

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

July 14, 2025

Hi,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer.

For those of you who are not in Vero Beach to see it for yourselves, the exterior of the VBBC looks great. In addition to painting the building, railings and sidewalks, repairs were made to the stucco walls, fascia boards were replaced in several areas, a few new shrubs were added, new awnings and signs were installed, the flagpole was refurbished and capped with a solar powered light, the unused utility poles were removed, lights were replaced and security cameras were installed. It was a quite a project - special thanks to Ann Espy and Ron Andrews for their efforts in getting it done.

Under the Guidance of Grace Leonard, Ellaine Saeva, Cindy Stegmaier and Paula Brockelman, the lobby renewal project has begun. The kitchen has been painted, the cabinet hardware replaced and there has been a general "decluttering" of the area. Over the next few weeks there will be a slight rearrangement of the kitchen with the installation of several new appliances. There may be a few minor inconveniences while this is being done, but the final result will be worth it.

As we begin the final quarter of our fiscal year, I am

pleased to report that Jan and George are doing a great job and that the club continues to do very well. This year face-to-face play at VBBC is up 10% over last year. Play at the "affiliate" games held at the local country clubs is down 9% resulting in our total face-to-face play being up 5% over last year. We are the 7th most active club in North America and the 4th in Florida behind the Villages, Temple Sinai (Delray Beach) and Naples. While it would be nice to be #1, our goal is not to be the biggest - we are simply trying to be the best!

Reflecting the addition of new members, many from our free lesson programs, our membership is up slightly from last June: 706 compared to 694. If you know of someone who might be interested in learning (or re-learning) bridge, please encourage them to join.

Moving to the financials:

Revenue from tables fees, dues, lessons, etc. of \$346,000 is up 8% from last year.

Expenses of \$271,000 are up 10% from last year, reflecting the \$23,000 that was spent on the exterior refurbishment and repair projects.

Net income (which includes donations) is \$151,000 - equal to last year.

Our cash (in excess of our liabilities) is \$462,000. Last year it was \$319,000.

In summary, the club's financial position is strong. We will continue to conservatively manage our finances while making the appropriate expenditures to ensure that we

remain an inviting venue for us to enjoy our favorite game.

I would like to thank the many volunteers whose assistance helps to keep things running smoothly. If you have the time, please contact Jan or George to help out. I also want to thank our generous donors whose financial support ensures our continued viability.

Play well,
Denis