



SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY BRIDGE CENTER

Newsletter September 2025

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard Picheny

CELEBRATIONS AT SOCBC

Irwin Rosenfeld treated all our players to a lunch of pizza, salad, and soda to celebrate his becoming a Ruby Life Master. He promised to up the ante when he becomes a Gold Life Master. We wish him a speedy journey to Gold.

John Kissinger's 80th birthday party at SOCBC brought in a crowd of 100 players. We started with an amazing Asian feast. Winning the eight-table limited game was the Barbara Smith – Robert Hutchison pair with a 65.07%, followed by Sharon Neiman – Stacey Harrison's 63.22%.

The Open game had 17 tables, led by Hongsa Situ – Weishu Wu at 70.84%. In second place was the guest of honor John Kissinger playing and scoring 63.69% with his sweetheart Susan.

Scott Huddleston has a tradition of gifting others for his birthday. He noticed that on busy days we were running out of pencils. Thank you, Scott, for providing us with a supply of new, engraved SOCBC pencils in honor of your birthday.

Calling all party people. Want to celebrate reaching your milestones? Just say the word.

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

District 22 is holding the North American Pairs finals on Sunday, September 7th at the Orange County Regional. To participate your partner and you must have qualified in a Club-level NAP qualifier. You and your partner do not have to have qualified together. Financial subsidies are available for participating in the ACBL North American Pairs National Finals at the spring NABC in St. Louis, MO in February/March 2026.

Flights and financial subsidies are set forth in the flyer shown on p. 7. We encourage you to participate in ACBL's premium grass-roots pairs event. It is a

wonderful opportunity to compete in a National Event against players of your own level. Questions? Ask Susan Kissinger or Gary Waldron.

NLM SECTIONAL

We will hold our Annual NLM Sectional tournament on the weekend of October 4-5. See the flyer on page 8 with the details. Why do you want to play? Because this is going to be a fun weekend full of pairs games, team games, and mega SILVER points. Silver, gold, red, and black points are all essential to becoming a Life Master. Usually, you need to travel to tournaments to accumulate Silver and Gold. When they show up right here at SOCBC, you do not want to miss that opportunity! If you have any questions, contact Tournament Manager Joyce Potter at jpotter331@cox.net or 949 350-4326.

HOLIDAY PARTY & ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Save The Date

Please mark your calendars and save Thursday, December 18th, for SOCBC's Annual Membership Meeting and Holiday party. See the Holiday Flyer on page 4. Reservations will go on sale October 15.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

Four positions on SOCBC's Board of Directors are up for election this year. Maggie Briskie, Trisha Silverberg, Tricia Jennings, and Richard Picheny are completing their current two-year terms. Susan Bristol, John Jonas, and Steve Rounds have one year left in their current terms. Please see Richard Picheny or any current member of our Board of Directors to nominate someone to stand for election to serve a two-year term on our Board.

BIGGER AND BETTER

Our table counts are continuing to grow. We have had several Tuesday and Friday afternoon sessions with more than 20 tables.

Continued on next page

President's Message, from page 1

When we add Tuesday and Friday morning sessions and the monthly Friday Social Bridge Session tables it begins to get exciting.

Our Wednesday 0-20 mentoring games and our Friday Night Social Games have been consistently averaging six or seven tables.

Friday Morning sessions continue to grow, with nine or ten tables consistently. August's Sunday Swiss teams had a record post-pandemic 13 teams participate. If this trend continues and the turnout for other sessions shows similar growth, we may have to quote former President Regan and ask our landlord to "tear down this wall."

MASTERPOINT RACES

We have posted the mid-year 2025 masterpoint race results on the bulletin board. The Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs awards are for masterpoints earned in local club games. The Mini McKenney awards are for masterpoints earned at clubs and at tournaments. Races are divided into 15 stratifications, starting with 0-5 masterpoints. While the 10,000+ masterpoint races are usually locked up early, there is plenty of time to challenge some of the leaders in the other categories.

PARKING

Park only in our allowed spaces. If you are in doubt, consult our parking map or ask other players. A general rule is do not park in spaces that face the front of buildings. If you notice a bridge player parking in a 'prohibited space, please ask them nicely to park elsewhere or let me know and I will talk to them.

SCENTS

Which is silent, the *c* or the first *s*? Some of our players are sensitive to or allergic to perfumes, colognes and after-shaves. Please be sensitive to their sensitivities and wear unscented or very lightly-scented products.

WEDNESDAY EIGHT IS ENOUGH

On the afternoon of the second Wednesday of the month we play *Eight is Enough* at SOCBC. This Swiss team game variant is growing in popularity at SOCBC. Newer players and players who have not been playing Eight is Enough have started forming new teams to play. Form your own team and join the fun.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 0-20 GAME

SOCBC offers new students and players a unique opportunity to play in a friendly, supervised learning game, where they not only learn and get playing experience, but can begin earning masterpoints. All players and students in the 0-20 range are welcome to play in our 0-20 supervised play game. The cost is \$10. If you can come with a partner, that will help, but if not, just show up and we will pair you with anyone else looking for a partner. In the event of an odd number, you may stay and kibbitz for free. Please sign up at the Club or contact Peggy Dakin if you can mentor on any Wednesday afternoon. You do not need to be an expert level player; anyone who plays in NLM games will be perfect. Please volunteer.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON 0-200 GAME

You asked us to offer a Thursday afternoon 0-200 game, and we have scheduled it. We can sustain that game only if enough of you register and play. If we have a minimum of two tables, we will hold the game. The more tables, the more fun. Talk up the game to your fellow 0-200 players, register early and we will sustain and grow this game.

FRIDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

Our Friday Night Bridge game is a lot of fun. In prior months we had six and seven tables and expect that number to increase. The heavy appetizers and desserts are wonderful, and the camaraderie is exceptional. We offer open and social games. If we have enough players, we offer separate games. Both are played in a relaxed duplicate format that award masterpoints. The cost is \$10.

If you need a partner, call or email Richard Picheny at (949) 295-0545 or rpicheny@gmail.com.

Join us on Friday, September 12th for "Heavy Appetizers," desserts and Open and Social Bridge. Lisa Buchner is leading the effort to make this game a success.

SUNDAY UNIT GAME

We will hold our September Unit Game on Sunday, September 21st. The Unit Game volunteers will be serving High Tea, so expect a delectable lunch before the game. Please register early.

NEW CARDS AND GAME BOARDS

I hope everyone is enjoying our new game cards and boards, I know I am!

Each of us can make the effort to make sure the cards stay in good condition. This can be done by not eating greasy foods at the bridge table, or any other foods that leave grime on your fingers that get transferred to the cards. Each of us know what it is like to pick up a hand when the cards are icky from grime caused by someone who had dirty hands.

The club will do its best to make sure these types of snacks are not provided at snack break, if you bring them from home please make sure to wash your hands before playing a game.

And while i'm on the subject of keeping the cards in good condition, everyone should be reminded that snapping the cards when playing them causes a bend to develop, and over time, the cards no longer work in the dealing machine. Not to mention that's is just annoying when someone snaps their cards.

Trisha Silverberg

PRO-AM GAMES

John Jonas

The Great Things About the Pro-Am

We have been running Pro-Am Games for the last two years with great success and participation.

The chance for LMs and NLMs to play together builds friendships and recognition of the bridge talents of each player in the pair, as well as a chance to learn during real time play. I have noticed greater participation by NLM players in Open games and even in our 8 is enough Swiss Team games on the second Wednesday of each month. This is very exciting and bodes well for SOCBC's future. We are becoming a closer-knit family and everyone benefits from Pro-Am Games and the interactions of our players in them.

The Problem We've Had

Sign-up sheets determine who wants to play in a Pro-Am. It is very important when you sign up that you put the date in your calendar and do not forget the obligation you have made to play. In many of our past Pro-Ams people have forgotten to show up despite my effort to remind them by email. When you sign up it is a commitment to play. If you must cancel just notify me as soon as possible. I can adjust pairings as late as 9 AM on the day of the game.

No-one should simply not show up.

The Mechanics of the Pro-Am

The pairings are made by listing Pros and Ams by their Master Points (MPs) from highest to lowest. This way NLMs with more MPs get to play with the better Open players so they can learn some of the finer points of the game.

People ask if they can play with a specific partner and my response has been "No" as we are trying to create new relationships and friendships with this game, not continue existing ones. I am trying not to pair the same players for more than one game so some adjustments are needed.

My Recommendation

Please come out and play in our Pro-Ams and enjoy a day of camaraderie, learning ... and pizza.

“The road to success is always under construction.” Lily Tomlin

SEPTEMBER 2025 SPECIALS AT SOCBC

September 1 - 3	Charity Games
September 4 - 5	+ RED POINTS +
September 6	Club Closed
September 8 - 9	Club Championship Games
September 10	Eight-is-Enough
September 11 - 13	GOLD POINTS
September 15 - 20	Club Championship Games
September 21	UNIT GAME Lunch at 12 Noon, Game at 12:30 PM
September 22 - 26	Club Charity Championship Games
September 27	Pop-up + RED POINTS +
September 28	Swiss Teams Pop-up + RED POINTS +
September 29 - 30	Charity Games



SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY BRIDGE CENTER

Holiday Party

Thursday, December 18, 2025

9:00 am Amazing Breakfast

9:30 am General Meeting

10:00 am Game Time * NLM & Open

**2:30 pm Dinner at SOCBC
Catered by Giana**

Fee: \$45 Includes Breakfast, Bridge, Dinner and delicious Appetizers and Desserts provided by our members.

Please see Maggie Briskie to make reservations and choose from the following food options:

♣ Citrus Roasted Chicken

♦ Grilled Steak

♥ Roasted Salmon

♠ Vegetarian Baked Rigatoni

All entrees will be served with seasonal vegetables and salad



MANAGER'S CORNER

Gail Schneider

Our Club is doing Great! Table count is up and there are some days that we need our third room back! Between additional tables and lessons and mentoring games, everyone seems to be enjoying our club. On top of that I add specials to the calendar to encourage more attendance for F2F play instead of online games. All this is working. If you haven't been back, come and see for yourself.

We start September with the tournament in Irvine. For all those who are playing GOOD LUCK AND DO WELL. The club will be open all week except for Saturday and the games will be special games for those who chose to not play at the tournament.

All month are special point games. There are RED, GOLD, CHARITY GAMES & CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS. Please check the calendar. We will also have our Swiss team games and our Unit game. Again, watch the calendar. Psych bids are part of the game. But all our players are aware that we are not supposed to make those bids against new players. Call the director over if you are playing in the open and feel that has happened to you.

Our new boards are slowly getting into use. Please be careful. I noticed that one board that had been dropped was already broken! We want them to last!

As always, I remind you to not come into the room if you do not feel well. We don't want to spread germs and get



SEPTEMBER 2025 VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Trisha Silverberg, Volunteer Coordinator

Our club has just been humming along with great efficiency and this is thanks to all those that have stepped up and volunteered! Currently there are no positions available, this speaks for the strength of our great bridge club.

The position filled since our last publication is Kitchen Manager Marilyn Jensen, thanks Marilyn!

Did you know you can see all the volunteers and what they do in three places? The Bulletin Board, Website and Newsletter. If you want to reach out to anyone, contact information on the Club Roster is on the Website (ask a director for the password).

A special shout out to the two people who make this publication happen, Janie Matlaf and Peter Redwood. They both do a great job making sure we get this great newsletter.

As always, thank you to all of you that help silently! Each person who takes on a lead role to fill a needed position recruits helpers so they can get the job done.

Please come see me if you want to talk about how you can help and get involved at our amazing Bridge club.



EDUCATION AT SOCBC: A WIN-WIN FOR EVERYONE

Janie Matlaf

Our education program at SOCBC continues to run smoothly, thanks entirely to our amazing teachers. Most are volunteers, and their greatest reward is the joy of seeing new — and increasingly skilled — players becoming regulars at the club.

Bob and Gary have been keeping our advancing players on course with lessons on Bidding, Defense, and everything in between. On the Horizon: Bob will teach Two Over One starting October 23rd.

Last week, Susan Kissinger offered a class on Unusual versus Unusual. Those of us who already play it picked up extra tips and insight. Those who were approaching the topic for the first time were awed by Susan's way of simplifying an otherwise complex topic, stressing the logic behind the bids.

If there are topics that our advancing players would like to see offered, please let us know!

Since returning from the pandemic, we've completed five full cycles of Beginning Bridge. Remember in college when they'd say, "Look to your left, look to your right — only one of you will make it"? Our retention rate is about one-third. It's not as high as we'd like, but honestly, it's better than we might expect. Bridge is a challenging game, and not everyone is eager to dive into something that requires this much learning — and humility — later in life.

It was so gratifying to hear that many of our recent beginner grads have formed a lunch group. About a dozen of them text each other and plan get-togethers before or after the games. Personally, I feel lucky to get first crack at meeting and welcoming all our new students. Many have become not only regular players but also new friends and partners. Pairing up with newer players is a wonderful way to give back — and truly a win/win for everyone at SOCBC.

There is still time, so please help us fill the class starting September 8th. Friends don't let friends miss out on the best hobby ever!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Susan Bristol Co-Chair, Membership

Several players have joined our club since the last newsletter, and we presently have 462 members. There have also been a lot of rank advancements too. It's wonderful to see our club growing. Attendance has been increasing too!

New Members joining our club:

- Debbie Coombs
- Robert Galaz
- Valerie Galaz
- Solange Klingensmith
- Robyn Schumacher
- Steven Schumacher

We welcome back reinstated members:

- Ed Miller
- Michael Stein
- Maddy Abbriano

We are pleased to welcome these ACBL members who have transferred to our Unit:

- Debbie Lewis
- Barbara Randall
- Frank Randall

Congratulations to the members moving up in the ranks. They are:

Junior Master

- Rhonda Hamade
- Wendy Baker
- Carrie Henry
- Meredith Paige
- Bruce Sands

Club Master

- Jonathan Hart
- Jeanette Hilyard

Sectional Master

- Ann Brown
- Susan Vollmer

Regional Master

- Barry Fortilage
- Gary Werberger

Life Master

- Marcia Gahring

Bronze Life Master

- Lynda Grubbs
- Joan Hundley

Silver Life Master

- Donna Toubia

Wishing you good cards and making slams to all continuing on their bridge journey. And thanks to everyone for continuing to support our club and making it the great organization that it is!



OPENING TWO CLUBS

Bob Levine

The following hand was played on Saturday, August 23rd at our club.

Dir: W ♠ A Q J 5
 Vul: NS ♥ Q J 10 8 7 6 2
 ♦ -
 ♣ 7 2

♠ -	♠ 10 8 7 6 2
♥ 4	♥ 9 5
♦ Q J 10 9 7	♦ K 6 5
♣ A K Q J 9 6 3	♣ 10 8 4

♠ K 9 4 3
 ♥ A K 3
 ♦ A 8 4 3 2
 ♣ 5

Can West open 2C with a 3-loser hand? The answer is **NO!**

The ACBL, effective June 25, 2025, in their 'Convention Charts', defines this situation exactly: 2C in most partnerships is considered a '**Very Strong Hand**' which according to the ACBL Convention Charts, is defined as follows:

- A hand that contains at least 20 HCP, or
- A hand that contains at least 14 HCP & is within one trick of game, assuming suits break evenly among the other hands
- or, a hand that contains at least 5 Control Points* & is within one trick of game.

*Control Points: an alternative evaluation method where an Ace = 2 and a King = 1

If a 2C opener is used with any other hand that does not satisfy any one of these three conditions, it must be alerted, otherwise it is an illegal bid and the director should be called for possible rectification. On the hand shown here, NS can make 5H or 5S, but might not enter the auction if West opens with an illegal 2C bid.



Have you Qualified at a Club Game for the NAP?

If yes, come and compete at the

District Finals **Sunday, September 7th** at the **Orange County Regional**

Flights

- * Championship flight - open to all players
- * A flight - fewer than 6000 masterpoints
- * B flight - fewer than 3000 masterpoints
- * C flight – non-life master with fewer than 750 masterpoints

National Finals **Spring NABC in St. Louis, MO.** in February/March 2026

Financial Subsidies for attending National Finals

- \$700** per player for 1st place winners
- \$500** per player for 2nd place
- \$300** per player for 3rd place
- \$200** per player for 4th place in B and C flights

We encourage you to compete in ACBL's premium grass-roots pairs event. It is a great opportunity to compete in a National Event against players of your own level.

Questions? **Ask Gary Waldron.**



S.O. County NLM Sectional

S

Saturday October 4th Sunday October 5th

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10:00 AM & 2:30 PM Session Start Times

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Saturday, October 4, 2025	Sunday, October 5, 2025
10 AM - NLM Stratified Pairs	10 AM - NLM Stratified Swiss
10 AM - 0-100 Stratified Pairs	
2:30 PM - NLM Stratified Pairs	2:30 PM - NLM Stratified Swiss
2:30 PM - 0-100 Strat Pairs	

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Tourn. Mgr. Joyce Potter: jpotter331@cox.net 949-350-4326
Partnerships Joyce Potter: jpotter331@cox.net 949-350-4326

T

R

Strats are – Flight A 301-750, Flight B 101-300, Flight C 0-100
\$12 Homemade Buffet Lunch available for purchase between Sessions
Continental Breakfast 9:00 am

S

Pre-registration required at www.socb.center

Card Fees \$16/session per person.

Morning & Afternoon Single Sessions

\$4 Additional per session per person for lapsed ACBL Members



**ACBL Sanction
SN:2510379**

Tournament Director – Richard Picheny

31461 Rancho Viejo Road, Suite 205, SJC, CA 92675 Tel. 949-248-1268, www.socb.center

CLASS SCHEDULES

Janie Matlaf is our Education Chairperson. Contact her at jmatlaf@gmail.com for all questions relating to courses and schedules. Refer to the website for our course timetables.



MONDAY MORNINGS: BEGINNING BRIDGE 9.00 - 11:30 AM

New beginners start September 8th.

The Intro to Bridge program consists of two consecutive sessions of 10 weeks each. Bob Levine, Susie Mays, and David Merenbach rotate teaching days, and Ross Anderson is our assistant helping to keep the lessons running smoothly. Please refer any friends, relatives, neighbors who may be interested.

Contact Janie at jmatlaf@gmail.com for more details.



TUESDAY MORNINGS: 0-20 SUPERVISED PLAY WITH MINI-LESSON

Tuesday Mornings 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Our Tuesday morning team teaching trio consists of Linda Ryder, Dae Leckie and John Jonas. They will focus on helping new players get a solid foundation in the basics. Watch our weekly Sunday morning emails to see the topic of the week for their mini-lessons or check the calendar on our website.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS: 0-20 MP SUPERVISED PLAY 12:30-4:00PM

This should be the first step for all our beginners beyond the classroom setting. You may bring your notes, ask your questions, and start practicing in a stress-free environment. Come with or without a partner, and no reservation is required.

Plan to stay for 12 to 15 boards, which can run until approximately 4 PM. Late arrival makes it challenging for us to arrange the table movement and partnerships, so try to be there with time to spare.

This is a learning game where you can practice with volunteer mentors at the tables. Masterpoints are awarded to the top scorers.



THURSDAY MORNINGS: PLAY OF THE HAND WITH GARY WALDRON. 9:30 - 11:30 AM

This series continues, and is *guaranteed* to make you a better declarer.

You are welcome to attend all or as many classes as you can. Bring your favorite partner and learn together, or come alone and we will pair you up to practice the material at each class.

No class September 4th due to the Irvine Regional.

- September 11 – Finesse – When to Take It and How to Avoid It
- September 18 – Managing the Opponents – Hold Up and Avoidance Plays
- September 25 – Playing the No Trump Contract
- October 2 – Playing a Suit Contract – When to Draw Trump
- October 9 – Playing a Suit Contract – Cross Ruffing, Ruffing Finesse

Cost: \$15 per lesson.

Contact Gary at: lagunajhawk@icloud.com



FRIDAY MORNINGS: FOR NEW PLAYERS (0-200 MPS) 9:00 ~ 11:45 AM

On Friday, September 19, after the Orange County Regional, we will start up the lessons again. Until then, we will continue to play 18 boards/game. In the fall, we like to start with the basics for the benefit of our newer players. For those that have been playing awhile, I bet you learn something new too! Please let Trudi or Susan know if there is a specific topic you would like to see us review. This is your class, let us know what you want.

Here's the schedule for September & October:

- 9/5/25 – Birthdays celebrated!
- 9/12/25 – Stardust Game, 34% of the points will be GOLD!
- 9/19/25 – Major & Minor Opening Bids & Responses
- 9/26/25 – 1 NT & Responses
- 10/3/25 – Weak Bids AKA as Preempts
- 10/10/25 – Take-Out Doubles
- 10/17/25 – Negative Doubles
- 10/24/25 – Balancing Doubles
- 10/31/25 – Barometer Games – Don't let the Ghouls and Goblins scare you away from this popular game!

The lesson starts at 9 AM, followed by a game. No partner needed. We guarantee you will play. This is a very fun and friendly group. The more you play, the more comfortable you will become with the bidding and the play of the hand. Contact Susan Bristol at bristolsg949@gmail.com or Trudi Hanscom at t.hanscom@live.com for more information.

THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Richard Picheny	<i>rpicheny@gmail.com</i>
Vice President/Facilities Manager	John Jonas	<i>jilapher@gmail.com</i>
Secretary	Maggie Briskie	<i>maggiebrisk@cox.net</i>
Treasurer/Volunteer Coordinator	Trisha Silverberg	<i>trisha333@cox.net</i>
Membership	Susan Bristol	<i>bristolsg949@gmail.com</i>
Member at Large	Steve Rounds	<i>srounds@cox.net</i>
NLM Liaison	Patricia Jennings	<i>triciadjennings@aol.com</i>

GAME DIRECTORS

Gail Schneider Club Mgr/Head of Directors	516 314-1896	<i>calgal1516@gmail.com</i>
Rick Araujo	949 249-7782	<i>rickaraujo@hotmail.com</i>
Susan Bristol	949 300-4454	<i>bristolsg949@gmail.com</i>
John Colombe	760 716-5896	<i>gmodaddyret@gmail.com</i>
Trudi Hanscom	949 498-4363	<i>t.hanscom@live.com</i>
John Jonas	908 327-4376	<i>jilapher@gmail.com</i>
Bob Levine	949 637-0022	<i>rslevine@cox.net</i>
Richard Picheny	949 295-0545	<i>rpicheny@gmail.com</i>

BEHIND THE SCENES

Education	Janie Matlaf
Newsletter - Compilation & presentation Content	Peter Redwood
Circulation & Publicity	Janie Matlaf
Banking	Janie Matlaf
Website/Calendar	Victor Fitzsimmons
Partnerships	Jeremy Chao
Recorder	Joyce Potter
Ethics and Auditor	Gary Waldren
Purchasing Food & Provisions	Greg Hanson
Unit Game Lunch Manager	Kathy Rocheleau
Kitchen Manager	Cynthia Gallaway
Mentor Game	Marilyn Jensen
NLM Sectional Manager	Peggy Dakin
Open Sectional Manager	Joyce Potter
Computer Hardware Guru	Eileen MacKenzie, Melinda Konopisos
Rain or Shine	Jeff Oberholtzer
Annual Holiday Party	Odile Gendreau
Pro-Am Manager	Frances Krause, Maggie Briskie
Librarian	John Jonas
Bridge and Printer Supplies	Gillian Jeffery
Bidding Box Organizer	Trisha Silverberg
Holiday Decorations	Betsy Hartley
D22 Connection Article	Kathy Rocheleau, Anna Kreucher
Saturday Pizza Order and Pick up	David Merenbach
4th Sunday Swiss Game Pizza Order/Pick-up	Jim Faix, Dottie Hecht
	The Silverbergs

Note 1: Each person leading likely has many helpers and we acknowledge them too! thank you, thank you, thank you!

Note 2: If you want to reach out to someone, and don't have their contact information, it is available on the website. If you don't know the password, just ask a director.