

## ROBERT LAIL



How do I describe Rob Lail.....First and foremost, I am the father of an awesome young woman named Jasmyne. She is the love of my life. She is in her senior year at Miami of Ohio and I am her biggest supporter on her journey in this wonderful game called life.

With my daughter away at College and only working part time in a business I sold a few years ago, I have more free time on my hands.

Two years ago, I called the bridge center to inquire about Come & Play. I had been away from bridge for a long time and wanted a refresher. I was greeted warmly when I called. Mike Lipp answered my questions and encouraged me to come and give it a try. I was immediately hooked. Kindness goes a long way.

I have put my name in the hat to run for a position on the Unit Board of Directors. If I am elected, I would like to concentrate on Face-to-Face Bridge and that becoming THE NEW NORMAL. There are many events that are hosted by the Unit and I want this bridge center to survive. We are social human beings and need social interactions. What is more fun than being in a social setting enjoying the card game we all love at some level? Also, we get to play with and against our peers with all our idiosyncrasies.

What I remember and would like all of you to remember is that during the height of the Pandemic online Bridge was a saving grace for a lot of us. But, we are coming out of those times so now online bridge is face to face bridge biggest competition. If we are all honest with ourselves, we really know that online Bridge is truly NOT real Bridge for many reasons. It is lonely for one as it doesn't contain the human element along with really not knowing what is going on with the other 3 persons involved in the hand. Is that really how we want to spend our time?

If I am elected I hope you will join me whenever possible to play LIVE FACE TO FACE BRIDGE and remember that's what REAL BRIDGE REALLY IS.

Thanks, Rob Lail

## JOHN ALTMAN JR.



I started my journey as a bridge player at the ripe old age of 12. My dad woke me up one Saturday morning and told me we were going to a bridge lesson. I'm sure I sat there with a blank look on my face while I tried to figure out where my dad's newfound interest in structural engineering came from... However, as a budding teenager who wanted to do nothing more than sleep until 1pm, I got out of bed and begrudgingly followed my dad to Nancy Sach's beginner bridge lessons, not having the faintest idea what I was getting myself into.

In short fashion we mastered Stayman, Blackwood, and Strong Twos and took out newfound box of tools to Tom Deddens Tuesday night 0-50 game where we had our rear-ends handed to us in short fashion. We worked our way up from "let's just not be last," to "let's break 40%," and then all the way to "let's get first in C." I played every opportunity I could get, dragging my dad out about three days a week to play bridge. I even remember one Tuesday night when I was probably 13 years old being frustrated that my dad wouldn't play bridge with me that night because for whatever reason he wanted to spend Valentine's Day with my mom! Ridiculous, I know.

Over the years I became more and more involved in the club. I became a director at 16 and started directing the weekly Tuesday night games. My dad and I represented District 11 in NAPs, GNTs, and became life masters together when I was 17 during the 2012 Philadelphia National. Finally, in 2013, I was named the ACBL King of

Bridge as a perfect sendoff to starting my time as a student at The Ohio State University. I graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering and promptly moved from the big city to the middle of a cornfield to begin law school at the University of Illinois. I spent a couple summers in Chicago, got married on literally the last weekend before the country shut down, and graduated from "Zoom University" in 2020 with a J.D. I moved back home to Cincinnati where I now spend my weekdays as an attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati and spend my weekends commuting to football games, relaxing with my cat and rabbits, and slowly teaching my wife to play bridge.

If elected, I would focus the organization on obtaining new members and retaining those members who have not yet returned to face-to-face bridge.

### **BERT LUKENS**



I learned to play bridge in 1989 at the Cincinnati Bridge Association (CBA) under Nancy Sachs and Linda Wolber.

My top concerns as a member of the board would be:

How to attract and keep new bridge players coming to the CBA.

Ensure that the CBA is on a firm financial foundation.

I hope to be part of the team that keeps the CBA going strong for the next several decades.  
Thanks, Bert

### **JOHN WILLIAMS**



I started playing bridge about in 1953, mostly in weekend evening rubber-bridge games with my widowed mother and her friends, and only occasionally playing in the small once-a-week ACBL game (once winning over half the match points on the boards against visiting Oswald Jacoby & his wife). In college rubber bridge expanded to include other college students and in 1967 I became a certified ACBL club director and started and ran a weekly ACBL game at the university. In 1968 I qualified to play in the finals of the Intercollegiate Bridge championship. Because of family and career (as a college professor and senior administrator), I played only occasionally until I retired from (although I continue as a part-time academic advisor at) the Hamilton Campus of Miami University in 2012. At that time, with my wife in

hospice, my college partner asked me to play on his team in the summer 2012 Nationals in his home town of Philadelphia. While there, I was a volunteer for several days with the part of the Junior program of which his wife was in charge. Over the next 18 months, I played in an additional 4 Regionals and Nationals. Subsequently, my college partner approached Bob Fisk at a tournament, asking him to get me started playing in Cincinnati, for which I am very grateful that he did!

As a bridge volunteer I have helped with setup and take down at Flying Pig Regionals and coached at the CBC Come-and-Play and at the Saturday Supervised Play games. For the latter, I sometimes give the seminar presentation. I ran the mentor-mentee program for several years and this will be the second year as Tournament Chair for the Spooktakular. I have allowed my name to be submitted for candidacy for re-election to the board because it is a way to give back to this great game. My only agenda would be to do what seems best for the organization and for bridge. I will not be disappointed if the other candidates are elected in order to give them this opportunity to contribute to bridge.