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North County Inland, Unit 549 acblunit549.org



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACBL UNIT 549

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Happy New Year!!! We're coming up on the third anniversary of the COVID crisis and looking to make this year as close to pre-COVID as possible. Our Escondido club continues to offer beginning bridge lessons, mentoring, a mixed up pairs game and recently added a Tuesday morning open game. The unit, pending the opening of the Oasis location, is making plans for at least one non-life master sectional, the return of our Winter Sectional and a bridge seminar. We have been in contact with Robert Todd, a highly respected bridge player and teacher. We both have a strong interest in putting a two day session together.

We are still facing some headwinds. Getting players back to the club for a F2F game remains a challenge but we are making progress. I recently read a piece in the District 23 newsletter which provided a perspective to that challenge. David Lodge, our Regional Director, stated that the ACBL has about 130,000 dues paying members and is losing about 10,000 per year while adding about 4,000 new members per year. The answer to this challenge is easy, the solution not as easy. I'm looking forward to our affiliation with Oasis. Their focus is education and involvement and I see the opportunity for a win-win here.

Speaking of F2F bridge, our annual Holiday Party and Appreciation Game is this Saturday at the Seven Oaks Community Center in Rancho Bernardo. This game and a great meal is free for all unit members and anyone who has played at the club or a unit game. And I don't know how much better it can get than free (good) food at a great bridge venue. So call your partner and make plans to join us on Saturday. As usual we expect a good non-life master turnout, so you will have your own section.