

Codification Appendix 1-G

THE EDUCATION LIAISON AND THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

1. Who is the District Education Coordinator?

The District Education Coordinator (DEC) is a volunteer who is appointed by the District President or the District Board and who reports to the District. The DEC is the District's liaison between the District and the ACBL Education Department. The DEC's committee is made up of the Unit Education Liaisons in that District. The DEC is responsible for activities at the Regional level.

2. Who is the Unit Education Liaison?

The Unit Education Liaison (UEL) is a volunteer who is appointed by the Unit President or the Unit Board and who reports to the Unit. The UEL is a liaison between the Unit and the ACBL Education Department. The UEL works with the bridge teachers and club managers in the Unit and is part of the DEC's committee (see Q1 above). The UEL is responsible for activities at the Sectional and local level.

3. What ACBL Education Programs should the Unit have?

The Unit should have programs that involve bridge teachers, the Teacher Accreditation Program ("TAP") that includes the Best Practices Teacher Workshop, to generate new interest in bridge and to produce new players for the Unit. TAP will produce new bridge teachers and increase the expertise of existing bridge teachers. Programs that involve new players include an Intermediate/Novice Program that provides games specifically designed for new players and the New Player Services that makes new players comfortable and eager to continue to participate in ACBL-sanctioned bridge games.

4. For whom does the DEC/UEL work?

Job satisfaction comes from knowing for whom you are working. The DEC works for the District Board. The UEL works for the Unit Board and also reports to the DEC.

5. What is the fee for the services of the Unit Education Liaison?

In many Units, the UEL is a volunteer position. If it becomes a paid position, there are concerns that it may also become a political position. What a Unit can and will pay the UEL may also be a product of the Unit's budget, available funds, interest and needs.

6. What would be a reasonable amount of time spent on the job?

All agreed it is a full-time job.

7. Why is there a need for such a position?

The UELs are used to coordinate the efforts of the Unit within that Unit and the efforts of the particular Unit with ACBL. They are also used to promote bridge locally and help the Unit take advantage of programs made available through the ACBL.

8. What are the potential benefits of the job?

In some Units, this could be a paid position and therefore an income for someone who needed to work at a job where they can make their own hours. Paid or not, it is an opportunity for a great deal of personal satisfaction if the UEL's motivation is a love of the game and a desire to perpetuate bridge.

9. What are the possibilities for advancement?

The UEL could be responsible for a large increase in the membership of the Unit by organizing the teachers in the area, helping the teachers recruit students, and locating sites for lessons. The Unit might agree to pay the UEL a bonus based on the number of members the Unit gains throughout his/her work. The UEL might grow into other jobs that could have financial benefits...for instance, teaching, directing, or running a club.

10. What are the obstacles that might need to be overcome?

Apathy of the Unit members, resistance of the local bridge teachers to work together, and/or lack of funds to hold a TAP in order to get an ACBL program started in the area, to name just a few.

11. How can the success of the job be judged?

Success in the position can be judged by an increase in the membership of the Unit, by the number of new players produced by the teachers, by the number of high school and college programs started in the area, by the number of new player games and events offered (including Bridge Plus+, Intermediate/Novice programs at the Sectional and Regional level and/or newcomer games at the clubs); by the development of a Big Brother/Big Sister program, and/or by the establishment of a teacher chapter in the Unit.

12. Who evaluates the success of the job done by the Unit Education Liaison?

The UEL knows best what has been done and what more could be done in their Unit. The growth of the Unit is the best test of success.

13. What ACBL departments might the Unit Education Liaison need to contact?

The ACBL Education Department and the Club and Membership Department.

14. What skills are required for the job?

Salesmanship, people skills (to infuse others with your enthusiasm and get other people in the Unit interested in working with you), and knowledge of your product.

15. What other jobs could be compared to that of the Unit Education Liaison?

Recruiter, Organizer, Manager, Cheerleader.

16. What kind of course would best improve the skills of the Unit Education Liaison?

Basic business courses, workshops, and/or public speaking.