

District Director, Joann Glasson November 2020

THANK YOU

It has been my great pleasure to work with Meyer Kotkin for the last three years as he served as President of District 4. Meyer has worked tirelessly for the game of bridge. He established the policy that allows students to play free at all our regionals, made great connections with the ABTA, focused on District 4 regionals providing the best possible player experience (lots of free food) and handled every situation with fairness and expertise.

He has charmed us with his self-effacing humor and devoted his energies to making bridge better for all. It takes a very special person to give that much of their time and energy to others and we are all incredibly grateful.

Jeanne Gehret of Lancaster has been gracious enough to step into the role of District 4 President after Meyer's retirement. Jeanne has chaired the Lancaster Regional for the last few years and we are very lucky to have her as our new President.

Betsy Cutler of Allentown is our new Vice-President and Pat Civale and Bill Bauer will continue in their roles as Treasurer and Secretary.

Thanks to all for working to make bridge better in District 4.

ACBL NEWS

The ACBL Board of Directors met on Zoom last week to listen to the new marketing program being initiated by the ACBL marketing director, Mary Stratton.

There is serious concern within the organization about the number of players who are not actively playing online. Marketing is working on trying to reach these members and keep them engaged during the pandemic. The ACBL is offering a free quest membership to any new players interested in joining the ACBL to find out what it's all about. Please spread the news to your friends and family.

Also, as part of this new program, the marketing department has introduced a new logo, and will be updating the website and bridge bulletin with a younger, cleaner look. There is also plans for a Zoom help desk, manned by our directing staff, to help provide technical assistance for those who need help to play bridge online.

Like everything else bridge, teaching bridge has also gone virtual. Several teachers in our district have already started offering online bridge classes. The most popular way this is being done is to connect students through Zoom, offer any lecture type presentations that way, and then keep Zoom open for audio purposes and connect to the Shark Bridge or BBO teaching platforms.

Want to see what it looks like? Want to learn to teach this way? Listed below are some online resources. If you want to further discuss this, or have questions, please feel free to contact Mary Miller, mary.miller028@gmail.com

If you are interested in teaching you can link to Shark Bridge – watch a demo, sign up for a teacher account and learn to use Shark Bridge: <https://thesharkbridgecompany.com/>

If you would like to take class on learning to use Shark Bridge – Silvana Morici provides group or individual classes for teachers: <https://www.bestbridgelessons.com/bbo-lessons>

If you would like to learn more about using Zoom – click on Resources for assistance on how to use Zoom at <https://zoom.us/>

Additionally, District 4 has started a listing of teachers on the district website. Teachers may send their name, contact information, and a brief bio to me to be included on the website. Please send me an email with a photo, contact information and class information so that we can list your lessons on our website. joannglasson@msn.com

Stay well,

Joann