



# THE CONSUMER

WITH ALL THE MBU NEWS FIT TO PRINT

[www.mbuinc.org](http://www.mbuinc.org)

Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

October 2021



## President's Message

By Lynda J. Straker

Dear MBU Family,

Time is flying by. It's fall already and we are still living in uncertain times with no clear solution to the issues that present themselves at the bridge table – at least when thinking about playing face to face. We, in the MBU, miss seeing each other and competing under our customary circumstances.

At our last meeting, we spoke about resuming club games upon receiving the waiver that each player must sign prior to the game. Published in this edition of our Consumer are the ABA (1) COVID-19 Participant Waiver of Liability, Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk Agreement and (2) Guidelines for Face-to-Face Bridge. Both documents will be discussed at our next MBU Zoom membership meeting on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 1 pm. ABA club games must adhere to these guidelines and each participant must sign the waiver at each game.

The ABA is sponsoring a Welcome Back Tournament from November 30 through December 4, 2021 in New Orleans. The details are on the ABA homepage and early registration is encouraged.

Playing duplicate bridge on BBO continues to attract many MBU players. Those who are patiently (or impatiently) waiting for a resumption of face-to-face bridge games with little or no risk have found a "safe haven" on BBO. Sadly, the price we pay is no social interaction and the absence of friendly exchanges.

Thank you to those who support the Bridge Home by playing in the 11 am BBO Benefit Game on Wednesdays and to Willie Fuchs who has directed that payment for his lessons be sent to the Bridge Home.

Our BBO Big Apple virtual game on Tuesdays at 2 pm is struggling to survive. This game is a fund raiser for the MBU, and we were hoping for membership support. If there are any suggestions to promote the viability of this game, please email me at [ljays96@aol.com](mailto:ljays96@aol.com) or present your ideas at our October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It seems clear to me that we will not be returning to duplicate bridge as we remember it for some time – if at all. Our memories, though, of our club games, "C" games, "B" weekends, our "AAA," sectional and national tournaments and all the special people we know and have known will sustain us while we wait for that inner peace that will signal the time is right for us to venture out into the real world again and play bridge. Some of us are ready now to take that step and others are still hesitant to leave the virtual bridge world. Whatever your state of mind, the MBU needs your support and appreciates your choice. Stay safe and enjoy playing bridge – until we meet again.

Sincerely,



## Next Level

By Dolores Watson

*Yea, though we walk through the valley of COVID-19 variants, we fear not for we have masks and vaccinations to protect us. The next level to this pandemic is phasing in proof of vaccination, either by carrying an official card or digital proof.*

The American Bridge Association held its General Meeting via Zoom on August 26, 2021. The opening prayer was given by Dr. Errol Grant who offered that our leaders make wise decisions and that we be a blessing to each other. Harold Bickham, president of the association, called the 90-minute meeting to order reaching 255 registered members. A draft report is available online at [www.ababridge.org](http://www.ababridge.org). To access, login, scroll down to MYABA and select ABA Meeting Minutes.

The current National Officers — President Harold Bickham, Vice President Mae Clark, Secretary Gloria Christler, and Treasurer Shirley Williams — consented to continue to serve in their respective offices as no other Letters of Intent were submitted to the Election Committee. One unanimous vote was cast in favor of the uncontested slate of candidates.

The association's financial standing is solid, with 49 percent of fiscal 2021 budgeted revenue realized as of June 30, 2021. ABA/BBO

Continued on page 2



Next Level, continued from page 1

online revenue, membership dues and charter fees account for 79 percent of revenue. Among the challenges faced by the association are increasing membership as our numbers have declined during this pandemic, striking a balance between online and face-to-face bridge, and updating the association's Bylaws and Handbook to comport with today's environment.

Good news for members — you will receive \$5 discount on National dues when you pay by November 30, 2021. New members who took bridge classes and joined during 2021 will receive 2022 dues free.



## Bayview Breeze

By Valerie Brooks

Greetings, Family and happy fall. We hope this finds all of you and yours well. Having endured another challenging year, we offer a prayer of hope.

*Precious Lord, you are the light that shines when we are going through our darkest moments.*

*Remind us to look upon your face, knowing that if we trust and anchor our hopes in you, everything's going to be alright.*

*In your name we pray. AMEN.*

Best holiday wishes. Stay safe and thoroughly enjoy. See you on BBO.

## Brooklynites DBC

By Jane Atlas

Happy fall. We were thrilled to return to the bridge tables in July. Please join us on Fridays at 625 Quincy Street, Brooklyn, New York. The game begins at 1 pm. Come for refreshments at noon.

**Submissions for the January 2022  
Consumer are due December 15**

*Thank you to our reporters.*

### EDITORS

**Rita Thompson 917.887.5200**  
**Dolores Watson 516.485.7868**  
**Annetta Wallace 718.723.3983**

## Co-op City DBC

By Lorelei Blackman

Greetings, Bridge Players.

This summer has been wonderful so far. A storm here and there but we have made it through. Thankfully, we managed to get past Hurricane Ida. Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've had to reimagine all aspects of our lives so thanks for hanging in there and doing the right thing. Please don't forget to WEAR YOUR MASK!

All our members hope you are truly enjoying your restful time at home. We are always thinking about you. Fall is creeping up, remember to drink water and stay hydrated all year round.

Our dear member Genesis Washington is back at home. Please hold Clarence Polite and his family deep in your heart as they bear the loss of his son.

The latest version of COVID-19 doesn't appear to be leaving us so hang in there. We're experiencing a new normal. We must be more attentive to our gatherings and groups. We were always concerned and careful but now just attempting to play bridge in a group requires extra care.

Get out for a stroll when you can; it doesn't have to be far. Just grab a bridge book, look for a comfortable spot, sit back, relax, read a chapter or two.

The Co-op City Bridge Club continues to send warm thoughts and prayers to all who may have lost someone close to them during this period. We are quietly and soulfully with you in spirit.

## Cosmopolitan DBC

By Steven Bond

As the hot weather starts to let up (a little), we look forward to the fall changes ahead. We also look forward to the hopeful changes in our bridge playing situation. Guidelines are being developed, but we are still waiting (impatiently) for a return to in-person playing with friends we have not seen, in most cases, for 18 months.

We wish to congratulate those who have been earning points on BBO. We also extend congratulations to those who are celebrating birthdays this fall: Steven Bond in October, and John Demos in December.

We look forward to hearing soon when we might be "back at the tables." Meanwhile, take care and be safe.



## Jet Setter DBC

By Beverly Sessions-Kelly

Hello, bridge players. How are you doing? The summer is fading as we head into the fall season. I'm sorry to see the summer go, but I hope you love looking at the beautiful colors of autumn and enjoy watching the seasons change.

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and before we know it Christmas will be here. Wishing everyone a great fall and winter through all the holidays and hope to see you all at the bridge tables soon.

## DBC of Mount Vernon

By Rita Thompson

The DBCMV Scholarship Committee has selected scholarship candidates from three Mount Vernon High Schools. Each will receive \$400 to assist with college expenses. Students are encouraged to stay in touch and keep us informed of their progress as they pursue their education goals. Our thanks to Chair Dr. Gloria Hobbs and committee members Charles Guest, Jean Keizs and Dolores Thompson and to the generosity of everyone in the club for financially supporting this endeavor.

Our members are well represented at all the ABA online games. Some have expressed disappointment at the lack of participation in Tuesday's Big Apple MBU Virtual Club having registered and then having their registration cancelled due to insufficient registration (less than 12 pairs).

President Charles Guest continues to monitor the status of the Doles Center where we will play when face-to-face games resume. The Doles Senior Center has opened but our "playing area" is currently unavailable for use.

## Springfield DBC

By Eliza Brann

We hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing summer playing bridge online and on vacation.

In October on the 17th, we wish a happy birthday to Sandra Surita and hope that she is now fully recovered. On October 25, Dolores Watson will celebrate her special day. We hope it will be one to remember. Evelyn Smallwood's birthday was celebrated on Zoom by friends and family on September 25. It is always good to see so many smiling faces.

## Twilight DBC

By Jesse Palmer

Leaves are falling, summer has ended, and autumn has arrived. Soon we will celebrate Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and (do you believe it?) New Year's Eve and a brand-new year (2022). Wow, how time flies.

I had the pleasure of attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the reopening of our Senior Center and, hopefully, we will begin playing in October.

Please keep Mercedes Mann and Betty Sherrill in your prayers, that they may continue to recover.

Hoping everyone enjoys the up-and-coming holidays and a safe and happy new year.

## Westbury DBC

By Patricia Binyard

Hello, bridge family. What a time we have been through. Just when we thought we were near the end of our crisis, here comes Delta. We send this message out to everyone: Be safe, wear your mask in public places, wash your hands frequently, and stay abreast with all the vaccine information being disseminated. Those of you who are hesitant of getting the vaccine, I echo the message of President Biden — WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Great news — our long-time member, Tom Holloway, is out and about. He is playing bridge at the Westbury Senior Center. Come out and join him on Fridays from 1 pm - 3 pm.

Our president, Alverna Lewis, sends out a big thank you to all who sent prayers, encouragement and support acknowledging the loss of her brother, Norris Lewis.

One of our newer members, Deborah Mabry, is recuperating from surgery. Please join us in wishing her a speedy recovery. Please keep Wilma Alexander, Ted Conliffe and Mayer Wiesen in your prayers.

We hope we will get back to the bridge tables soon. Until then, we look forward to seeing you online at [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com).



**Do you know how many people are vaccinated in your zipcode?**

[Click here](#) to find out.

**Sort by zipcode; then, find yours.**



# The Opening Bid

By Dr. Errol Grant

When we pick up our hands, we all sort quickly to see if we have the magical 13 HCPs or more. If that's the case, we settle back in our seats and prepare to have a good time. If our hand is less than the expected 13, then it becomes should I or should I not venture an opening bid. Let me share some guidelines that will lead you to reasonable considerations.

In first or second seat, strive to open with 13 points; but wait a minute, all 13 points don't have equal strength.

Consider these three hands:

1. ♠ Q 9 3	2. ♠ Q J 10	3. ♠ K 9 8
♥ Q 7 5	♥ Q J 10	♥ K 10
♦ A J 3	♦ A J 10	♦ A 8 7 4
♣ K J 4 2	♣ Q 9 6 2	♣ K 9 8 4

In hand 1, the Q's are not protected and may never produce a trick. This implies you have 8 losers.

In hand 2, the Q's are protected and will produce a trick but the rest of the hand is not very productive; again, 8 losers.

In hand 3, you have "stuff" -- good intermediates backing up your K's and A; 7 losers.

I would not have much confidence in opening hands 1 and 2 but surely hand 3.

There is a useful tool to assist you in determining whether to open the bidding or pass -- it is called the Rule of 22.

## Rule of 22

Add the number of cards in your two longest suits to your HCPs. If that total comes to 20, then you can go to the next step. If not, proceed no further. If the total does come to 20, look for two defensive tricks; hence, 22 = 20 + 2.

A defensive trick means that if the opponents win the contract, you can produce two tricks on defense.

Here is how to evaluate defensive tricks:

A = 1    K = ½    AK = 2    KQ = ½

Go back and check the hands above. Do they meet the criteria? Only hand 3 does, so you pass with 1 and 2 and open with 3.

Our discussion so far assumes balanced hands. With unbalanced hands, especially "wildly" unbalanced hands, while the Rule of 22 guides you, if the opponents win the contract be aware that even your defensive tricks may not produce a trick since opponents may be void. So, do not yield to the temptation to double. Here is an example:

♠ -	Opponents find themselves in 6♠.
♥ A 10 9 8 7 6	Do not double because you have two A's.
♦ J	You have a VOID so they are likely to have a VOID also. We refer to that as symmetry.
♣ A J 10 8 5 4	

So, what about opening hands on the edge? What would you do with the following hands?

1. ♠ A 10 9 8 7 6	2. ♠ A K 6 5 3
♥ -	♥ K J 10 9
♦ A J 10 8 6 5	♦ 6 5
♣ J	♣ 8 4
3. ♠ 8	4. ♠ 5
♥ 2	♥ K Q J 10 8 6
♦ K Q J 8 5	♦ Q 10 7 5
♣ A J 10 9 6 3	♣ K 2

With hand 1, I would open 1♠ planning to rebid 5♦ next if I don't hear something favorable from partner.

With hand 2, I would open 1♠ with an easy rebid of 2♥.

With hand 3, I would open 1♦; then 5♣ giving partner a choice.

With hand 4, 2♥ you say? I would open 1♥, too good for weak opening.

Too rich for your blood? Try them.

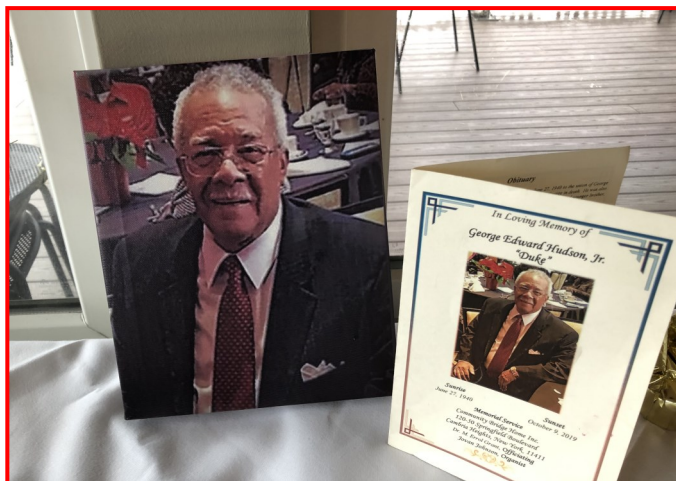


*"Think of a reason to bid, not an excuse to pass."*

*Dr. Parvez Mehta*



## Tributes to George Hudson



On September 9, 2021, the George Hudson Memorial Calcutta Tournament was held in Cape May, New Jersey. Calcutta is a form of gambling where investors bid on the pairs competing in the tournament for a percentage of the collected money pool.

Cheryll C. Jones placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the tournament. Other MBU tournament participants were Lemuel Copeland, Patricia Jackson, Patricia Binyard and Beverly Sessions-Kelly. Cape May County Duplicate Bridge Club is a member of ACBL.

ABA approved Pro-Am games at Summer Nationals to be named George Hudson PRO-AM game.



**By Lois M. Wright**

The Officers and Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to the many that have sent donations to help keep the Community Bridge Home afloat. What a blessing you have been during the COVID-19 crisis.

As we head into another year of dealing with the pandemic, none of us could have predicted that 2021 would still be without ease. We truly appreciate your continued support as we continue to adapt to the unprecedented circumstances impacting the ongoing operations of the Community Bridge Home.

We also thank all who are participating in the 11 am weekly ABA/BBO game on Wednesdays and the Zoom bridge classes on Mondays at 9:30 am, Thursdays at 9:00 am and Fridays at 9:30 am, all benefiting The Community Bridge Home. We extend a special thank you to Mr. Willie Fuchs for donating his time and efforts preparing and instructing our Zoom bridge classes.

Again, thank you, be blessed and stay safe.

## AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION EASTERN SECTION

**NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR  
VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND TREASURER  
TERM OF OFFICE: TWO YEARS (1/1/2023-12/31/2024)**

**ALL NOMINEES MUST BE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING.  
SEE BYLAWS AT [WWW.ABAEAS.ORG](http://WWW.ABAEAS.ORG).**



**Barbara Wingate, Chair  
Eastern Section Nominating Committee  
Email: [bannwin@aol.com](mailto:bannwin@aol.com)**

**10% EARLYBIRD DISCOUNT  
PAY ABA DUES BY NOVEMBER 30  
SAVE \$5**





## Get Well Wishes

**Bayview**  
Rudy Cummings  
Phyllis Jones

**Springfield**  
Moses Smallwood

**Triangle**  
Julius Fields



**Twilight**  
Mercedes Mann  
Betty Sherrill

**Westbury**  
Wilma Alexander  
Ted Conliffe  
Deborah Mabry  
Mayer Wiesen



## Condolences

### Bayview

*Sylvia Simmons, on the loss of her son*

### Co-op City and Mount Vernon

*Dorothy Smith and Gladys Smith,  
on the loss of their nephew*

### Cosmopolitan

*Family of Rosalee Samuels*

### Jet Setter

*Minnie Hagans, on the loss of her brother  
Family of Jane Harris  
Family of Devora Sconiers*

### Triangle

*Family of Annie Nelson*

### Westbury

*Alverna Lewis, on the loss of her brother*



## OCTOBER

**BAYVIEW**  
Delores Brooks  
**BROOKLYNITES**

Inez Lambert  
Jane Atlas

**CO-OP CITY**  
Ernestine Myles

**COSMO**  
Steven Bond

**JET SETTER**  
Victoria Williams

**SPRINGFIELD**  
Sandra Surita  
Dolores Watson

**TWILIGHT**  
Doris Douglas

**WESTBURY**  
Edna Boothe  
Doris Duperly  
Cynthia Bohanan

## NOVEMBER

**BROOKLYNITES**  
Connie Freeman  
Dorene Christmas

**CO-OP CITY**  
Patricia Cobb  
Queenie May  
Georgianna Rodriguez

**JET SETTER**  
Yvonne Ebea

**MOUNT VERNON**  
Ersaline Callender  
Susan Samtur  
Rita Thompson

**TWILIGHT**  
Clara Kearse  
Jesse Palmer  
Carole Smith

## DECEMBER

**BAYVIEW**  
Marilyn Legall  
Joan Sanders  
**BROOKLYNITES**

Leon Roland

**CO-OP CITY**  
Susie Polite

**COSMO**  
John Demos

**MOUNT VERNON**  
Gloria Hobbs  
Elinor Williams  
Bill Wood  
Sharon Lucas

**TWILIGHT**  
Kenneth Thomas  
Paul Watford

## CORRECTION

ABA Bulletin, October 2021, states on page 40 "Dr. Errol Grant of the Great Lakes Section offered the prayer."

CORRECTION — Dr. Errol Grant is a member in good standing of the Eastern Section.



## Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.

**July 17, 2021**

Lynda Straker called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM and welcomed everyone to our ZOOM virtual meeting.



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**Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.**

**Invocation** - by Janice McBean

**Minutes** – Presented by Janice McBean.

Janice informed the membership that the minutes (printed in the Consumer and sent via email) are corrected to show Cosmo was present at the April 17, 2021 membership meeting. Minutes of the April 17, 2021 membership meeting were reviewed by the membership. MOTION (Edna Boothe/Rita Thompson): Accept minutes with necessary correction. MOTION CARRIED.

**Correspondence** – None.

**President's Report** – Presented by Lynda Straker

Thank you for joining us today. I know that many of us are looking forward to meeting and greeting each other face to face and I believe we are very close to that reality. I personally am concerned about the Delta variant and how that will impact senior citizens, vaccinated or unvaccinated. I'm telling you that so you know my perspective on "opening up" and urge everyone to be cautious as we begin to have in-person club games.

I expect that the ABA will issue its guidelines very shortly. I will communicate those guidelines, in writing, and it will be up to each club to ensure compliance and begin in-person club games when each club is ready. I recommend that each club's executive committee incorporate those ABA guidelines into written procedures tailored to your club. Masks, waivers, vaccinated and unvaccinated players, returnees from out of state or European trips, sneezing and coughing players, BYOB or what alternative refreshments, hand sanitizers, and other topics may need to be addressed. All players should get a copy of the club's guidelines. Also, determine who will be monitoring each player's adherence to the guidelines and how. For example, if someone arrives and is coughing and/or sneezing, whose responsibility is it to address that individual and make decisions about their ability to play in the game?

Thank you everyone who is supporting the Bridge Home through direct or indirect donations. We need to support each other to come out of this pandemic in a way that we can move forward with energy and enthusiasm for bridge. The MBU Executive Committee plans on a "reopening celebration" at some point which is to be funded by the proceeds from our MBU Big Apple BBO Open Pairs game. Speaking of the MBU Big Apple BBO Open Pairs game, it is now a 12-board virtual game held at 2:00 pm on Tuesdays. We need everyone's participation to keep this game going and to maximize contributions to the MBU bank account.

As suggested at our last meeting, online bridge lessons are being conducted by Willie Fuchs on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am and on Thursdays at 9:00 am. The Monday/Friday sessions are on a variety of bridge topics and the Thursday classes are on Two Over One. All are invited and Willie asks that participants make donations to the Bridge Home in lieu of payment for his lessons. It is great to see MBU members and people we know from other sections around the country on BBO. I'm sure it will be very exciting when we get to meet again face to face. Thank you all for maintaining your ABA, Eastern Section and MBU membership. Call up anyone you know who used to play bridge with us and let them know we are playing online and very close to resuming bridge at the table in our clubs. Invite them to participate. We look forward to seeing our old friends and making new ones.

Stay safe. Be careful. It's not over yet. **Financial Secretary's Report** – Presented by Raye Liverpool, April 1 - June 30, 2021

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Annual Dues	20.00	Consumer	243.30
Entertainment Tax	0.00	Bridge Home	0.00
Good & Welfare	0.00	Bank Fees	0.00
Herman Huff	800.00	Bridge Home BBO Proceeds from ABA	931.45
Chase Bank Fee	0.00	Stipend	0.00
Bridge Home BBO Proceeds from ABA	931.45	Web Fees	107.37
MBU BBO Games	170.55	Zoom Fees	0.00
<b>Total Funds Received</b>	<b>\$1,922.00</b>	Good & Welfare Supplies	17.41
		Memoriums	200.00
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,499.53</b>
		<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>\$422.47</b>

**Notes:**

Scrip on hand: \$656

ABA check for Bridge Home for February received in March was short \$7.05.

ABA checks for Bridge Home and MBU for May and June have not been received.

There was no income or expenses for previous years.

Lynda Straker asked for total dollars received to date for the Big Apple games. Raye Liverpool confirmed \$170.55 received in April and \$165.11 received in May.





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**Metropolitan Bridge Unit, Inc.**

**Treasurer's Report** – Presented by Sharon Fox for April 1 - June 30, 2021

**Checking Account**

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>\$15,023.61</b>
<b>Deposits</b>	<b>\$1,922.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,945.61</b>
<b>**Checks/fees paid</b>	<b>\$1,699.53</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$15,246.08</b>

**\*\*Checks paid/misc. expenses**

<b>\$17.41 Good and welfare expenses</b>
<b>\$200.00 Memoriums</b>
<b>\$200.00 Board stipend</b>
<b>\$243.30 April/June Consumer</b>
<b>\$107.37 Web fees</b>
<b>\$931.45 Bridge Home proceeds from BBO</b>
<b>\$1,699.53 TOTAL</b>

Sharon Fox pointed out that the total collected to date for the Bridge Home from BBO games is \$1,518.38.

**Entertainment Tax** – None.

**Point Coordinator Report** – Lois Wright

The ABA will send Lois Wright point information for January - June 2021. Lynda Straker informed the membership that club presidents will receive point cards for their members. Point information is available on the ABA website and Rita Thompson stated point information is available on the BBO website.

If the club point coordinators have any questions, please feel free to contact Lois at [MyStuff1944@netzero.net](mailto:MyStuff1944@netzero.net).

**Sectional Representative Report** - None.

**Property** – None.

**Constitution** - None.

**Scholarship** – Presented by Valerie Brooks

No scholarship applications received. Donations are always welcome.

**Tournament Report** – None.

**Consumer Report** – Presented by Rita Thompson

Rita Thompson thanked the clubs for their Consumer article submissions. The next issue of the Consumer will be October 2021. All previous issues of the Consumer may be found on the MBU website. Thank you to our reporters and the editing team.



**Hospitality Report** – None.

**Website/Facebook** – None.

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**New Business**

Edna Boothe asked if the Brooklynites followed COVID guidelines for their 7/16/21 game. President Lynda Straker pointed out that this game was not an ABA sanctioned game. She did speak with Brooklynites' President, Lois Francis, who confirmed that the non-sanctioned game was following the guidelines of the facility where the game was taking place. President Straker encouraged clubs not to meet until ABA guidelines are received. The MBU Executive Board will meet to discuss ABA guidelines once they are released.

Gladys Smith, ESVP, informed the membership that the ABA would be meeting next week to discuss guidelines. She did know that all players would have to sign a waiver, to avoid lawsuits, and that the Brooklynites did not follow guidelines from the ABA. Donna Woo stated she felt the Brooklynites' name should not be used when advertising a non-sanctioned ABA game. Beverly Sessions-Kelly questioned how one would know whether a player has signed a waiver. Gladys Smith stated a list would be published.

President Lynda Straker requested volunteers to head the 2022 AAA tournament. Lynda can be reached by phone or email (516-610-7601 or [ljays96@aol.com](mailto:ljays96@aol.com)).

**Announcements** - Next membership meeting is October 16, 2021 at 1 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by Janice McBean, MBU Secretary

## **Guidelines for Face-to-Face Bridge**

### **Safety Procedures**

Units and clubs, in planning when and how to run events, should determine the safety procedures they will employ, guided by CDC, local (state/city/county, as applicable) regulations on group size for indoor gatherings of various types, mask wearing, distancing, cleaning of surfaces, evidence of vaccination, and other relevant factors.

### **Bridge Player Requirements**

- ◆ Full COVID-19 vaccinations are required for each bridge player and any persons within the playing area. Players must bring proof of vaccination. (Please note: DO NOT take a photo of each person's vaccination card. Just note that they presented one on the liability form.)
- ◆ The ABA Release of Liability must be read and signed by each bridge player and any persons within the playing area.
- ◆ Players and any persons within the playing area are encouraged to wear a mask.
- ◆ If you are sick, have a fever, are coughing or sneezing, please stay home.

### **Bridge Club Boards, Playing Cards, Bidding Boxes**

- ◆ Wipe boards and bidding boxes clean before duplication.
- ◆ Store boards for 72 hours before reuse.
- ◆ Bidding Boxes – Individual bidding boxes should be used throughout the game.

### **Preparing the Playing Room**

- ◆ Limit the number of tables in the room to ensure there is legal spacing between tables. Suggested 3 feet apart.
- ◆ Ensure alcohol-based hand sanitizer or hand wipes supplied by the club are readily available at each table.
- ◆ Ensure face masks supplied by the club, if required, are readily available for those who neglect to bring one.
- ◆ Recommend there are disposable gloves available.
- ◆ Catering – Determine if it is safe for persons to bring their own snacks and beverages. Only individually wrapped snacks and beverages are permitted. No communal coffee and condiments allowed.



## Waiver of Liability

The ABA has provided a waiver of liability form (see below) to be signed by attendees at ABA-sponsored events when face-to-face bridge games resume.



### **American Bridge Association, Inc. COVID-19 Participant Waiver of Liability, Acknowledgment, and Assumption of Risk Agreement**

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization and a national emergency in the United States. COVID-19 is highly contagious and, as a result, social distancing is recommended by federal and state health agencies. The American Bridge Association, Inc. (ABA) has implemented reasonable preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among participants and attendees (Participant) at ABA tournaments and other activities and events. However, given the nature of the virus, there is an inherent risk of being exposed to, or even contracting, COVID-19 by attending and/or participating in an ABA tournament or any other ABA-sponsored event.

Even though current safety protocols recommended by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and county health agencies will be followed to the fullest extent possible, the ABA cannot guarantee that a Participant will not become infected with COVID-19. Participants must understand and acknowledge that attending ABA tournaments and any other events could increase their risk of contracting COVID-19.

By signing this COVID-19 Participant Waiver of Liability, Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk Agreement (Agreement), as a Participant, I agree and acknowledge that:

1. I am aware of the highly contagious nature of COVID-19 and the risk that I may be exposed to, or contract, COVID-19 by participating in ABA-sponsored tournaments and other ABA-sponsored events.
2. I am familiar with federal, state, and local laws, orders, directives, and guidelines related to COVID-19, including the CDC guidance on COVID-19 (Applicable Laws).
3. I will comply in all material respects with all Applicable Laws at all times while participating in ABA-sponsored activities or tournaments, including, without limitation, requirements related to hand sanitation, social distancing, vaccination, and facemasks/face coverings.
4. I agree not to enter any space that the ABA has obtained for any event or to participate in any ABA-sponsored activity or tournament if any of the following is true:
  - a. within the last 10 days, I have experienced symptoms of COVID-19; or
  - b. within the last 10 days, I have had a positive COVID-19 test.



5. I agree not to enter any space that the ABA has obtained for any event or to participate in any ABA-sponsored activity or tournament if any of the following is true and I have not completed my vaccine series (i.e., two doses of Moderna and Pfizer or one dose of Johnson & Johnson) more than two weeks ago:
  - a. within the last 14 days, I have been on a cruise ship or river cruise voyage; or
  - b. within the last 14 days, I have had close contact (defined as contact within less than six feet for a total of at least 15 minutes) with a person or persons who have had a positive COVID-19 test.
6. I understand and acknowledge that any such exposure or infection may result in serious illness, personal injury, permanent disability, death, or other damages.
7. I understand that, while the ABA has implemented preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the ABA cannot guarantee that I will not become infected with COVID-19 while participating in any ABA-sponsored activities or tournaments, whether from actions, omissions, or negligence of others, including ABA employees, contractors, volunteers and other Participants.

As a Participant, I knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently agree, individually and on behalf of myself and my heirs and family members, to hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless the ABA, its employees, contractors, volunteers and other Participants of and from any and all claims, actions, damages, costs, or expenses of any kind arising out of or related to any COVID-19 related illness (Claims). I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of the ABA, its employees, and other Participants whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after attending an ABA event or participating in an ABA activity or tournament.

By signing this Agreement, I agree that if I am exposed to or infected by COVID-19 while participating in any ABA activity or tournament, then I may be found by a court of law to have waived my right to maintain a lawsuit or arbitration against the parties being released on the basis of any Claim.

I acknowledge and agree that this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of, and deemed to have been executed in, the State of Indiana without reference to conflict of law principles. In the event that I file a lawsuit or seek arbitration, or if my heirs file a lawsuit or seek arbitration on my behalf, the appropriate state or federal court for Atlanta, Georgia is the exclusive jurisdiction, forum, and venue for any such dispute, and I further agree that the substantive law of the State of Indiana shall apply. I agree that, if any portion of this Agreement is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect. By signing this Agreement, I consent to personal jurisdiction in the State of Georgia, waive any right to challenge (and agree not to challenge) the convenience of the stated forum; and waive any right to challenge (and agree not to challenge) the properness of the stated venue.

As a Participant, I have had sufficient time to read this entire document prior to signing. I have read and understand this document and I agree to be bound by its terms.

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Signature

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Date

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Print Name

***The Waiver of Liability and Guidelines for Face-to-Face Bridge will be discussed at the October 16, 2021 MBU Quarterly Membership Meeting.***