

UNIT 131  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

**Norman Kahn**

1st Vice President

**Bar Kaelter**

2nd Vice President

**Tory Billard**

Secretary

**Wynne Begun**

Treasurer

**Jim Dorman**

Past President

**Robert Weaver**

**At-Large Members**

Term Expires 2020

**Alan Hierseman**

**Beth Malone**

**Kathy Breen**

**Stan Coons**

**Vicki Muir**

Term Expires 2021

**Aline Zimmer**

**Becky Walker**

**Max McGinn**

**Randy Klein**

**Tom Cranshaw**

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

**At the Outset** 1

**Conventionally  
Yours** 1

**Calendar of Events** 2

**Unit 15 Leaders** 2

**Our Rising Stars** 2

**NAP 2020** 2

**RIP** 2



# ACES & SPACES



OFFICIAL MONTHLY BULLETIN OF UNIT 131 OF THE AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

NOVEMBER 2019



## From the President



### At the Outset

Members and Friends of Bridge Unit 131, welcome to the second edition of the new Unit 131 Newsletter! We continue to try out a shorter, more frequent and user-friendly communication vehicle with this second issue. Thank you to our newsletter editor, Rajeev Bansal for this and the Declarer will still be published periodically, as well.

The Board's priorities at least through the spring of 2020 continue to be:

- Great tournaments
- More Swiss teams; and more events for newer players
- Pleasant environment at clubs
- Grow our unit
- Engage our "old guard" and newer players actively

We recently had a great winter sectional tournament at the J and look forward to a popular Holiday Regional at the Overland Park Convention Center/Sheraton on College Boulevard between Christmas and New Year's. The Unit 131 Board recently approved a proposal to enhance the player amenities at the Holiday Regional this year.

The Unit 131 Board of Directors recently selected SafeHome of Overland Park to receive a charitable donation from the Unit, with the support of District 15. A representative of SafeHome will be at the Holiday Regional to accept our contribution. Thank you to all who played in Charity games at Unit clubs in 2019.

The Unit 131 Board is very sad to report the recent sudden and unexpected death of Carl Shipley, who had served on the Board since May of 2018. Please take a moment to remember Carl the next time you sit down to enjoy a game of bridge in one of the more than a dozen clubs that make up Unit 131. Recently appointed to the Unit 131 Board, to fill the unexpired term of Carl Shipley through April 2020, is Beth Malone. Welcome Beth!

If you would like to be a member of the Unit 131 Board, please let Robert Weaver, Chair of the nominating committee, know at [rwinkc@gmail.com](mailto:rwinkc@gmail.com). And if you have comments or feedback for the Board, please let Norman Kahn, President, know at [nkahnmd@gmail.com](mailto:nkahnmd@gmail.com).

### Conventionally Yours!!

*Second out of a series of 10 articles on Conventions Newer Players Might Like to Consider*

You are South, Dealer West, None vulnerable and you pick up the following hand:

♠ AQ632 ♥ AQ8 ♦ 652 ♣ 75

West passes and partner opens 1♣, then East passes. You bid 1♠, opponents remain silent, and partner bids 1NT. What is your next bid?

Well, how many HCP and how many ♠s did you promise with your first bid of 1♠? You have promised at least 6 HCP and 4 ♠s. Of course, you could have more than 6 HCP and more than 4 ♠s, but that is all that your first bid promised. How can you tell your partner that you have 5♠s and sufficient points to invite to game?

This is where the convention of **New Minor Forcing** (NMF) helps. NMF means that on your second turn to bid, after partner opens a minor suit and rebids 1NT over your Major suit, and you have 10+ HCP (enough to invite to game over partner's opening bid), you now bid the other minor suit – the "new" minor. This is a forcing bid for opener, hence the name "New Minor Forcing." This also tells your partner that you have invitational+ points and 5 ♠s in your first bid Major suit, not just 4.

Your partner as Opener, who only thought you had 6 HCP and 4 ♠s, now knows you have 10+ HCP and 5 ♠s. This is terrific information for an opening hand, as partner can now go to game with 3 ♠s and an outside singleton (even though partner, as in this case, might have 6 ♠s – you have just found an 8 card Major suit fit!). And you are still at the 2 level, in case opener is strong enough to invite to slam. Congratulations – nice bidding!

### Norman Kahn

*[Disclaimer: I am neither a pro nor a teacher – the best way to learn new conventions is to take classes or lessons from the unit's fine cadre of teachers!]*

email all submissions/requests to the **Editor Rajeev Bansal: [rmbansal@msn.com](mailto:rmbansal@msn.com)**

**Unit 131 Aces & Spaces**  
 8225 W 146th Ter  
 Overland Park, KS 66223-2189



# Unit & District — Calendar of Events



### Unit 131 Scheduled Events

- ◆ **D15 STaC** Dec 09-15, 2019
- ◆ **Holiday Regional** Dec 26-31, 2019

### Area Tournaments

- ◆ **Urbandale, IA Sectional** Jan 09-12, 2020
- ◆ **St. Charles, MO Sectional** Jan 17-19, 2020
- ◆ **Little Rock, AR NLM Sectional** Jan 24-26, 2020

### District 15 Tournaments

- ◆ **Unit 158 Bette Hossenlopp Memorial Sectional**  
Bartlesville, OK Jan 11-12, 2020
- ◆ **Unit 132 Hutchinson Winter Sectional**  
Hutchinson, KS Jan 17-19, 2020

## Top 15 Unit 131 Leaders

#### Grand Life Masters

- ◆ Don Stack 32,342
  - ◆ Jack Spear 12,716
  - ◆ Linda Eakes 10,729
- #### Platinum Life Masters
- ◆ John Oxley 16,581
  - ◆ Paul Pressly 14,286
  - ◆ Gary Roberts 11,905
  - ◆ Chuck Malcolm 11,318
  - ◆ William Muir 10,555

#### Emerald Life Masters

- ◆ Vicki Muir 9,380
  - ◆ Nancy Spear 9,092
  - ◆ Marti Malcolm 8,559
  - ◆ Stephen Stewart 8,253
  - ◆ Donna S Magee 7,899
- #### Diamond Life Master
- ◆ Timothy Hays 6,789
  - ◆ Beckie Staci 6,700
  - ◆ Darlene Wiltanger 5,745

## Our Rising Stars

#### Junior Master

- ◆ Karen Bowers

#### NABC Master

- ◆ Connie S Fanning



#### Club Masters

- ◆ Richard A Campbell
- ◆ Jan Good
- ◆ Tracy E McGinnis
- ◆ Janet M Meivis
- ◆ Mary Vandegriffe

#### Bronze Life Master

- ◆ Debbie Hutchison

#### Ruby Life Master

- ◆ Rajeev Bansal



## North American Pairs 2020

10 pairs from Unit 131 participated at the NAOP District 15 Finals in Oklahoma City on November 16, 2019. Unit 131 took top honors in Flight A and Flight B. 7 pairs from Unit 131 will represent District 15 at the National finals in Columbus OH from Mar 19-29, 2020

#### Flight A

- William Muir — Vicki Muir 1st
- Paul Chan — Lily Chan 2nd
- Don Stack — Don Brooker 3rd

#### Flight B

- Krishna Saha — Rajeev Bansal 1st
- Sitaraman Sathi — Grant Sutton 2nd (Unit 234)

#### Flight C

- Richard Mellinger — Richard Reese 2nd
- Mike Shortridge — Jim McGinnis 3rd

## High Scroll club



#### September

Dave Aldrich — Melody Aldrich  
 Barbara Waldron — Brad Ellis

#### October

Maryann O'Connor — Kimberly McCollam  
 John Woodfill — Judy Woodfill  
 Jody Hammond — Phil Hammond  
 Shawn Tate — Christopher Fieber  
 Robert Bartlett — Richard Holzman  
 Keith Smith — Thomas Mori

#### November

Paul Pressly — Gary McDole  
 Hong Chen — Wayne Fang  
 Tom Slezak — Michael Spafford

*Club Directors — please provide the high ranks for each month to the Editor by the end of the month for inclusion*



## RIP — by Norm Kahn

Carl Ray Shipley — one of the very active member of the Unit 131 Board, passed away unexpectedly on Oct 25, 2019. Carl 72 was an avid bridge player and the ever cheerful. We will miss him and his spirit at the Sectionals and Regionals as the helpful gentleman for everything **Bridge**.