

April 27, 2026 General Membership Meeting

Gainesville Bridge Club

Members Present: 20

President Joyce Thompson called the combined in-person/Zoom meeting to order at 6:30 pm. She welcomed members and introduced the current Officers and Board Members.

- 1) Treasurer's Report for the 1st quarter of fiscal year 2026 (a printout is available)
 - a) As of March 31, 2026 there is \$10,317.15 in the general fund. We have two CDs of \$10,000 each earning interest. The interest is put into the general fund.
 - b) Bridge income for the quarter is \$5,625 in table fees and \$1,243.41 from ACBL. Non-bridge income was \$1,883.04 (dues, education class fees, CD interest and a \$21.76 refund from ACBL to GatorBridge, which was gifted to the GBC by Ron). GatorBridge is no longer a private sanctioned club and has been absorbed by the Gainesville Bridge Club (you can call it GatorBridge, but it is officially the Gainesville Bridge Club)
 - c) Bridge expenses for the quarter:
 - i) Directors' fees \$4,400.74
 - ii) ACBL fees \$640.17
 - iii) Rent \$2,405 (note GatorBridge/ SWUMC is paid thru June, so won't come up again until the 3rd quarter)
 - iv) Supplies \$230.86
 - v) Website fees \$109.19
 - vi) Tax filing fees \$76.25
- 2) By-Laws committee was charged with updating the club's by-laws.
 - a) Specific changes were not discussed, however, there are some proposed provisions. The president just sent out a copy to board members of the proposed draft. Feel free to contact the committee chair, Dan Marshall, regarding any questions or suggestions. You'll note there are some proposed revisions that affect things like officer terms and the vice-

president assuming the position of president when the president's term ends.

- b) The membership will be provided a copy to vote on at a later date when the Board has approved it. We are looking at having a general membership meeting to discuss the changes prior to voting. We will be voting in October of this year. The changes will take effect in January 2027.
- 3) Social Committee chair, Corliss Gibbons, discussed some ideas, like a back-to-school party with food and bridge because the membership photo event at SWUMC was such a success, and the food progress for the Longest Day Tournament Event on June 14th is coming together. We are looking at compiling a procedural book on how these events are put together (who needs to do what, who needs to contact whom, etc.)
- 4) Membership is good according to Membership/Publicity committee chair Paula Crowley. We are back to pre-COVID level. We have 72 and soon to be 73 members. It has mostly been just getting the word out. We put out a club brochure and talked to people about our education classes. A Facebook page was also set up by Kirk Becker and is actively being managed by Nicole Becker. Nicole has posted all of our flyer material on Facebook, which includes information about our classes and the Longest Day/Alzheimer's benefit, as well as some of our social activities that have happened. Paula indicates that people are finding us by searching the web as well as from informational flyers. She had also submitted the club's class information to the local Community Calendars for WCJB, the Gainesville Sun, and CBS4 (which also displays on TV), the Main Street Daily News, and has flyers posted throughout the Oak Hammock Retirement Complex (thank you to residents Bonnie Edie and Corliss Gibbons for posting those). Paula also received a \$20 check from ACBL for recruiting activities which she plans to use to provide some refreshments at the games.
- 5) Education coordinator, President Joyce Thompson said there are 3 students in her on-line class and 4 students in Mary Ann's class. The student ratio has significantly decreased. Generally, there had been 7 to 10 people per session, with sessions being from 3 to 4 months to 6 to 7 months. When Mary Ann

leaves that is going to drop off. Joyce is looking into having in-person classes and figure out a way to continue. It is a work in progress.

- 6) Mary Ann McIntyre, chair of Strategic Planning and Development, discussed some of the history/background about the committee. About 10 years ago, there was an idea that maybe we could change our venue to The Village Retirement Community in Gainesville. A committee was formed to look at what would be involved. The evaluation said it would work out really well. However, it turned out that The Village didn't have guaranteed rooms, it would be a lot more expensive and playing there before was a disaster. In the end, it was good that the club avoided a big mistake. The next thing that came up was the club wanted to investigate having our own clubhouse, so a new committee, the Development Committee, created a membership approved building fund with a CD for some of the money. Then COVID happened. After COVID, we did have a fair amount of surplus money in our treasury because we were not paying full rent. We were paying a little bit in order to maintain our relationship with UUF. Committee members had a variety of skills and expertise, and knowledge of the club's history (back 20-30 years). The club has been in existence about 60 years. After COVID we thought we would bounce back quickly. We had about \$30-35,000 cushion over our standard \$20,000 we maintained as our financial base. We lost a lot of income and the club decided to have the development committee come up with a strategy that was proposed in 2022. We are now in year 4. We looked at when was the last time the club broke even on income and expenses. The parameters were 70 members and 17 tables/week. That was the goal and to maintain membership. The bottom line, every new member brings \$200 more to the club. We also raised dues and table fees toward attaining our goal. With the absorption of GatorBridge, we are at 72/73 members and are averaging about 25 tables/wk, we are optimistic. Sunday's BBO game is still an unknown. So, things are looking good.
- 7) The Nominating committee consists of Janice Ladd, chair, Karla Shopoff and Dimitri Bourilkov. They will begin, soon, after being sent their responsibilities and the complications of by-law changes regarding new officers. The nominations will be for president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and 2

board members as 3 board members were recently elected for a 2-year term (2026-2027).

8) New Business:

- a) There are some members no longer playing in-person because of not following the Zero Tolerance Policy that is in the current by-laws. Is this something we need to re-examine? When looking for a partner, was surprised and sad that Zero Tolerance was the reason for not playing. ACBL says "Don't bully/rag on anybody. Don't yell. Don't scream. Don't be mad." It should be and is posted on the club's website. We also have a poster in our club storage closet that should and will be displayed at every game. The directors will also remind everyone at the beginning of every game about the policy.
- b) Is there somewhere where past minutes are available? We will look into that issue.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Linda K. Yon, Secretary