

Asheville Bridge Room Board Meeting

June 25, 2026

Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

Members present: Patrick Barnes, Lisa Bryant, Melissa Himelein, Sarah Manow, Virginia Pett, Polly Ross, John Underwood; **Absent:** Nick Frost

Minutes

Sarah Manow (Virginia Pett) moved to approve the Annual Meeting minutes, approved. Melissa Himelein (Patrick Barnes) moved to approve the May 21 minutes, approved; Melissa Himelein (John Underwood) moved to approve the June 14 minutes, approved.

Treasurer's Report

CD (Home Trust Bank)	\$73,852.75
Checking Acct (First Citizens Bank & Trust)	\$ 5,630.47
Tournament Account (FCB&T)	\$ 1,785.34
Total assets	\$81,268.56

The Tournament account now accurately reflects current assets and expenses paid. Virginia Pett (Polly Ross) moved to approve the Treasurer's report, approved.

Education

Plans are being made to offer series I classes (10 2-hour sessions) in August, providing books for free, at a cost of \$100. Sarah and Lisa have tweaked the lessons somewhat. There is discussion of offering a 10% discount to CBI members; in return, CBI will advertise the series on their website, another synagogue, and the Jewish Community Center. A pairs game could be offered on Sunday also. Sunday games might appeal to those who work during the week; it might replace the Monday games that are so small.

In August, consider offering Friday presentations before the game on bidding and play. We could ask the players if they are interested and when would be a good time. Also it would be nice to re-start the weekend review of Friday hands that Wayne Dow and Lisa Bryant did so well.

Congregation Beth Israel

We have not received the promised draft of the rental agreement from CBI. Also, we have no information on a possible rent increase.

Sectional Tournament

The Hospitality and Logistics committees made a site visit to the AB-Tech venue for the tournament and made plans for locations for hospitality, the lunchtime review discussions, and the coffee service. We are allowed to use the AV equipment at no charge. We could plan a slide show about Asheville attractions, highlight sponsors, and announce winner names.

Virginia Pett and John Underwood have visited the new storage site for Unit 171, Extra Space Storage, 137 Sugarloaf Rd, Hendersonville, #800. There are items that we can borrow for our tournament, including tables, water dispensers, ice chest, signs.

The Hospitality committee met and decided to hire a caterer. Jinnia Siironen, who is the lead chef for the Downtown Welcome Table, has agreed. We will investigate pre-registration for the tournament in order to better plan our hospitality efforts for breakfast, snacks, and lunch. A welcome bag with a sticker will be given to those who pre-register. Chamber of Commerce may be able to help with the welcome bags.

The sale of Honor cards has bought in \$1,000 so far. A letter that ABR members could send to others has been drafted; it could be edited and sent by email attachment to members.

The lunchtime review of hands is now named "Ace the Afternoon" and information about it is on the tournament webpage.

With about 90 days to go until the tournament, Polly Ross is planning a series of email blasts to Unit 171 players, as well as other publicity efforts.

We have applied to ACBL for our 2027 sectional tournament dates, September 30-October 2, and contacted Edie Weichert to reserve the Mission Conference Center.

Special Games

The Mentor-Mentee games were discussed. There might be two sections: real novices, and intermediates. These sections could be on the same day or different days. We could add a Friday section just for novices, such as the people who now participate in supervised play. Sunday is another possibility.

Schedule

Board meeting, Thursday, July 23, 7 PM

Action Items

- Ask Friday players whether to schedule future Mentor-Mentee games on Sundays
- Find an instructor for Sunday Zoom discussion of the Friday hands
- Explore ideas for Monday “pop-up” games in other locations
- Find a Wednesday snack coordinator
- Review ideas for tournament “boot camp”
- Make birthday celebrations special

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Pett, Secretary