

**District Director, Joann Glasson**  
**June 2019**

**New Appointments to the ACBL Goodwill and Charity Committees**

It is my honor to appoint new lifetime members from District 4 to the Charity and Goodwill Committees of the ACBL. These appointees are chosen because of the extraordinary contributions that they have made to bridge and the bridge community.

**GOODWILL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**Betsy Cutler - Allentown, PA**



Betsy has been a leader in promoting bridge for new players and has been successful in creating a very successful non – life master sectional and creating new club games for new players. District 4 is lucky to have players who work to spread the enjoyment of our wonderful game.

Betsy is legally blind but has progressed in bridge to be a life master and is always willing to compete against the best players in Unit 133.

Her commitment is to expand bridge to the newer players which is what our game needs. Betsy is a great example for all players of bridge.

**Jeanne Gehret - Lancaster, PA**



Jeanne is co-chair of the Lancaster Regional and she gives all her energy to the job. The Lancaster Regional just keeps getting better and better because of her efforts.

Jeanne is a retired executive who brings her great sense of detail to the Lancaster role. She is vigilant about everything in order to provide a great player experience.

Besides providing wonderful lunches for the players each day, this year Lancaster will offer our District 4 exclusive Dupli-Swiss.



**Tom Coxey - Lancaster, PA**

I have never seen Tom Coxey without a smile on his face. He quietly stands behind Jeanne Gehret in his role as co-chair of the

Lancaster Regional. He takes care of a million little details, not the smallest of which is the terrific restaurant guide that helps visitor know all Tom's foodie secret spots.

If you ask Tom, he will modestly say that Jeanne does all the work, but we all watch as he puts his time and efforts into making sure that every bridge player who comes to the Lancaster regional has a terrific time.

No task is too small for Tom - he's everywhere making sure that the tournament is a success.

### **Elaine Weintraub - Philadelphia, PA**



Elaine does one of the most difficult jobs in District 4. She is our District 4 Tournament Coordinator. She's the gal who has to make all the tough decisions about when and where our District will run regional and sectional tournaments and deal with all the questions and problems that are part of the job.

Elaine does all this with a smile and with grace. As with many of our volunteers, Elaine was a successful business person before retiring and brings her skills to her volunteer position.

Elaine also worked continually for ten days at the Information desk at the 2018 NABC in Philadelphia and serves as the Partnership Desk Chair for the Valley Forge Regional.

## **CHARITY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

### **Lynn Ackerman - Pittsford, NY**



Lynn is a kind person at the table, both to partners and opponents. She is especially welcoming to, and supportive of, newer players. Lynn has chaired the Welcome/Registration desk at the Upstate New York Regionals for the past four years. She recruits volunteers who, like herself, make intermediate and novice players feel comfortable figuring out what events best fit them and takes time to seek out our Intermediate/Newcomer prize winners to congratulate them on their success.

In 2018, Lynn was one of the hard-working Registration Chairs at the Philadelphia NABC, who took time off from her own business to handle that busy job with an amazing amount of energy.

### **Walter Mitchell - Bear Creek, PA**



Walter S. Mitchell, Jr. has devoted most of his free time to local non-profits and public service in Northeastern PA. He is a past General Manager & current Director of Development of the Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre, celebrating its 97th consecutive year of existence. Walter also serves as president of the Pennsylvania Association of Community Theatres. He is the founding chair of KISS Theatre Co., a training program for youth 5-17 years old, and recreated summer stock performances at Theatre at the Grove in Nuangola, PA. Walter is a founding member of the Millennium Circle of the Luzerne Foundation, a community-based agency raising funds for a wide variety of worthy causes, and he helped start the Luzerne County Arts Council in the 1990s. Politically, he has served as Mayor of Bear Creek Village Borough for more than 25 years, and filled a brief vacancy in the office of Luzerne County Controller in 2013. He is a contributing member of the Wyoming Valley Historical Society, the North Branch Land Trust and WVIA Public Radio. A District 16 Little League umpire for 20 years, Walter served as president of Unit 120 for 10 years and is a past president of District 4.

Walter also serves as the chair of the District 4 Wilkes-Barre Regional and Sectional Tournaments.