

## Bridge Manitoba Membership Committee Report AGM 2016

I have been privileged to be a part of the Bridge Manitoba membership committee this past year. There was great energy at our meetings and progressive ideas brought forth on a continual basis. Our mandate is to engage our current members and to reach out to new or prospective members.

We encourage everyone to connect with their friends and contacts and encourage them to participate at any of our bridge events. To keep our facility strong and vibrant we need new players and who better than our current members to be the link to bring them in.

This was the first year for many of our committee members to be involved with Bridge Manitoba and we did reach some of our goals during this past year. They include:

- Sending a letter to every current member reminding them the perspective of a new person coming into our facility and how intimidating it can be. Be nice, show patience, and extend a warm welcome to new players were key elements in the letter!
- We developed a welcome kit for new players/members so they can understand some of our operations and lingo! Every game operator is encouraged to get contact information from every new player and give them a welcome kit.
- A FaceBook page was created and is an ongoing presence which can reach out to a wide audience. Please go to the page, "like" it, and post pictures and information to help us stay connected and build our community.
- We attended and manned an all-day trade show sponsored by Fort Garry 55+ at the Canad Inns on Pembina Highway. 19 people were interested and were contacted – many of which attended our Learn Bridge in a Day Session. These were people who did not even know the Chevrier facility existed.
- Learn Bridge in a Day was a wonderful initiative spearheaded by our Unit president, Marielle Brentnall. Over 100 people attended one of the two sessions held to date and more are planned for the future. This would not have been possible without many volunteers who acted as a guide for each table.
- Last night, May 6, 2016, our committee coordinated a social night of bridge and fellowship. We reached out to many social bridge games and offered a free night of bridge, food and fun. Again, more people were introduced to our facility and duplicate bridge. These initiatives can only help to grow our game.
- Upcoming plans include attending a trade show in Brandon at the Manitoba Senior's Games this June, having more social events, and trying to implement as many other initiatives as possible.
- Last June a class of grade 6 kids taking lessons from club member Doreen Olson held their graduation tournament at our club (during a regular club game) and were warmly welcomed by our members. It was such a success that the school principal asked if we could do it again this year and we will be holding it next month

While we feel we have started something special, our committee realizes there is much more to do. School and university initiatives are on the table; as is reaching out to more casual bridge players and inviting them to our facility; and using our new grant to create more connections with our active senior population.

There are no end to wonderful ideas that can help grow the game. We would love more people on our committee so the energy and work load is shared amongst many. Please contact me if you have an interest in helping.

John Hindle, Bridge Manitoba Membership Chair

**Membership Committee Members include:** Keran Sanders, Jim Sanders, Dave West, Mavis Bollman, Mavis Minuck, Maarit McMahon...Alexa Campbell, Leigh Anne Shafer & Marielle Brentnall also offered assistance.