

Asheville Bridge Room Board Meeting

November 20, 2025

Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM

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

Minutes

Melissa Himelein (Sarah Manow) moved to approve the October minutes, approved.

Treasurer's Report

CD (First Citizen's Bank & Trust)	\$71,737.04
Checking Account (FCB&T)	\$ 8,135.05
Total assets	\$79,872.09

The 25% down payment for the tournament venue at AB-Tech (\$825) has been charged to Sarah's Visa card.

Virginia Pett (Melissa Himelein) moved to approve the October report, approved.

Tournament Planning

We now have an ACBL sanction number: 2610344. Tournament information and our flyer is now on the District 7 website. Polly Ross spoke with Arthur Lebowitz (Publicity Chair for the Blue Ridge Spectacular); Virginia Pett and Polly Ross spoke with the Chairs of the Knoxville tournament, Grace Schmidt and Simon Sellers. We are grateful for experienced advice from Knoxville; they plan to raise the entry fee to at least \$15 and arrange for box lunches to be purchased, with desserts donated. Directors train the caddies; caddies receive \$50/session, plus tips. The Knoxville table total was 420; this was an 18% increase over projections. Expenses for 2 directors totaled \$5,351.

According to Unit 171 Policy on Club-sponsored Sectional Tournaments (attached), clubs that opt in will receive up to \$1,000 to cover losses; clubs will donate the first \$250 of profit to the Unit. A financial report is required within 30 days after the tournament. Polly Ross (Virginia Pett) moved to opt in to this policy, approved.

The Saturday team entry fee will be \$160/team with lunch included in the price. The Saturday team game fee will include a \$1/person donation to the Grass

Roots Fund, which supports District 7 stipends to ACBL national tournaments. The reward is 27% more master points. A taco salad buffet was suggested.

Committees for the tournament will include Finance, Hospitality, Publicity, Logistics. The duties of the various committees were discussed. All committees are asked to develop a list of possible sponsors and funnel these to Virginia Pett and Polly Ross.

Finance. Sarah Manow will handle the money. Donna Harvey will assist with planning and reporting. Virginia Pett will apply for grant funding from District 7 and arrange for insurance.

Hospitality. Sandi Dover, Brenda Barnhill, Rosalie Phillips, Michaelann Dimitrijevic, Holli Rovenger. They are already creating a strong infrastructure for food donations prior to the tournament.

Publicity. Chair needed. Melissa Himelein and Sarah Manow will develop a tournament website as part of the ABR website, possibly with links to Google docs.

Logistics. Chair needed.

New Business

John Underwood has accepted our invitation to be interim Board member.

Lisa Bryant reported a conversation with Ed Kramer, President of Congregation Beth Israel. They suggest an increase in rent from \$85/day to \$125/day because of increased utility expenses. Melissa Himelein volunteered to write a letter to the membership, asking them for ideas for alternate locations and their opinion on raising table fees.

The Holiday Party will be December 19. Polly Ross and Sarah Manow will work with Sandi Dover to organize the food. Karen Campbell will direct. The Tournament committee sign-up sheet will be circulated for volunteers.

The next Mentor-Mentee game will be January 21. Nick Frost reported that these games have been small; what is needed are more mentees. Announcements at Friday games might increase attendance.

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, January 15.

Action Items

Appoint a person to be in charge of the monthly birthday celebrations

Encourage more mentees for the Mentor-Mentee games

Publicity person for the AVL Bridge Room needed to replace Myra Schoen

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Pett, Secretary