

District Director, Joann Glasson

July 2021

ACBL

The ACBL Board of Directors summer meetings will be held July 14th to 16th to discuss the issue of our transition back to face-to-face bridge and the impact of online bridge. Many clubs in our district have begun the reopening process with varying degrees of success.

In March of 2020, before the pandemic, there were 2,189 face-to-face clubs in the ACBL and in June of 2021, there are 804 that have reopened. Table count is down considerably from pre-pandemic numbers as well. In March of 2020 there were 179,749 face-to-face tables of bridge played. In the first three weeks of June of 2021 there were 24,677 tables of face-to-face bridge played.

Face-to-face clubs are the primary source of new members for the ACBL. Teaching programs at bridge clubs brought in the majority of the new members before the pandemic. Without a robust number of face-to-face games, it will be impossible for the ACBL to reverse the declining membership trend.

In addition, many bridge players, even those who were reluctant to try it originally, have grown to like the advantages of playing online. It creates a new marketplace in which ACBL bridge clubs are facing competition from the BBO games played online, creating a very complex situation.

I will have more information to give you next month when the summer meetings are completed.

District 4 is celebrating the return to bridge at the Lancaster Regional in October – make your reservations early – the rooms at the host hotel are limited – we are excited about seeing each other again... it's been too long.... Come join us at Spooky Nook.

Stay well and please contact me anytime with any questions or concerns: joannglasson@msn.com

Joann