

Capital Campaign Message

We are conducting a Capital Campaign to help fund the cost of our move to 1270 N. Price.

I want to let you know both what this Campaign entails and why I hope you'll want to be a part of this effort. I've broken it down into

**How Far We've Come Where We're Going Construction Update
How We Pay For This**



How Far We've Come

When people think of St. Louis they think of the Arch, the Zoo, the Chess Center (among other things) and increasingly about the Bridge Center because in four years we have:

- Ranked 15th in the nation among large ACBL Clubs in our first full year of operation, and 10th in the nation in 2015.
- Hosted seminars by renowned bridge experts, including Audrey Grant, Jerry Helms, Larry Cohen and Barbara Seagram.
- Raised over \$90,000 toward Alzheimer's research for the ACBL/Alzheimer's Association's *The Longest Day* event.
- Sponsored duplicate bridge as an event in the JCCA St. Louis Senior Olympics in which 100 players participated.
- Offered educational programs including the complete ACBL Bridge Series Program, an Adult beginners program and the Learn Bridge In A Day Course.

We have accomplished all this because of the generous donations players gave to make the Bridge Center a reality. We owe them thanks for getting us to this point.

The names of those who gave before the Center opened to get it started are on the plaque on our wall.

Where We're Going

For the past several years, the Board has been aware that our program needs and space requirements necessitated the move to a new location. More game space and a dedicated training area would allow us to increase the educational portion of our program, to bring more students and adults into the game, and to increase the playing opportunities for players of all levels. And it's obvious that we outgrew our parking needs after the first year.

We made the decision to move to 1270 N. Price and increase our space by almost 30% so that we can:

- Host more games.
- Provide a dedicated teaching area, and teach during game times.
- Have over 200 parking spaces.
- Stay in a centrally located area with a long-term affordable lease.
- Provide a long-term, stable location for duplicate bridge and our program.

Construction Update

Early plumbing, framing and electrical inspections have been approved. Almost all of the drywall is up, taped and sanded. Painting begins this week and the ceiling work will begin soon. The HVAC units should be installed next week. Flooring has been ordered and millwork is almost ready. Windows are on order. We have applied for business and occupancy permits from Olivette and are getting bids for moving. Photos of our progress are on the website. We anticipate moving into our new space in December.

How We Pay For This

We expect the renovation and expansion to cost \$600,000. With cash reserves held in anticipation of a move, and advance gifts from a few very committed and generous donors we already have \$425,000. We need to raise the remaining \$175,000 through our Capital Campaign.

To date we have raised \$56,000 through our Campaign. The Bridge Center is a 501(c)(3) organization.

I hope you will make a tax-deductible contribution. Pledges can be in cash or stock and giving levels are below. If you have any questions, please contact me.

We all know that this is a great game with no downside to it, that we wish more people would play, and that no one who learns the game regrets it. Really. No one.

So, thank you in advance for being a part of our Campaign and for your support of this game.

Ann Lemp, President of the Board

Donor levels:

Emerald Donor \$50,000+;

Diamond Donor \$25,000 - \$49,999;

Platinum Donor \$10,000 - \$24,999;

Gold Donor \$5,000 - \$9,999

Silver Donor \$1000 - \$4,999;

Bronze Donor \$500 - \$999;

Copper Donor \$100 - \$499.