



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 1 – January, 2016

14 pages



January Events

Monday Morning Duplicate games at the First Christian Church located at Jefferson and Lee streets near downtown Bloomington starting at 11:45AM:

January 4 – open pairs January 11 – open pairs

January 18 – open pairs January 25 – open pairs

Contact Betty Capodice at 309-827-3318 for information or to arrange for a partner.

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Saturday, January 2 – NO GAME

Monday, January 4, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, January 6, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, January 7, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, January 9, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, January 11, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Tuesday, January 12, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, January 13, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, January 14, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, January 16, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, January 18, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, January 20, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, January 21, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, January 23, NO GAME – SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

Monday, January 25, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Tuesday, January 26, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, January 27, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, January 28, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, January 30, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for information or to arrange for a partner.

All game results are posted online: clubresults.acbl.org

All games sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League.

Announcement: Effective 4/1/2012, all ACBL-sanctioned bridge games held in Bloomington-Normal are fragrance free. Please be respectful of those who are fragrance intolerant. Thank you!





The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders

As of 12/7/2015 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 **3,664.09** Betty Capodice
- 2 **3,354.56** Steve Babin
- *** **2,557.18** Laura Addison
- 3 **2,466.82** Zack Freehill
- 4 **2,287.70** Eunice Patton
- 5 **2,082.43** Mike Tomlianovich
- *** **1,735.61** Steve Hawthorne
- 6 **1,609.23** Cindy Moore
- 7 **1,575.91** Dewey Gronau
- 8 **1,541.70** Ann Schuyler
- 9 **1,538.07** JoAnn Schroeder
- *** **1,398.35** Sharad Chitgopekar
- *** **1,320.43** Ed Lombard
- 10 **1,263.31** Stan Gutzman
- 11 **1,210.11** Ron Emmett
- 12 **1,194.22** Charlie Morton
- 13 **1,175.42** Lori Moore
- 14 **1,174.22** Jeanne Strand
- 15 **1,126.00** Ivey Weaver
- *** **1,091.94** Marian Edmunds
- 16 **1,034.94** Jean Barnett
- 17 **952.04** Randall Motchan
- 18 **834.59** Glen Beaman
- *** **792.95** Don Strand
- 19 **791.44** Henrietta Crain
- *** **780.34** Jack Kessler
- *** **741.06** Pearl Harris
- 20 **718.66** Dennis Moll
- 21 **695.69** Steve Wulfers
- 22 **690.43** Peg Deutsch
- 23 **669.42** Dave Freehill
- 24 **637.58** Jeff Furler
- *** **610.73** Martin Compton
- *** **570.80** Ann Farnsworth
- *** **567.22** Ruth Wettaw
- 25 **549.09** Stevie Joslin
- *** **deceased**

Other players:

- *** **12,741.55** Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 11,837.53** Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 4,609.22** John Seng-Champaign
- 4,523.11** Larry Matheny-Colorado
- *** **4,073.45** Alan Wienman-Morton
- 4,015.74** Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 3,928.70** Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 3,715.87** Kish Devaraj-Georgia
- 2,797.52** Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 2,495.74** Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,495.00** Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,492.34** Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,470.66** Ray Russ-Henry
- 2,446.96** Gail Moon-Tennessee
- 2,366.19** Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,324.88** Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,157.59** Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- 1,873.05** Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 1,782.19** Tim Cull-Springfield
- *** **1,776.22** John Burdon
- 1,645.13** Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,570.01** John Maloney-Champaign
- 1,559.77** Dennis Fitton-Champaign
- 1,532.31** Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,279.89** Jim Moon-Tennessee
- *** **916.41** Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 893.91** Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 871.61** Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 773.43** Doug Steele-Seymour



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#1 -

Bridge is a partnership game. While at times this can be frustrating, it can also be very rewarding. Helpful hint: When possible, seek your partner's help.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-26	♠ AQ108	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ KJ104	Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Vul N/S	♦ 653	Pass	2♦	Pass	4♣
	♣ 83	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ 8763					
♦ 87					
♣ KJ10752					
	♠ K7632				
	♥ AQ2				
	♦ K2				
	♣ Q94				
	♠ J94				
	♥ 95				
	♦ AQJ1094				
	♣ A6				

BIDDING: North's cue bid of the opponents' suit showed a spade raise with 10-12 support points. South upgraded his king of diamonds and bid the game


Play: West led the eight of diamonds to his partner's ace. East had a dilemma; if the lead was a singleton he needed to give his partner a ruff. Otherwise a club shift looked appealing. To determine the best course, he decided to solicit his partner's help. At trick two East led the ace of clubs. West encouraged making it clear he did not want a diamond ruff. East led a second club to West and now it was his turn to ponder. It was almost certain declarer held most of the remaining honor cards to justify his leap to game. However, it was possible for East to have a moderate spade holding. Following this plan, West continued with a third club and East's jack of spade was promoted to the fourth trick for the defense.

In a small local game, all of the N/S pairs were in spade contracts and only one was held to nine tricks. We spend 50% of our time on defense but perhaps we don't give it the attention that is needed.

#2 -

We all enjoy holding strong hands but it's important to know when to stop bidding. After giving partner a good description of your hand, it's up to him. That is, if you trust your partner.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-27	♠ AK1087	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ KJ3	1♣	DBL	Pass	1♦
Vul N/S	♦ KQ	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
♠ Q93		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ AQ8					
♦ A85					
♣ J732					
	♠ J52				
	♥ 9642				
	♦ 104				
	♣ A1054				
	♠ 64				
	♥ 1075				
	♦ J97632				
	♣ 98				

BIDDING: North's jump rebid of two notrump showed 21-22 high card points. South rebid his diamonds to show a very weak hand and North reluctantly passed.

Play: West led the deuce of clubs to the king and the ace. East returned a trump to the ace and West led a second round of clubs to dummy's queen. Next, declarer cashed the diamond queen followed by three rounds of spades ruffing in his hand with the nine. Then he drew the last trump followed by a low heart. West won the ace and declarer claimed the remaining tricks. Declarer lost only three aces for a score of +130. Most of the N/S pairs were going down in spade or notrump contracts.

It's difficult to stop short of game with the North cards, but having accurately described his hand, it was time to trust partner.

#3 -

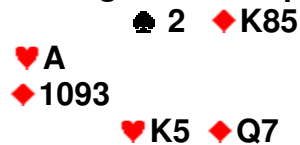
A frequently asked question is whether you should cash an ace when defending a small slam. As is so often the case, sometimes it's right and sometimes not.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#15-28	♠ QJ10842	West	North	East	South
Dir N	♥ 92	-	2♠	Pass	4NT
Vul None	♦ K852	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
	♣ 8	Pass	6♦	Pass	6NT
♠ 97	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
♥ AJ86		Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
♦ J1093					
♣ 1076					
	♠ 5				
	♥ Q10743				
	♦ 64				
	♣ J5432				
	♠ AK63				
	♥ K5				
	♦ AQ7				
	♣ AKQ9				

BIDDING: South was admiring his great hand when his partner opened a weak-2 bid. South used Roman Keycard Blackwood to discover the ace of hearts was missing but North did hold the queen of spades along with the king of diamonds. South then bid 6NT to protect his king of hearts from the opening lead.

Play: West considered leading the ace of hearts but finally decided on the jack of diamonds. Declarer stopped to analyze the hand and quickly counted 12 tricks: 6 spades, 3 diamonds, and 3 clubs. This was a pairs event so he began looking for a valuable overtrick. He won the diamond ace his hand and then cashed the top three clubs pitching two hearts from dummy. Next, he ran the spade suit and came to this ending with one spade left to play:



Declarer discarded his five of hearts on the last spade and West had no answer. He finally discarded a diamond and declarer had his overtrick. Some of those who chose to play six spades from the North hand were quickly disappointed when a heart was led.

#4 -

When playing in a pairs event, just making your contract will often result in a poor score. The goal of this game is to maximize your plus scores and minimize your minus scores.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

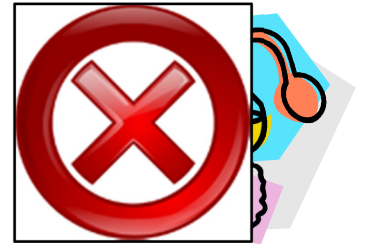
#15-29	♠ AK2		West	North	East	South
Dir S	♥ 9864		-	-	-	1 ♥
Vul E/W	♦ Q742		Pass	3 ♥	4 ♣	4 ♥
	♣ 83		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ Q643	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♠ J75				
♥ J5		♥ 10				
♦ 10985		♦ A3				
♣ J107		♣ AKQ9652				
	♠ 1098					
	♥ AKQ732					
	♦ KJ6					
	♣ 4					

BIDDING: North invited game and although the vulnerability was wrong, East courageously stuck in a lead-directing overcall. South continued on to the heart game.

Play: West led the jack of clubs and declarer trumped the continuation. Declarer counted only three losers: one spade, one diamond, and the club already lost. He next turned his attention to an overtrick. He saw he needed either the diamonds to divide 3-3 or find the doubleton ace of diamonds with East. After drawing two rounds of trumps, he entered dummy with a heart to lead a low diamond. His king won the trick so he entered dummy again with a heart to lead another diamond. When East played the king, dummy's queen of diamonds provided a parking spot for the spade loser.

In a small, local game most N/S pairs found only ten tricks in the heart game. That was bridge; not matchpoint bridge.

Announcement: Effective 4/1/2012, all ACBL-sanctioned bridge games held in Bloomington-Normal are fragrance free. Please be respectful of those who are fragrance intolerant. Thank you!



Remember: All Bloomington-Normal duplicate events adhere to the ACBL's zero tolerance for unacceptable behavior. Do NOT let this person's conduct rub off on you!!



TIP OF THE MONTH

The Convention Card – part 7 of a 16-part series

This month: The section titled “special doubles”.

It would be best to have a copy of the convention card while reading this tip.

Negative double: Since the opponents regularly overcall, a valuable bidding agreement is the negative double. When you use a negative double, if your partner opens the bidding and your RHO overcalls, a double by you shows 4 cards in both of the unbid majors. **Example 1:** your partner opens 1C, RHO overcalls 1S; double by you shows a 4-card heart suit plus 6+ points and support (3 or more) for diamonds. **Example 2:** your partner opens 1C, RHO overcalls 1H; double by you shows a 4-card spade suit plus 6+ points and support (3 or more) for diamonds. **Example 3:** your partner opens 1C, RHO overcalls 1H; 1S shows a 5+-card spade suit plus 6+ points. **Example 4:** your partner opens 1C, RHO overcalls 1D; double by you shows both 4-card spade and heart suits with 6+ points.

Responsive double: Since the opponents compete in the bidding frequently, a valuable bidding agreement is the responsive double. When you use a responsive double to partner’s takeout double, you tell partner to pick an unbid suit. **Example:** Your LHO opens 1D, your partner doubles for takeout, your RHO bids 2D; double by you shows 4-card suits in both majors so your opening bid partner is to choose one.

Support double: Since the opponents compete in the bidding frequently, a valuable bidding agreement is the support double. When you open the bidding in a minor suit, your partner bids a major suit, then RHO bids a suit, pass by you shows fewer than 3 cards in partner’s major, double by you shows 3-card support for partner’s major, and a raise to the 2 level in partner’s major shows 4-card support. **Example:** You open 1C, LHO passes, partner responds 1H, RHO bids 1S or 2D; double by you shows a 3-card heart suit in your hand.

Support redouble: Since the opponents compete in the bidding frequently, a valuable bidding agreement is the support redouble. When you open the bidding in a minor suit, your partner bids a major suit, then RHO doubles, pass by you shows fewer than 3 cards in partner’s major, redouble by you shows 3-card support for partner’s major, and a raise to the 2 level in partner’s major shows 4-card support. **Example:** You open 1C, LHO passes, partner responds 1H, RHO doubles; redouble by you shows a 3-card heart suit in your hand.

There are places on the convention card for other special doubles used very little or a space for you to describe any other special double.

Next month’s tip: The section titled “notrump overcall”.



**Bloomington-Normal 70% club
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2015/12/14	70.83%	Mike Gross & Carroll Kinnaman(99ers)
2015/12/5	70.31%	Christine Carroll & Wes Seitz
2015/11/30	71.11%	Phil Kenney & Zach Freehill
2015/11/28	72.22%	Ann Schuyler & Zach Freehill
2015/11/2	71.35%	Ann Schuyler & Dennis Moll
2015/10/28	71.11%	Gary Kemp & John Ford(NLMers)
2015/10/10	73.66%	Lane O'Connor & Steve Wulfers
2015/09/02	71.11%	Gary Kemp & John Ford(NLMers)
2015/08/17	73.33%	Mary Lou Gold & Gaye Hoselton(99ers)
2015/08/10	70.56%	Linda & Dave Odette(99ers)
2015/07/29	71.25%	Marilyn & Gene Byers(NLMers)
2015/07/15	71.67%	Mary Tweedie & Michelle Tomlin(NLMers)
2015/06/17	70.00%	Linda Odette & Ramesh Chaudhari(NLMers)
2015/06/08	81.25%	John Stahly & Rick Kern(99ers)
2015/03/23	71.79%	Eunice Patton & Jeff Furler
2015/03/02	71.11%	Lynn Steffen & Bev Branning (99ers)
2015/02/04	70.00%	John Stahly & John Ford (NLMers)
2015/02/02	71.30%	John Stahly & Rick Kern (99ers)
2015/01/05	70.83%	Kay Marvin & Terri Huebsch (99ers)

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#85 – DON'T BE FOOLED!

	♠ Q973 ♥ QJ98 ♦ J943 ♣ A	
♠ JT86 ♥ K4 ♦ AQ5 ♣ QT32	North West East Declarer	♠ K542 ♥ 32 ♦ T82 ♣ 9864
	♠ A ♥ AT765 ♦ K76 ♣ KJ75	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

In a problem-solving mood? Then cover up S-E and look only at the N-W hands. As West, you lead the ♠J and the defense must somehow conjure up four tricks. But be warned! Declarer is a tricky fellow, and some flim-flam is not entirely out of the question.

The ♠J opening lead is covered by the Queen, King, Ace. Declarer leads a Club to Dummy's ♣A, and then takes the

losing Heart finesse. After winning the ♥K it is time for West to ponder a while. Where will the defense find three more tricks?

Can the defense cash three Diamonds? Probably not, Declarer is favorite to hold the ♦K and, anyway, there's no rush, those Diamonds aren't going anywhere. It looks like there is a Spade to cash (based on the play of the ♠Q at Trick 1), but that also can wait. So you exit safely with a Heart and await developments. Declarer wins that in Dummy and leads a Diamond to his King and your Ace. Now what?

At this point it might seem obvious for West to cash the ♠T and the ♦Q for down one. But by now you should be getting suspicious. Why hasn't Declarer led a Spade to the board, setting up Dummy's Nine for a Diamond pitch? The reason is that Declarer doesn't have a second Spade! That squandering of the Queen at Trick 1 was a clever ruse, designed to fool you. The only way to beat the contract now is to lead a casual *low* Diamond, hoping that Declarer will misguess and finesse the Diamond Nine. He probably will, and that will be down one! A fiendishly deceptive play is foiled by sound logic.

#86 – THE KEY CARD

	♠ 3 ♥ AKQ2 ♦ AK95 ♣ A765	
♠ KQT9852 ♥ 5 ♦ 8 ♣ K982	North West East Declarer	♠ J ♥ T43 ♦ QJT7642 ♣ JT
	♠ A764 ♥ J9876 ♦ 3 ♣ Q43	

West opens 3♣ and eventually South becomes Declarer in 6♥. West's opening lead is the ♠K, won by Declarer's Ace. Looking just at the N-S hands, Declarer can count four side-suits tricks, with a fifth available if the ♠K is with East. That means that he will need to score 7 or 8 trump tricks if he is to make his slam. And with East sure to be out of Spades by now, any Spade ruffs will have to be high. How do you make 12 tricks?

One possibility is to hope for 2-2 trumps and for East to have the ♠K. In that case, trumps are drawn, and Declarer gets up to 12 with five trumps in his hand, five side-suit tricks and two Spade ruffs on the board. That's not a good plan ...

firstly, as West has extreme Spade length, he is likely to have less than his share of the Hearts ... secondly, this line requires the ♠K with East, and those readers who have peeked at the E-W hands can see that this is not the case.

Better, but still not good enough, is to arrange for two high Spade ruffs, and to pick up trumps by finessing against East's Ten. That caters for the 3-1 trumps, but it's down one when the ♠K is offside. The route to success is to ruff *three* Spades high in Dummy: win the ♠A, cross to the ♣A, finesse the Heart Nine, ruff a Spade, cash ♦AK (pitching a Club from hand), and then merrily cross-ruff the hand. That well-timed line of play works against most distributions, requiring only that East has the ♥T. *That's* the key card on this deal, not the ♠K!

#87 – BLUFF & DOUBLE-BLUFF

	♠ QT3 ♥ T7 ♦ QJT95 ♣ A98	
♠ A872 ♥ A84 ♦ 832 ♣ T75	North West East Declarer	♠ K95 ♥ Q652 ♦ 764 ♣ QJ3
	♠ J64 ♥ KJ93 ♦ AK ♣ K642	

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East
 1NT Pass 3NT All Pass

South opens a 15-17 1NT, opposite which a 9-point hand is very much on the borderline between bidding game and inviting game. But North's 9-pointer is a particularly fine specimen, what with that 5-card suit and all those lovely Tens, so in this case North has no qualms whatsoever about bidding 3NT directly.

West's opening lead is his 4th best Spade to East's King. East returns the Spade Nine and, in this situation, it sometimes pays for West to duck the trick, thereby

maintaining communications between the E-W hands (so that East still has a Spade to lead if and when he gets in again). But here that is not necessary. West has the ♥A as a fast entry and has no need to duck the second Spade. So, West wins the ♠A and leads a third round, won by Dummy's Queen.

At this point, Declarer has 8 top tricks and must guess the Heart suit correctly if she is to make her contract. When she leads a Heart from Dummy should she play the King or the Jack? It may seem like a pure guess, but in fact Declarer has a clue. West didn't duck that second Spade! Presumably he didn't think it was necessary, and the strong inference is that West has a fast entry, namely the ♥A. So Declarer finesses the Jack and brings home her contract!

If West is a truly devious fellow (and many bridge players are) then he might duck the second Spade anyway, even though it is unnecessary. That could prompt an alert Declarer to conclude that West has no fast entry, and therefore that the ♥A must be with East. In that case, Declarer hops up with the King and goes down one! Then again, if Declarer knows that West is of the devious persuasion, she might smell a rat and guess right anyway. And if West guesses that Declarer will smell a rat then he might ...

#88 – PROTECTING PARTNER’S ENTRY

	♠ K4 ♥ KT32 ♦ J876 ♣ KQ5	
♠ QJT83 ♥ 64 ♦ Q32 ♣ 876	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ 975 ♥ QJ97 ♦ A4 ♣ JT94
	♠ A62 ♥ A85 ♦ KT95 ♣ A32	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

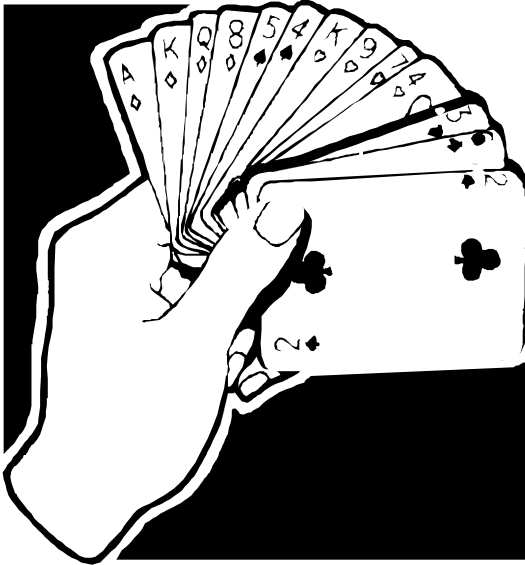
A combined 27 HCP is usually plenty for a 3NT contract, but here the N-S hands did not fit well together. Even so, East needed to keep his wits about him if he was to beat the contract. But, sadly for E-W, East’s wits deserted him at the crucial moment. See if you can do better.

Against 3NT West led the ♠Q which held the trick. Dummy’s King won the second Spade, the Diamond finesse lost to West’s Queen, then back came another Spade, won by

Declarer’s Ace. Now, when Declarer conceded a trick to the ♦A, East was out of Spades, so West’s Spade winners were useless and Declarer romped home with 9 tricks.

Declarer played her part well by holding up on the first Spade, in an attempt to disrupt the E-W communications, but East overlooked an effective counter-measure. With South opening a 15-17 1NT, East knew that his partner had a maximum of five HCP, and three of those had already shown up in the Spade suit. West’s only possible entry to the long Spades was the ♦Q, and it was East’s job to protect that entry for use later in the hand, when the Spades had been established. The way to do that was to disregard the old adage of “second hand low” and to grab the ♦A on the first round of the suit. Now, after the ♠A is knocked out, it is West who wins the second round of Diamonds and can cash his Spades for down one. Alert play by those Easts who hopped up with the ♦A!

Upcoming tournaments:



Bloomington Winter Sectional

Jan 22-24, 2016

Friday, January 22

10:30 AM - Stratified Open Pairs/Teams

3:30 PM - Stratified Open Pairs/Teams

Saturday, January 23

10:30 AM - Stratified Open Charity Pairs/Teams

4:00 PM - Stratified Open Pairs/Teams

Sunday, January 24

Swiss teams 10:30 AM – Double session with lunch

UAW Local 2488 Hall

10226 E. 1400 N. Rd., Bloomington, IL 61705

