

# Asheville Bridge Room Board Meeting

April 16, 2026

Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

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

## Minutes

Melissa Himelein (Polly Ross) moved to approve the March minutes, approved.

## Treasurer's Report

CD (First Citizen's Bank & Trust)	\$72,844.82
Checking Account (FCB&T)	\$ 6,174.98
Total assets	\$79,019.80

A separate tournament checking account at FCB&T has been set up with a \$250 deposit from a sponsor.

Virginia Pett (Melissa Himelein) moved to approve the Treasurer's report, approved.

## Education

The Series II class will be offered on Zoom. A new Series I class will begin on Wednesdays in June. Holli Rovenger will send announcement to other synagogues and to the Jewish Community Center. There will be registration on the website.

Lisa Bryant will begin hour-long sessions on Friday at 10 a.m. on various topics such as responsive doubles; topics will be posted in advance. Other presenters are welcome. This will be of interest to Friday players as well as students.

We are looking for an instructor to offer comments on the Friday afternoon boards over Zoom on Sunday.

## Congregation Beth Israel

Rise Meyers joined the Zoom session to report from the CBI Board meeting. Rebecca Snyder is the new Executive Director. There needs to be a formal agreement between CBI and ABR in order to prevent misunderstandings.

## Monday Games

Sarah Manow reported that the Monday games have been averaging less than 4 tables and the numbers seem to be static. We are losing money on the Monday games. Various remedies were discussed.

One idea is having “pop-up” games at other venues, such as Highland Farms (Black Mountain), Biltmore Lake, Lakeview Center for Active Aging (Black Mountain). Having games in other locations might be less expensive and the publicity might encourage other players from other communities to join ABR. The RSVP Bridge platform, a smart phone app, would make running a game in a different location much easier. A second option is to run two sections (Open and Limited to less than 1500 master points) on Fridays, when we already pay CBI for the space.

Polly Ross (Melissa Himelein) moved that a) we suspend Monday Open games after June 1 and begin two-section games on Fridays on Friday, June 5; b) we explore possibilities of cooperating with other groups to offer “pop-up” games in other locations on Mondays. Approved.

Also discussed was asking the directors to be available to play with people who come without a partner. This would likely result in increased number of players. We will come back to this discussion in August. Alternatively, we could find someone to be “on call” for people who come without a partner. We will ask for volunteers at the Annual Meeting.

### **Hospitality Issues**

Karen Campbell has resigned as snacks coordinator. She will continue to order supplies (paper goods and beverage supplies). Polly Ross will search for a Wednesday snack coordinator. Sandi Dover coordinates on Fridays.

### **District 7 Grant Request**

Lisa Bryant and John Underwood have submitted a preliminary grant request focusing on educational activities at ABR that will grow our club.

### **Sectional Tournament**

Virginia Pett reported that she and Melissa Himelein are working on a web page for the tournament which would be linked to the ABR Home page. Sarah Manow is helping with website technicalities. The tournament page will include a link to the flyer, sponsor information, Asheville attractions, Asheville restaurants, and hints for those new to tournaments. When this is complete, we will send an email blast with the link to the page.

Polly Ross reported that a total of \$2,250 has been pledged by sponsors of the tournament. We will request payment to Sarah Manow within 30 days of agreement. Honor cards are ready to be sold at the Annual Meeting. RendezVous

Restaurant has offered to host drinks and buffet dinner for 60 players on Friday, October 2, at a cost of \$50-60. Parking is limited and carpools are encouraged. Reservations required.

### **Annual Meeting**

Lisa Bryant presented a revised version of the ABR Bylaws. Virginia Pett (Melissa Himelein) moved that we submit this revision for a vote at the Annual Meeting, approved. The Agenda for the meeting (May 29) will be prepared by Lisa Bryant, Sarah Manow, and Virginia Pett, to be sent to members by email and posted on the ABR website.

### **Special Games**

We are encouraged that the April Mentor-Mentee game on Wednesday had 7.5 tables. The possibility of moving the game to Sunday was discussed. Young people who are working are interested in bridge; a Sunday game would provide them an opportunity to participate in a duplicate game with a mentor. Another possibility would be to offer the game on Monday, May 18. We will ask players on Friday to express preferences.

### **Schedule**

Board meeting, Thursday, May 21

CBI is closed Friday, May 22

Annual Meeting, Friday, May 29

### **Action Items**

- Ask Friday players whether to schedule future Mentor-Mentee games on Sundays. Monday, May 18 is another possibility.
- 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
- Schedule a team game in May or June
- Review ideas for tournament “boot camp” and reservations for team game
- Make birthday celebrations special

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Pett, Secretary