

FTLBC Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date – March 10, 2025

4:00 p.m. – Meeting called to order by President Jonathan Salt

Board members present: Wendy Howard, Alan Rubin, David Kupperman, Daniel Tordella, Allen Bozek, Sheila Cesarano and Jonathan Salt. Bridge Manager Jesse Laired and Club Administrator Knyvett Lee were present.

Club members Keith Gellman, Robin Kupperman, Michael Wolf, Mindy Aiken and Barbara Tate were present.

1. **2/10/25 Board Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes (with corrections) of the 2/10/25 regular Board meeting were approved.

2. **Treasurer's report:** Club Treasurer Alan Rubin reported:

a. Cash: Total bank accounts less pending credit card liability was \$148,699.07 as of 2/28/25.

b. Operations: FTLBC had a net operating profit of \$3,526.50 for February 2025 and has a net operating gain of \$36,761.41 year-to-date through February 28, 2025.

c. Free/Award plays: How to manage and control free / award / advance plays continues to be uncertain.

3. **Club Administrator's and Bridge Manager's reports:**

a. Table count for February, 2025 was 481.5 compared to 423 for February, 2024.

b. Events, reports, and score adjustments were reported. See website for details.

c. *Swiss Teams* are planned for March 30th.

d. Modern Mahjong will be renting a portion of the club on April 26th for \$300.00 plus \$5.00 per person over 50 attendees plus \$75.00 kitchen clean-up fee.

- e. Belmont Village has purchased a \$5,000.00 sponsorship of FTLBC. Details to follow. Nice work Knyvett!
- f. The Joe Phillips memorial tournament was held (plaque on order).
- g. FTLBC website is being managed nicely by Bridge Manager Jesse Laird.
- h. Purchase of a second computer for the club is under consideration.

4. **Committee Reports:**

a. Insurance Committee (chair – open)

- (1) Insurance is fully up to date.
- (2) A *general liability* renewal quote for 2025 for \$6,600.00 plus taxes and fees for a total of \$7,350.00 was previously approved via email and ratified at the 3/10/15 Board Meeting. The 2024 expense was \$5,659.00
- (3) FTLBC still needs an Insurance Committee chair.

b. Education Committee (Chair Robin Kupperman):

- (1) A new player series began on March 3rd with 18 students.
- (2) A “Beginner II” series is planned for the beginning of April.
- (3) Supervised games, free 30-minute lessons Wednesdays and Fridays (chip game) continue.
- (4) The next Friday mentor game is scheduled for March 21, 2025, with wine and cheese to follow.
- (5) Let’s all be nice and friendly to the newer players!

c. Events Committee: (Chair – Diane Giacobbi)

- (1) Plans for *Longest Day* marathon games to benefit Alzheimer’s are underway thanks to Dan Woerner.

(2) A Saint Patrick's day lunch is planned thanks to Nancy Paris.

i. House Committee (Chair Allen Bozek):

(1) AC ducts need cleaning. Several estimates with different scopes of work are being considered.

(2) A good solution is still being sought for the "sun shade" issue in the south bridge room.

(3) AC temperature / control issues persist.

(4) The Board approved purchase of a plaque to honor founding member Gene Petry. Carole Lee Petry paid for the plaque.

j. Grievance and Ethics Committee (Chair Daniel Tordella):

(1) Nothing new to report.

k. Membership: (Co-Chairs: Susan Puretz and Jill Novorro):

(1) Many thanks to Susan and Jill for stepping up for this key leadership position.

(2) To all: If Susan or Jill ask you to do something, say **yes** and do it please.

l. Marketing (Chair - TBD):

5. **President's report:** President Salt reported:

a. 2025 Bridge Cruise: Joint cruise venture with Quick Tricks went well. A net profit of about \$2,640.00 was split evenly by the two clubs and a good time was had by all.

b. 2026 Bridge Cruise: Another joint cruise venture with Quick Tricks is underway. Dates are March 22 – March 29 2026. Ship: A brand new Celebrity ship has been selected. 30+ cabins have been booked to date.

- c. FTLBC Sectional: The 2025 Spring Sectional earned approximately \$4,900.00 for the club. Many thanks to Barbara Tate and Keith Gellman.
- d. Fort Lauderdale High School: In an effort to establish a relationship with Fort Lauderdale High School, its faculty, administration and students, the FTLBC Board approved expenditure of \$500.00 to be matched by ACBL District 9, (Thank you Keith!), to be used to buy a fence banner near the school. Details to follow.
- e. Possible / Draft FTLBC aspirational Goals for 2025 presented by President Salt include:
 - (1) Club membership increase to 375;
 - (2) Table count increase to 5503;
 - (3) Swiss teams games once per quarter;
 - (4) Establish committee to review FTLBC's tax standing; i.e., Are we better off with something other than being a ?501(c) entity;
 - (5) Conduct a comprehensive IT review;
 - (6) Launch a student – bridge partnership program by the end of 2025;
 - (7) Review and modify, if appropriate, FTLBC's existing *policy and procedure* documents;
 - (8) Conduct a member / volunteer appreciation event, including a member survey and volunteer recognition by 12/31/25.
- f. Bridge Ethics: It was recently suggested in an on- line email / message forum known as “Bridge Winners” that collusive cheating at duplicate bridge by partners, which is a world – wide problem, is more prevalent at FTLBC than

might be found at other Florida Clubs. Long-time expert and club member Michael Wolf (thank you Mike for your concern and time invested) spoke at the Board meeting about the problem and reviewed some of the posts on “Bridge Winners”, which sparked a lively discussion that included the following:

- (1) Apparently, some players live by the motto, “if you’re not cheating, you’re not trying.”
- (2) It has been suggested by some that cheating (sometimes referred to as coffee-housing) is more prevalent at FTLBC than might be found in other clubs.
- (3) We on the FTLBC Board disagree with that suggestion.
- (4) Nonetheless, FTLBC should consider taking reasonable measures to limit, curtail, punish, expel ... pick your verb ... cheating at FTLBC.
- (5) Cheaters should be identified and dealt with harshly and should be punished.
- (6) Things like the following, to the extent they can be established and verified, should not be tolerated:
 - (a) Excessive hesitation in bidding or play designed to give partner unauthorized information;
 - (b) Secret signals designed to give partner unauthorized information;
 - (c) Placing playing, bidding cards, pencils, etc. in or around the table in a manner designed to give partner unauthorized information;
 - (d) Tone of voice and / or body language of any type in bidding or play designed to give partner unauthorized information;
 - (e) Any other conduct designed to give partner unauthorized information

- (7) Anyone who sees or suspects cheating, coffee housing or other improper cheating behavior that you think may be designed to give partner unauthorized information should report it to the director immediately.
- (8) When reporting suspicious or illegal activity to the director, Players please give the director facts, i.e, don't just say "he/she is cheating, tell the director exactly what the wrongful behavior is, like facial expression, body language (specifically described), hesitation in bidding/play (how long and how many times and under what circumstances).
- (9) If the matter is not cleared up immediately, players, members and guests, please make a formal complaint to the *grievance and ethics committee* on the appropriate form.
- (10) Directors should investigate all complaints immediately with appropriate questions, addressed to the entire table and/or the alleged offending player.
- (11) The G&E Committee and FTLBC Board should henceforth deal with established cheating conduct to the fullest extent of the FTLBC and ACBL bylaws.
- (12) For those newer players and the naïve among you, we are sorry to tell you about this blight on the greatest card game the world has ever known, but we at FTLBC are determined to attack the problem and root it out along with the cheaters who cause them.

5:55 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Daniel F. Tordella – FTLBC Secretary