

Asheville Bridge Room Board Meeting

July 14, 2025

Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

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

President Lisa Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes

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

Treasurer's Report

CD (First Citizen's Bank & Trust)	\$72,615.70
Checking Account (FCB&T)	\$ 6,580.33
Total assets	\$79,196.03

Tournament

Polly Ross and Virginia Pett met with Connie Holliday at Explore Asheville (Buncombe County Tourist Association). They will help us liaison with hotels and suggest possible sponsorships. We need to provide them with dates and an estimate of how many square feet we will need so they can suggest locations.

Polly Ross emphasized that we should consult with Unit 171 to set dates, contact directors, obtain tables and other equipment. Income from the tournament covers our expenses; profits go to the Unit. Other locations besides a hotel were suggested: senior center, community center, A-B Tech. We think the most recent tournament was held at A-B Tech in 2019, organized by Howard Berkowitz.

Myra Schoen asked what is our goal for the tournament. Prestige was suggested. This is a topic for more discussion/clarification.

Increasing Membership

Myra Schoen has called several people who have not returned to face-to-face play; she and Elaine Colokathis will continue with this effort. Sarah Manow is sending a weekly reminder to all on her list.

Karen Campbell is leading a “Welcome Back to Bridge” series at the Givens Estates in Asheville, with the hope that those people might transition to the AVL Bridge Room in the future. Flyers publicizing AVL Bridge Room could be taken to Harvest Home Community Center, Jewish Community Center, retirement facilities, and other locations where people play social bridge.

The rack card that Myra Schoen is developing could be placed in senior centers, grocery stores, bulletin boards, college campus, in addition to hotels and tourist spots.

Education

Lisa Bryant reported that a new Beginner’s class will begin Wednesday, July 23, 10 AM-12 PM. The Series 2 class is meeting on Zoom and this is working well with about 12 students. The sessions are recorded so that students can review. Sarah Manow and Lisa Bryant reported that Supervised Play on Friday mornings is going well; they hope those students will transition to the afternoon games.

Team Game

The team game was disrupted by a late entry and an unexpected absence. We need to have people we can call on short notice to fill in.

Mentor-Mentee Game

Melissa Himelein has circulated a draft guide for mentors and mentees and she requests comments. Sarah Manow will generate a list of people at various expertise levels who could be mentors.

New Business

The cupholders stored in the kitchen do fit the black tables; we will use them when we have more than one section in the afternoons.

Action Items

Polly Ross will take a flyer to Harvest House Community Center.

Nick Frost will suggest ways to show our appreciation to the Congregation Beth Israel workers who have been so helpful.

Myra Schoen will suggest new places for our communication efforts

Sarah Manow will generate a list of people at various expertise levels who could be mentors.

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, August 21, at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Pett