

FTLBC Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date – February 12, 2024

3:58 p.m. – Meeting called to order by President Jonathan Salt

Board members present: Daniel Tordella, Knyvett Lee, Allen Bozek, Bella Ionis-Sorren, Rick Shapiro, Alan Rubin and Jonathan Salt.

Club manager Emilio Lopez was present.

FTLBC members Rosemary Boden, Matt Gomillion, Robin Kupperman, David Kupperman, Mindy Aiken and Jesse Laird also attended the meeting.

1. **January Minutes:**

- a. Minutes of the January 8, 2024 FTLBC Board meeting were approved.

2. **2024 Cruise Report:**

- a. The 2024 FTLBC Bridge Sectional at Sea Cruise on the good ship Celebrity Ascent was an excellent endeavor by FTLBC.
- b. Many thanks to Mindy Aiken and Jesse Laird for their exhaustive efforts and many hours managing the cruise and to the cruise bridge director, Gilbert Stockton.
- c. Thanks to their efforts, FTLBC realized a net profit of \$7,336.98.
- d. Plans are underway for a 2025 cruise.
- e. A fully refundable cruise deposit of \$2,600.00 was approved for the 2025 cruise.

3. **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Rick Shapiro reported:

- a. **2023**

- (1) Closing bank and cash balance as of 12/31/23 was \$77,791.80.
 - (2) FTLBC showed a net operating loss of \$18,560.48 for 2023.

b. January 2024

- (1) Total bank, *PayPal* and petty cash/change balance was \$90,474.44 as of 1/31/24.
- (2) FTLBC showed a net operating gain of \$26,997.89 for January 2024, due in part to cruise income and deferred income from 2023 credited in January.
- (3) Change/drawer cash increase from \$150.00 to \$250.00 and a petty case increase from \$300.00 to \$400.00 was approved.
- (4) A brief discussion about increasing the price of soft drinks from the long-time level of \$1.00 per 12 ounce can was had. No motion was made.
- (5) Directors and Officers annual insurance premium of \$1,191.00 was approved.
- (6) Purchase (annual) of an employee dishonesty bond in the amount of \$278.00 was approved.

4. **Club Manager's report:**

- a. Table count for January 2024 was 507 compared to 343 for January 2023.
- b. Advertising: Final stage of the previously approved banner to be placed on the fence near SE 7th Street and Federal Highway to be visible from 7th Street and northbound Federal Highway is underway. Banners have been ordered.

5. **President's report:**

- a. President Salt advised that discussion with Allegro Senior Living Center continues regarding possible sponsorship / advertising by Allegro at FTLBC.
- b. Bylaws: Board member Knyvett Lee agreed to look for an editable copy of the latest FTLBC Bylaws that includes the recent changes.

6. **Committee Reports:**

a. Events Committee (Chair – Bella Ionic-Soren):

- (1) Events chair Bella Ionis-Sorren coordinated presentation of various awards to be celebrated during February and March 2024, including presentation of the Mini McKinney honor, the Ace of Clubs award, the Rhoda Schreiber award, recognition of new Life Masters and Labor Day tournament winner(s).
- (2) Other:

b. House Committee (Chair Allen Bozek):

- (1) Replacement/repair of the public address system is a top priority. Bids are being solicited for immediate purchase and installation. One vendor agreed to a discount in return for advertising by FTLBC.
- (2) Coordination of services and bills by FTLBC's new air conditioning vendor – Engineered Air, continue.
- (3) Allen Bozek, Bella Ionis-Sorren and Rosemary Boden bought the new microwave over with their own funds – *TYVM for your continuing support.*
- (4) Bids for the closing of the opening from the club office / reception area to the small bridge room are being pursued.
- (5) Rug cleaning and maintenance issues are being addressed.
- (6) President Salt will address the parking lot lighting outage issue with the City of Fort Lauderdale.

c. Education Committee (Chair Robin Kupperman):

- (1) 24 students completed the beginner bridge series on February 8th. Wow!

- (2) The Board approved one free play for each “graduating” student.
 - (3) Club Member and bridge expert John Albright is teaching his 5-week (Wednesday mornings) lesson series for players with 500 – 1,500 masters points. FTLBC has received in excess of \$1,000.00 from students, which member Albright generously donated to the club. *Thank you John.*
 - (4) Free 30-minute lessons (Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m.), supervised games (Saturday mornings and Wednesday afternoons) and “chip” games (Friday afternoons), limited face-to-face mentor games continue.
 - (5) A Saturday morning 0-100 game will be added for the benefit of the newer players.
- d. Grievance and Ethics Committee (Chair Daniel Tordella):
- (1) One complaint by a club member was reviewed regarding a ruling by a director. The complaint was followed up by the club president with the complainant and by the club manager with the director.
 - (2) A hearing has been scheduled with club members Farrell Sheftal because of continuing complaints about his conduct during bridge games.
- e. Insurance Committee (Chair Barbara Sunshine): Directors and Officers policy and employee dishonest bond were paid.
- f. Membership (Chair Rosemary Boden):
- (1) FTLBC has 312 paid members as of 2/8/24.
 - (2) Efforts to identify non-paying former members masquerading as paying members to avoid paying the higher non-member game fee were discussed. The burden for this will fall on the director at the desk taking entries. How to

accomplish this without slowing down the process and causing late game starts is an issue to be addressed.

- (3) Efforts to encourage renewal will continue by Rosemary and her committee, to include phone calls to non-renewing members.

g. Marketing (Chair Knyvett Lee):

- (1) The committee met for the first time on 1/10/24. Chair Knyvett, Bonnie Rogers, Lynda Napolitano and Jill Novorro were present (member Susan Puretz had a conflict).
- (2) Various suggestions, including flyers on social media and condos, condo bridge events (like proposed by Rosemary Boden at her condo), pre paid post cards, possible partnership with the City of Fort Lauderdale and other possible advertising mediums were discussed.
- (3) See Section 4 above regarding the Federal Highway banner.
- (4) A joint ad draft by club manager Lopez in the publication OUTSFL, cost to be shared equally with Quick Tricks, (\$175.00 each) was approved.

5:45 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Daniel F. Tordella – FTLBC Secretary

Approved by FTLBC Board - March 11, 2024