

ACBL Unit 191 “Bright Leaf” Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Monday 11 August 2025

Meeting called to order by President Deanna Larus

Present: Deanna Larus, Ann Fisher, Ira Mueller, Mary Newman, Ian Cloudsdale, Eric Hamilton, Phylliss Woody, Ray Boylan

Absent: Bill Ingram, Joanna Karwowska, Morris Weinberger, Michael Lavine

Minutes of the Meeting of June 9 were approved

Topics:

Treasurer Report: Current balance shown as \$25,330.06. Income from ACBL of \$1,630 YTD, reflecting improvement related to attending to the 5-5-5 program. Mentor Mentee Subsidy stands at \$910 YTD, and Subsidies for STaC and NAP shown as \$175 and \$336, respectively. Overall \$630 in the red for the year.

Membership Report: The Unit lost 9 members in the past month. Membership as of 8/1 is 467. The rate of loss for Unit 191 is comparable to the rate of loss for ACBL itself. It appears that more play is coming out of beginner groups. Henry is hosting a limited game once a month. The Board is supportive of expanding opportunities to provide more opportunities for newer players.

The Membership Survey: Primary conclusions—Members want: a better way to identify potential partners; more limited games to be offered; more Saturday games.

Discussion of Survey: Most members have been members for a long time. Few members play in Sectionals, but it seems that it was easier to get folks playing when we offered Sectionals. Discussion of how to facilitate people finding partners—software such as Team Reach or Google Groups was discussed. The need for a human intervention in appropriate pair making was identified.

A selection bias may exist in terms of which members chose to respond to the survey—results might be simply reflective of the members who already play regularly, not those we’re trying to reach.

Mary will write a summary of the Survey to go out in the September Alert.

Ann will meet with Marc Goldberg about being a back up support for Web matters.

Eric will be sending Welcome Letters to new members.

Other ideas: Name tags might be helpful. A social pot luck type event for Non Life Masters as a community building idea. Ann’s weekly announcements email received praise.

The Fall Sectional–Nov 13-16

Marie will direct.

The Governor's Village site is available.

Ann will make the flyer again, and Deanna will distribute it in Raleigh and Winston-Salem.

Deanna has a list of potential volunteers, and is considering hosting a Zoom meeting for them.

There was discussion of subsidizing players with 0-20 MPs, and hiring out the moving of tables and chairs.

Raleigh is possibly interested in sharing a tournament with us.

For 2026 we are scheduled for Sectionals March 19-22, July 16-19, and Nov 12-15.

Henry has scheduled a tournament for NLMs but this is usually canceled. We have no dates scheduled for 2027 yet. The March date faces a lot of competing scheduled events. November is historically the best attended Sectional for the Unit.

Mentor-Mentee Program:

Invite letter almost ready to send out. The games will be 18 boards, with 10 AM start times for both Tiers (2nd and 4th Tuesdays). Potential willing teachers—Michael, Henry, Deanna, Ian.

Michael (absent) is said to want to do an online game for Tier 1. There is a possibility of Chris Moll directing an online game. Michael needs someone to send out emails each month, and someone to write up an interesting hand or two each month. There is continued concern for how to help less experienced folks move up into intermediate games.

Nominating Committee:

Phylliss and Ira have indicated they will run for new three year terms.

The Unit is reducing the Size of the Board to 9, by attrition, in accord with the new By-Laws. An election is needed this year and a newsletter notice will instruct members to contact Bill if they wish to run for a seat on the Board.

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for Sept 8, but many may not be available. It was decided that Deanna will arrange a Zoom meeting instead.