

## Responses to Rank-Change Letters

January 2017 – August 2017

Hi, AJ. Thank you for your kind correspondence and again let me thank you for help in restoring my MPs after an absence of over 45 years.

In my late teens and early 20s I was an avid bridge player, probably spending more time at the table than attending classes. Subsequently, a family and career replaced my bridge playing days but, I never lost my love of the game.

The same story is true of my regular partner from back in the day. Now, both retired and with kids raised we've remained best of friends though separated by several States.

One day last year, almost as a joke, I suggested that we get together for a bridge game. Well, we checked the ACBL site and found there was a regional tourney in Charlotte which happens to be halfway between us, so off we went. Bearing in mind that neither of us had played in decades, couldn't remember how to fill out a convention card, and had never seen bidding cards...perhaps a regional wasn't the best way to start. The director spent a lot of time with us! Nonetheless, our card play wasn't awful...in fact, we were encouraged.

From there we tried regionals in Charleston and Wilmington and actually got some sectional firsts playing in 399er games. So, all is not lost. Looking forward to Asheville at the end of February.

Now, if we could just find a pair...we miss the team games.

One editorial...I've picked up more red points in two tourneys than I did in two years decades ago. Lots has changed but the game is the same.

Steve Cavender

---

### Story of how I achieved Gold Life Master Status

1998 to 2002

In 1998, I started taking bridge lessons for four years. I read about seven bridge books. In 2001, I started attending tournaments with two club partners. I wanted to earn five red points. I did not dream of achieving Life Master Status. Then I set a goal to reach each of the ranks before the Life Master Status. I achieved Life Master Status in 2002.

2003 to 2008

I met good partners at the Regionals and Nationals.

2009 to 2017 I met Eric R. Schulz in 2009. He has been my partner since 2009 and is my present partner (2017).

Mary M. Schulz

---

Thanks a lot , I'm so glad to reach the regional master. I'll keep on playing bridge as long as I can because I enjoy it not only is fun but it keeps me focused so hail to all the bridge players

Mina Hedayati

---

Thank you for the congratulations....Each person is thankful to achieve that rank....It has been fun.... While there is still a lag in the New Feature's acknowledgement that I am currently LM, I am pleased to know I actually have achieved the rank and there were no errors in calculations.....

I do not have a picture nor a statement for you but thank you for your attention....

Melba Patberg

---

Hi, AJ It's taken me 57 years to achieve this Rank and I went over in Style by winning a Regional Flight A pairs while playing with my favorite partner of many years, Kay Beck while playing at the Champagn Regional. as to a picture for the story, the ACBL has a few nice snaps or one of the hosts of the regional took 2 (maybe you could figure out who that is)

Thanks

Jerry Premo

---

Thank you so much for your congratulations upon my reaching ACBL Sapphire Life Master status. It has been a long ride and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

I have played bridge since I was 9 years old, and I am now 91. My wonderful aunt, for whom I am named, taught me to play and I played with her and her friends, all in their 70's and 80's and at the time the best rubber bridge players in Lexington, and soon became hooked on the game. I played in high school and during my college years at both the University of Kentucky and the University of North Carolina.

I joined ACBL before my first marriage when my name was Frances Keller, continuing when married to C. William Swinford. I played rubber bridge and duplicate for many years. After my husband died in 1986, I married the Rev. Dr. Dixon Barr, who died in 2009. I have continued to play during these years and am still playing today. I have won events in several regional and many sectional tournaments, one or two in the past with my daughter, Susan Swinford Bullard, who is way ahead of me now. Although I play mainly at the local level three or four times a week, I occasionally go to a tournament at a nearby town for a day or two.

After 59 years in the same house I am moving in July to a retirement center just a few blocks from my home. I have severe arthritis and walk with a cane.

Fear of falling makes a move from a big house with two staircases to an apartment necessary.

I plan to continue playing several times a week with my many partners. Once I get settled in my new apartment perhaps I will take one more trip and fly off to the Bermuda regional in January, my favorite tourney which I have attended seven or eight times.

Sincerely,  
Frances Keller Barr

P.S. I am forwarding this to my granddaughter, Mary Bullard Elliott, who may be able to send you a photo of me. Perhaps she will attach one of me holding her 10 month old identical twin boys. Maybe they will find their way to the bridge table one of these days.

---

I met my future husband in graduate school in 1967. We went for a drink after classes and on a date two days later. Our first date was to a local bridge club. Jim had asked if I played bridge and I said yes. I had met with a ladies lunch group a couple of times and knew how to shuffle, deal, and sort my hands. He had about a thousand points. Two memorable hands:(1) opponent opened one club, Jim doubled, opponent's partner passed and I was clueless, so I passed. It was right!!(2) I was declarer in five clubs doubled by a retired physician who had about four digits in his LM number. I made it and we won the game overall. That was my introduction to duplicate bridge. Bridge plays a big part in our lives. Jim has been the club manager and excellent teacher of bridge players and local club directors. We have wintered on South Padre Island for twenty years . This past winter, the SPI club owner retired and we were asked to take over the club. I will forever be about a thousand points behind Jim who will soon become a diamond life master . Thank you for your kind note,

Jane Gormong

---

AJ,

I have been meaning to thank you for the congratulatory communication!

Your hard work, efforts, and dedication to making the "Flying Pig" a success are also appreciated! Had some interesting experiences and had fun!!

Thank you,  
Carol Scovic

---

Hi A.J.,

Thanks. A very nice note that you and ACBL send out, especially to us "newbies."

...

Meanwhile, my thanks and appreciation go out to you for your leadership at the Flying Pig and what I have continually witnessed at the Center. It is satisfying to see the high regard that so many members have for you.

Jonathan Burns

---



Thanks for your kind congratulations on achieving my first duplicate bridge plateau.

I started playing bridge in September of 2013 after I had moved to Aurora, CO at the urging of my cousin. She thought that after my playing bid whist for several years I would love bridge. She was so right. In Colorado I only played party bridge, but after moving back to Ohio, I became involved in duplicate bridge.

I first started playing at the Wexner Center and now play at four locations . Two of which are ACBL accredited. The people I play with are all very friendly and patient with me. They have been a great help to me in advancing my knowledge.

Gloria Patterson

---