

# The Power of Two, Part Two

Sandy Arlinghaus

## Personal Reflection

Well, Bill and I celebrated our 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past September...we are still the same people as we were before...imagine that! Bill and I have had fun and continue to have fun. A large part of that fun comes from supporting each other in our various projects; sometimes he is the dominant participant and I am the supporter. Other times the roles are reversed. In the material below you will see how this idea has worked for us since I last wrote this paper as Part One. I hope you will see how this approach might continue to work for us in 2012. When we work together, the resulting effort is greater than the sum of its component parts--synergy. When the fit is right, that is the outcome. That is "the power of two."

If you elect Bill as your next President of the ACBL, you may be assured that I will do my utmost to work in support of this project, as I have on previous ones. Many of you might reflect on that approach when we served as Co-Chairs of the Detroit NABC in 2008; a smaller group might do the same for our recent involvement as local Co-Chairs of the USBF Women's and Seniors' Trials in Detroit in June of 2011. Still others might see projects emerging on the horizon as you read the Western Conference Contract Bridge Forum or the Letters to the Editor section of the ACBL Bulletin (articles attached).

## History, in Relation to Bridge

Bill enjoys playing bridge more than I do although I do play occasionally. I am a shy person (although my friends forget that because after I get over my initial shyness, they can't shut me up). I find participating in events with lots of strangers brings out that shyness. The way I overcome that is to work at such events. Thus, I enjoy hosting events (where I work) rather than sitting around at them (where often I get up and work anyway). I learned early on that helping to run bridge tournaments was far more interesting to me than sitting around playing the game. (I felt the same way about sports, as well...played on a number of different teams in high school and college but seldom went to the games). I prefer teaching to listening; I prefer chairing a meeting to sitting around in a meeting. I like action and I like to get things done.

Bill and I have been working as a team at running bridge events for over 40 years in the Detroit area. He is the dominant figure; I am the support. Sometimes folks think the opposite, but that is only because they see me doing things. Bill is very smooth about his effort and works to make others look good. Perhaps that is one reason why he is serving in his 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year as President of our Homeowners Association. Or, why he has been elected more than anyone else locally to serve as head of his ACBL unit (Unit 137). Or, why he has been elected President of his Pastoral Council. Or, why he was appointed (shortly after his 5-year tenure as department chair) by his university President to be in charge of the transition of the entire university from the quarter system to the semester system. I have supported Bill's interest in bridge during his 7 years as District Director: with the ACBL Technology Committee (in sharing some of my expertise), with the Detroit NABC, and with the Detroit USBF event. I will be pleased to continue that style of support in all of Bill's forthcoming ventures. Bill has helped me in so many ways to become more than I could have become on my own. It is my pleasure to try to do the same for him.

## **Moving Forward: Bridge to a Better World**

Craig and others are moving the club front forward; what an exciting Odyssey he has been on! We enjoyed hosting him at the Ann Arbor City Club and taking him on a short tour of The University of Michigan, the academic home to a number of his family members. Before and after that, it has been my pleasure to contribute an interactive Google Earth file of his ambitious trip. That file is posted on the ACBL website. I have made arrangements for its permanent archiving at The University of Michigan. I hope that will please Craig so that he might know that a permanent electronic record of his work will be available long after traces of it disappear from the ACBL website.

On a different front, but not unrelated in its altruistic goals, it seems to me that the power of 165,000+ might be harnessed systematically in supporting broad humanitarian projects. Bill and I have talked about three of them in particular. Here is a status report on each of them. They are in varying stages of development and are presented in order from most to least developed. We hope to be able to move them forward in 2012, in an optimal manner.

### **Pacemaker Recycling**

I hope you have all had a chance to read the material that I sent to Bonnie Bagley. After conversation with her in Toronto, she offered to help me move forward our interest in an existing pacemaker recycling project. She and Ken Monzingo saw to it that the material appeared in the September 2011 District 17 issue of that publication. Imagine, it was the centerfold! First time I have ever been featured as the centerfold! Following that, a similar, but briefer, letter to the editor appeared in the November 2011 issue of the ACBL Bulletin. In a nutshell, each year more than a million individuals worldwide die due to lack of access to pacemakers; yet, most individuals with pacemakers would donate their device to others in need, recycle used pacemakers, if given the chance. We propose to employ current technology to develop a census of living potential pacemaker donors from a target group of over 165,000 duplicate bridge players (average age of 69) in which the density of existing pacemakers must be larger than in a corresponding random group.

To do so, we are working directly with Dr. Kim Eagle and his team who have such a pacemaker recycling program in place at The University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center where Dr. Eagle is its Clinical Director. The good doctors have already amassed over 7000 pacemakers. About 20% of those appear to be useful. They have a training program in place in several developing nations to train local doctors on proper procedures. I meet with the group at their regular meetings. Recently, I have, using my affiliation with Community Systems Foundation (an international NGO that I wrote about in Part I of this document) submitted a proposal to the Gates Foundation to try to secure funding to implement the necessary work to produce a census of pacemakers (copy of draft proposal, sans budget, attached). First, we'd do a census of the ACBL population, where I can take advantage of work already done in relation to the Technology Committee, and then later a census of a more global population. Today's pacemaker recipient may become tomorrow's pacemaker donor. On this project, I am taking the lead; Bill is functioning in a supportive role. Indeed, his annual District Director \$1000 gift is going to Dr. Eagle's program (<http://www.myheartyourheart.org/>) this year.

### **Cognitive Disorders Events**

On this one, Bill has taken the lead and I am support. I believe that he has initiated efforts to encourage the Charity Foundation to take the lead in creating events to generate funds in support of cognitive disorder projects of various sorts. We both spent time talking to Dan Morse in Toronto and Bill has had conversation with Don Rumelhart (of Ann Arbor) about this topic. My contribution has been to read widely on the internet on this topic and to accumulate information from the Turner Geriatric

Center at The University of Michigan. I see my continuing role as one of doing background research in support of Bill's more direct effort.

### **Curriculum Influence**

Bill and I have both considered the idea of implementing bridge as a curricular element in pre-collegiate education. We know that there are already many programs in place around the world that engage in related ideas. A first step, of interest to me to pursue, is to create an archive of materials in support of the idea. I hear of many interesting programs. However, I do not find a central archive. I believe one should be created and be housed electronically at the ACBL.

I had an interesting and productive conversation with Jan Martel in Toronto, focusing on schools of choice (<http://www.edchoice.org/>). Once young children master logical thinking, they can move forward to study successfully not only mathematics but a whole host of other subjects as well. As adults, these well-educated young people will move forward to become leaders in various endeavors. So, my approach here is first to marshal a body of evidence and then move forward in conjunction with outside experts.

### **Back to Bridge, One More Personal Reflection**

I already mentioned our 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Recently, Sharon Fairchild took me back even farther in time! She went to a regional in Buffalo and met a woman named Kathy. Kathy asked Sharon if she knew anyone from Chicago. Kathy noted that she had gone to graduate school at the University of Chicago where, among others, she had met Bill Arlinghaus. Indeed, before Bill and I were married, we used to go over to Kathy's (and her roommate Sue's) apartment, often to play rubber bridge. When it was the four of us we had a good time. When Sue's boyfriend Glenn played, the game went downhill. Glenn was a fine student of topology in the Math Department at Chicago, but he was a terrible card player. Bill and I lived in International House. IH had a duplicate game on Saturdays and that game was generally quite weak. One Saturday Bill went to the game and announced that he was going to come the following week, bring someone who had never played duplicate, and that he and she were going to win the masterpoint game. So, Bill asked Kathy to go with him. She did. And, they won, as advertised! Kathy remembered Bill (and me) after all those years...how nice! And, Kathy has continued on from her first encounter with duplicate bridge at International House. We were happy that Sharon shared the connection with us.

What does this show? Bill was a winner over 45 years ago and he is a winner today (he just went over 10,000 master points but is probably too modest to tell you that)!

Make him a winner tomorrow! See you in Seattle!

Attachments: Power of Two, Part I, District 17 newsletter, ACBL Bulletin letter to the editor, Gates Foundation draft proposal without budget.