



## IT'S OFFICIAL!! HELEN TONEY IS THE SOUTHERN SECTION'S CHOICE FOR THE 2010 MERIT AWARD, WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO HELEN AT THE SUMMER NATIONAL IN ARIZONA.

Please send Helen your congratulations for this well-deserved recognition to her at her address: ***Helen M. Toney, 2228 Scotty Circle, Decatur, GA 30032***

### ***Letter Nominating Helen for the 2010 Southern Section Merit Award***

Each year the Merit Award Committee recognizes a single contribution to our organization by one person that begins and ends in a calendar year. This year we propose that this Merit Award be given to Helen M. Toney for her exemplary year-long service to the Atlanta Bridge Unit (ABU) as Point Coordinator and Member of the ABU Awards Committee. Helen Toney has served the ABU in this capacity in 2010 and in every year proceeding for 30 years. She has done so without compensation or acknowledgement and deserves recognition for her day in- day out, year in- year out unheralded devotion to our organization that is its backbone and without which this organization could not be sustained.

As Point Coordinator for the ABU, Helen Toney is the person who collects points earned by all players in the clubs. When she began this position in 1980, she was much younger and only had to manage the points earned by members of three clubs—University, M&M, and South Metro. This year 2010--30 years later and a lot older-- she had the daunting task of managing the points earned by ABU players from seven clubs-- University, M&M, South Metro, Lanier Darnell, East Metro, Anne Woods, and Funmakers. Out of the limelight, with no acknowledgement or prodding from anyone, Helen begins this task by contacting directors to get their record of weekly points earned by players in each club .

By hand she then records these points and compiles them into a report which she sends quarterly into ABA Headquarters where the points are documented for official records. Once they are recorded, the over 100 reports come back to her in the form of sheets of cards for the players which she by herself tears off, sorts by club, alphabetizes, and mails to the secretaries of each club and/or delivers personally to the players when she plays at their club. She repeats this process four times during the year- -and has done so by herself without help or assistance for 30 years.

Of equal note is Helen Toney's service in 2010 to our unit as Member of the Awards Committee. This year 2010--as she has done for more than 20 years-- she worked without assistance from anyone to

make a list of all players in the 7-club Atlanta Bridge Unit who have achieved a new rank—or multiple ranks-- during the year. She then gave her list to her committee where the material was used as part of the awards brochure. But this did not end her service to the Awards committee.

She also personally ordered the trophies for individuals who had achieved a milestone, picked these awards up from a the same shop in Decatur she has used for 30 years , and by herself brought them to the Awards Milestone Party, arranged them for display and gave them out as each player was recognized.

Since joining the ABA as a member of University Bridge Club in 1971, without fanfare, Helen Toney has served her Unit, her club, and our parent organization. In 1986 she was a charter member of East Metro Bridge Club, a club founded to serve the growing number of ABA members living outside of Atlanta.

This club now consists of over 35 active ABA/ABU members. From 2003 to the present, she has been a member of the ABA Archive Committee and has donated personal memorabilia to the ABA Archives. She is also a past president East Metro DBC and currently serves the club as its treasurer, a position she has held for the last ten years.

But it is for her service to the Atlanta Bridge Unit as its Point Coordinator and Awards Manager in 2010, exemplary service that she has performed day in- day out, year in, year out for 30 years-- than we propose Helen Toney be awarded the 2010 ABA Award for Meritorious Service. In her service she embodies this quote: That service is the noblest which is rendered for its own sake. --Mohandas Gandhi

#### **SUMMATION OF HELEN TONEY'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

##### **Point Coordinator for the Atlanta Bridge Unit, 1980-2010**

In this capacity, she collects points earned by all players in the seven clubs that make up the Atlanta Bridge Unit from the directors and compiles the points earned in a report which she sends quarterly into ABA Headquarters where the points are recorded for official records. Once they are recorded, the reports come back to her in the form of sheets of cards for the players which she tears off, alphabetizes, and sends to the secretaries of each club and/or deliveries personally to the players when she plays at their club.

##### **Point Coordinator for East Metro Bridge Unit, 1988-2010**

##### **Member, Awards Committee, Atlanta Bridge Unit, 1988-2010**

For this committee, she is the member who makes a list of all players in the 7-club Atlanta Bridge Unit who have achieved a new rank during the year. She then orders trophies for these individuals, picks them up and brings them to the Milestone Party, and is the person who gives them out as the players are recognized.

##### **Charter Member, East Metro Bridge Club**

Helen joined the ABA in 1971 as a member of the University Bridge Club. In 1986, she and twelve others came together to create a new bridge club to serve players in the Stone Mountain-Decatur area. The club now includes over 35 members.

##### **President, East Metro , 1991-1993**

##### **Treasurer, East Metro, 1999-2010**

Southern Section Representative to History Archive Committee, 2003-2010

During her tenure, two things in particular stand out: (1) she donated a box of historic information and memorabilia pertaining to the Atlanta Bridge Unit to the ABA Archive (2) she prepared a banner/exhibit of officers from each state in the Southern Section for display during the Atlanta National Tournament.