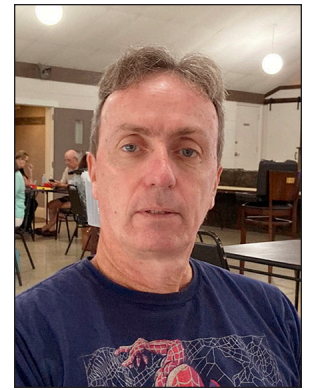




President's Message



John Moschella

JMoschellaUnit240@outlook.com

President

John Moschella

(407) 971-3118

JMoschellaUnit240@outlook.com

Secretary/SBN Liaison

Pieter Van Bennekom

(772) 999-3952

pvanbennekom@gmail.com

Treasurer

John Moschella

Board Members:

Karen Adelman

Rhonda Dykal

Ann Farrell

Jane Formet

Martha Glassmeyer

Cabot Jaffe, Jr.

Linda James

Glen Martin

Alan Owiesny

Suzi Rivett-Peterson

Anna Lynn Wagner

The Central Florida Unit 240 just finished hosting the Orlando Regional tournament during the first week of January amid encouraging signs that tournaments may well be on the way back from the Covid pandemic.

Although not quite back to pre-Covid numbers, attendance showed a big improvement over 2022, which was hit by twin negative factors: the sudden rise of the new omicron variant of Covid at the time and a huge winter storm up north, which caused numerous airline cancelations and made road travel hazardous, making it impossible for some of the usual would-be attendees to get here.

On the Thursday afternoon of the tournament this year, we had the largest table count at a regional in Florida since the restart of tournament play, and we even improved on that number on Friday!

We held a couple of special events during the tournament, starting with the Susan K. Rowley Memorial Pro-Am game with free entries financed by the Rowley foundation, which was huge success. Our Unit also hosted the North American Pairs (NAP) competition for the entire District to select the state-wide winners in the A, B, and C stratifications who will go on to compete in the Spring Nationals in March in New Orleans, with travel subsidies from the ACBL.

Good luck to all the qualifiers in New Orleans! We know you will do your best to represent our District well.

In another sign that tournaments of all kinds may be coming back, our Unit 240 was able to hold the first open sectional hosted by the Vero Beach Bridge Club at the end of January, and the local club was happy with the attendance at the three-day event.

Congratulations are also in order for the Unit 240 Central Florida winners for calendar year 2022 in three different races: the Mini-McKinney awards for those who accumulated the most total points during the year, the Ace of Clubs awards for those getting the most points at their regular clubs, and – this one is new – the people who scored the most points in online play on the BBO platform at their virtual clubs. We are in process of giving out the Mini McKinney, Ace of Clubs, and Ace of Online Clubs certificates to our winners. Some

were presented at the Vero Beach Sectional tournament and others will be presented in the coming weeks at the regular games of the respective clubs the winners belong to.

Hope to see you at the tables!

John Marchella