

Greetings to the Western Section Members,

Happy Belated New Year to each and every one of you. My husband and I have been under the weather with the flu epidemic and have not felt like doing very much. Although we were bed-ridden on Christmas and New Year's day, we are thankful to God to be back to ourselves with returned energy.

The Western Section made it through 2017 and hosted two tournaments in Reno and Las Vegas. Kudos to the leaders and all the staff that made this happen!

We currently have the same elected officers for the next two years: Gloria Lee Ray, Treasurer, Linda Hines Wilson, Secretary and yours truly as Vice President. A big thank you to Shirley Lee for the excellent job she has done as the Western Section Bridge and Teacher's Certification Chairperson. Shirley retired after many years of holding the position. Donald Thomas of the Aztec Bridge Club (at Shirley's recommendation accepted to fill the position and is doing an awesome job! Our goal is to continue to give our best.

Three items that require our utmost attention in 2018 are:

- Raising Funds for the Western Section
- Increasing Membership in the Western Section
- Mentoring New Members

Although we have kept expenditures to a minimum, we have suffered a loss of funds during the Las Vegas tournament over the last three years. A Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Doris Ayers is currently in operation to seek fund-raising ideas for the entire Western Section to participate in that will help keep the Section afloat. All monies in the treasury, (besides the membership dues which is very minimal) was derived from the Western Section hosting two American Bridge Association (ABA) Tournaments. That money has quickly decreased due to the losses received over the last three years during our Western Section Tournaments in Las Vegas. The Ways and Means Committee is expected to give a report at the San Diego Great A Tournament that will be held February 16-19, 2018 at 9:00 AM..

Membership is continuously declining, not only in the Western Section, but throughout the ABA. Our National President, Mr. Hank Irwin gave a suggestion in Las Vegas on how to increase membership. His suggestion, as well as any other suggestions will be on the agenda at our Executive Board Meeting in San Diego on Saturday, February 17. If you are not able to attend the meeting but wish to be a part, call 712-432-1212, access code 588-007-386#.

It has come to my attention that some clubs have lost members due to the lack of mentoring. I strongly encourage each president to implement a mentoring program within your club.

I look forward to working with you and making 2018 truly productive.

All the Best,

Margaret McNair, Vice President