

We are only one week away from reopening. I would like to communicate several things to our membership.

#1 **Proof of vaccination will be enforced.** Though it is with regret to have any of our membership unhappy, it is a NECESSARY stance for the time being to get the maximum number of people to return to F2F play. If you are unable or unwilling to show proof of vaccination, you will be barred from entering the Center. There will be NO exceptions. Even if you have sent us a photocopy, we need to have you bring it to the Center everyday initially. A big thank you in advance for dealing with this decision. We are in uncharted water and trying to make the correct decisions for the future of the Center and our individual members.

#2 *Online bridge will be available in the afternoons and evenings.* Some will miss the online game. It is convenient and can be played in a shorter period of time (popular among some of our working/not retired membership), and there is a lot of data to analyze and learn from. BUT, we do not think it can hold up long term and it fails to meet the need for socialization. Let's be grateful we had it. Let's be grateful that most all of our membership played with integrity and honesty allowing the game to meet our needs during the peak of the COVID epidemic. But we must have *in person* support. We must grow our game.

#3 Join us June 15th for a hotdog on the parking lot after the game.

#4. Tuesday-Friday June 15-18 are NAP qualifying games (see below for more info). The additional game fee required for these red/black points will be picked up by the St. Louis Bridge Center - Another thank you for your support.

**North American Pairs (NAP) qualifying games** run periodically every year throughout the summer months. Approximately 50% of the players who participate in a NAP game will qualify to compete in the NAP semi-finals in November, someplace in mid IL. Winners of the semi-final contest will represent District 8 in the North American Pairs event at the Spring Nationals in Reno, NV, March 10 through March 20, 2022.

NAP qualifying games award an elevated level of Masterpoints, 50% RED and 50% BLACK. (Note: Chat games are not eligible for RED Masterpoints). You will have several opportunities to qualify in the various NAP games that will be scheduled in the next

three months. There will also be online opportunities to qualify. You only need to qualify once to compete in November; however, every NAP game awards elevated Masterpoints that are 50% RED and 50% black so you will want to play in as many games as you can.

There will be winners in Flights A, B and C. Your Masterpoint status at the beginning of June will determine in which flight you will play in November.

Your journey toward Life Master status includes accumulating pigmented Masterpoints that are available in the various contests sponsored by the ACBL: GOLD, RED, SILVER, and Black Masterpoints. You must demonstrate proficiency in all venues to become a Life Master. RED Masterpoints are only available at Regional and National events. NAP qualifying games give you an opportunity to earn RED Masterpoints in the comfort of your local club.