

District Director, Joann Glasson
January 2022

New Year's Resolutions

As we begin the New Year, I will begin my term as ACBL President and I have a list of challenges to work on this year.

ACBL Board

2022 will be the first year that we will experience a reduction in the size of the ACBL board. We have a board of 20 directors this year, down from 25 and need to prepare for 2023 when the number of directors will be reduced to 15.

Our Bridge Committee, chaired by Dennis Carman, will be working to complete the transition of all bridge related activities off the ACBL board and to committees composed of expert players. This will enable the board to focus on strategic and financial issues.

Fall Board Meetings

A complete report from the ACBL Board Meetings in Austin, Texas, is available in my December 2021 report.

Pandemic

The pandemic has changed how we play the game of bridge and will provide additional challenges for the board and management this year. Many of our players have discovered the advantages of playing online and others are holding out for a return to face-to-face bridge, so we will work on a new hybrid model that provides a place to play for all of our membership.

As an organization, we must do all we can to enable our face-to-face bridge clubs to survive. The pandemic has dealt a serious blow to face-to-face play and unless we can recover, the future of our wonderful game is in danger. Prior to the pandemic our new members came mostly from bridge clubs that offered teaching programs. With the pandemic, we have lost our "on the ground" sales force and it's in the best interest of the organization to try to protect the survival of teaching clubs.

Cheating

We also need to streamline the process of keeping cheaters out of the game of bridge. The Recorder system worked OK until we moved the game online and made cheating a bit easier. In 2022, we are planning on reviewing and improving the current process for keeping our game honest. AJ Stephani will be leading that effort for the board.

I wish everyone a healthy and happy 2022! Stay well and please contact me anytime with any questions or concerns: joannglasson@msn.com

Joann