

FTLBC Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date – July 14, 2025

4:03 p.m. – Meeting called to order by President Jonathan Salt

Board members present: Wendy Howard, Alan Rubin, Daniel Tordella, Allen Bozek, Sheila Cesarano, David Kupperman and Jonathan Salt. Club Administrator Knyvett Lee was present. Club Bridge Manager Jesse Laird was present. Club members Michael Schneider, Robin Kupperman, Yvonne Morton, Elizabeth Kros, Matt Gomillion, Rick Shapiro and Keith Gellman were also present for some or all of the meeting.

1. Board Meeting Minutes:

Minutes (with corrections) of the 6/9/25 regular Board meeting along with the minutes of the closed Board meetings on 5/12/25/ and 5/19/25 were approved.

2. Treasurer's report: Club Treasurer Alan Rubin along with club accountant Rick Shapiro reported:

a. Cash: Total bank accounts balance as of 6/30/25 was \$171,002.14.

b. Operations: In June 2025, the club had a net operating loss of \$7,171.21. Year to date, the club has a net operating gain of \$25,005.77.

c. The Board approved the Treasurer's report.

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

a. Bridge Manger's Report

(1) Table counts continue to trend higher than the previous year, which compares favorably to other local bridge clubs.

(2) The club instituted one-half price (BOGO) Sunday games and Sunday table counts have increased.

(3) The Board requested that the game director's enforce the cell phone policy.

- (4) The Club Administrator will look into refinement of on-line automated annual membership payment/renewals.
- b. Annual events and tournaments are on schedule and/or planned: Summer Instant Matchpoint Game, District 9 Royal STaC game, 40th Annual Labor Day Tournament, Al Levin and Lola Marchman Trophy Games and Pro-Am Game (planned for December).
- c. Club Administrator's Report
 - (1) Club (paid) membership for 2025 stands at 421.
 - (2) The WhatsApp automated/on-line partnership group for singles needing partners was discussed and endorsed by the Board. Club Administrator to follow up.
 - (3) The need for IT support was discussed.
- 4. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. Longest Day 2025 report to be provided by Dan Woerner.
 - b. Education Committee (Chair Robin Kupperman):
 - (1) June 2025 new player series was cancelled.
 - (2) Supervised games, free 30-minute lessons Wednesdays and Fridays (chip game) continue.
 - (3) Friday mentor games have been suspended for the summer.
 - d. House Committee (Chair Allen Bozek):
 - (1) Air conditioning system issues need to be and will be addressed ASAP by the committee.

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

- (1) A lingering issue with a club member was addressed and resolved by an agreement that a self-imposed two-year absence from the club and a letter of admonishment regarding past zero tolerance violations was sufficient discipline against the member.

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

- a. 2026 Bridge Cruise: The joint cruise venture with Quick Tricks is continuing. The revised dates are March 28th – April 5th 2026. 53 participants have paid the initial refundable deposit.
- b. The Board discussed and agreed that club directors shall not play with a single player with no partner if by so doing it creates a sit-out.
- c. At the prior June 16, 2025 Board meeting, the Board had unanimously voted for a Club rule that a 1 NT opening bid is presumed to be 15-17 HCP, since that covered the vast majority of the Club members, and only those players who use a different point range must make an announcement of their range. At the meeting, the Board voted to discuss the new Rule again because the Club Manager had announced that the Rule was “illegal” under the ACBL’s announcement policies, and had advised the other Directors and various Club members the new Club Rule was not going to be enforced.

The Board reviewed this claim, and received telephonic and written verification from the ACBL’s Rules spokesperson that the new Club Rule complied with ACBL announcement policies by substituting a “blanket”

announcement for the standard 15-17 HCP range. The new Rule's effect is that only those members who play a different point range for the 1 NT opening bid (such as a "weak" NT), are required to make an announcement to stand out from the Club's majority. Given the ACBL's written approval of the Rule, the Board voted to table further discussion.

5:58 – Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Daniel F. Tordella – FTLBC Secretary