

From: Allan Young, President of ACBL Unit 469, "The Big Island"

To: Members of "The Big Island"

Dear Bridge Players:

Greetings! With the help of 20th-century technology, I aim to keep people informed of current events involving Unit 469. I also invite you to share with one another news about bridge on the Big Island.

Your Unit Board thanks the volunteers who worked so hard producing the 2015 Big Island Sectional. Those deserving special mention are chairperson Liz Holey, as well as workers who aren't even bridge players but just kind friends. Volunteers attended to site prep, food & beverages, ACBL regulations, and finances. Tourney participants hailed from several Islands, Chicago, and even Boston; they enjoyed 93 table-sessions of play. Next year's tourney (19-21 Feb) is being planned by chairperson Rexanne Ring. I hear, encouraging newcomers to bridge will receive special attention. Rexanne would appreciate hearing from volunteers to help produce 2016's Sectional.

The Board reminds everyone of our upcoming membership meeting, traditionally held in October and in recent years involving brunch and game at Mauna Kea Beach Hotel. (Details of 2015's meeting are being worked out.) Also, do remember that throughout the year "unit games" and special competitions are held at local sites and are directed by familiar faces.

As to finances, our bank account balance today is \$6944.73. During the year this figure is impacted by expenses of the membership meeting, profit or loss on the Sectional tourney, and a modest allowance from ACBL. Member donations of labor and goods meaningfully affect our treasury's balance, too.

Your Unit representatives await suggestions for promoting interaction among Big Isle bridge players. Reps with alliterative names are Chuck Clark, Rexanne Ring and Rich Robbins; those with ordinary names are Allan Young, Dee Overton, and Pat Montgomery.

My last news item is a sad one. Jim Gibson, who served as a Unit representative and also as President, passed away just recently. Jim worked to the advantage of the Waikoloa Club and Unit 469. He will be missed.

UNIT BACKGROUND (4/2015; see also ACBL's website). An ACBL "unit" is a group of members defined by geography. Unit 469, "The Big Island", includes approximately 100 ACBL members whose home addresses are located on the Big Island. ACBL encourages units to promote bridge within their boundaries and to foster a sense of unit identity. Our Unit Board consists of six members, two each representing Hilo, Kona, and Waikoloa-Waimea. Players with suggestions, and especially the will, to elevate the bridge experience here should enthusiastically speak to a representative. Unit 469 and the Island's several bridge clubs are

separate entities. Each transacts directly with ACBL, and each draws from its respective membership base to meet staffing needs.

Your Unit does sponsor several events during the year. The most conspicuous one is the "Big Island Sectional" tournament, typically held during a 3-day weekend in February at Kona Bridge Club's site. This event attracts players from other Islands and prompts some mainland tourists to coordinate their vacation plans. Another annual event is the membership meeting and game, traditionally held in October at a central location. Finally, throughout the year there are "unit games" and other special competitions held at familiar local sites. Although these events might resemble club games, they are technically "sponsored by the Unit" and award masterpoints more liberally.

With regard to finances, our bank account balance has ranged from \$7000 to \$9000 in recent years. Based on our enrollment of about 100 members, ACBL annually rebates to us approximately \$400 (derived from dues paid directly to ACBL) for the purpose of promoting bridge here. Subject to reconsideration by the Board, our financial policy has been: (i) to subsidize each attendee's food tab at the annual membership meeting; (ii) to avoid financial loss in presenting the Sectional, to the extent possible. In other words, the ACBL rebate is income, the membership meeting is expenditure, and the Sectional is a financially significant but highly unpredictable undertaking. The remaining, occasional Unit events have small financial consequence. Over the years, maintaining our financial health while engaging in the listed activities has been made possible by contributions of labor, goods, and money from members dedicated to the well-being of Unit 469.