

Asheville Bridge Room Board Meeting

August 20, 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

Melissa Himelein (Patrick Barnes) moved to approve the July 23 minutes, approved.

Treasurer's Report

CD (Home Trust Bank)	\$73,852.75
Checking Acct (First Citizens Bank & Trust)	\$ 7,165.12
Tournament Account (FCB&T)	\$ 3,304.34
Total assets	\$84,322.21

Over \$2,000 has been received from the sale of Honor Cards; over \$2,250 has been received from sponsorships. Virginia Pett (Polly Ross) moved to approve the Treasurer's report, approved.

Search for a New Venue

Four possible locations are currently under consideration:

- United Church of Christ, downtown Asheville
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, east Asheville
- Zephyr Hills Baptist Church, west Asheville
- First Baptist Church, Weaverville

There was discussion as to whether we want to continue the Monday game since it attracts so few players, but the conclusion was that in our negotiations with the new venues, we should ask about MWF afternoons, Wednesday morning for lessons, and occasional Saturday games.

Teams of Board members will visit each location; each team will include Melissa Himelein and Sarah Manow to enable a good comparison.

Sectional Tournament

Using the city flag image on the stickers was not approved by the City Manager's Office. Five hundred stickers using an edited version of the image were ordered (\$447) and a banner was purchased for \$125.

There have been two Hospitality meetings. Thursday coffee will be provided by Dynamite Coffee (Black Mountain); Thursday lunch will feature casseroles made by Sandi Dover and the Hospitality committee. Friday and Saturday will have a catered lunch by Jinnia's Catering, and Saturday morning's biscuit bar will feature jams from Imladris Farm (Fairview). The emphasis is upon local businesses. Team leaders are bringing snacks and men are asked to bring fruit for breakfast and snacks.

Two email blasts to about 7,000 bridge players in the GA, SC, NC, TN area will go out. The first (August 14) emphasized appeal to newer players. The second (September 1) will focus on hospitality and local businesses. An email blast on September 15 to Unit 171 members will emphasize preregistration and a request for breakfast and snack donations. Getting the free Pianola software to send targeted email blasts was discussed.

There will be a welcome table with registration goodies and stickers for those who pre-registered or those who fill out a registration card.

Special Games

The new game Bridge Battle was offered on two successive Sunday afternoons, but there were no attendees. Perhaps offering this game along with another, more familiar board game would be more attractive. Offering it in schools might work.

Schedule

Mentor-Mentee game, Wednesday, August 26

Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 15

Action Items

- Plan slide show for tournament
- Send letter to ABR members regarding search for new location

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Pett, Secretary