

**ACBL Unit 179 Board Meeting
October 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Online via “Zoom”**

Date: October 21, 2025

Board Members:

Present: Michelle Coop, Beth Derrick, Ann Gibson, Karen Kendrick, Mary Pepper, Carol Schnaars, Gale Srulevich, Suzanne Torrence, Patrick Williams, Mickey Wilson, Jon Young

Absent: Larry Averbuch

Others Present:

Secretary: Alison Gembar

Proceedings:

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Administrative business:

Minutes for board meetings July 29, 2025 were presented. After discussion ensued regarding Tournament Coordinator Schedule created by Ann Gibson, minutes were updated to clarify discussion.

Motion to approve minutes.

Motion approved.

Treasurer – Mickey Wilson

Mickey’s report:

Net assets @ 1/2025, \$27,380

Net assets @ 10/2025, \$34,205

This is after the recent Regional. There are a few outstanding payables (a few hospitality payables are to due members; they are not significant).

The District is due approximately \$6600 once the final calculations are completed.

QUIP REPORT – Q3-2025 – Suzanne Torrence

Trends across ACBL, New Member Gains up 5%, New Member losses up 8%

New Member Retention in Year 2 – opportunity area. 2026 – Focus on retaining the new members. How do we keep them? Think about initiatives for January 2026 meeting.

Average Member Age – going up.

Member education should help retain people.

Can we get a volunteer to write up something to explain Bracketed Swiss? This was a request from a recent tournament attendee, according to Ann Gibson. Patrick Williams offered to write up something to put in the newsletter for Mary Pepper to include in the next edition.

Recent Tournament Report - Ann Gibson, Mickey Wilson

Ann Gibson and Mickey Wilson put on an excellent tournament (October 13-19, 2025) The food was great. Ann intended to get people out of the kitchen and at the tables to play bridge. That seemed to work well. Ann received many compliments that Nashville continues to put on the best tournaments. Ann would like to continue to increase attendance and get the tournament out of the club and into a bigger venue.

Mickey Wilson-

Parking is an issue at VBC for tournaments. Many attendees are not in favor of parking across the street. The top floor of the parking garage was an option. However, many chose to take the first parking space available instead. This can be an inconvenience to building tenants who expect spaces to be open. Tournament Chairs need to check with VBC Board about parking agreements before the next tournament.

Patrick Williams-

This was the 2nd largest tournament we have held since COVID19. We had 677 tables, 8% increase over the prior year. Fourth day of Swiss Teams was very attractive feature for professional players and drew players from out of town – great improvement. The facility was very crowded.

Unit 179 tournament dates for the next 3 years are on the Unit 179 website.

Nominating Committee – Gale Srulevich

Board members whose term is expiring:

Suzanne Torrence

Michelle Coop

Larry Averbuch

Beth Derrick

Nominating Committee:

Larry Averbuch

David Cochener

Sandra Estes

2026 Board of Director Nominees for approval:

Michelle Coop

Linda McDavitt

Annie Bartlett

Marilyn Leathers

Roger Smith

*Tom Wilson

David Smithfield – Restricted Ballot

Aissa Wayne – Restricted Ballot

One more nominee is needed (6 nominees – 3 elected, In-County). Email will be sent to BOD for approval of 8th candidate once chosen.

*Post-zoom meeting Tom Wilson was nominated as 6th “In-County candidate.

Motion to approve nominees.

Motion approved.

Once the slate is accepted by the board, there will be an announcement to the Unit 179 Club Managers. This will allow them to submit any nominees they may have. Election can be published as soon as we give them ample time to submit nominees, and to provide Alison with biographies for the election.

Education Committee – Michelle Coop

Request for Reimbursement from Unit 179 – budget was presented by Michelle; printing expenses, cards, open-house, and various educational expenses.

Pat Williams proposes that we provide a budget, and expenditures can be approved up to a certain amount.

Pat suggests that we go through 1. ACBL and then 2. District 10 to get reimbursed for expenses for the Education Committee. Unit 179 can approve these expenses. However, Pat would like us to go back to ACBL, then to District 10 to get reimbursed.

Total expenditures requested by the Education Committee: \$1898.26.

Motion:

To approve expense reimbursement of \$1898.26 plus \$1000.00 in future expenses **and** go thru process for ACBL and District 10 consideration for reimbursement.

Motion approved.

Ann Gibson- Tournament Coordinator Schedule Deadline

Ann would like to use BridgeFinesse as a marketing tool and add it to the Tournament Coordinator Schedule Deadline. BridgeFinesse is a pre-bulletin for tournaments and is only available to the prior year attendees. Pat believes it is premature to put this on the Tournament Coordinator Schedule Deadline. Pianola is our primary communication to potential attendees. We will not pursue BridgeFinesse addition at this time.

Next meeting is January 15, 2026. Think about future committees and 2026 initiatives before the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion Approved.

Meeting adjourned 7:41 pm

