O N D I N T H E R U F F

Grant Robinson, our long-time Webmaster left beautiful California to head south to Texas along with his beautiful partner, Teresa. They had to have a pretty good reason to leave us; they will be missed by all who had the pleasure of enjoying their company. Now we welcome Cecilia Muaddi, who will be introduced to you by Melanie. We are excited that Cecilia will be working with us as our new Webmaster, and I know that she will do an excellent job.

I have put off until last the sad news that we are not meeting the terms of our contract with the Santa Clara Hyatt. When the contract was written (pre-covid) a certain number of room night reservations were guaranteed, thus giving us use of the playing space for free along with a number of other concessions. We will definitely be several hundred rooms short and suffer a financial "hit" this year. This matter will be discussed at the next board meeting, scheduled for the morning of September 10th. We will be sure to publish a zoom link so that anyone interested is able to attend. Our meetings are open to all members.

That's all I have for the moment, sending my best to everyone and hoping to see you at the tables in Santa Clara!