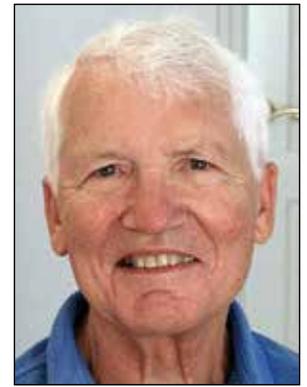




President's Message



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The in-person bridge community in Sarasota was heartened on October 15 when the Intercity Bridge Club welcomed back a number of familiar snowbirds, now down here for the winter. Unfortunately, they arrived too late to boost attendance at our somewhat disappointing sectional tournament at the beginning of the month but will hopefully be around to participate in our January sectional.

Unit 102 holds its Annual Membership Meeting during the January sectional when board members are elected and any proposed by-law changes are approved.

This time we have three retiring board members who are willing to serve for another two-year term - Peter Cleaves, Bob Meisel, and our Treasurer Marcia Rabb, plus newcomer Gordon Decker. Gordon is a former financial executive from Chicago who retired down here in 2019. He recently became a Diamond Life Master.

There will also be four proposed by-law amendments to approve.

With the great decline in ACBL membership in recent years, and especially among the in-person bridge community – Unit 102 has lost at least 23 percent of its members since 2019 - we have found it increasingly difficult to find local members willing to join our board. Consequently, the first two proposed by-law amendments will allow the board to downsize to seven, instead of the current nine, if necessary.

Also, our by-laws currently require us to find a qualified person every year to review the financial records submitted by our treasurer to the board. We have been fortunate in recent years to have found local members who have done that free of charge, but we anticipate that sooner or later we will have to pay someone to do it. We currently have a very effective treasurer who submits detailed financial reports to the board every month. So instead of an independent financial review being an annual requirement, the board is proposing that it be as and when its deemed appropriate.

Lastly, as there is already a three-term limit for all board members, the current four-year limit on all officers is, we believe, unnecessary and restricts the board from electing the best qualified persons for officer positions.

I look forward to seeing you all in January!