

# Unit 179 Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 9, 2026, **Location:** Online via Zoom

## Attendance

**Members Present:** Annie Bartlett, Michelle Coop, Ann Gibson, Karen Kendrick, Marilyn Leathers, Carol Schnaars, Gale Srulevich, Patrick Williams, Aissa Wayne, Tom Wilson, Jon Young, and Mary Pepper

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the President at 4:45 PM.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved **with one correction**. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, with the added requirement that the vote count (**yes and no**) be added to the minutes.

## Presentation: Millennium Maxwell House Contract – Fall 2027 Regional

Pat was thanked for providing historical tournament data via email. Some information applied to the proposed 2027 contract, while other portions did not. Pat's explanation of hotel room-attrition language was especially helpful, as room-block planning typically carries the greatest financial risk.

## Key Contract Terms

- Room rate of \$140 per night, including continental breakfast, lobby coffee, water coolers in the playing area, free parking, and a free shuttle to downtown.
- Shuttle access to restaurants and Oktoberfest activities.
- **100% attrition**, meaning the unit is not required to book or guarantee any rooms.
- Payment schedule: \$1,000 deposit due April 30; final payment of approximately \$16,692 due September 28, 2027.
- Mickey's preliminary budget for Opryland was higher than the Maxwell House proposal.
- Tournament schedule must be submitted nine months in advance.
- Full use of the first floor with flexible walls and two complimentary rooms.
- Crown Ballroom available for an additional \$1,000 per day, offering panoramic floor-to-ceiling views of Nashville.
- On-site full-service restaurant with evening country music and an outdoor patio.
- Legal review resulted in removal of the security clause and the clause allowing relocation from the Grand Ballroom.

## Tournament Planning Considerations

- Potential for both Non-Life Master and Life Master events.
- Catering is separate from the hotel contract.
- Flyers available from Tom Wilson; early marketing encouraged.
- Entry fees increase under consideration from \$17 to \$20.

## Financial Overview

- Projected profit at Maxwell House: \$8,028.
- Projected profit if remaining at VBC: \$9,300.
- VBC would experience reduced revenue if the regional tournament moves, but the unit must consider long-term potential growth.
- Nashville offers strong potential to expand attendance and visibility.
- The Maxwell House contract presents minimal financial risk.

## District and Unit Revenue Structure

- The unit retains tournament revenue; VBC previously received rent.
- Approximately half of regional profits go to the district.
- The district redistributes a portion of those funds annually to ten units without regionals.
- Director fees will increase by 5%, with two additional increases scheduled over the next 18 months.

## Operational Notes

- Tom is researching third-party card-table costs; tables belong to the unit.
- Sectional adjustments may be needed, such as fewer free games or higher fees.
- VBC recently raised its game fee from \$7 to \$9.
- Historically, lodging has been provided for volunteers performing repetitive tasks such as partnerships and board preparation. Director lodging is separate.

## Motion: Maxwell Millennium House Contract – Fall 2027 Regional

A motion to accept the Maxwell Millennium House contract for the Fall 2027 Regional was made and seconded. A count of the vote was requested, resulting in **5 in favor and 5 opposed**. The President cast the deciding vote in the affirmative, and the motion carried (**6 in favor, 5 opposed**).

Ann requested that she and Tom participate in the written and oral presentation to the district.

## Awards and Special Events

All units will be invited to the Awards Ceremony, with BBQ planned. John and Carol Ford were suggested for recognition. The President traditionally selects the award recipient.

# **Committee Reports**

## **Education Committee – Michele Coup**

Plans are underway for a Summer Bridge Camp. Volunteers are needed before the program is publicized.

## **League Development & Special Events – Marilyn Leathers**

A list of face-to-face games will be emailed to Janice Gardinia for distribution to students in the final two classes. The All-Club Social menu will include Hawaiian rolls, meats and cheeses, chicken salad, pimento cheese, fruit, mixed chips, and cookies.

## **Communications – Tom Wilson**

The 2026 tournament flyer is complete. Copies will be mailed to clubs within a 250-mile radius.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM.