

## Asheville Bridge Room Board Meeting

June 12, 2025

Zoom meeting at 6:00 PM

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

President Lisa Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### **Minutes**

Karen Campell moved to approve the Minutes for the May Board Meeting (second Myra Schoen), approved.

Karen Campell moved to approve the Minutes for the 2025 Annual Meeting (second Melissa Himelein), approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Total deposits: \$78,748.75.

Unfortunately, we are still losing money. Increasing membership will help. Melissa Himelein suggested a campaign for members to include AVL Bridge Room in their will or to make a pre-tax donation.

### **Increasing Membership**

#### Education.

Beginning Bridge, series 1, at 10 AM on Wednesdays is now being offered for the second time (Lisa Bryant). Series 2 at 4 PM on Mondays (Zoom), is underway (Lisa Bryant). There is supervised play on Friday mornings (Lisa Bryant, Sarah Manow). Karen Campbell plans to offer "Welcome Back to Bridge" series at Givens Estates.

The mentor/mentee game attracts newer players, and we would like to encourage more mentors to take part; they are ambassadors for the club. Melissa Himelein, with Myra Schoen's assistance, will write an email message summarizing mentoring techniques. It will be sent to a list supplied by Sarah Manow. A Zoom session could follow the message.

#### Publicity.

It was suggested that more frequent email messages to members might increase attendance and engender a sense of community. These messages, sent to Asheville and Hendersonville players, could be animated, colorful, and fun. Melissa Himelein, Polly Ross, and Myra Schoen volunteered to form a sub-committee on communication. Myra Schoen will devise a "rack card" to be placed in Hotels and other venues where tourists can learn about AVL Bridge Room. In the fall, we should really publicize the launch of bridge lessons and encourage social bridge to begin.

Suggestions to increase awareness were to reach out to June Patton and Deerfield Retirement Community. Polly Ross suggested passing out free play passes to the people who are taking the bridge course at OLLI, with the goal of starting an under-50 point game on Fridays. The Longest Day benefit for Alzheimer's Disease includes open house, pizza, social bridge as well as standard play.

It is very helpful for the Director to be available to play with those who arrive without a partner. Someone who lives nearby could volunteer to be available to play on short notice.

### **AVL Bridge Tournament**

Polly Ross volunteered to investigate the possibility of a sectional tournament in Asheville. This will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

### **Snacks**

Karen Campbell reported that contributions cover the costs. She will redo the sign asking for contributions to make it more colorful.

### **Action Items**

- Mentoring techniques document
- Sub-committee on communication
- AVL tournament investigation
- By-Law revision
- Fundraising

The next Board meeting will be Monday, July 14 at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Pett  
vbpett@me.com