

LBA to host Non-Life Master Regional in 2019

The Louisiana Bridge Association has been awarded a sanction to hold a Non-Life Master Regional (NLMR) at our facilities in Metairie. The dates selected are May 29 – June 1, 2019. The field will be limited to players who are both Non-Life Masters and have less than 750 master points. Master point awards will be ¼ Gold for overall and section top places at all of the two session events. Red points will be awarded for the remaining high finishers under ACBL regulations. As you can see, while Gold points will be awarded, they will be only a small portion of the awarded points. If you are looking for a large payout of Gold, regular ACBL Regional tournaments without the “Non-Life Master” restriction should remain on your schedule.

As this is the first NLMR we have ever hosted, our learning curve is steep. Importantly, we have no experience in the expected size of the field but hopefully we can both fill up our club and provide all the players with a fun week of bridge. Some of the decisions that will be made over the next year (and for which we solicit input from those of you who have experience in these events) are: (1) the exact schedule of events and starting times. (2) Do we want to have a two session team event? (3) Do we want to provide registration gifts to attendees and/or prizes for winners or would you prefer solicitation of gift cards from local merchants and restaurants for door prizes instead of the registration gifts and prizes? (4) What should we charge? (5) What sort of food and snacks should we provide? (6) Will we need an alternate playing space for our regular games? If so where? As you can see a lot of decisions must be made and as we move closer to the event, a lot of volunteer time will be needed.

A small team has been started to coordinate and oversee the start up of this operation. Diana Powell and I will serve as Co-Chairs with Larry Federico, Sue Himel, Jackie Madden Steve Plotkin, and Mike Russell serving as the tournament committee. If you have not met these fine folks please introduce yourself as soon as possible. Please also communicate with any of us on the above issues as you feel fit. Please also remember to volunteer, as numerous hours helping with the partnership desk, food service and hospitality will be needed. Our goal is to get everyone a lot of points while having fun and hopefully making a small profit for the Louisiana Bridge Association.

Jim Thornton

President