

Richmond Bridge Association
Board Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2025

The Board of the Richmond Bridge Association, Unit 109, met on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 3:30 pm at the Bridge Center and via Zoom.

Members Present: Barry Fratkin, Tom Billups, Rhysa South, Raun Kilgo, Mathis Powelson, Debra Gardner, Margaret Peters, Karen Hamlett

Call to Order and Minutes Approval: President Barry Fratkin noted that a quorum was present. He stated that after accomplishing a lot in the last two years, he wanted to discuss what we want to accomplish in the coming year. The minutes from the May 21 annual meeting were approved with a correction to include Barry's recognition and thank you to Patty Bell for serving as Hospitality chair at our May Regional tournament.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Anne Atwood was not present. Barry Fratkin reviewed the checking accounts and CDs we have, which have a balance of approximately \$100,000. He will request that Anne send the Treasurer's report to all Board members.

Richmond Regional 2025: Barry Fratkin reviewed the successful Regional we hosted in May. The final financial results are still being worked out with District 6. All table fees go to the ACBL; they deduct their expenses (Directors' fees, sanction fees, etc.) and then send the remaining money to the District. The District deducts their expenses (approximately \$6,000), and the remaining is sent to the Unit. We expect to clear approximately \$9,000. This includes a \$5,000 contribution from a sponsor. The sponsor has requested that some funds be used for education opportunities for intermediate players. Barry noted that the Selzes sponsored wine glasses as prizes. Donations and discounts from Jason's Deli and Chick-Fil-A were noted. If the RBA decides to have another Regional in two years, Barry and Winnie will work with the new tournament chairs.

Sunday Night Games: Raun Kilgo reported that he and Ed Kinlaw are encouraging Sunday night players to play in the Wednesday 300 game and the twice monthly Wine and Cheese games on Friday nights.

Publicity and Celebrations: Raun discussed the need for additional methods of sharing information about our programs, using social media apps such as Facebook and Instagram. He sees opportunities for celebratory events in 2026 to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Bridge Center in Richmond, and the 25th anniversary of the RBA Friendly Bridge program. Recognition events for new Life Masters and graduates of the Friendly Bridge lessons were discussed. Alternate locations and times for games were mentioned.

Directory: The need for an updated Directory was discussed. Participation in the online directory on our website has not been great. We have not been able to get all Board members

to participate. Raun proposes starting with an email to members asking them to opt in or opt out to have their contact information shared in a directory, and then follow-up with those that do not respond. He can format available contact information to be used in the website directory and a published directory. Raun could create a protected PDF that cannot be copied. Raun will work on a plan to create a directory. Karen Hamlett reminded Board members that they have access to a directory which is updated several times a year on our shared google drive. All Board members are authorized to access the shared drive. Karen will resend information on accessing the shared drive.

2024 Table Counts: RBA Friendly Bridge ranked 39th in the country for total table counts in 2024 with 3,172.5 tables. This was more than any other club in Virginia, Maryland, DC, North Carolina or South Carolina.

Sectional Site: Vice President Tom Billups reported that the Faison Center has notified us that we will no longer be able to have games there on Fridays during the day. Several options were discussed, such as having a first session of Friday sectionals at the Bridge Center, and then a 2nd session starting late afternoon at the Faison Center. Barry will check with the Faison Center to see if there are any three-day weekends in their schedule that we could take advantage of. Barry is also pursuing a proposal with Sheraton Four Points in Chesterfield County.

Renovations: Barry Fratkin noted that some are requesting renovation of the bathrooms at the Bridge Center. He is working with David Johannes to evaluate updates to the bathrooms and janitor's closet. He will get a proposal for that work for the Board to consider. Baffles to minimize noise during games were mentioned. Raun Kilgo also mentioned a negative noise or noise cancellation system which would help.

Looking Ahead: Rhysa South and Jim Wetzel noted the need for a Practice and Procedures document with descriptions of the responsibilities of Officers, Board members, and Committee chairs, and an outline of activities and events throughout the year, such as NAP and GNT games. Rhysa suggested that a practice be put in place that contracts over a certain amount be approved by two board members. Checks over a certain amount may need two signatures. Mathis Powelson mentioned an email that states the ACBL is not renewing its contract with BBO effective July 1. Details are needed on this change.

Barry will set up a schedule of Board meetings.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hamlett
RBA Secretary