

Gainesville Bridge Club  
General Meeting  
November 14, 2022

President Mary Ann McIntyre convened the meeting at 6:07 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church. There were 13 members in attendance.

**Finances**

Mary Ann handed out financial summary reports prepared by Corliss Gibbons. These show that we currently have approximately \$35,000 in the club's main checking account. This provides a cushion while we work to increase membership and attendance. Expenses run around \$1,000/month; monthly income comes from playing fees and classes. We are currently bringing in around \$1,000/month just meeting this monthly income/expense balance.

The club has other expenses, such as director fees, ACBL fees, equipment maintenance and supplies.

The club also has a Development Fund, originally *intended* to be put towards a club house. A detailed study found that was not feasible. The Development Fund can be used for other strategic purposes. There is \$3,500 in that fund.

There was a suggestion to look into moving some of the club's money into CDs for a better return on the money.

Dues are an additional source of income for the club.

There is a also tournament fund with about \$5,000. It is doubtful that the club will be able to hold a full sectional tournament in the foreseeable future.

**Membership**

Prior to the pandemic, GBC had between 70 and 75 members. We now have 55 paying members. We want to restore membership and attendance to previous levels and, potentially, surpass that.

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**Membership Continued**

Some suggestions on improving attendance and increasing membership were raised, such as reaching out to the university, offering free games, and advertising. The Membership Committee will reconvene to develop plans on these and other ideas to build membership.

Since the club has, for the time being, sufficient income to meet expenses, we may be able to spend some money in outreach efforts.

**Education**

Dimitri reported that Joyce and Mary Ann are currently holding classes online. Dimitri serves as chairman of the Education Committee and an invaluable guide on teaching content.

Joyce reported that a class is currently in session, once a week at 6:30 on Fridays. In January, two classes will be offered: a basic class including introduction to 2/1 taught by Joyce and a follow-on class on a fundamental set of conventions for the beginning player taught by Mary Ann.

**Election**

An election of officers and board members will be held electronically within 2 weeks. The term starts on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Joyce Thompson explained the electronic voting procedure.

The Board recommends that the current face-to-face playing fee be dropped to \$5.

Elections and playing fees will be on the ballot.

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**AOB**

There was a short discussion on the start time of the Monday game. In the past, the game started at 7:30. This meant the game ended between 10:30 and 11PM. A majority of the members voted to have the game start at 6:30. The current 6:45 start time was a compromise to accommodate members who are still working. The game now ends around 9:30. We will watch and see if that impacts getting new members but, for now, the start time will remain at 6:45.

Eric Taylor will renew the club's ACBL sanction. It costs \$22/yr. to authorize the club to hold two weekly sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geraldine Nichols  
Secretary, Gainesville Bridge Club