ACBL UNIT 179 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Date: September 16, 2026, **Location:** Online via Zoom

Attendance

Board Members Present: Ann Gibson Howard, Michelle Coop, Annie Bartlett, Karen Kendrick, Carol Schnaars, Gale Srulevich, Tom Wilson, Roger Smith, David Smithfield, Carter Todd, Patrick Williams, and Aissa Wayne.

Others Present: Mickey Wilson, Treasurer**,** Bryan Howard Tournament Coordinator

Call to Order

President **Ann Gibson Howard** called the meeting to order at 4:50 PM.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 29, 2026, Board Meeting were approved.

Regional and Tournament Report

Karen Kendrick, Regional and Tournament Coordinator, reported that efforts are underway to make the upcoming LM/NLM tournament a fun and exciting event. Food, wine, and prizes will be provided. Awards will include prizes for first place, the pair closest to 50%, and the last-place pair, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to win.

Karen reported that most volunteer positions have been filled; however, assistance is still needed with serving lunches. Since many volunteers are also participating in the games, staffing remains a challenge. To improve planning, Karen is maintaining records of food purchases and attendance. Food orders are being based on projected table counts for each day, with enough purchased to feed approximately 40% of attendees.

Tournament Operations

Brian Howard, Tournament Coordinator, reported that **Joel Haywood** will serve as Director in Charge. Three full-time ACBL directors will be assigned for the entire tournament week. **David Birnbaum** will assist each evening except Monday.

Transportation assistance is being offered from the three closest hotels to the club. Although a volunteer driver sign-up link was created, no volunteers have signed up to date. The service is advertised in the Grand Ole Regional flyer, and additional promotion will occur as the tournament approaches.

Upcoming tournament dates include:

- **Spring Sectional:** March 2-6, 2027

- **Summer Sectional:** June 22-26, 2027

The proposed schedule for the Spring Sectional must be submitted to ACBL by the end of September. Preliminary approval has been received from ACBL.

The Board discussed parking arrangements and noted that parking should be available on the second floor of the parking garage, with the possibility of securing the entire second level. Attendance data from various events will be reviewed to help determine the best mix of events for future tournaments.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Mickey Wilson** reported the following:

- Bank Balance: $39,600
- Prepaid Expenses: $1,900
- Liabilities: $5,000
- Net Assets: $36,500

The Board agreed to include a balance sheet with future meeting minutes.

It was also noted that the Regional has an obligation to remit a portion of its proceeds to the District. The amount has not yet been calculated but will be computed and paid.

Unit 179 earned **$3,317.85** through the ACBL Recruiting and Retention Program and received an anonymous donation of **$500** to support education efforts.

Board members noted that one of the unit's greatest achievements has been increasing Nashville's visibility and recognition within ACBL activities.

Nominating Committee Report

Gale Srulevich introduced the members of the Nominating Committee:

- Margie Hogshead
- Linda Murdock
- David Smithfield
- Suzanne Torrance
- Gale Srulevich

Current Board members whose terms are expiring are:

- Ann Gibson Howard

- Patrick Williams
- Karen Kendrick
- Carol Schnaars will not be seeking another term and will conclude her service on the Board at the end of her current term. The Board extends its appreciation for her service and contributions to unit 179.

At the time of the meeting, there were **nine candidates** running for Board positions.

Membership Report

Carol Schnaars reported that Unit 179 membership remains stable at approximately **800 members**.

Recent membership data showed:

- 5 new members joined.
- 9 members did not renew.

ACBL has introduced a new membership tool that allows units to contact members and reminds them to renew their memberships.

Carol also reported that there are currently **67 active new players**, with **27 joining between June and August**, largely due to the spring and summer education programs. Of those newer players, **10 have participated in the Saturday New Player Game.**

Volunteers are also working to update the Life Master plaques.

Education Report

Michelle Coop reported on youth bridge education initiatives.

In Sumner County, the school system has determined that its curriculum schedule is currently full. As a result, efforts will focus on introducing incoming sixth-grade students to Mini-Bridge and assessing interest levels at individual schools. The long-term goal is to establish school-sponsored bridge clubs where sufficient participation exists.

This initiative will require volunteers to assist weekly and support after-school or weekend activities.

Additional updates included:

- Bridge instruction resumed in Bellevue schools.
- Classes are conducted during school hours from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.
- New students are being introduced to Mini-Bridge while returning students continue to more advanced lessons.

- Teachers and administrators were highly supportive.
- Efforts continue toward establishing a bridge club at the high school level.
- Metro Gifted and Talented Programs declined a request for an introductory bridge presentation.

Club Social

Aissa Wayne reported on preparations for the upcoming Club Social.

Michelle will distribute flyers at Hendersonville. Food arrangements are still being finalized. The Board previously approved a budget of **$500**, and organizers intend to remain within that amount.

Volunteer commitments include:

- Roger Smith and Steve volunteered \to attend all club locations.
- Aissa Wayne and Ann Gibson Howard volunteer for Clarksville.
- David Smithfield volunteers for Bowling Green.

Marketing Report

Tom Wilson reported that there were no updates at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **5:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, Annie Bartlett