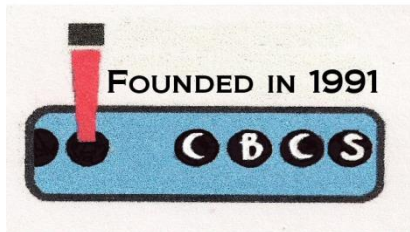




# MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



NEWSLETTER OF THE CRIBBAGE  
BOARD COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY



Volume 29 Number 2 Founded in 1991 Our Twenty-Ninth Year - May 2020

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## Message from the president:

### CBCS Response to COVID-19

How has your life been affected by isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Interestingly, a lot has happened in your CBCS *in spite* of isolation, and possibly *because* of it. Your CBCS Ad Hoc Internet Committee met four times via *Zoom* conferencing. We completed our work and reported to the CBCS Board of Directors using *Zoom* videoconference May 2.

When the Internet Committee was formed last September, the pandemic was not anywhere in sight. We were to investigate ways to *improve our social media presence* to expose the Society to more people. The pandemic forced the world to consider doing business regardless of physical restraints. This gave our committee added meaning as we focused on keeping connected by more than four newsletters and one convention each year.

**CBCS website - <http://cribbageboardcollectorsociety.org/>**

Our website has existed for several years and has been a topic of numerous discussions. What is its purpose? Is it for members, or to attract new members? How can we attract more people to visit? Should we just eliminate it?

Our group had no problem seeing that the website was very out of date, and that it was not an attractive or user-friendly place to visit. We also agreed that a good website is critical to an organization such as ours, small and spread across the nation.

Check the updated and improved website yourself. You will find the full set of newsletters dating back to November 2012, PLUS a database of topics addressed with the date published (thank you, Jane McLaughlin). There are links to cribbage board collections, links to cribbage sites of interest, and articles contributed by CBCS members. You will find information about upcoming conventions and email links to any member of the BOD.

Our webmaster monitors visits to the website and reports that from April 1 thru April 22, we had **651 visits, 332 of which were unique visitors from 15 different countries!**

Perhaps our greatest accomplishment was discovering Joe Wheeler, our new webmaster. *Joe has the knowledge, insight, and passion to support our website and*

other technology needs for CBCS. On May 2, our BOD added a board position of Webmaster to keep a strong connection between Board and state-of-the-art technology.

### Facebook CBCS Group

I just completed a Facebook search “Cribbage Board Collectors Society (CBCS)” and was directed right to our NEW Cribbage Collector group – **Now numbering 54 members**. This site is allowing us to connect with collector enthusiasts who do not know about CBCS. A link to this group can also be found on the homepage of our CBCS website.

Thank you to Karen Schaffner and Larry Snow for establishing and overseeing this group. Some members who have been posting and reacting to other Facebook posts are Cec Bradshaw, Carl Zackery, Harlow Hanson, Keith Dwire, Larry Snow and Karen Schaffner. CBCS members are the pros. Let us give these new members something to drool over!

Let the play continue,  
Keith Dwire, President

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### 2020 CBCS CONVENTION - POSTPONED TO 2021

For the past 20 years, members of Cribbage Board Collectors Society have gathered at various locations around the country for the group’s annual convention. Larry Snow (#292) was set to host the 21<sup>st</sup> annual convention Denver, Colorado. At the Society’s May 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting, Larry raised concerns about the risks of travel during the Covid-19 pandemic, for its age-related high-risk members (the majority of our population). After discussion, Larry made a motion that the 2020 convention be postponed to 2021. That motion was seconded then approved by the Board.

Larry will negotiate with the current hotelier Hilton DoubleTree at Stapleton to postpone CBCS’s room block, meeting rooms and banquet accommodations for the weekend of September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

That said, mark your **2021** calendars for **CBCS’s 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention** in Denver. And prepare to be astounded by yet another unique commemorative cribbage board. In addition to updates on the status of the 2021 Convention, Larry will be posting hints about the convention board’s theme in upcoming newsletter articles.

## William F. Drueke III – CBCS member #300



chessboards and pieces, novelties, and toys, including fine cribbage boards, on and off for the next 70 years.

William F. Drueke & Company was founded in 1914 by William Francis Drueke, a card box salesman who caught his lucky break when a toy buyer at Marshall Field's in Chicago informed him the Great War had cut off the store's supply of chess pieces from France.

Drueke Sr. saw an opportunity and launched a business in his home city of Grand Rapids. It went on to sell

As the founder's sons, Bill Drueke Jr., and Joe Drueke, looked to exit the business in 1986, they opted to sell it to investors rather than to the next generation, Bill Drueke III — much to his disappointment. His dad and uncle sold it to these people thinking they were the best choice. They were not. They did not make a success of it; they made some mistakes, and they had to sell it in 1992. Ludington-based Carrom Company was the buyer, and moved the business to Ludington, Michigan and closed the iconic Drueke Building — in the family since 1940 — at 601 Third St. NW in Grand Rapids. The renovated building has housed tech firm Open Systems Technologies (OST) since 2009. Carrom stopped making the Drueke chessboards and gradually sold off the company's inventory.

Twenty years later, after spending his middle years as a salesperson, Bill decided since Carrom had long since destroyed the historic dies and molds used to make the chess pieces, it was time to take his years of knowledge and start his own company.

Drueke Games was born in 2012 and continues to operate in a small commercial space in Grand Rapids. Bill Drueke III — now 77 — is the first of the three generations to make the products with his own two hands. He learned the skill as a young man at William F. Drueke & Company during his father and uncle's ownership. His first job there was to take a chessboard, a brand-new one at the factory, and if it had a broken

corner, his job was to make it brand new. He would cut a groove, glue a piece of wood in the crack and reshape it to make it new. This entailed picking pieces that fit into the pattern and direction of the wood grain, as well as operating the saws and using glues. To this day, he understands the importance of keeping a smooth, harmonious look to the alternating light and dark squares.

“To his knowledge, He is the only Drueke who ever physically made the boards — and none of them ever played chess.

But he read about it and takes a keen interest in what is going on in the chess world — including what is going on in the 90,000-member U.S. Chess Federation, what the players are talking about online and what they want in a chess set.

Back in its heyday, William F. Drueke & Company’s largest customer of boards and pieces was the U.S. Chess Federation, which meant Drueke was a well-known brand among chess players.

“When the Carrom company sold the Drueke dies for scrap metal, the chess players were sick because they could no longer get the chess pieces. He has sense made the molds and is now making and selling the chess pieces again. Bill says, “That’s why I’ve gone ‘mini-viral’ on Facebook with the chess community”.

At the time of its sale in 1986, the family company employed about 40 people and pulled in about \$1 million in annual sales. Now, it is a lean operation — just Bill and his two children.

His daughter, Diane Drueke Tobias, has an eagle eye for detail and makes sure the boards they produce are perfect before being packed up for sale. His son, Bill “Billy” Drueke IV, runs the company’s website and social media pages.

They do much of their business on Facebook — selling “onesies,” or single sales, but they also have netted two dealers, one of which is ChessUSA.com in Long Island, New York. The boards cost about \$300 apiece due to the painstaking labor involved. “By myself, I could make 10 boards in a week,” Bill said, “but I have help.”

He noted the largest order he has gotten is for 25 boards at a time.

If he kept up the pace of 10 boards a week all year, he could do about \$156,000 in sales per year. But he sells different sizes of boards at different price points, so the

sales vary. But people just love the good boards,” he said. 2020 may just be the last year he will be making the chess boards.

Bill said he still is surprised by compliments he gets from his customers. Bill has never considered himself a finished carpenter, so he is humbled when people tell him he is an artist. Bill says, “I never thought of myself that way.”

Thank you for the interview Bill – Cec Bradshaw

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## ACC Cribbage Board of the Month 5-2020 – Jay Fulwider

Normally I only do articles on cribbage boards owned or made by our ACC members. This board is different. It was found in an online auction by Cribbage World editor Dave Aiken. Dave emailed Cec Bradshaw of the Cribbage Board Collectors Society and me, wondering why a cribbage board would have a “trump” suit indicator.

Part of the answer to that question was addressed in my June 2019 column on a H. B. Dennison board (pg. 14). That board was a box board that stored cards and pegs. The bottom of the box was drilled to score other games, such as Whist, Euchre, etc. Those games can also be scored on a regular cribbage board and do have a trump suit. That is why a trump indicator might be found on a cribbage board.

This month’s board was made by Will & Finck Co. of San Francisco. They began business in 1864 making knives and oil lamps/lanterns. At some point they started making brass and wood cribbage boards. The brass logo plate on this board was also used on their lamps and lanterns. The company was in business through the early 1930’s.

I was intrigued by this board. I had never seen a sliding trump indicator and it was also a manufacturer I had not heard of. This board was auctioned by LiveAuctioneers. The auction was held in London. I had to set my alarm clock to get up to bid. Unfortunately, I did not win the bid, but I did get two screenshots from the website. Thanks to Dave and LiveAuctioneers we can add a new American manufacturer of cribbage boards to our list.



## Cribbage Board of the Month BY JAY FULWIDER

The December 2019 *Cribbage World* (page 23) had a photo and story about a board that appeared on the old *Bonanza* TV series. That board was a knockoff of a C. W. Le Count No. 2 board.

The three boards shown here are actual Le Count No. 2 boards. The bottom board is a very early #2 made under Le Count's 1885 patent. It is the oldest and most heavily used. It can be identified by the two nails (one at each end) that hold the metal board in its recessed position on the wood base. Also, the 1885 patent information is embossed on the end of the wood base. The brass peg and card-storage slider on this board opens to the left, as do all Le Count sliders. This slider is stamped with an earlier Le Count patent date of 1879. The sliders continued with that patent date until Le Count's death in 1893.



The middle board is an updated #2. Le Count discovered early on that the two nails were not sufficient to secure the metal board in place. Now there are five nails/pins (two at each end and one in the middle). Also, this board does not have the embossed 1885 patent information on the end. It still has a brass slider with the 1879 patent.

The top board was made after James L. Hoyt took over production. Hoyt produced Le Count boards from 1897 to 1907. He cut production costs by mounting the metal board on the wood surface (that is, without countersinking it into the wood base). He also changed the brass pegs and slide covers to steel. He eliminated the patent information, and the overall quality of the boards declined.

I want to thank **Peter Leach** for most of this information. Peter is a fellow member of the Cribbage Board Collectors Society (CBCS). He is the CBCS expert on both Le Count and Horn/McCrillis boards. In fact, Peter actually wrote the book on Le Count boards, a 48-page book published July 2001. Peter keeps the CBCS updated with any new information he discovers. Thanks again, Peter. CW



**Jay Fulwider** collects cribbage boards from his home in picturesque Washington State, where he also enjoys golf, fishing, and racquetball. His philosophy on the key to life: "Just keep your pegs moving." Ideas for and questions about this column may be sent to him at [budandotis@msn.com](mailto:budandotis@msn.com) (put "Cribbage Board" in the subject line).



## HAVE BOARD WILL TRAVEL – Larry Snow

Not much travel going on in these sheltering days of COVID-19. Still plenty of cribbage being played in the Snow household, though. And on the subject of travel, I harken back to June of 2019. Margie and I joined her sister and her sister's husband in Italy for a week-long organized bicycle ride from Pisa to Florence and back. Immersed in the local culture, we couples went our separate ways, exhausted but thrilled about our adventure thus far and the two weeks yet to come.

From Pisa, we hopped a train to Rome and spent a week in a VRBO apartment three blocks from the Vatican. Tours of St. Peter's Basilica, Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum, museums and ruins too numerous to mention, evening strolls along the Tiber, lunch and dinner at fine restaurants and curbside cafes; we walked the walkable city and came to know its cobblestone streets by footstep. Breaks included pizza, a short glass of wine and a game or three of cribbage with many a spectator quizzing us about the game.

From Rome we travelled by subway, then ferry to the Isle of Capri and spent the night in a boutique hotel that so reminded me of the set from Casablanca, I half-expected to bump into Humphrey Bogart stepping indoors after enjoying a cigarette on the marble veranda overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea. After a hike down to Capri's famous Grotto the following morning, Margie and I took another ferry along the Amalfi coast to the town of Sorrento. There, we made our way to yet another boutique hotel, this one a converted convent overlooking the Sea of Naples and puffing Mount Vesuvius.

We dined nightly at the hotel's patio restaurant, enjoying local cuisine and fabulous sunsets. While on a stroll through town, we were drawn by Opera music to an art museum. The concert had ended but the museum had a Van Gogh exhibit (and air conditioning) so we opted to pay the Dutch master a visit. The collection was nice but not extensive; there was, however, a second exhibit: woodworking. Here, we were greeted by a 90 plus year-old artisan who proudly walked us through a display that included music boxes, plaques, and furnishings that members of his guild had been crafting since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Sunbathing Cribbage Player along with Sorrento-ware cribbage board purchased from Bette Bemis collection. 8" by 5" w



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**Board of Director's Meeting Minutes - May 2, 2020, Via Zoom conference**

Board Members: Keith Dwire (President), Cecil Bradshaw (Vice President), Karen Schaffner (Secretary), Harlow Hanson (Treasurer), Jim Herzog (Membership Secretary), Terry Coons (Research/Historian), Ed McLaughlin (President Emeritus), Dan Betz (Board Member), Larry Snow (Board Member)

The Meeting was called to order at 10:07am PDT and roll call was taken by President, Keith Dwire. All board members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The agenda, prepared by Keith Dwire, was presented, and reviewed. A motion was made to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

**New Business**

1. Keith Dwire reviewed the Ad Hoc Committee report regarding updates to the Website by Joe Wheeler and Terry Coons and the creation of the CBCS

Facebook page by Karen Schaffner and Larry Snow. At the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, it was agreed that our mission was accomplished, and the committee has disbanded. Joe Wheeler will continue to maintain the website as webmaster. Karen Schaffner and Larry Snow will continue to maintain and monitor the Facebook page.

2. A motion was made to ratify President Dwire's appointment of Joe Wheeler to the position of Webmaster. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.
3. A motion was made to re-create a board position for the webmaster. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.
4. A discussion ensued about the need to amend the by-laws to reflect this change. It was agreed that a change was not necessary if the number of board members remains at 9 by consolidating positions, as has been done in the past. Therefore, the board positions of vice president and newsletter editor are combined to one position since Cec Bradshaw has held both positions for several years and is willing to continue. This motion to combine the positions was moved, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote.
5. We then reviewed the procedures for replacing expiring positions on the board. An application will be included in the May newsletter. Interested candidates can fill out the application and indicate their position(s) of interest. CBCS members will vote on the person, the BOD will decide on the positions after the vote with an organizational meeting. Dan Betz advised that he not run for a position on the board when his term expires in September.
6. Larry Snow filled the Board in on the status of the 2020 Convention in Denver, Colorado. Due to COVID-19 issues, the Board discussed the pros and cons of having a convention in 2020. Our contract with the venue states that 50% of the room fees are non-refundable (\$4,080). Larry will talk to the venue about allowing us to postpone the convention until 2021 without penalty. A motion was made to postpone the Denver, Colorado convention until 2021. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. With the cancellation of 2020 convention, Cecil will include an updated membership (dues) renewal form, excluding convention fees in the newsletter.

7. We then discussed the disposition of remaining Marv Maxell cribbage boards (approximately 500 boards) which is currently being stored in Larry Show's garage. Some boards have been disbursed at Conventions, some given to youth groups and schools, and others were sold thru an antique/collectible store (now permanently closed). A motion was made to allow Larry to dispose of the boards as he sees fit. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 pm, PDT.

Submitted by Karen Schaffner, Secretary

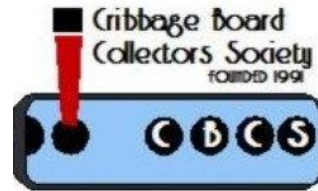
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**Special Note:**

**If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the board of directors, please fill out the following application and forward it to Karen Schaffner.**

**Reference CBCS By – Laws Article X – Process for Election of Board of Directors**

# Cribbage Board Collector's Society Board of Directors Application Form



## Contact Information

Name	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
E-Mail Address	

## Interests

Tell us in which areas you are most interested in working on the board (Does not guarantee assignment)

- President
- Vice President/Newsletter Editor
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Research/Historian
- Membership Director
- Convention Coordinator
- Webmaster
- President Emeritus

## Special Skills, Qualifications, or Interests

Summarize special skills and qualifications, or other interests you have acquired from employment, previous volunteer work, or through other activities, including hobbies or sports.

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## Previous Volunteer Experience

Summarize your previous volunteer experience.

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2020 Revision

# *Cribbage Board Collector's Society*

## **Membership Application** (Please print clearly)

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ (Renewals are due May 1, 2020)

Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Associate Name \_\_\_\_\_ (only if joint application)

Address Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

USA                      \$10.00/year

International        \$15.00/year

Associate             \$5.00/year

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to CBCS and send to: Butch Hanson, 2121 14<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Faribault  
MN 55021