



February 4, 2019

Happy Belated New Year,

Today it seems like only yesterday that I started this journey as Western Section Vice President. Now I find myself in my last year of service. My job as Vice President has been rewarding, enjoyable, educational and yet at times challenging, but yet nothing was left unresolved. This was due to many prayers and support I received from you and staff during my tenure. For this I am truly grateful.

2018 has been extremely challenging for the American Bridge Association (ABA) as you have read in the Bulletin. The ABA executive staff has spent many, many hours on conference call meetings in an effort to resolve the numerous problems encountered, which were largely due to members (for various reasons) not attending the 2018 National Tournaments. These problems caused us to not meet our contractual obligations which in turn resulted in financial deficits.

To that end, 2018 has been a good year for the Western Section financially. For the first time since 2013, we made a profit at the Western Section Tournament. This was due to many factors including: an increase in playing fees, downsizing the director's staff, and reduction of cost on equipment rentals, etc. For all of this I am thankful. None of this could have been possible without the successful fundraising efforts of Doris Ayers and her committee, who provided the seed money for us to pay deposits on securing the tournament venue and pay our ongoing bills. Again, many kudos to Doris and her committee.

This year is an election year. James Pruitt has agreed to be our Election Chairperson. James will provide us with the criteria to run for the offices of Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer at the San Diego Great A Tournament, **Saturday, February 16, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.** If you are not attending the Tournament but wish to join the meeting, please call 1-712-432-1212, access code 588-007-386#.

Again thank you for your dedication to the American Bridge Association Western Section.

Margaret McNair

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