

ACBL UNIT 179 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 29, 2026, **Location:** Online via Zoom

Attendance Board Members Present: Ann Howard, Michelle Coop, Annie Bartlett, Karen Kendrick, Carol Schnaars, Gale Srulevich, Tom Wilson, Roger Smith, David Smithfield, Carter Todd

Absent: Patrick Williams, Aissa Wayne

Others Present: Treasurer Mickey Wilson

1. Call to Order The meeting was called to order by President Ann Howard at 4:35 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes The minutes were approved as corrected. Ann acknowledged recent communication challenges and emphasized the Board's commitment to moving forward in a more positive and organized manner. Roger suggested implementing a hand-raising procedure during meetings to ensure orderly discussion.

3. Bridge Camp Report (Annie Bartlett) Annie reported that her curriculum is complete, and name badges are prepared. Registration for the first session includes 6–7 students in the morning and 8–9 students in the afternoon. For the second session, 2 students are currently registered, with hopes that some first-session students will enroll. A few additional volunteers are still needed.

4. Sectional Tournament Report (Mickey Wilson) This sectional generated 244 paid entries. For comparison, Summer 2025 had 278 paid, and Spring 2026 had 260 paid. Attendance continues to come from the same core group of players. The tournament is not a significant revenue generator, though profit is not the primary objective. Expenses exceeded revenue; estimated loss of approximately \$500. Strongest revenue events remain Swiss and Stratified games; 199ers and Open games continue to lose money. Discussion included restructuring games, surveying players for suggestions, pre-ordering box lunches (\$10.75), and considering half-price Mentor/Mentee entry fees. The Board agreed that partnering more closely with Vanderbilt Bridge Club is essential. All expenditure must be approved by the Board.

5. Alzheimer's Event (Roger Smith) Roger reported that this was his first time chairing the event with the local Alzheimer's Association representative. Despite a few logistical challenges, the event was successful. The goal was to double last year's total; the Board is approximately \$400 short, but two checks are still pending. Total raised: \$6,000, with a target of \$6,400. Roger requested approval to chair the event again next year. All expenditure must be approved by the Board.

6. Marketing Report (Tom Wilson) No new updates since the last meeting. **Tom Wilson and Ann Howard will work together, and they will take Steve Lefkovitz and Carter Todd if available** as part of the Tournament Marketing Committee. The group will revisit the Maxwell

Millennium House Hotel to review catering costs for the regional reception and determine affordability. All expenditure must be approved by the Board.

7. All Clubs Social Ann asked Roger, Aissa, and herself to review plans for the next All Clubs Social, scheduled for **Saturday, November 14, 2026**, themed “*Break into the Holidays*.” Roger previously served as Goodwill Chair and still has bookmarks listing the Ten Goodwill Gestures, which may be shared with local clubs.

Discussion followed regarding the event’s timing and effectiveness. Tom noted that the previous All Clubs Social did not significantly increase attendance beyond VBC’s typical first-Saturday numbers and suggested that Sunday might be a better alternative date. **Ann added that the last All Clubs Social generated five additional tables** beyond normal attendance.

Mary Margaret expressed a preference for holding the social during an existing game rather than creating a standalone event. It was also acknowledged that while the Unit pays for the event, VBC receives the primary benefit.

Ann emphasized the need for better “in person” marketing by delivering invitations directly to all Unit clubs. Roger Smith and Steve Lefkovitz volunteered to do this with the help of others. All expenditure must be approved by the Board.

8. Education Ann asked Karen Kendrick whether she would join Michelle Coop’s education efforts. Karen will consider participating.

9. Tournament Marketing & Research Committee Ann commended Carol Schnaars for her strong work on the committee and asked her to continue in that role. Carol agreed.

10. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 5:44 PM.

Unit 179 Email Voting Results

Hello Unit 179 Members,

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent votes.

Budget Vote: The proposed \$500.00 budget passed with 8 yes and 3 no.

Nominating Committee Vote: The nominating committee slate was approved unanimously with 11 yes votes.

Warm regards,

Annie Bartlett