



D21 President's Report

Jim Coke, President, District 21 Board of Directors

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Contact Jim: jcoke@yahoo.com



Volunteers

Recently, I had a long talk with a friend and eventually the conversation meandered to the work we do for the bridge community. My friend commented on how much satisfaction they derived over the years from seeing the joy people showed coming to play bridge because of their work.

I have a similar reaction. Over the course of my working career, I changed my priorities from focus on the company to a focus on people. If you worked with good people, coming to work is a happy experience. I looked forward to it. If you didn't work with good people, going to work was a drag. What this meant for me as an employee was that I was a better employee and got much more done when I worked with good people because I was more motivated. So, for the good of my career and the good of the company, I went looking for positive work environments.

The fun part of volunteer organizations is that people who want to volunteer tend to be positive and cooperative with their fellow volunteers – in other words, good people to work with. So, I encourage people to volunteer in bridge. There are many ways to volunteer – including bridge government, education, directing, hospitality, and publicity just to name a few.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers for our Growth Committee. Our current chairman, Max Schireson, is overloaded and needs to offload some of his activities. Looking at the committee's scope, it currently covers two areas: Youth and Growth where we understand Growth to be the recruitment and education of older members. At our D21 board meeting last night we decided to bring back a position that we haven't had filled for several years – Intermediate and Newcomer Coordinator as well as add another responsibility focusing on member retention. Each of these 4 areas should have a person focused on them.

Positions:

- Growth – recruiting and initial education of new members. This position is focused on older, that is non-youth, members.
- Youth – recruiting and training students who are still in school or university. Encouraging and enabling youth to attend tournaments through grants.
- Retention – bring members whose memberships have lapsed back into the game.
- Intermediate and Newcomer – continuing education for players who are beyond the initial bridge courses and promoting events for Intermediate players and Newcomers.

Jim Coke
ACBL District 21 President