

**THE CENTRAL OHIO  
BRIDGE ASSOCIATION'S**

**HISTORY**

Volume II



**Columbus, Ohio**

**1986**

# CENTRAL OHIO BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

## HISTORY

1971 - 1985

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# COBA HISTORY

## INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	1
1971-85 Officers, Board Members and COBA-Bits	3
Duplicate Bridge Clubs	18
Life Masters	20
Winners of Regional Tournaments	23
Winners of North American Championships	31
Winners of World Championships	35
COBA Awards and Recognitions	36
Bridge Teachers and Writers	40

# COBA HISTORY

## INTRODUCTION

The second volume of COBA History covers 1971-85. Like the first volume, (1938-70) emphasis has been given to the people of COBA and to duplicate bridge events and performances. The primary sources of information have been the ACBL Bulletin, newspaper articles and COBA records. Omission of names and events which should have been included is unintentional.

The first section identifies COBA officers and members of the Board of Directors by year. This section also includes noteworthy events and accomplishments which did not fit in the other major sections. Next follow listings of present and extinct duplicate bridge clubs in the area and of those who made Life Master. Then come the winners of Regional, North American and World Championships. The volume concludes with listings of the individuals who have been honored at COBA Spring Festival banquets (other than new Life Masters) and of the bridge teachers and writers in the Columbus area.

Of the numerous data and names reported in the History a few deserve special mention in this space. First, interest in duplicate bridge within COBA territory has waned during the past 15 years. In 1970 COBA included some 1200 paid members, 27 duplicate clubs in greater Columbus and 15 out-of-town clubs. In 1985 the members numbered 882 with 8 clubs in Columbus and 16 out-of-town.

Secondly, five people, three former COBA presidents, one former Director, and one player, appear to stand above all others in terms of service and performance.

John Davis was first elected to COBA Board of Directors in 1969. Since then he has served as Vice President of the Unit five times and as President once. He has served as President of District 11 for two years and as Treasurer since 1975. He has also been a member of ACBL's National Charity Program Committee.

Norman Fischer has served as a COBA Board member for three years including two years as President. He has been President of District 11 for two one year terms. Norman Fischer is also the second ranked bridge player in COBA.

John Mesher has served on COBA Board of Directors for six years. He was an officer for five of those years, Treasurer once, Vice President once, and President three times. He was elected President of District 11 for 1985-86. He is also active as a bridge instructor.

John Hamilton has served as an ACBL Tournament Director since 1965 until his retirement in 1985. In 1968, he achieved rank as a National Director and from 1975-84 he served as Director-in-Charge of North American Championships. He also served as Advisor to District 11 for a number of years. John Hamilton, and Marc Lowe from Dayton, developed the current universally used Swiss Team pairing system.

Jeff Meckstroth has gained national and international fame as a bridge player. Since he was named the 1974 High School King of Bridge he has won one World Championship, 11 major and three minor North American Championships and at least 112 Regional Championships. He is a four-time recipient (one time as co-recipient) of trophies for best performance at a North American Championship. As of September 1, 1985 he has earned 12,678 Master Points.

Lastly, four of the giants of early COBA history passed away during 1982-84: G. Eloise Neil, founder of COBA; Lila L. Lehman, long-time Board member and Treasurer; Dr. Peter Volpe; and W. H. Lehman, author of the first volume of COBA History.

In conclusion, appreciation is expressed to Doris Dean and John Davis for use of their archives .

T. "Kris" Kristoffersen  
Historian  
December 28, 1985

## COBA HISTORY

1971 - 1972

<b>President:</b>	Mrs. James H. Shaw
<b>Vice President:</b>	John E. Davis
<b>Secretary:</b>	H. G. Eikleberry
<b>Treasurer:</b>	O. J. Miller
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Mrs. Harold R. Cook
	Mrs. M. L. Ellis
	William H. Lipton
	Dr. P. A. Volpe
	Helen V. Evans (Lancaster)
	Lafe Taylor (Portsmouth)
	Marie Pond
	Anita Torrence
	Bruce Tennant
	William Jimison (Granville)

### COBA-Bits:

H. G. Eikleberry starts the Aloha Bridge Club, January, 1971.

Mrs. Mildred Shaw is appointed a 1972 District 11 representative to the National Goodwill Committee.

COBA hosts District 11 Regional Tournament, Neil House, April 12-16, 1972.

## COBA HISTORY

1972 - 1973

<b>President:</b>	John E. Davis
<b>Vice President:</b>	O. J. Miller
<b>Secretary:</b>	Madlyn Shumaker
<b>Treasurer:</b>	William H. Lipton
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Paddi Cline
	Mary Coen
	Mrs. C. E. Ellis
	Norman Fischer
	Helen V. Evans (Lancaster)
	Lafe Taylor (Portsmouth)
	Richard Mao
	Marie Pond
	Anita Torrence
	Forrest E. Everhart
	Milton Neher (Newark)

### COBA-Bits:

Willard White and Phyllis Pyle finish 2nd in District 11 in ACBL-Wide Charity Game, March 16, 1973.

Mary Adams receives the COBA "Outstanding Service" Award, June 24, 1973.

Richard Koopman is on the District 11 GN Teams playoff team.

## COBA HISTORY

1973 - 1974

<b>President:</b>	Norman Fischer
<b>Vice President:</b>	O. J. Miller
<b>Secretary:</b>	Madlyn Shumaker
<b>Treasurer:</b>	William H. Lipton
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Paddi Cline
	Mary Coen
	Kelley Dillon
	Lafe Taylor (Portsmouth)
	Gene Eikleberry
	Richard Mao
	Katie Walters (Chillicothe)
	Anita Torrence
	Milton Neher (Newark)
	Nick Herold
	Dottie Pratt

### COBA-Bits:

Walter Johnson and Avijit Mukherjee, Ohio State University, win the right to represent Region VII in the finals of the National Intercollegiate Bridge Championship, Memphis, TN, May 3-4, 1974.

Jeff Meckstroth, Lancaster is named the 1973-74 "King of Bridge" as the high school senior with the largest master point total in the United States.

John Davis is elected President of District 11 for 1974-75.

Mrs. James Shaw receives COBA "Outstanding Service" Award, June 23, 1974.

## COBA HISTORY

1976 - 1977

<b>President:</b>	John C. Mesher, Jr.
<b>Vice President:</b>	John Davis
<b>Secretary:</b>	Bruno Sestito
<b>Treasurer:</b>	William Lipton
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b>	Marion Austin
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Karen Angelou
	Helen Evans (Lancaster)
	Phyllis Herold
	Jeff Knight
	Bob Meckstroth
	Amy Reed
	Jim Reiman (Marion)
	Mildred Shaw
	Terry Smith
	Lloyd Van Vliet (Granville)

### COBA-Bits:

John Biddle and G. Eloise Neil are included among the U. S. players who are appointed International Masters of the World Bridge Federation.

Norman Fischer and Jeff Meckstroth are on District 11 winning team in GN Teams.

Gene Eikleberry builds the Aloha Bridge Center on Community Drive which is opened February, 1977.

Mary and Harold Coen receive the COBA "Outstanding Service" Award, June 26, 1977.

## COBA HISTORY

1977 - 1978

<b>President:</b>	Jeff Knight
<b>Vice President:</b>	John Davis
<b>Secretary:</b>	Paddi Cline
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Wm Lipton
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b>	Marion Austin
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Nick Herold
	Dean Ishida
	Bob Meckstroth
	Pat Meinhart
	Bill Mosure
	Greg Potts (Portsmouth)
	Amy Reed
	Jim Reiman (Marion)
	Anita Torrence
	Lloyd Van Vliet (Granville)

### COBA-Bits:

Jean Burke and Tom Rauch finish 2nd in District 11 in ACBL-Wide Olympiad Fund Game, July 15, 1977.

COBA hosts Midwest Regional Tournament, Neil House, April 12-16, 1978.

Norman Fischer is elected President of District 11 for 1978-79.

Helen McManus receives the COBA "Outstanding Service" Award, June 25, 1978.

## COBA HISTORY

1978 - 1979

<b>President:</b>	Anita Torrence
<b>Vice President:</b>	Nick Herold
<b>Secretary:</b>	Paddi Cline
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bruno Sestito
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b>	Pat Meinhart
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Duke Fleming
	Terri Frank
	Dean Ishida
	Jeff Knight
	Bob Meckstroth
	Bill Mosure
	Greg Potts (Portsmouth)
	Amy Reed
	Nancy Schnippel
	Fletcher Smoke (Marion)
	Lloyd Van Vliet (Granville)

### COBA-BITS:

Anita Torrence and Jeff Knight are District 11 winners in ACBL-Wide Charity Game, November 20, 1978.

Nick Herold is named to ACBL Goodwill Committee for 1979.

Greg Potts, Portsmouth and Charles Kopp are members of the team to represent District 11 in GN Teams zonal playoff.

Norman Fischer is re-elected President of District 11 for 1979-80.

## COBA HISTORY

1979 - 1980

<b>President:</b>	Nick Herold
<b>Vice President:</b>	John Mesher
<b>Secretary:</b>	Bruno Sestito
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Paddi Cline
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b>	Nancy Schnippel
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Dick Angelou
	Terri Frank
	Margaret Gutmann
	Dean Ishida
	Dorothy Kneller (Newark)
	Marty Lobdell
	Greg Potts (Portsmouth)
	Anita Torrence
	Ruth Van Vliet (Granville)
	Ira Zucker

### COBA-Bits:

Ed and Kay Farynowski, Circleville, are Rookie GN Pairs finalists from District 11 in North American Championship, Cincinnati, November 17, 1979.

Norman Fischer (With Tom Hodapp, Cincinnati) and Eric Kahn and Yul Inn, qualify from District 11 finals for GN Pairs in Fresno, CA, March 14-23.

Barth Royer, Carl Edwards, Harry Stratton, Dave Spitler and Bruno Sestito win the GN Team zonal qualifier in District 11.

Bill Herbert and Jeff Meckstroth win District 11 portion of ACBL-Wide International Fund Game, May 30, 1980.

Gene Van Keuren, Marion, receives the COBA "Outstanding Service" Award, June 29, 1980.

## COBA HISTORY

1980 - 1981

<b>President:</b>	John C. Mesher, Jr.
<b>Vice President:</b>	Dick Angelou
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jan Chandler
<b>Treasurer:</b>	William Lipton
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b>	Nancy Schnippel
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Mary Aakhus
	Dick Comstock
	Terri Frank
	Margaret Gutmann
	Dorothy Kneller (Newark)
	Margaret Knox
	Marty Lobdell
	Jim Reiman (Marion)
Gary Shade	
Lloyd Van Vliet (Granville)	
Ira Zucker	

### COBA-Bits:

Greg otts, Portsmouth, and Charles Kopp are members of the District 11 team qualifying for zonal playoff in GN Teams event.

COBA hosts District 11 Regional Tournament, Hyatt Regency, October 28 - November, 1980.

John Davis is appointed to ACBL National Charity Foundation Committee.

John Davis receives COBA "Outstanding Service" Award, June 28, 1981.

## COBA HISTORY

1981 - 1982

<b>President:</b>	John C. Mesher, Jr.
<b>Vice President:</b>	Dick Angelou
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jan Fleckner
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Carl Edwards
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b>	Toni Bales
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Mary Aakhus
	Dick Comstock
	Kelley Dillon
	Margaret Gutmann
	Bob Herold
	Dorothy Kneller (Newark)
	Margaret Knox
	Marty Lobdell
	Greg Potts (Portsmouth)
	Jim Reiman (Marion)
	Gary Shade

### COBA-Bits:

Barth Royer and Carl Edwards are District 11 qualifiers for GN Pairs finals.

Anita Torrence is appointed to 1982 ACBL National Goodwill Committee.

Bruno Sestito is one of 10 national newspaper writers to receive a commendation from ACBL for "writing quality, accuracy and feature interest".

COBA hosts Midwest Regional Tournament, Hyatt Regency, April 21-25, 1982.

Ira and Diane Zucker are the District 11 winners of the ACBL-Wide International Fund Game, May 18, 1982.

## COBA HISTORY

1982 - 1983

<b>President:</b>	Kelley Dillon
<b>Vice President:</b>	Gary Shade
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jan Fleckner
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Carl Edwards
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b>	Martha Reichenbach
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Mary Aakhus
	Tom Angelo
	Toni Bales
	Jack Cianflona (Ashland)
	Bill Gardner
	Bob Herold
	Louise Nicklaus
	Greg Potts (Portsmouth)
	John Rexford (Marion)
	Linda Spitler

### COBA-BITS:

W. H. "Pat" Lehman dies late 1982 and is soon followed in death by Lila L. Lehman, his wife. The Lehmans were active in COBA from its beginning and later served many terms as officers. "Pat" Lehman was the author of the "COBA" History 1938-70.

Norman Fischer qualifies from District 11 for GN Pairs finals.

Joyce Fisher (Portsmouth) and Geri Franklin (Sciotoville) are 1st, and Kathleen and Leroy Shannel (Athens) are 2nd in District 11 in the ACBL-Wide International Fund Game, May 17, 1983.

Paddi Cline receives the COBA "Outstanding Service" Award, June 25, 1983.

## COBA HISTORY

1983 - 1984

<b>President:</b>	Kelley Dillon
<b>Vice President:</b>	Dick Angelou
<b>Secretary:</b>	Doris Dean
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Carl Edwards
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Tom Angelo
	Toni Bales
	Ruby Buckley
	Jack Cianflona (Ashland)
	Ruth Forsha
	Bill Gardner
	Bob Herold
	Dorothy Kneller (Newark)
	Martha Reichenbach
	Jim Reiman (Marion)
	John Rexford (Marion)
	Linda Spitler

### COBA-Bits:

COBA hosts Midwest Regional Tournament, Hyatt Regency, September 21-25, 1983.

Jeff Meckstroth is on the District 11 team which qualifies for zonal playoff in GN Team.

Dr. Peter Volpe dies November, 1983. Prominent player and board member of COBA late 1960's and early '70's. Cited by Presidents Johnson and Reagan for service to his country and disabled people.

Joe Barnard (Marysville) is 1983 National Rookie of the Year.

Jeff Meckstroth (with Eric Rodwell, West Lafayette, IN) finishes 2nd in the 1984 Cavendish Club Invitational Pairs, New York, N.Y.

G. Eloise Neil, founder of COBA, bridge teacher and columnist for over 35 years until retirement in 1973 dies February, 1984.

Barbara Bates and James Bachelder are District 11 winners of the Invitational Section of the ACBL-Wide International Fund Game, May 15, 1984.

## COBA HISTORY

1984 - 1985

<b>President:</b>	Dick Angelou
<b>Vice President:</b>	Tom Ferris
<b>Secretary:</b>	Doris Dean
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Tom Justl
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Tom Angelo
	Joe Barnard (Marysville)
	Doug Fleckner
	Ruth Forsha
	Bill Gardner
	Dorothy Kneller (Newark)
	Pat Meinhart
	Carol Mesher
	Greg Potts (Portsmouth)
	Martha Reichenbach
	Jim Reiman (Marion)
	Linda Spitler

### COBA-Bits:

Pat Meinhart starts a twice monthly game limited to one Life Master/partnership at Leo Yassenoff Jewish Center, Columbus, October 24, 1984.

Harriett Lang (The Plains) and Llewelyn Kemmerie (Athens) are District 11 winners of ACBL-Wide Charity Game, November 20, 1984.

Tom Ferris, Steve Samuels, John Hennessey and Conley Blackburn win District 11 GN Teams, Flight B qualifier.

H. G. "Gene" Eikleberry receives the COBA "Outstanding Service" Award, June 9, 1984.

## COBA HISTORY

1985 - 1986

<b>President:</b>	Dick Angelou
<b>Vice President:</b>	Doug Fleckner
<b>Secretary:</b>	Doris Dean
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Tom Justl
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	James Bachelder
	Joe Barnard (Marysville)
	Jeanne Coombs (New Straitsville)
	Tom Ferris
	Ruth Forsha
	Thorvald Kristoffersen
	Sheryl McDonald (Mansfield)
	Pat Meinhart
	Carol Mesher
	Greg Potts (Portsmouth)
	Judy Rodgers
	Diane Zucker
	Emmy Mulbarger (to replace Tom Ferris who resigned from the Board in October)

### COBA-Bits:

Aloha Bridge Center moves to new location on Community Park Drive, July 1985.

COBA hosts Midwest Regional Tournament, Hyatt Regency, July 3-7, 1985.

John Mesher is elected President of District 11 for 1985-87.

James Feinstein and Frankie Weisheimer, Aloha Bridge Club, are the Rookie GN Pairs qualifiers from District 11 for North American Championship, Winnipeg, November 2, 1985.

John Hamilton, National Director since 1967, Director in charge of North American Championships since 1976, and Advisor to District 11 Board of Directors, retired effective October 1, 1985.

Walter Johnson and Jeff Meckstroth qualify from District 11 for GNP finals to be held at Portland, Oregon, March 14, 1986.

Albert and Jo Sangermano win the novice portion of the ACBL-Wide Charity Game, November 4.

## COBA HISTORY

### Active Duplicate Bridge Clubs and the Managers (1985)

#### Greater Columbus

Aloha (8 Games)	H. G. Eikleberry
Cancer Crew	----
Clintonville (9 Games)	Harold R. Coen
Duplicators	Flora Volpe
Franklin	Harold R. Coen
Leo Yassenoff Jewish Center	Patricia Meinhart
Noonday	Flora Volpe
Scioto Country Club	Madlyn Shumaker

#### Out of Town

Ashland	James Miller
Athens	Alfred L. Carpenter
Circleville	Madeline E. Hosterman
Portsmouth (2 Games)	Geri Franklin
Mansfield	Joan Sayer
Newark (Five Cities)	Dorothy A. Kneller
Marion (3 Games)	E. J. van Keuren
Lancaster (Monday D.B.C.)	Helen E. Downard
Mount Vernon	Linda Looney
Newark (Newark B.C, 2 Games)	Dorothy A. Kneller
Marysville (O.M. Scott Assoc.)	Charles H. Andersen
Lancaster (Thursday D.B.C.)	Arlene Meikle
Newark (Y W D.B.C.)	Mrs. Herbert Kriegshaber
Chillicothe	Grace Reid
Marysville (YMCA D.B.C.)	Helen Graham
Zanesville	Gerald W. Taylor

**Duplicate Clubs Which Ceased Operation Between 1970 and 1985**

**Greater Columbus**

Battelle  
Berwick  
Brookside  
Chemical Abstract  
Columbus Industrial League  
Defence Construction Supply Center  
Four Aces  
Hilliard  
Nationwide

Northland Mixed Pairs  
Ohio State University  
Saturday Slammers  
Serco  
Smith Bridge Club  
Village  
Worthington  
Westerville

**Out of Town**

Canal Winchester  
Ironton  
New Boston

Upper Sandusky  
Washington Court House  
Wellston

## COBA HISTORY

### LIFE MASTERS

The following is a listing, by year, of those players who have been declared Life Masters between January 1971 and December 1985 while members of COBA.

#### 1971 - 1972

R. C. Koopman  
Eugene J. Van Keuren  
Aaron Supowit  
Milton Neher  
Karen Koopman  
Mrs. H. F. Terry  
Katie Walters  
Lloyd Van Vliet  
Lee Secrist  
F. E. Everhart  
Emily Willey  
Noll Butcher  
David L. Spitler  
A. S. Carpenter  
Max Pond

#### 1972 - 1973

Frances Hand  
Eileen Wright  
Margaret Knox  
Dee Browarsky  
Robert Meckstroth  
George Michenko

#### 1973 - 1974

Norman Frank  
Jeff Meckstroth  
Richard Mao  
J. F. Adams  
Bruno Sestito

#### 1974 - 1975

Kelley Dillon  
Don Goodin  
Eve Herold  
Jeff Miller  
Gayne Gunderson  
Brian Snell  
Dick Seyler  
Mrs. H. R. Finney  
Sally Eikleberry  
Anne Gunderson

#### 1975 - 1976

Mrs. F. B. Cashner  
Greg Frank  
Barth Royer  
Buddy Edwards  
Mrs. W. D. Miller  
Yul Inn  
Ada Adams  
Karen Angelou  
Dorothy Smith  
Marge Woodgeard  
Anita Torrence  
Ellen Royer  
Jim Reiman  
Terri Frank

LIFE MASTERS  
(Continued)

1976- 1977

R. T. Stevens  
Jeff Knight  
Harry Stratton  
Jean Rauch  
Mrs. G. D. Collins  
K. L. Knox  
Mrs. R. B. Stevens  
Mrs. D. L. Goodin  
Dr. Avi Mukherjee  
Mrs. Cecil Guthrie  
Richard Angelou

1985 - 1986

1977 - 1978

Paddi Cline  
Carol Mesher  
Jim De Leone  
Patty Meckstroth  
Bill Herbert

1978 - 1979

Ray Austin  
Bob Traver  
Martha Conroy  
Joe Dech  
Mary Kay Fletcher  
Cindy Urfer  
Mrs. V. B. Hoffman  
Bob Herold  
Luther Smith  
Ruby Buckley  
Gary Shade  
Vern Hoffman  
Dorothy Kneller  
Claude Lutz  
A. E. Bazler

1979 - 1980

John Mesher  
Bob Stuckey  
Gary Barich  
Pat Meinhart  
Lillian Barich  
Louise Houdenchild  
Eric Kahn  
Betty Story  
Virginia Flint  
Sally Luebbe  
Carl Lindner  
Evelyn Hammond  
Sheryl Langner

1980 - 1981

Marion Austin  
Herb Schell  
Ruth Van Vliet  
Ken Eickenbaum  
J. E. Vastine  
Dick Comstock  
Al Isner

1981 - 1982

Dean Ishida  
Jim Bruntz  
Bruce Brian  
Chris Sicaris  
Nan Novotny  
Harold Coen  
Tracey Edwards  
Ruth Forsha