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Board News-

Due to the change in the bylaws approved at the 2016 Annual Meeting, this year we only elected 5 to the EMBA Board. Elected were Incumbents Neil Montague, Dean Panagopoulos, and Carole Weinstein. Newly elected were Saul Agranoff, former Board member and Tournament Flyer editor, and Ashok Rao. Catherine Cooper will remain as our Tournament Coordinator. We hope that both Selen Hotamisligil and Hardin Matthews will consider running again.

Meet the EMBA Board

The Members of the EMBA Board are always interested in the opinions of the players. The current members of the Board are:

Bob Bertoni is the current President. His stated goals for 2018 include revamping the I/N Program and increasing attendance at all the EMBA Sectionals. As Past President of the District, he is a member of the District Executive Committee

Robert McCaw is the current Vice President. He is responsible for the EMBA Sectionals. He is always interested in hearing from the players. He is one of EMBA's two representatives to the District 25 Executive Committee.

Carolyn Weiser is the Unit Secretary. She is always available at embasec@acblemba.org. She also coordinates the STaC Games for the Unit.

Linda Robinson is our Treasurer. She can be contacted at embatreasurer@acbl.org

The Board Members

Saul Agranoff who makes up all the flyers we depend on for information on the EMBA Sectionals. He also represents EMBA at the District Board of Delegates

David Aronson, who is a former President, is a member of the Audit Committee. He is also representative to the District Board of Delegates.

Maureen Bitler is another of our representatives to the District Board of Delegates. She is also a now member of the Membership Committee.

Fred Brown who single handedly served as host for a number of EMBA Sectionals until the Unit hired a caterer. He has also volunteered to be a Delegate to the District Board of Delegates.

Steve Diamond is again the chair of the Nominating and Election Committee. If you know of anyone who would be a good addition to the Board, please let him know.

Zachary Grossack has volunteered to be the Publicity Chair for the Unit. If you know of any milestone or “happening” that deserves to be publicized, just let him know, or send to embasec@acblemba.org

Valerie Fleischer continues as a as a member of the Tournament Committee

Paul Harris handled all the pizza and sandwiches for EMBA tournament for many years. He has now volunteered to co-chair the I/N Committee. They have lots of plans for 2018.

Peter Lombardo is long time member of the Board and a delegate to the District 25 Board of Delegates.

Brenda Montague is one of the two EMBA representatives to the District Executive Committee. She is the Chair of the District 25 Nominating/Election Committee and a Representative to the District Board of Delegates.

Neil Montague is our Unit Recorder. Contact him if you have any questions about behavior at our Sectionals.

Lisa Procter championed the Bridge-in-a-Day in EMBA and many programs have been held in the past. She is launching a second set of classes for those who ‘want to know more.’ She is EMBA’s Educational Liaison and Audit chair.

Ashok Rao is our newest member of the Board. He will also be a representative to the District 25 Board of Delegates.

Stanley Richmond has been our Treasurer in the past and now is the chair of the Finance Committee.

Janice Smola has been a member of the Board for many years. She is always at the Partnership Desk at the EMBA Sectionals. She is the Membership Chair for EMBA and a representative to the District 25 Board of Delegates.

Carole Weinstein has been a member of the Board for many years.

This year we have several non-board members who are serving important rolls for the Unit.

Tim Hill, a well-known director from Westwood, EMBA and District 25, is our Unit/Unit-wide games coordinator. He has planned to reintroduce the Unit and Unit-Wide games to our clubs and this motion passed the board in January.

Catherine Cooper, who has been a member of the Board, continues to serve as Tournament Coordinator for the Unit.

Kim Gilman is the Co-chair of the I/N Committee. She and Paul Harris are enthusiastic about re-energizing the I/N Program.

Jim Rasmussen is a Past President who now serves as Appeals Chair at our Sectionals.

Rich Stevens has been the Special Games Coordinator for all the club games on the website. He has also volunteered to be the new Webmaster for EMBA.

New I/N Initiatives

This looks to be an exciting year for the new players in EMBA. Our two co-chairs, Paul Harris and Kim Gilman have lots of new ideas and great initiatives that they hope will make the “tournament experience” more fun for the new players. They are busy at work organizing the I/N experience at the April Sectional. They promise to make bridge a fun experience for all those players who have shied away from going to tournaments. They will take the mystery out of participating in the Watertown events, that are especially planned for the I/N Players.

EMBA Election Information

The Nomination/Election Committee for 2019 is chaired by *Steve Diamond*. If you know of anyone who would be a good candidate, please *let Steve Diamond know*, or send the name to me at embasec@acblemba.org, and I will forward it to him. The list of candidates will be posted on the EMBA Website as soon as it has been approved.

More Free Parking at Watertown

As soon as the construction across from the ACEC has been completed, there will be 150 additional free, off street parking spaces available at the Armenian Cultural Center for players.

EMBA EVENTS

The EMBA **Winter Sectional** will be in Watertown from February 23-25, 2018 at the Armenian Cultural Center on Nichols Avenue. Please check the website for a copy of the flyer. There also is a copy at the end.

“Two Chances to Win” Friday Night

The **Spring Sectional** will be held at the Armenian Cultural Center on Nichols Avenue in Watertown, MA from April 6, 2018 to April 8, 2018.

FRIDAY NIGHT: We will be having the “Two Chances to Win” again on Friday night. You will get your Pairs score and points and then be randomly paired with another team and get an extra Board-a-match score and point!

SATURDAY: Special events have been planned for the I/N Player.

Players with less than 50 points can come and play for free.

Players with *less than 300 points who play 2 sessions can play the second session for half price.*

Kim Gilman and Paul Harris are spearheading this initiative. If you are interested in helping, contact one of them or email, embasecretary@acblemba.org.

The **Memorial Sectional** will also be held in Watertown from May 27 to May 27, 2018. Check the flyers on the EMBA website at www.acblemba.org for full information.

The Summer STaC will be held from June 25-July 1, 2018. Sign-up is from the ACBL website. Complete information will be forwarded by the ACBL in May.

Unit and Unit-Wide Games Return

Tim Hill has volunteered to be the coordinator for the return of the Unit and Unit-wide games to the EMBA schedule. Tim Hill is the Coordinator. This will provide opportunities for players to earn extra points at their club games. Check with your Club owner or Director for the dates at your club.

District Events

The Presidential Regional will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell, CT February 14-19. There will be Special KO events there on Thursday/Friday and also for Saturday/Sunday. After a long hiatus, the KO's are back!

The GNT Finals (April 14-15, 2018) and the Rainbow weekend (April 13-15, 2018) will be held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA. Winners will represent the District at the Summer NABC that will be held in Atlanta in July of 2018. Financial support from the District will be given to the top placers.

The Senior Regional will be back in Falmouth from April 25 to April 29 at the Sea Crest Hotel. **There will be an Open Sectional held at the same time for anyone who needs silver points** or for those who have not as yet reached "Senior" status.

ACBL Events

The Spring NABC will be held in Philadelphia from March 8 to March 18, 2018. Our District NAP winners will compete there.

Calendar Section

ACBL - District 25 - EMBA events

February

14-19 **Presidential Regional - Cromwell, CT**

23-25 **EMBA Sectional - Watertown, MA**

March

2-3 CBA Sectional - Orange, CT
10-11 MBA Sectional - Portland, ME
8-18 NABC -Philadelphia, PA
21-27 CT STaC (D-3)
24-25 RIBA Sectional - Johnston, RI
31 Passover

April

6-8 EMBA Sectional - Watertown, MA

EMBA Tournament Information

**Winter Sectional
February 23-25, 2018**

Friday, February 23- 7:30

Single Session STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

Strats – By partnership average: A: open / B: < 2000 / C: < 750

Single Session STRATIFIED 0-299 PAIRS

Limited to players with <300 points. Stratified by partnership average at game time

Saturday, February 25 10:30 AM & 3:00 PM

Two Single-Session OPEN STRATIFIED PAIRS

Strats – By partnership average: A: open / B: < 2000 / C: < 750

Short break/order sandwich or salad before game or BYO

Two Single-Session 0-299er PAIRS (play separately, strats TBD)

Sunday, February 26 10:30 AM

STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS (7 (BCD) 8 (A/x) matches)

Flights play separately- Stratification by team mp av.A/X Flight:(A: open/X:0-3000 by team av.)

B/C/D Flight: No player > 2500 (B: <2500, C: <1000 ; D: < 500, by team avg.)

Playthrough-short break: Pizza included in entry

Single Session 299er SWISS (4 matches)

Spring Sectional

April 6-8, 2018

***Special Spectacular 49er and 299er events**

Friday, April 6, 2018 7:30

DUAL PAIRS- Two chances to win! *Play the regular pairs game. Game scored twice. Once as a regular Pairs game and, using your same scores, once as a BAM Team. Team formed by random draw of low MP and High MP pairs. BAM strats TBD at game time to reflect attendees. Receive silver points based on best masterpoint award for the two "games." Pairs Strats play separately.*

Saturday, April 1 - 10:30 AM & 3:00 PM

Two Single-Session OPEN STRATIFIED PAIRS

Strats – By partnership average:A: open / B: < 2000 / C: < 750

Short break/order sandwich or salad before game or BYO

***Two Single-Session 0-299er PAIRS (play separately, strats TBD)**

SECOND SESSION HALF PRICE IF PLAY at 10:30

FREE Single-Session 0-49er PAIRS (play separately) (10:30 AM only)
Includes friendly orientation to tournament bridge by experienced players.

Sunday, April 2 - 10:30 AM

STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS 7 (BCD)/ 8 matches (A/x)

A/X Flight : (A open/X:0-3000 by team av) B/C/D Flight No player > 2500 (B: < 2500, C: < 1000 ; D: < 500, by team avg.)

Playthrough-short break: Pizza included in entry
Single Session 299er SWISS (4 matches)

Memorial Sectional

May 25-27, 2018

Friday, May 25 7:30 PM

Single Session STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

Strats – By partnership average: A: open / B: < 2000 / C: < 750

Single Session STRATIFIED 0-299 PAIRS

Limited to players with < 300 points. Stratified by partnership average at game time

Saturday, May 26 10:30 AM & 3:00 PM

Two Single-Session OPEN STRATIFIED PAIRS

Strats – By partnership average: A: open / B: < 2000 / C: < 750

Short break/order sandwich or salad before game or BYO

***Two Single-Session 0-299er PAIRS (play separately, strats TBD)**

**** 299 Special** Play at 10:30 and then play at 3:00 for half price!**

Newcomer SUPER SPECIAL (Players with less than 50 MPs)
FREE One Session (10:30) 0-49er PAIRS (play separately is possible)
Includes friendly orientation to tournament bridge by experienced players.

Sunday, May 27 - 10:30 AM

STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS 7 (BCD)/ 8 matches (A/x)

A/X Flight : (A open/X:0-3000 by team av) B/C/D Flight No player > 2500 (B: < 2500, C: < 1000 ; D: < 500, by team avg.)

Playthrough-short break: Pizza included in entry
Single Session 299er SWISS (4 matches)

PARTNERSHIP HELP: available at playing site.
More info or emergency contact: 857-342-EMBA (857-342-3622)