

Asheville Bridge Room Annual Meeting

May 29, 2026

Congregation Beth Israel, 12 PM

I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by President Lisa Bryant. 16 people were in attendance at the outset.

II. Board Elections

Presentation of slate:

Reelection for new two-year term: Lisa Bryant (President), Sarah Manow (Vice President/Club Manager)

Election to new two-year term: John Underwood, Patrick Barnes

Board members serving 2nd year: Virginia Pett (Secretary/Treasurer), Nick Frost, Melissa Himelein, Polly Ross

Polly Ross moved to approve the slate, and Elaine Colokathis seconded; unanimously approved.

III. Action items

The proposed revised bylaws, which had been emailed to all members, were presented by Lisa Bryant. No questions were asked. Elaine Colokathis moved to approve, and Polly Ross seconded; the revised bylaws were unanimously approved.

IV. Reports on club activity

Attendance data. Sarah Manow presented data on attendance during 2025. There was a total of 958 tables; Monday averaged 3.8, Wednesday 5.8, Friday 8.6, and Sunday 6.0. This was an overall improvement over 2024, although 2024 did include Helene. Additional slides were presented comparing 2024, 2025, and 2026.

To break even with our current rent of \$85/day, we need to have 7 tables per day. However, a rent increase has been proposed by Congregation Beth Israel, which will likely take place after our tournament in the fall. To break even with a rental of \$100, we would need 8 tables per day; at \$125, we would need 10 tables per day.

Financial summary. At the beginning of 2025, the ABR had a total of \$78,728.94; at the end of 2025 we had \$79,325.77. The increase was due to the interest earned on the CD, although Sarah cautioned that interest rates are going down so we won't likely have this increase next year. Expenses include rent, directing, ACBL fees, and refreshments. Income has come from game fees, memberships, and student lessons.

V. AVL Fall Sectional, Oct 1-3, 2026.

Polly Ross presented information about the sectional. The tournament website is now active (<https://sites.google.com/view/avl-fall-sectional>). Budget for the sectional: Projected expenses of \$14,528, projected revenue of \$13,433, expected deficit, \$1,095. Honor Cards are a way to bridge the gap. They will cost \$20 each. Players are encouraged to buy one, and to send a letter about them to bridge friends.

John Underwood is looking for assistance with set-up for the tournament.

VI. Honors. Lisa Bryant reviewed rank changes and masterpoint race winners. Karen Campbell received the award for the most games played.

VII. Questions/comments.

What will happen to the Monday game?

Sarah explained an optional online tool (RSVP bridge) that might be used to play at other sites – ideally free sites. The tool allows duplicate scoring through a smart phone for a small fee (\$1.60/table, with a \$15 minimum per month), which means Bridgemates and the server would not be required. Black Mountain might be a site option for such a game, e.g., at a clubhouse or community center. Another option would be dissolving the Monday game and opening up the Friday game to 2 sections. Another idea would be adding a limited game on Mondays – would more people play if there is a limited game?

A decision about the Monday game will be postponed until August.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Himelein, Acting Secretary