

Chattanooga Bridge Center Library

The Chattanooga Bridge Center library began with a donation member by Dr. Robert Ling, who gave the Center almost 100 books about the game of bridge, books that he had collected over his years of playing the game. Wanting to ensure that there was a way to keep track of the books as they were used by Bridge Center members, Kyle Weems kept the books at his home until such time as he could find someone who would set up and maintain the library at the Center. In 2008, Kyle asked Cheryl Whitfield, a retired librarian who was new to the Bridge Center at that time, to help do just that. And so began the library in the back corner of the Bridge Center.

Over the years, the Bridge Center Board has allotted \$300.00 annually for the purchase of new books for the library. Along with these purchases, members have made donations from their own collections, and at times, new books have been donated in honor of, or in memory of, Bridge Center members. An attempt has been made to do several things with the books that have been added to the library:

1. Create a balanced collection that includes a wide variety of bridge topics
2. Add books that address members' different bridge skill levels
3. Keep current with a wide variety of bridge conventions and other topics
4. Include books by recognized experts in the world of bridge

The *Chattanooga Bridge Center Library Policies and Procedures* document was adopted by the Board of Directors on November 16, 2008, and a copy of this document is posted near the library itself as well as on the Bridge Center Web page. The duties and responsibilities of the librarian are clearly stated in this document. The document also clearly states that donations will be reviewed, and addition of these books to the library will be up to the discretion of the librarian, who will always keep in mind the need for particular books to balance the collection.

The library has evolved from a small set of three low shelves to currently being comprised of three large metal, 5-shelf book cases, for a total of 15 shelves. Bridge Center members Don Eigenberg and Dan Chandler helped set up these metal shelves and assisted the librarian in unboxing and shelving all the books. From its humble beginnings, the library now contains over 550 books.

Members are welcome to suggest books to purchase for the library, and, if appropriate, the librarian puts these books at the top of the list for new purchases. A notebook containing a listing of books currently held in the collection is available in the library. This notebook serves as a card catalog of sorts within which members can find books by particular authors or books by title.

Periodically the librarian, assisted by member Suzanne Atchley, another retired librarian, takes an inventory of the books to ascertain which, if any, of the books are not accounted for or are in a state of disrepair and need to be removed. Luckily the members of the Chattanooga Bridge Center are responsible users of the library, and few of the books have gone missing over the life of the library. Dr. Ling would be proud of what his collection began in the way of offering resources to enrich the bridge lives of the players who belong to the Chattanooga Bridge Center.