

# President's Column

by David Campbell



*Humble and Kind*

—Tim McGraw

**T**his quotation is the title of a song written by Lori McKenna and performed by Tim McGraw. McKenna wrote the song for her husband and their five kids, and it is her list of things she wanted to make sure she told them.

Last month a fire destroyed the town of Paradise CA, as many of you saw on the news. Grass Roots Club 142 Para-Pines Peggery played in Paradise every Thursday evening, and the updates that I have been told are that many club members lost their homes, but all thankfully survived this horrific event.

The ACC Executive Committee has taken a few steps to help the victims of the fires in Paradise and southern California. Any awards lost to fire—Grass Roots, internet, or weekend tournaments—will be replaced by the ACC at no cost to any of these members. We will contact Paradise club members soon to see which awards they would like us to replace.

Numerous people offered to send money in support of our friends in Paradise, so we set up a fund so you can either mail a check or donate online. The money will be distributed equally by the ACC directly to our Paradise members. I ask all of you who can help to please do so. See page 7 for information on how to donate.

The final thing that I want to share this month is about our younger members who

play in many clubs throughout the ACC. Our Grass Roots Policy Manual states:

The participation of members *under* 21 years of age is permitted at the discretion of individual clubs *subject to individual state, county, and local regulations*. Individual clubs *may not* turn down Grass Roots membership for junior members based solely on age. It is recommended that acceptance be based on the youth's ability to play at the speed and skill level of the slowest members of the club.

Recently there has been some confusion of what exactly our policy is relating to kids, and so I ask all club directors that, if the location of your club allows youth, for you to also. With that said, it is expected that they play timely and not cause other problems. It is my belief that it is solely the parent's job to parent and not the director's. Parents know what is best for their child, so clubs should not refuse to allow youth to play without consulting parents.

**Dan Zeisler** and **Don Grumpy Howard** are in charge of youth cribbage and have done a tremendous job running tournaments and assisting teachers and others needing info on teaching children our wonderful game. So, if this situation comes up at your club, please use the title of this column: "Humble and Kind." If for some reason it turns out that a youth cannot play timely or other problems arise,

*continued on next page*

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*Presidential Address—continued from page 4*

please pull the parent aside and explain it to them. We have an ever increasing amount of younger players playing in weekend tournaments. Many of them have proven to be not only some of the better players across the country but also very respectful kind people.

Thanks for taking the time to read this column monthly, and have a wonderful holiday season. **CW**

**ACC membership odometer**

**6 1 5 7 ↓ 12**

*as of November 1*