

FTLBC Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date – November 13, 2023

3:58 p.m. – Meeting called to order by President Knyvett Lee

Board members present: Daniel Tordella, Knyvett Lee, Allen Bozek and Bella Ionis-Sorren.

Club manager Emilio Lopez was present.

FTLBC members Rosemary Boden, Jesse Laird, Mindy Aiken and William Cody (from Scrabble Club) also attended the meeting.

1. **September Minutes**: Minutes of October 9, 2023 FTLBC Board meeting were ratified.
2. **Treasurer's report**: Treasurer Rick Shapiro reported (via his report):
 - a. Bank and PayPal total cash balance of \$62,414.50 as of 9/30/23.
 - b. Cash balance is inflated by approximately \$14,000.00 in 2024 FTLBC cruise deposits, from which various cruise expenses (to be determined) will be paid.
 - c. FTLBC had a net operating loss of \$2,853 for the month of October and has a year-to-date net operating gain of \$1,914 (less cruise expenses to be determined).
3. **Club Manager's report**:
 - a. Table count for October was 304 compared to 283 for October 2022.
 - b. Ability to accept credit cards payments was interrupted on Nov. 8th. Club manager to rectify ASAP.
 - c. 82 club members have renewed their membership for 2024 to date.
 - d. **Saturday open games**: After considering a suggestion by the Quick Tricks Board, the FTLBC board voted to re-institute the FTLBC Saturday 12:30 p.m. open game beginning December 4, 2023.

4. **President's report:**

a. 2024 FTLBC Board Elections

(1) The following candidates will be elected by “acclamation” at the December 4th annual meeting of FTLBC.

- i. Allen Bozek
- ii. Rick Shapiro
- iii. Jonathan Salt
- iv. Alan Rubin

(2) The candidate will decide among themselves which will be appointed to what term (Per FTLBC bylaws, there are two 3-year terms, one 2-year term and one 1-year term to be filled for 2024).

b. Advertising: President Lee will continue to work with the Club manager on the promotional banners, cards and flyers. Club member Barbara Tate will continue to work with the Club Manger to consolidate FTLBC's two *Facebook* pages into one page.

c. Consolidation of Committees: President Lee suggested consolidation / reduction of FTLBC committees and handed out a proposed breakdown. The matter was tabled for future consideration.

d. Holiday “Wish Tree”: After suggestion by one or more Club members, the Board approved implementation of a Holiday “Wish Tree” as a fund raising technique for needed items like new playing cards and new boards to hold the cards.

- e. Insurance: Because of an increase in the replacement cost of the FTLBC building, the previous estimate of 2024 insurance was increased by approximately \$1,000.00 from the prior estimate of \$12,073.
- f. Sunday Birthday Brunches: Shall be continued; Next one is December 10th.
- g. Club Manager Contract: To be discussed in detail at a special board meeting to be scheduled. The existing contract expires on 12/31/23.
- h. FTLBC Annual Meeting:
 - (1) The meeting will be held on December 4th;
 - (2) Allen Bozek will lead the meeting. Thank you Allen.
 - (3) Rosemary Boden will run the member “sign in” table to document the quorum requirement (10%).
 - (4) Discussion was had regarding the need to better publicize (to Club members) future nominations and election procedures to give all concerned sufficient and timely notice in advance of the various nomination and election procedures.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Events Committee: Plans are underway for the New Year’s Eve game, which may include a *silent auction*, food and/or music and dancing. Secretary Tordella reported that Club member Nancy Paris is available to continue her long-standing provision of cooking/chef services to FTLBC.
- b. House Committee:
 - (1) Chair Brian Vaas and past chair Allen Bozek changed the water and air filters recently. Many thanks to both for saving the Club significant money.

c. Education Committee:

(1) Chair Robin Kupperman reported that beginner lessons, supervised games, chip games and mentor games continue as well as free 30-minute lessons on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m.

(2) Plans for a monthly “*7 is enough*” Swiss teams game were postponed because not enough “A” players volunteered for the game.

d. Grievance and Ethics Committee: Chair Tordella reported that Club Member Mina Acknoukh was again advised that his Club privileges are suspended pending his meeting with the G&E committee.

e. Insurance Committee: Club member Barbara Sunshine agreed to assist the Club President and Treasurer with a review of the insurance issues.

f. Membership: Club member and former president Rosemary Boden volunteered to chair this committee. The Board approved her appointment as well as appointment of Barbara Sunshine, Abbey Schenkman and Lana Becker to the committee. Many many thanks to Rosemary and her committee.

g. Cruise Committee: Cruise co-chairs Jesse Laird and Mindy Aiken reported:

(1) The January 21 – 28 2024 cruise quickly sold out all available seats and Mindy reported many additional requests for tickets as well as strong interest for a 2025 cruise.

(2) The FTLBC Board approved issuance of up to 100 “prizes” for the cruise participants in the form of free future FTLBC plays to be awarded at the discretion of the cruise co-chairs. The free plays shall be issued in the form of

a special ticket with an expiration date of 4/30/24. The FTLBC club manager shall assist with preparation of the special prize tickets.

(3) The co-chairs are hopeful for a net profit of \$5,000 to FTLBC from the cruise.

Many thanks to Jesse and Mindy!!

5:30 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Daniel F. Tordella – FTLBC Secretary