

THE VILLAGES DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lake Miona Rec Center

October 21, 2025

President, Jon Williams called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Attendance: Board Members: Jon Williams, 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; Education Director, Harry Messenheimer, Deb Bruenoehler, Gloria Bennett, and Marilyn Schmidt were also present. Vice President, Nancy Turner was excused. Bruce Thiher did not attend.

The September Minutes, previously distributed to the Board and posted on the website, were approved.

Ratification of decisions taken since the September 16, 2025 Board of Directors meeting:

- The motion to donate the November 1st \$5 card fee to Alzheimer's carried.
- Notice of Bruce Thiher's resignation from the VDBC Board of Directors

A motion was made and duly seconded to refuse Bruce Thiher's letter of resignation. The motion carried. Bruce will be notified.

Discussion Highlights:

- It has been the Board's practice, when a member notifies us that he or she will not attend a meeting, to automatically consider the absence as excused
- The By-laws provide that "the seat of a member who misses two (2) Board Meetings during a calendar year shall be vacated unless such absence is due to injury, illness, or excused by a majority vote of the Board."
- However, a review of Board attendance from 2023 to the present 2025 shows that while there were numerous 2+ absences but no one has been "vacated."
- It was noted that some members phone into meetings they cannot attend.
- The By Laws concerning absences will be reviewed for future discussion.

Club Manager's Report: Donna Brown manager@vdbc.us

- **November 1st Alzheimer' Fundraising Event** coincides with Contract Bridge's 100th Anniversary.
 - Representative from Alzheimer's Research Fundraising will be on hand
 - 9 AM & 1PM Open & Under 750 games at Lake Miona Rec Center.
 - Jim O'Brien will check with Miona to see if there is an additional available room for afternoon session.
 - All proceeds go to Alzheimer's Research
 - There will be 50/50 and Free Game Raffle as we have had in the past.
 - The club is providing donated bagels & assorted morning foods, pizza & soft drinks during break between the morning & afternoon sessions, and birthday cupcakes in the afternoon.
- Plans are well underway for the **4-Day NLM Gold Regional & Open Silver Sectional**.
 - Friday, November 21 through Monday, November 24th at the Savannah Center
 - Volunteers are needed for the set up on Thursday, November 20, hospitality throughout the Tournament, and take down both Sunday & Monday at end of afternoon sessions.
 - Caddies are also needed.
- **November Schedule:**

- All Rec Centers are closed on Thanksgiving
- Laurel Manor is closed on 11/10. Pat Holmes is looking for another venue

Treasurer's Report: Tom Tessier provided September 2025 Reports which he previously emailed to Board members:

- September 2025 Operating Statement
- 2. September 2025 PL Comparison Jan-Sep 2025 vs 2024
- 3. PL comparison Sep 2025 vs Sep 2024
- 4. PL Comparison 9 months 2025
- 5. Balance Sheet comparison 9/30/2025 vs 9/30/2024

In addition, Tom included an additional Operating Statement for the 9 months 2025 vs 2024 for discussion.

Treasurer Tessier reported that in September, 2025

- We hosted 85 games with 828.5 tables. There were 26 free plays and 4 guests.
- Our income was \$14,468.99
 - Expenses were \$16,288.38
 - Resulting in a loss of \$1,819.39
- Year to date loss is \$7,585.42
- We issued 21 checks totaling \$16,184.10 to our directors and contractors.

At month-end, we had the following balances:

Checking account: \$9,695.37

CDs: \$60,000.00

Equity: \$58,301

The Board authorized the early withdrawal of up to \$5000 by November 1st from our \$20 K CD to meet projected expenses.

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

Education Committee report:

Harry Messenheimer posed the question: How do we best improve bridge skills of new players? He provided detailed information regarding current resources available to us as well as the classes we are currently offering. Input from our teachers in attendance suggested the need to develop a balanced curriculum and coordinated schedule of instruction that will allow our beginning players to progress in a systematic fashion from one class to another. President Williams asked Harry Messenheimer, Gloria Bennett, Deb Bruenoehler and Marilyn Schmidt to help begin this process. In addition, there is a need to further explore a coordinated curriculum for advancing players.

Discussion of upcoming election and Nominating Committee report

- Four Board positions are open on January 1, 2026: Three 3-year terms and one 1-year term.
 - The 3 candidates receiving the most votes will win the 3-year positions.
 - The 4th highest vote receiver will win the 1-year position vacated by Vern Sikora and currently held by Vicki Collins
- To date the Nominating Committee has identified 8 candidates.

- Jon's President's Message on 10/26 will ask anyone else interested in running to contact members of the Nominating Committee.
- Candidates and their bios should be posted on the website by the second week of November.
- The election period is December 1 to 15

Scheduling Committee:

- Open Swiss Games are poorly attended. If this continues through November, we may opt to replace it with another 8 is Enough Swiss.

New Business

- From Jon Williams via email:
Our permit holders were reminded to sign their 2026 permits and submit copies to Club Manager, Donna Brown. Each permit should allow us the room 30 minutes before game start time and not end earlier than 3 hours and 20 minutes after the game start time. If that is not the case, permit holders will request an adjustment in the times from the Re Center
- Jim O'Brien will meet with the Recreation Center to discuss proposed "rent" increases for our tournament venues beginning in January, 2026 and will report back.

The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be November 18, 2025, at 4:30 pm at the Lake Miona Recreation Center.

The October, 2025 Board meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Erlich, Secretary.