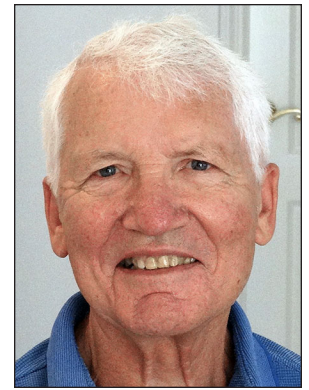




# President's Message



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As I write this, the Sarasota-Palmetto Regional tournament is just beginning, hosted this year by Unit 128. Last year it was Unit 102's turn and attendance was down a devastating 62% from 2020, resulting in a substantial financial loss. But having seen a doubling of attendance at the Orlando Regional in January, after a similarly disastrous 2022, coupled with a \$5 increase in entry fees, we hope this year's tournament will fare a lot better.

As fear of Covid wanes we should begin to see more and more players return to the bridge table. Hopefully, the requirement to produce proof of vaccination will soon be a thing of the past. (Is ACBL alone in still requiring this?) Unfortunately, the bridge-playing population in Florida continues to shrink; Unit 102's membership has declined 26% during the past three years.

However, we saw a good attendance at our January sectional, helped by the attractive venue and the momentum that the Intercity Bridge Club has managed to build for its regular Monday/Tuesday games at the same location. We were also fortunate to have two excellent directors in charge – Jesse Laird and Darlene Bates – who kept the games moving along and promptly posted results online.

Next on the agenda is our Spring sectional, which will be held at the same location, April 24-26. We used to hold this event in May, but we hope that by bringing it forward a few weeks we will capture some snowbirds before they fly home for the summer.

I look forward to seeing you then.