

## **UNIT 476 JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER**

### **Annual Meeting**

The results of our unit's election were reported at our annual meeting, which was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Cascade Bridge Club on Saturday, January 14. At the unit board meeting on January 20 following the election, the new board chose its 2017 officers as follows: Frank Larson, President; Lorraine Rodich, Vice President; Susan Battistella, Secretary; Chip Cleveland, Treasurer; Lael Cooksley, Membership; and Dianne Maffia, Trumpet reporter. The unit board wishes to recognize and thank Nelda Linman for her many years of service as a unit representative and unit board officer, and as an organizer and promoter of our local tournaments. Nelda has put Unit 476 on the map! Thank you, Nelda, thank you.

Some unit members have expressed a desire to see the unit's annual meeting moved from January to late spring. The unit board discussed this at its January 20 meeting and voted to keep the annual meeting in January for now. Chip reported that the annual meeting and elections have been in January since the unit was formed in the late 1960s, and it is easiest to have the unit's fiscal year coincide with the calendar year.

### **Membership News**

Lael Cooksley reported at the annual meeting that Unit 476 has 195 members, the most of any of the 23 units in District 20, and the 7<sup>th</sup> in all of the ACBL. Most of the unit's growth over the past year has been due to new players being encouraged to join ACBL by Judy Davidson and her Ace of Hearts Club. All new members of our unit receive a welcome letter from Lael that includes coupons for free plays at any of our unit's four clubs: the Cascade Bridge Club; the Ace of Hearts Club; the Redmond Bridge Club; and the Gentle Bridge Club. The unit reimburses each club director when they turn in the used coupons to the unit board.

Congratulations go out to Rich Gettman, who recently attained the rank of ACBL Silver Life Master, and to Larry Smith, who recently attained the rank of ACBL Gold Life Master. We salute you both.

### **Bridge Lessons**

Larry Smith and Chip Cleveland have agreed to begin a series of six individual bridge lessons sometime after April 15 at the Bend Senior Center. Each lesson will be 30 to 45 minutes long, and there will be no charge to those who wish to participate in one or more of the lessons. However, participants will be required to sign-up for the individual lessons due to the limited space available. More information will be announced as to the lesson subject matters and times as we get closer to April.

### **High Desert Sectional, August 25-27, 2017**

Preparations are already underway for our sectional tournament to be held at the Bend Senior Center in August. Susan Battistella and I are co-chairing the tournament, and the following people have agreed to be committee chairs: Larry Smith, Partnership; Lois Bihary, Hospitality; Carolyn Henning, Publicity; Chip Cleveland, Photographer; and Dianne Maffia, Prize baskets. In addition to these committees, we will need able-bodied people willing to help set up and take down the tables and chairs needed for playing. So, if you are interested in helping put on the tournament, please talk to one of these people.

A tournament flyer is still in the works, but we plan to have one available to take to the regional tournament in Vancouver next month.

### **Signing-off**

As I pass the baton to Frank Larson, I wish to thank all our unit members for your help and encouragement as your unit president this past year. Your support was much appreciated. The next meeting of the unit board is March 17.

See you at the bridge table.

Lorraine Rodich