

## Asheville Bridge Room Board Meeting

July 23, 2026

Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

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

### Minutes

Sarah Manow (Patrick Barnes) moved to approve the June 25 minutes, approved.

### Treasurer's Report

|                                             |             |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| CD (Home Trust Bank)                        | \$73,852.75 |
| Checking Acct (First Citizens Bank & Trust) | \$ 6,525.90 |
| Tournament Account (FCB&T)                  | \$ 2,599.34 |
| Total assets                                | \$82,977.99 |

Over \$1300 has been received from the sale of Honor Cards. Virginia Pett (Polly Ross) moved to approve the Treasurer's report, approved.

### Sectional Tournament

Coffee urns and associated equipment have been purchased with the help of Unit 171. Two people are needed to make the coffee during the tournament.

An email message was sent to 189 District 7 club managers, announcing the tournament, with a link to the AVL Bridge Room website, request to pre-register, and attached Flyer and Honor Card letter. The Unit 171 website features the Save the Date card with link to the tournament website; the Flyer and link are on the side menu as well. Two email blasts to players within a 200-mile radius of zip code 29340 (3-5,000 people) are planned for 8/10 and 9/14 at a cost of \$.01/person. A free email blast to Unit 171 players (600) is planned 8/24. Other tournament publicity could be in newspapers. Polly Ross and Melissa Himelein will contact *Mountain Xpress*; John Underwood will contact *AVL Today*.

Polly Ross and Sandi Dover met to organize the Hospitality program. Stickers for those who pre-registered will cost \$464 for 500. There is no date on the sticker, so that they can also be used in 2027. Polly Ross will seek permission from the City Manager to use an image from the Asheville city flag. Lisa Bryant moved (Polly Ross) spend up to \$600 to buy the stickers and a banner to be hung at the tournament (approved).

Prizes for 0-199 players on Thursday and Friday were discussed. Both the Unit and the ABR have books that could be awarded. An optional post-game social event was suggested by Polly Ross; she will follow up. A slide show in the morning before the game and at lunchtime was discussed. Sarah Manow, Lisa Bryant and Virginia Pett will follow up.

### **Special Games**

On Sunday 8/9 at 1 PM there will be a Club Championship. At 2 PM there will be an introduction and play of [BridgeBattle](#). This is a new game designed by the president of ACBL as a fun way to introduce non-bridge players to a game where a declarer plays a dummy to fulfill a contracted number of tricks. No bidding is involved. This game is for all ages, and it is also available online. There are four levels of play, for those who become experienced with the game. Sarah Manow will prepare the hands and put them in boards. Holli Rovenger will assist with publicity. No decision was reached about food for this event.

Alternate locations for the Monday games were discussed; Deerfield is a possibility. We will return to this topic after the tournament.

### **Schedule**

Club Championship, Sunday, August 9 and 16, 1 PM

BridgeBattle, Sunday, August 9 and 16, 2-4 PM

Board meeting, Thursday, August 20, 7 PM

### **Action Items**

- Plan slide show for tournament
- Ask Friday players whether to schedule future Mentor-Mentee games on Sundays
- 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
- Review ideas for tournament “boot camp”
- Make birthday celebrations special

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Pett, Secretary