

August is a *big* month for bridge, and not just because it has 31 days. We have several things to remind you about, especially considering there won't be club reports in the September D22 Connection. Please remember to mark these dates on your calendar since we won't be able to contact you next month.

The Summer Sectional, hosted jointly with La Jolla Unit, concluded at the Soledad Club, with over 122 tables competing over two days. The venue was ideal, the food was delicious, and the silver points were plentiful. It takes dedicated work and substantial personnel to organize and execute a Sectional. We extend our gratitude to all the volunteers and workers—seen and unseen—who made this event possible. Special thanks go to the board members from both Units who arranged and coordinated the entire function.

David Oakley was the top masterpoints winner, with 14.74 MPs, and Kitty Cooper and Lynne Feldman tied for second with 14.58 MPs. Congratulations to all the winners! We would love to acknowledge each winner if space permitted, but the complete list of Masterpoint winners is here: <https://live.acbl.org/masterpoint-winners/2308353>.

By now, you should have received an e-blast from our Unit appealing to your participation in Dr. Ray Sachs's annual Advance (formerly known as Esperanca) fundraiser. It's not too late to donate, and you can do so here <https://advancecommunity.org/bridge-players-supporting-surgical-missions/> or by participating in the fundraiser game scheduled for Saturday, August 19, at the San Diego Bridge Club on Adams Avenue.

Most San Diego bridge players know our unit member Ray Sachs gathers medical teams for orthopedic surgery in less developed countries. Ray and his team members pay for their own airfare, hotel, and food and buy (and cart with them) all the screws, plates, and other supplies they need. This enables them to do surgeries that cost \$30,000-\$40,000 in the US for only \$120 in Ecuador (for example). Ray's teams' primary goal is to improve the lives of children with club feet and other handicaps. San Diego Bridge players have the satisfaction of knowing that all their donations go to saving children. Thanks to your generosity last year, Ray and his team have increased their commitment to fund three missions for 2023 rather than their usual two. Looking towards 2024, Ray is partnering with two ophthalmologists to establish an eye center to combat blindness. In the third world, 50% of blindness cases are caused by cataracts, a condition that can be effectively treated with a 20-minute operation. However, this requires a significant investment in expensive equipment. Your contributions are making a real difference.

Mark your calendar for the Unit games in August and September. On August 20, we will host our regularly scheduled Unit Championship game; on September 3, we will host one of the most meaningful games of the year, the San Diego Tribute Trophy game; and on September 17, we will host another Unit Championship game, and October 1 the Open Pairs Appreciation game. As a reminder to some new and returning players, our Unit hosts the first-and third-Unit games at the Soledad Club. The game includes a light lunch at 12:30, followed by bridge at 1:00. We are thrilled to offer our limited 599er game weekly at the Unit games, hosted by La Jolla and San Diego, on alternate weeks. The game is preceded by a mini-lesson at 12:30. If you plan on joining us at the 599er game, please message Bridget at bridgefun1430@gmail.com.

The Unit welcomes new members Kurt Lichtenberg and Ursula Kennedy, who transferred into our Unit this month. Membership Chairperson Bridget Poizner will contact our new members to offer a free play at any future Unit games.

And finally, we can't thank you enough for your generous support of our fundraising efforts for the Longest Day. With your help, we raised an incredible \$18,500 this year. That's \$7000 over our

goal of \$11,000. Your donation helps advance the care, support, and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association.

Until October...See you at the tables!

Club News: Redwood Bridge Club in Balboa Park offers games Monday through Saturday. They have games for players of all levels, from newcomers to the most experienced. Check the website for upcoming classes, game descriptions, and daily results. Please direct any questions to our club manager David Walters at davwal@yahoo.com or (619) 298-5756.

San Diego Bridge Club offers sanctioned games at 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday and Friday at the Masonic Center at 3366 Adams Avenue. They will be hosting STaC games the week of August 21st. Call John Lagodimos at (619) 847-3001 for more information.