



August 24-30, 2026

Welcome to the Gateway to the West Regional!

Welcome From Your Tournament Chairs – Michael Sherberg & Sandy Bigg

Welcome to St. Louis, and to the Gateway to the West Regional. For those of you who have been here before, everything should feel familiar, even if we're starting a week later than usual. For those of you who are new to our regional, we're delighted to have you and hope you have a great time.

Here are some reminders, and **some news**, for everyone:

- Event parking is free, with big lots to the right as you enter the hotel property.
- Our schedule is slightly different day by day, so know your options and plan ahead. And because we recognize that there's never enough time for bridge, we're offering 7 pm side games Monday through Friday. Grab a quick dinner at the hotel restaurant (or via Door Dash), and then grab an entry.
- We know there's always some chaos in the morning. If you can't find your table, or if you're unsure where to buy your entry, just ask a director for help. Then enjoy some coffee and a pastry and settle in for your game.
- We've added a few hospitality events, centering on St. Louis specialties. Most of you already know that St. Louis is a fantastic restaurant city, but we also have a few local treats—Ted Drewes frozen custard and toasted ravioli—that we'll feature during the week, to make your St. Louis food experience even more authentic.
- If you win an event or reach a milestone during the tournament—a new ACBL rank, or a special birthday or anniversary—please take a selfie and send it to us so we can feature you in the Daily Bulletin. You deserve recognition!

Most importantly, play well! The directors are here to help with questions during a game, and we are here to help you navigate the rest of your stay. We can't control the weather, but we'll do what we can to keep you happy.

Let the fun begin.

Renaissance Hotel Information

All events will be played at the **St Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel**, 9801 Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO, 63134.

Book by August 10th to receive the special bridge room rate of \$122/night + tax.

Go to this link: [Book now](#) or call the hotel at 800-468-3571 and ask for the 'STL Bridge Tourn' group rate. If you have trouble getting the special rate before the deadline, please email Michael Sherberg at sherbergm@sbcglobal.net, or call/text him at (314) 432-5532.

Welcome From Unit 143 President – Mark Zellmer

On behalf of ACBL Unit 143 and District 8, I extend to you my warmest greetings and hope you have a memorable time at the Greater St. Louis Gateway to the West Regional. We want you to have such a great time that you will come back again and again!

Every day of the tournament there are events that you can enjoy at your skill level from beginners through experts.

Free lessons for newcomers and intermediate players will be offered Monday morning at 10:00 and during the lunch breaks Tuesday-Saturday from 1:30-2:00 in the Orly Room. The list of topics appears in this bulletin and will be posted daily.

If you run across a Unit 143 board member, please introduce yourself and let us know what you think of our tournament or what we can do to help create a better bridge experience. We are always open to suggestions and even compliments!

Mark Zellmer, Unit 143 President, email Mark.Zellmer@huschblackwell.com

Partnership Desk

Looking for a Partner? Or Teammates? The Partnership Desk **opens 45 minutes before** each session mornings, afternoons, and evenings. It is located in the foyer. It will **close 15 minutes before** each event to allow volunteers to get to their games. **Partnership Chair: Phyllis Siegel, 314-313-6092** unit143phip@gmail.com

Free Hospitality for Players

- Donuts, breads and spreads before morning sessions
- Coffee before the morning & afternoon sessions
- Candy bowls during the morning and afternoon sessions
- **New!** Toasted ravioli following Wednesday's afternoon session
- **New!** Ted Drewes frozen custard during Friday's afternoon session hospitality break
- Hot lunch buffet during Sunday's game.

• Daily Lunch Line—Available for Purchase

Hot and cold lunch items, snacks and beverages will be for sale cafeteria style Monday through Saturday in the foyer outside the Concourse Ballroom from 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM. For details, including pricing, look for the sign in the hallway posting the menu options, or link to 2026 Lunch Menu, which will be posted later in August on the Unit 143 website on the Tournaments page.

EERO'S Food & Bar Service



Eero's is a contemporary American restaurant at the Renaissance Hotel using local, sustainable ingredients and serving locally-sourced craft beers and regional whiskeys. For more information, go to: [Eero's](#).

Restaurants



The bar in the lobby is open for sandwiches and drinks, but if you want to go offsite, we offer this [Restaurant Guide](#). For restaurants in the Greater St. Louis Area, this [additional link](#) offers an interactive map with descriptions.

Parking



Parking on the hotel parking lot is free to all bridge players during events. Overnight parking is only available for hotel guests who have registered their vehicle with the hotel, so be sure to register, or risk getting a boot that locks your tire!



Ground Transportation

The hotel runs a complimentary shuttle to/from the airport for hotel guests; contact the front desk (314) 429-1100. A doorman can also help arrange a taxi or shuttle ride. Other options include:

St. Louis Taxi Service (formerly County Cab and Yellow Cab) – (314) 991-5300

Laclede Cab – 314-652-3456

Or, use your Uber or Lyft account to request a ride.

The region's light rail, MetroLink, connects downtown to the airport and there is a convenient MetroLink stop at the airport.



Lost and Found

If you have lost something in the playing area, check with a Director at the head table.

If you lost something elsewhere in the hotel, or left something behind, call the hotel's front desk for help: (314) 429-1100.

First Aid/Medical Service

For immediate care in case of an emergency, **contact any director or hotel employee**. Call 911 if deemed necessary. Hotel employees are trained to respond to emergencies and an EMT will be summoned.

Daily Schedule of Events

Monday

10:00 AM Newcomer's lesson and practice game (free)
 1:30 PM.....0-20 Pairs Game (free)
 10:00 AM0-299r Pairs Game (single session)
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Gold Rush Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Open Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 PM & 2:30 PMStratified Swiss Teams, 2-session
 7:00 PMEvening Regional Side Game—Pairs—Session 1

Tuesday

10:00 AM0-299r Pairs Game
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Gold Rush Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Open Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Bracketed Teams, 2-session
 7:00 PMEvening Regional Side Game—Pairs—Session 2

Wednesday

10:00 AM.....0-299r Pairs Game
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Gold Rush Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Open Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Mini Soloway Knockouts (1 & 2 of 4)
 7:00 PMEvening Regional Side Game—Pairs—Session 3

Thursday

10:00 AM.....0-299r Pairs Game
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PMGold Rush Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Open Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PMMini Soloway Knockouts (3 & 4 of 4)
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Bracketed Teams, 2-session
 7:00 PMEvening Regional Side Game—Pairs—Session 4

Friday

10:00 AM.....0-299r Pairs Game
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Gold Rush Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Open Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Stratified Swiss Teams, 2-session
 7:00 PMEvening Regional Side Game—Pairs—Session 5

Saturday

10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Gold Rush Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Open Pairs, 2-session
 10:00 AM & 2:30 PM.....Stratified Swiss Teams, 2-session

Sunday (Play-thru with lunch break; free hot lunch)

10:00 AM & TBA.....0-3000 Bracketed Teams, 2-session
 10:00 AM & TBA.....A/X/Y OPEN SWISS TEAMS, 2-session

Players can compete in either one or two sessions in the 2-session pair events, but must play in both sessions to earn an overall award.

To earn gold in the Side Games, must play in at least 2 games in the series. Can be with different partners.

Eligibility for all limited events based on highest MP player.

Eligibility for team events based on team average (except no one above 3000 MP may play in the 0-3000 Bracketed Swiss). All team events use the 20 Victory Point Scale.

Stratification and bracket assignments are based on pair or team average.

3-table minimum for all events. Events are subject to change or cancellation based on attendance.

Stratifications (subject to adjustment by director):

0-299r Pairs	0-50/50-150/150-300
Gold Rush Pairs:	0-300/300-500/500-750
Open Pairs/Stratified Swiss:	0-1250/3000//3000+
A/X/Y OPEN SWISS:	0-4000/6000/6000+
Side Games:	0-500/500-2000/2000+

Players with non-ACBL Masterpoints must inform the director before entering any event. Failure to do so may result in disqualifications and loss of any MPs won.

Entry Fees: \$18 per session except:
 \$14 entry fee for 0-299 and Gold Rush events;
free entry for 0-5 MP players in all events;
half-off entry fee for full-time students under age 25 w/school ID.

All players must have an ACBL Membership. Free four-month guest memberships are available for players who have never been a member. ACBL members whose dues have lapsed will be charged an additional \$4 per session.

Entry fees can be paid with cash, check, credit card, debit card, check or in advance with ACBL's Entry Express.

ACBL Director in Charge: Peter Wilke

ST. LOUIS REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERIES

FREE LESSONS IN THE ONLY ROOM-FOLLOW THE SIGNS

Want to play the cards better to improve your game? Focusing on intermediate and novice players, our educational sessions will cover some of these core concepts.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Monday 8/24 10:00-noon	Intro to Bridge	Phyllis Siegel is a retired teacher, ACBL certified teacher and director, ABA member and regional director, Best Practices teacher, and Partnership Chair for Unit 143. She loves teaching and encouraging newer (and older) players to feel more comfortable playing this wonderful game. She will discuss being a good partner and planning the play of the hand and then offer newcomers an opportunity to play in a free practice game.
Tuesday 8/25 1:30-2:00	Strategies on Discarding	Sandy Bigg is a retired math teacher who is Unit 143's Tournament Co-Chair. She loves the game but loves the people who play even more and wants everyone to feel welcome in our bridge community. She's been playing since she was five and has made the Barry Crane top 500 list and won two national titles. She will discuss strategies on discarding.
Wednesday 8/26 1:30-2:00	Suggested Declarer Play When Missing the Queen or the King	Glenn Rehagen is a retired actuary, and is Past President and a current Board member of the St. Louis Bridge Center. An ACBL Certified Best Practices bridge teacher, he enjoys helping novice and intermediate players improve their game. Passionate about bridge, today he'll explore a variety of interesting card combinations that omit the queen or king, demonstrating techniques that can improve declarer play.
Thursday 8/27 1:30-2:00	Oohh noooo.... Director please!	AJ Gwin is a retired Missouri teacher and administrator who is currently serving on the Unit 143 Board of Directors. He is a certified director and has recently joined the St. Louis Bridge Center as the director. He hopes to share advice on dealing with directors, when to call the director, and insight into common pitfalls that require directors' input, looking to have the "dreaded director" transformed into a helpful and trusted resource.
Friday 8/28 1:30-2:00	Declarer Play - establishing long suits	Julie Ertmann is a retired Missouri high school teacher and an ACBL Certified Best Practices bridge teacher. She serves on the board of directors at the Saint Louis Bridge Center and chairs its education committee. Julie coteaches two courses that are strategically designed to improve the bidding, defense and declarer play of beginners and advanced beginners. Today, she's going to share some thoughts about establishing long suits.
Saturday 8/29 1:30-2:00	Declarer Play Examples to Take More Tricks	Ken Eiger is a retired actuary who serves on both the Unit 143 and District 8 Boards. He's looking for both your thoughts on what the Unit Board can do to help you create a great bridge experience, and for you to let him know that you would be available to help. Today, he's going to share some thoughts about several ways declarer can take more tricks by playing the cards better.

St. Louis Area Attractions



Anheuser-Busch Brewery tours: a variety of fun tour options, including a visit with the Clydesdales and beer tasting. Visit www.budweisertours.com for details.

City Museum: an eclectic playground with hands on fun for energetic visitors: <https://citymuseum.org/>

Museum of Contemporary Art: a small, cool architectural setting. <https://camstl.org/exhibition/current/>

Forest Park: a St. Louis treasure, with free museums, one of the nation's top zoos, beautiful landscaping, miles of hiking trails and bike paths, golf course, paddle boats, and pickleball courts. See <https://www.visitmo.com/things-to-do/forest-park-st-louis>

Gateway Arch National Park: the iconic St. Louis landmark. Activities include a tram ride to the top, museum, & outstanding movie about the construction of the monument. Don't forget to step out onto Eads Bridge over the Mississippi, or to stroll the lovely park grounds. Tram tickets often sell out, so booking in advance is recommended. www.gatewayarch.com

Laumeier Sculpture Park: a free, outdoor contemporary art experience with paved and unpaved walking trails. See <https://www.laumeiersculpturepark.org/>

Missouri Botanical Garden: one of the world's top ranked botanical gardens and a favorite place of many St. Louisans, offering a wide array of beautiful gardens, the climatron, paved walking paths, guided tours, and tram rides. www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

Missouri History Museum: perfect for the history buff. <https://mohistory.org/museum>

St. Louis Aquarium: beautiful, interactive aquarium experience. <https://www.stlouisaquarium.com/>

St. Louis Art Museum (in Forest Park): world class, vast collections ranging from ancient antiquities to the present. Free admission, fees for special exhibits. See <https://www.slam.org>

St. Louis Cardinals: at home in Busch Stadium playing the Baltimore Orioles Aug 25-27 and the Pittsburgh Pirates Aug 28-30. See <https://www.mlb.com/cardinals>

St. Louis Science Center: perfect for the curious, mind-blowing planetarium star shows. <https://www.slsc.org/>

St. Louis Wheel Park: view the city from the top and enjoy a variety of rides. <https://www.thestlouiswheel.com/>

World Chess Hall of Fame: for chess buffs and jazz music lovers alike. <https://worldchesshof.org/exhibits-programs/>



Say the magic word, ***Please!*** when you call. Try, “**Caddy, please,** or “**Director, please.**”

Help Save This Site for Future Tournaments

A few years ago, players attending our tournament behaved so rudely to the hotel staff that we nearly lost this venue for future events. We put out word that we needed everyone to treat the staff respectfully, and our bridge community rose to the occasion. Please keep up the good work! Speak courteously to staff members and consider showing your appreciation for their service with tips. Do not use the service corridor, which is for hotel staff only.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Special Request



As a courtesy to players with allergies, ***please*** refrain from wearing heavy colognes and fragrances. Thanks for your cooperation.

KEEP THEM SILENT!



- Players and observers may not use or interact with their electronic devices during play.
- Any electronic device must be kept in silent mode while play is underway anywhere in the playing area.
- For health-related needs, advance permission to use or interact with an electronic device will be granted upon the Director's judgment and on a case-by-case basis. As a courtesy, players with advance permission should give advance notice to their opponents of the possible need to use their electronic device.
- Talking or whispering into an electronic device is not permitted in the playing area when play is underway.
- When between rounds or sitting out, use or interaction with electronic devices is permitted, provided it is inaudible.
- Violations of the above rules are subject to penalties described in ACBL's Electronic Device Policy in ACBL's General Conditions of Contest - Appendix J dated March 9, 2022 <https://web2.acbl.org/coc/AppendixJ.pdf>



Zero Tolerance Policy

The ultimate purpose of the Zero-Tolerance policy is to create a pleasant atmosphere so that the game of bridge can be enjoyable for all. Badgering behavior, rude remarks, or other discourteous conduct is prohibited.

If any player behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called immediately. Do not confront the offender. The director has the authority to assess disciplinary penalties. For more information, see ACBL's policy at <https://www.acbl.org/ethics/#playermemo>

Conditions of Contest

These are the rules governing our games. See this tournament's CoC at this link: [2026 CoC](#).

Active Ethics

As one of our local directors put so eloquently, "There are no secrets in bridge." Every player should do their best to openly and honestly inform opponents about the meaning of special treatments or conventional calls. For more information, see Unit 143's article at [Active Ethics](#)

CONVENTION CARD REMINDER



Each player is required to have a convention card filled out legibly and on the table throughout a session. Both cards of a partnership must be identical and include the first and last names of each partner.

Proper ALERT Procedure

"A manner specified by the Regulating Authority through which opponents are notified of a partnership's special agreements, the ACBL has four different types of alerts, all of which require participant to notify their opponent aloud and, when the bid boxes are in use, by tapping the alert strip or using the alert card." (You are to ensure that the opponents are aware you have a special agreement.)

These include:

- Any ALERT bid
- Any announcement of a bid:
 - ✓ TRANSFERS
 - ✓ FORCING NO TRUMP
 - ✓ ONE NO TRUMP opening range points
- A SHORT CLUB/SHORT DIAMOND



FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE ALERT PROCEDURE, COULD RESULT IN ADJUSTED SCORES

ACBL's current Alert Procedure is available here: [Alert Procedure](#)

ACBL's Code of Disciplinary Regulations

All players must comply with ACBL's ethics policies— see www.acbl.org/ethics Your concerns of any type must be reported promptly to the director — do not confront the offender!

Formal complaints are handled by your filing a Player Memo that documents the problem and reports it to ACBL's Recorder who will take appropriate follow-up action. See the electronic form at [Player Memo](#). Player Memos can be filed electronically or printed and submitted by regular mail.

ELECTRONIC SCORING DEVICES & HAND RECORDS



We will use electronic scoring devices for pairs and stratified Swiss team events. If you need assistance, just ask your director. Hand records will be available for all pairs games, available near the director's desk or in the main hallway after each session.

Results

For players who have authorized ACBL emails, ACBL Live Results & Daily Bulletins will be emailed early in the morning but only to those who have played the previous day. If you don't have a smartphone or email or didn't play, you can access them here: [Bulletins](#) The Daily Bulletins will be available early each morning.

To receive instant notification of your results via email or text message, log in to your [MyACBL Portal](#), choose Membership from the list on the left margin, choose Privacy Settings and change privacy preferences to SUBSCRIBE for General Email Communication and/or SUBSCRIBE for Cell Phone Text Communication.



New Life Masters & Winner's Circle



Did you win an event or achieve a new masterpoint rank? Congratulations! Please text a photo to Sandy Bigg at 314-623-5001 so we can recognize your special achievement in the Daily Bulletin. Be sure to tell us your full name, ACBL#, and the event that you won or which led to your new rank. By submitting your photo, you agree to its publication on Unit 143's website and in the Daily Bulletin.



299er Awards

First Overall 299er trophies for A, B, & C winners are awarded in the 299er playing area; please see the Director for your trophy and be sure to send us your photo!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can we bring our own food to the tournament?

Yes, players can bring their own snacks, drinks, or meals.

How are different colored points awarded?

Here is a link to ACBL's page about color awards: [Master Points](#)

What are Team Games?

Team games are a great way to earn gold. For a description of team games, see 'Team Games Explained' on Unit143's website at this link: [Team Games](#)

What game options are there for players with 300-750 points who don't want to play against high-level players?

For Pairs, we recommend the Gold Rush Pair events, which are limited to players with no more than 750 masterpoints. You can play in one or both sessions, which are offered Monday through Saturday.

For Teams, we recommend events that are bracketed, which include bracketed teams and Mini Soloways knockouts. In these events, you will only play against teams with similar average masterpoints, and winners of each bracket earn masterpoints.

What is the difference between Open and Limited events?

At Open events, anyone can play, regardless of how many masterpoints they have. At Limited events, only players below the masterpoint threshold are eligible. For example, the Gold Rush Pairs event has a limit of 0-750 master points, which means no one with more than 750 MPs can play.

What are Stratified events?

In stratified events, players compete against others who have varying masterpoint levels. To compensate for the fact that lower-level players are up against higher-level players, the Director stratifies the game by creating three roughly equal-sized groups, popularly called 'strats,' that are used in award distributions. This enables beginners, as well as experts, an opportunity to win masterpoints.

Strats are based on the average masterpoints of each entered pair (or team). The third of the entries with the highest average masterpoints form the (A) strat, the middle third form the (B) strat, and the lowest third form the (C) strat. Awards go to players in each strat who have placed in their strat -- or in a higher strat, when that is the case. The number of entries earning awards in each strat depends on the number of entries in that strat.

Each event has a default stratification that is posted, but these ranges are often adjusted by the Director based on actual entries so that the number of tables in each strat is roughly the same.

Thanks for attending!

You can find the electronic version of this document at

<https://bridgefinesse.com/FastResults/D8/DailyBulletins/> Find the row for *St Louis Regional* and then click on *Monday*

Please let us know what you liked and didn't like about our tournament. All information and suggestions help us improve the next one. Talk to a Tournament Committee member or a Unit 143 board member; they all have gray nametags.

Please give us your feedback via the Fast Results Survey, which will be emailed to you after the tournament.