

EMBA Candidates for Election to the EMBA Board for 2024 – 7 to be elected

Carolyn Bitetti



I am running for a second term on the EMBA Board. My three-year term is almost up, and I am FINALLY beginning to understand how to get things done!

My parents taught my five sisters (yes five) and I to play bridge, so I played bridge (along with many other games) growing up. It wasn't until I retired from my career as an executive for medical device companies that I went back to bridge and started to take it more seriously.

I have been playing duplicate bridge since 2017 (a newbie!) and have had a grand time meeting new people and traveling to tournaments. Yes, the intellectual challenge of the game is great and keeps my brain working overtime. Most importantly for me however is the social aspect of the game; I have made

many new friends both locally and from other parts of the country.

I enjoy spreading the word about bridge and helping ensure that our members (of all levels) feel welcome at clubs and bridge tournaments.

Recruiting newcomers to the game is the future of bridge and our local EMBA board can help with that in partnership with the district and national levels of the ACBL.

I would appreciate your vote so I can take what I have learned over the last three years on the board and put it to good use in a second term.

Thank you for your consideration.

Abhijit Dutta



Walter Fey

I am running for the EMBA Board, please vote for me. I consider this another 'date' in my love affair with the game of bridge. I would say 'long running' love affair but I've only been playing for 8 years. I am looking forward (with your vote and support) to help spread the word about this crazy game we all love. There are clubs out there and players who need our support and encouragement to come play duplicate. I come from a 'Family Friendly Bridge' background and look forward to finding new (maybe different) ways to grow our bridge community.



Sam Gallo



My Bridge story began in the fall of 2018 following my retirement earlier that summer. My previous Bridge experience consisted of sometimes reading the daily Bridge column in the Globe and playing a few hands with a lunch time work group who let me play when a 4th was needed some 30+ years ago.

Throughout my life I often played card games, but while doing so I also had a desire to learn Bridge in earnest but never had the time. Once retired I had that time. My journey to learn to play Bridge started at Bridge Spot in Woburn where I played in my maiden Duplicate Game where I can honestly say that I was

hooked. I played as often as I could to improve my game and to establish bridge contacts.

I subsequently joined ACBL and started playing at Family Friendly in Arlington. I discovered that Bridge turned out to be extremely challenging and highly competitive and offered a great social dimension for me when I played in person games. I also played a lot of on-line Bridge in between, especially during the COVID lock down period.

My experience earned me a Silver Life Master. Prior to becoming a Life Master, my partner and I qualified to represent the District in the NAP Flight C. I also won the Unit Ace of Clubs on 3 different occasions. I passed the Director Course to improve my understanding of the rules of Bridge. My Bridge game and the partners I have met while playing Bridge are a big part of my life.

If elected to the Board, I would like to find more ways to support and encourage our local Clubs. Without strong local Clubs the game will not flourish. I also will support and initiate measures to recruit and attract new players. Supporting more tournaments would also be a plus.

The bulk of my professional career as a lawyer was spent as General Counsel to Arthur D. Little in Cambridge MA.

Sue Geer

I love the game of bridge! The strategies, the camaraderie, and learning new ways to think through problems as a declarer and defender feed my competitive spirit, probably the same as you. Attending face-to-face games and tournaments (pairs and Swiss teams), and playing online are favorite pastimes and have helped me improve as a player.

Bridge came into my life after my children left home and I started playing kitchen bridge with friends. Wanting to be a better player, I discovered the Bridge Spot, found a regular partner and learned a lot at these games. (Helpful hints from strong players was always a bonus.) My only regret is that I didn't learn to play decades earlier. It would be wonderful if we can find ways to introduce junior and senior high school players to bridge and encourage them to become active players.



I'm running for a spot on the Board and very enthusiastically view this as my opportunity to give back to something that has given me so much pleasure. I anticipate policy discussions with fellow Board members, effecting change, and helping to make your experiences at the bridge table positive ones. I hope you will vote for me and help me give back to you and the game. Thank you.

Rick Howard

Rural Vermont. No car. Husband working on the railroad in 4-6 day stretches. Two sons under 4 years old. To



keep her sanity and with great patience, my mother taught me card games - cribbage, pitch, and rummy. In high school, I discovered another game: bridge (not that anyone would recognize that version), but it was several years before I started duplicate. Since then, I've lived in 13 states and had dozens of partners with nearly as many system variations, never ceasing to love the game. I passed the certified director's exam many years ago, although much prefer playing to running the game. It was an honor to chair the ethics committee for District 15 for 2 years, where I gained insight into ACBL's statewide (OK and KS) organization. Now there is an opportunity to serve the EMBA Board, and as I am recently retired, I

can devote considerable time and energy to maintaining District 25's strong reputation. I look forward to working with the Board.

Thank you in advance for your vote.



Hardin Matthews

Jo Megna-Wallace

As a child I loved all kinds of card games—Crazy Eights, Gin Rummy, Canasta, and Oh hell! to name a few. I hung around and watched my mom and her friends play bridge at the beach with magnetized cards that didn't blow away on a windy day.

The game immediately captured my interest so I studied Charles Goren and played when I could find a foursome in college and graduate school. I took a break when I had young children and a busy career as a French professor and later as a high school teacher. When I faced an empty nest and retirement, I took a continuing education course on bridge at the local high school and began playing party bridge with friends I met during the course. I developed an interest in duplicate bridge and have been playing duplicate now for about 15 years. I have met many wonderful

people, partners, and mentors. Several years ago, I was asked to serve as a delegate from unit 108 to District 25. I appreciated the opportunity to understand more about the issues and challenges facing our beloved game and wished to contribute more to keeping the game a vibrant pastime for all of us and for generations to come. Several years ago, I was elected to the EMBA board. During that time, I have faithfully attended meetings, served on the Membership Committee, and solicited candidates for the board on behalf of the Nominating Committee. I hope to continue to support the game and to find new ways to give back to the bridge community that has brought me many new friends and many hours of enjoyment. Thank you for considering my candidacy.





Stanley Nissen

Stan Piltch



I absolutely love the game of bridge and owe it my time. I feel the game is at a tipping point regarding participation. Prior to Covid we were already challenged to bring people into the game. As a result, many clubs were forced to close and didn't re-open. Additionally, many of our friends have either passed away or are playing exclusively on-line. Our losses have been far greater than our wins. We are struggling to "make our contract." EMBA can serve as a model for other parts of the country by increasing interest in the game and retaining people through great education and enjoyable experiences. I possess the skills to meet EMBA's needs.

I am asking you to vote for me for the EMBA Board. As a public educator for nearly 20 years and entrepreneur for 25 years, I have proven the skills needed to grow EMBA through recruitment and education. I am committed to going above and beyond the wonderful tournaments we sponsor.