

## Asheville Bridge Room Board Meeting

January 15, 2026

Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

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

### Minutes

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

### Treasurer's Report

CD (First Citizen's Bank & Trust)	\$72,844.82
Checking Account (FCB&T)	\$ 5,067.92
Total assets	\$77,912.74

The 25% down payment for the tournament venue at AB-Tech (\$825) has been paid.

### Education

The second series of bridge classes is almost over. Nametags for the graduates will be ordered. Students have supervised play on Fridays 1-2:30 p.m. We hope to attract enough former students to start a side game for them so that they can earn ACBL master points. Those with under 20 points have a free membership in ACBL.

New series one classes begin February 11.

### Tournament Planning

Virginia Pett received two quotes for required liability insurance at the AB-Tech tournament venue in 2026. The first was \$650 from Juengel Insurance. Edie Weichert, who manages the AB-Tech venue, recommended Insurance Service of Asheville; their quote is \$525. Virginia recommended signing the contract with ISA.

Committee chairs for the tournament are Finance (Sarah Manow), Hospitality (Sandi Dover), Logistics (John Underwood), Publicity (Kathie Swaringen). Polly Ross will work with Hospitality and Publicity; Virginia Pett will work with Finance and Logistics.

We can apply for a \$500 grant from ACBL District 7. They are looking for ideas for how to grow our local club and promoting education. Polly Ross presented ideas for the proposal. For the 0-199 players, if they play two days, they receive a

free play at the AVL Bridge Room within six months. For players >200, if they play all three days, they receive a free play. This would encourage participation in the team game. For education a lunch-time review of five hands was suggested. Lisa Bryant and Sarah Manow volunteered. A quiet space with a white board needs to be found at the venue.

A welcome bag with something from each sponsor could be given at entry in exchange for filling out a registration card. This gives us data on where the players come from and contact information for the next tournament. A sign-up sheet for Saturday's team game will help us estimate how many food orders there will be.

### **Old Business**

Lisa Bryant thanked Polly Ross and Holli Rovenger for instituting refrigerated drinks (water, soda) available to bridge players for a fee. Not everyone enjoys coffee and tea.

Lisa Bryant reported that Congregation Beth Israel will consider raising the rent after the tournament.

The next Mentor-mentee game will be Wednesday, February 25.

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, February 12.

### **Action Items**

- Appoint a person to be in charge of the monthly birthday celebrations
- Encourage more mentees for the Mentor-Mentee games

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Pett, Secretary