

President's Report  
April 2021  
By Tracey Bauer

Spring is here and the sun is shining bright and the majority of my bridge friends are vaccinated. I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I'm looking forward to when we are able to all come together, compete, connect, and laugh about our foibles at the bridge table.

We are hoping to bring you our first regional in Reno/ Sparks during October 4th-10th. Sadly we had to cancel the Santa Clara Regional. This was not an easy decision and one I lost a lot of sleep over in the past couple of months. While we would have loved to have held Santa Clara, the financial liability for the District made it unwise. Our sole revenue is from running regionals and STACs, of which we have had none in the past twelve months. Thank you to Pam Hughes, our tournament manager, who expertly negotiated us out of the Santa Clara Regional hotel contract.

I decided to run for president of the district as I felt our organization needed leadership that was planning our future in unprecedented times. Doing the same thing we have always done is no longer an option if we want to be vibrant and grow; sitting back and not doing anything was no longer a smart decision and I was frustrated that we didn't do more in 2020. I naively wanted to focus on player experience enhancements, modernization of our communication, and growing the awareness of duplicate bridge in our district using my marketing skills. I knew this year was going to be difficult but that was an understatement. I instead was bogged down in governance issues. These were difficult times for me but I persevered as it was what was right for our organization despite the difficult politics of change.

I am happy to report our board overwhelmingly voted to fix our governance issues and we are now working to create a strong foundation with financial checks and balances and transparency. Countless people have spent many hours in the past two months helping us develop policies and procedures. We

will have an annual budget moving forward approved by the board and a policy manual explaining how to run the district that has been approved by the board. Thank you to Cornelia Gould and Art Mirin who led these efforts and their numerous committee members from the board and our membership.

I also created the district's first finance committee which already has done amazing work for the district. This new committee is headed by Lynn Bartz of San Jose, Tom Pajak and Andy Wasserman of the East Bay, and Jean Barry, our treasurer. They have met weekly for the past two months and the district owes them a lot of thanks for the work they have done and the stronger foundation we will have because of them.

I also formed our first IT Committee and Communications team, headed by Melanie Haddad, to help us modernize our website and newsletter. The first need we had was moving all district documents from peoples' personal computers to a sharable cloud drive which will make seamless transitions and transparency easier in the future. We appreciate your input and comments as we will be testing new newsletters and we will have a new website later this year that's in development now. If this is your area of expertise and you would like to help us develop our new look and feel please reach out to me. Thank you to Melanie Haddad, Bill Yeast, and Ed Gould for the countless hours put into these endeavors. Melanie Haddad will be the new editor for the Diamond in the Ruff when it returns in June, with help from Ray Yuenger, myself, and Laura De Costa. We have also brought our newsletter in house with a savings to the district of \$15K-18K annually. If you are interested in writing articles for the district please contact us; this is your organization and we would love for you to help us make it the best product we can.

Planning for the Reno Spring NABC in 2022 was a little behind schedule but lucky for us Jackie Zayac stepped up to chair our Reno Nationals and in just a month pulled together all the many volunteers to chair the various committees. We hope you will plan to attend and also take a volunteer shift or two.

Jackie Zayac is also chair for our Regionals committee that consists of Pam Hughes (tournament manager), Lynn Bartz (finance), Cornelia Gould (lawyer),

and myself as we are working on a regional policy manual and all the complexities of running regionals. This is a large project as we didn't have anything in writing.

Anne Hollingsworth is the new contact for our units sectional coordination and we are hoping she will be busy soon as we return to face to face bridge this summer.

Max Schireson has agreed to help the district with coordinating our growth projects as we reimagine how we do things. He has recruited Amber Lin to help us with our younger working demographic and you will hear a lot more in the near future.

Grant Vance is continuing in his role as GNT coordinator and I have asked him to come up with a "Road to the GNT" program where we can do district wide team games to prepare our district for competition and develop our newer teams in the B and C Flights.

Susan Mazzei has stepped up to organize the District's NAP events.

Ray Yuenger continues with his work on the very successful 99er NiteClub.

I formed a task force at the district level to brainstorm about the return to live bridge and the new hybrid of online and live play and how we can support our units, clubs, and teachers. This is headed by Jill Wallace and Susan Mazzei.

Barbara Sommervil will be our new Goodwill Chair and is bringing some fresh ideas from District 7 where she moved from. We hope to reimagine how we celebrate our many volunteers across the district; our organization is indebted to the altruistic volunteers who give so much time and love to our game and their communities.

One of the most exciting new things I formed in the past two months is a Presidents' Forum that connects all the district presidents across the ACBL. We have been networking, discussing best practices, and looking at how to attract

new players. We are looking into sharing our resources across time zones and coordinate our efforts more. My hope is we all learn together, faster than we can alone, and move the needle in the other direction from declining membership to positive growth. There are amazing dedicated people all over the USA and D21 that love our game and are brainstorming on how to support the beginning bridge player and save our beloved game. The stronger our neighbors are the stronger we are. I look forward to seeing what our West Coast districts come up with in the next year.

I would like to personally thank Sandi Davis, the district's secretary since 2014 for her many years of service to the district and being our main point of contact with both the units and the ACBL. We are looking to find someone to fill her role, are you our next District Secretary? Please reach out to Marcia Wasserman, our nominating committee chair. Marcia's email is [marciawasserman@gmail.com](mailto:marciawasserman@gmail.com).

There are so many people to thank for their time and energy as we have accomplished a lot in just two months together. We have many future plans and if YOU have any ideas to make our district better or ways we can improve, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Together we can reimagine the future of bridge

Tracey Bauer  
District 21 President