

**THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Miona Rec Center December 16, 2025**

**Lake**

In Jon Williams' absence, Vice-President Nancy Turner called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

**Attendance:** Board Members: Nancy Turner, Vice-President; Merle Erlich, Secretary; Vicki Collins, Dutch Dresser, Jim O'Brien, Russ Pearly, and Judy Smith. Treasurer, Tom Tessier; Club Manager, Donna Brown; Head Directors, Pat Holmes and John Quinn; and Paul Matheson were also present. Jon Williams phoned in. Bruce Thiher was out of the country and the Board voted to excuse his absence.

A motion to approve The November, 2025 Minutes, previously distributed to the Board and posted on the website, carried.

**Ratification of Decisions Taken Since the November Board Meeting:**

Holiday Stipend for Game Directors: Authorized by email consensus for the 2025 Holiday season.

- Jon Williams reminded the Board of Directors that it has been our practice to give each game director up to \$100 to subsidize a holiday party at their games.
- The director should provide receipts for items purchased to the Treasurer.

**Club Manager's Report:** Donna Brown [manager@vdbc.us](mailto:manager@vdbc.us).

- November NLM Regional & Open Silver Sectional Table Count: 327 total tables: 167 NLM tables and 160 Open tables
- ACBL Membership Games:
  - Each year, between Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, ACBL clubs running sanctioned masterpoint games may hold a Membership Game limited to players who are current paid ACBL Members. A club may conduct a Membership Game any month of the year. These games offer opportunities for enhanced points. For at least 10 years our club policy, has been to schedule as many enhanced masterpoint games as possible. All have their own rules and restrictions; none, except the Membership Game, require ACBL membership to play and receive masterpoint awards.
  - The Board discussed whether or not we should schedule the Membership game in the future. It was determined that we would indeed schedule them again, but provide enough advanced notice to the Game Directors and our players that both pair members must hold current ACBL membership to be eligible to earn points in these special games

- The consensus was that it was not fair to deny the majority of our club members this opportunity. (Paul Mathson reported that we only have 25 club members who are not ACBL members.)
- Apologies were made to the Game Directors and players who were affected and inconvenienced.
- Jim O'Brien met with The Villages to discuss their new 2026 rental fee assessment for use of Savannah & La Hacienda Recreation Centers for tournaments. He will schedule another meeting with them to present the questions Board members posed. We have a choice to pay a percentage of the gross monetary income or to rent the rooms by the hour. For the upcoming Tournament at La Hacienda we will pay a room rental rate.
- The Sarasota Regional Tournament will be held February 16-21, 2026

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Tom Tessier provided November, 2025 Reports which he previously emailed to Board members:

1. November 2025 Operating Report
2. November 2525 PL Comparison 11 mos 25 vs 24
3. November 2025 PL Comparison 1 mo 25 vs 24
4. PL Comparison 11 mos 2025
5. BS Comparison 11/30/25 vs 11/30/24

He went on to recap and provide highlights for November, 2025:

1. We hosted 80 games with 911.5 tables. There were 65 free plays and 17 guests.
2. Our income was \$39,168.40.
3. Expenses to date are \$29,088.96. (However, not all November, 2025 expenses are recognized.)
4. We issued 28 checks for \$22,039.56.

At month-end, we had the following balances:

7. Checking account: \$15,941.26
8. 6 mo. 4.0% CD maturing 1/10/2026: \$20,000
9. 12 mo. 3.75% CD maturing 7/10/2026: \$40,000.10.
10. Equity balance 11/30/2025: \$69,782.01

The motion to approve the November, 2025 Treasurer's Report carried with thanks from the Board.

### **Board of Directors Election Results**

Gordon Pfeiffer, Election Administrator, posted the election results on the website and thanked all 10 excellent candidates for their willingness to serve, and also all who voted. The four candidates elected are listed below by term length and then alphabetically.

	Beginning January 1, 2026
Merle Erlich	3-year term
Paul Matheson	3-year term
Jim O'Brien	3-year term
Nancy Turner	1-year term

Vicki Collins was thanked for stepping in to finish Vern Sikora's term.

### **Discussion of Need for Standing Tournament Committee**

Merle Erlich will work with Paul Matheson and Donna Brown to provide a draft of a plan for a standing Tournament Committee at the January Board of Directors Meeting. Committee members could include people on the Board, the Education Chair, a game director, and members at large.

The purpose would be to run our tournaments more efficiently as well as sharing the workload.

### **Review of Olympia Game Permit Offer**

Jon Williams submitted an application for a Lifestyle activity at Olympia Rec Center on November 19, 2025. His initial request was for a Friday afternoon game.

The reply from Olympia was that we could have the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Fridays beginning in April, 2026.

A discussion ensued as to what our first steps should be. Paul Matheson suggested that we initiate a strong educational program in the newer sections.

Concern was expressed that our members won't travel that far for a game. Others pointed out that we really don't have an actual count of how many of our existing members live south of 44 and are already travelling a considerable distance for our existing games.

Jon Quinn and Pat Holmes will ask game directors to take an oral tally at their games.

### **Wildwood Soup Kitchen Holiday Charity Game, Saturday, December 14, 2025**

Nancy Turner reported that nearly \$1,700 was contributed to the Food Kitchen. There were 14 tables.

## **New Business**

- Survey Creation: Dutch Dresser, in an open letter to the Board of Directors, prior to the December Board Meeting, proposed the creation of a survey to be distributed to our membership via Survey Monkey:
  - “Our role as directors is to deploy our resources in the best interest of the whole club. Understanding what the members of the club expect from their membership and how well current programs are meeting those expectations should be a critical basis for our decision-making process.”
  - Dutch volunteered to chair a small committee to create and manage such a survey
  - Merle Erlich, Jim O’Brien, and Judy Smith will work with Dutch on this project and report back to the Board
- Michael Berkowitz will be our February 7, 2026 Presenter
- Kathy Fashingbauer was granted her request for the Club to cover her expenses for the Learn Bridge in a Day Yearly Certification.  
(It was noted that Kathy donated her time to make the presentation.)

The First Executive Board Meeting of 2026 will be held on Tuesday, January 6 to elect Club officers for 2026 at Lake Miona Rec Center at 4:30 PM.

The regular January meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at Lake Miona Rec Center at 4:30 PM.

The December, 2025 Board meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Erlich, Secretary.

