

Asheville Bridge Room Board Meeting

August 21, 2025

Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

Members present: Lisa Bryant, Karen Campbell, Melissa Himelein, Sarah Manow, Virginia Pett, Polly Ross, Myra Schoen

Absent: Nick Frost

President Lisa Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She noted that Nick Frost had sent apologies that he could not attend.

Minutes

Melissa Himelein (Karen Campbell) moved to approve the Minutes for the July Board meeting, approved.

Treasurer's Report

CD (First Citizen's Bank & Trust) \$71,737.04

Checking Account (FCB&T) \$ 8,449.17

Total assets \$80,186.21

\$2,000 from a mature CD was transferred to Checking for future expenses.

Myra Schoen (Polly Ross) moved that a \$250 gift card be given to Rochelle Reich as she leaves Congregation Beth Israel, in recognition for all her help with AVL Bridge Room, approved.

Membership

A new membership chairperson is needed; Myra Schoen is moving.

Education

Lisa Bryant reported that the Beginner Class has 17 students. She will poll the Beginner Class to decide if the second class should be online or in person. Supervised Play on Friday mornings usually has two tables. Lisa hopes to transition these students to a Friday afternoon ACBL 0-20 section, with fewer boards and more time allotted. Karen Campbell reported that her "Welcome Back to Bridge" class at Givens Estates has 8-12 students; they are mostly interested in social bridge.

Karen Campbell (Polly Ross) moved that the lesson charge going forward will be \$100 for 10 lessons including textbook, approved. Polly Ross (Karen Campbell) moved that the proceeds be split 70% for the instructor(s), 30% for AVL Bridge Room, approved.

Sectional Tournament in 2026

Virginia Pett reported briefly on meetings she and Polly Ross had with June Patton (President, Unit 171) and with organizers of the Flat Rock tournament. The Board of Unit 171 meets in September and they will be asked to pay for any losses we incur. The Flat Rock tournament is the largest of its kind in the US. They are a model of excellent organization, and it was apparent that we would need considerable help from our membership to run a tournament. The Flat Rock people will be very helpful to us in guiding our planning.

Advantages of offering a Sectional Tournament

- Silver points are an attraction for many players — not available at Flat Rock tournament
- Increase visitors to Asheville — give back to Asheville after a disaster
- Publicize the game of bridge in Western North Carolina

Challenges of offering a tournament

- A great amount of volunteer work will be needed
- No profit is anticipated

Polly Ross suggested that we involve the Hendersonville Bridge Center in this tournament, perhaps offering it jointly. This would probably increase attendance and take some of the burden off of our group.

Karen Campbell (Sarah Manow) moved that we pursue the planning for a 2026 Sectional tournament in Asheville to be offered the first weekend of October (Thursday – Saturday, 10/1-3/2026). Unanimously approved. Once we have identified the venue, we will notify the membership by email and note the need for volunteer help.

Communication

Myra Schoen reported that a Rack Card for visitors to Asheville could be published for \$150-\$220 for 500-1000 cards. Instead, it was suggested that we might use these resources to improve our electronic presence to attract visitors to AVL Bridge Room.

New Business

The Mentor-Mentee game September 10

Swiss Team game September 28.

Karen Campbell and Stan Manow are looking at a new software for the team game; the idea is to compare the current method to the new method of recording scores.

Action Items

Find a venue for the 2026 Tournament

Appoint a new Membership Chairperson

Test new software for Team Game

The next Board meeting will be September 18 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Pett, Secretary