

ADBC BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

Call to Order: President Larz Smith called the meeting to order at 10:00. Doug Berke, Larz Smith, George Morey, Wayne Corbett, Kate Wickham, Melody Gann, and Diana Clive were in attendance at the ADBC. Mary Ellen Stanton attended by Zoom.

Minutes of September 17, 2025 Board Meeting: The minutes were presented by Diana Clive, Secretary. Larz noted that a couple of small corrections were needed to game dates included in the minutes. Diana expressed appreciation for all that George does for the club, as these are only partially reflected in the minutes every month. Wayne moved for approval, seconded by Doug. All voted to approve the minutes.

Items for Discussion: Larz requested and has received sanctions for Unit Championships for Sunday Nov 16 and Saturday Dec 13 the date of our Christmas party. The Dec 13 game could be either an open or team game. However, a team game could be an issue for anyone who wants to come but hasn't been able to create a team. Perhaps we can create an ad hoc system that day for creating teams based on member points. Larz and Doug will look into this.

Kate expressed concern that the I/N Sectional planned for Sun. Nov 9-Tues. Nov 11 may be disruptive and intimidating to participants who normally play in those beginner games. The hope is that the education, support, and encouragement that Dorothy will provide will mitigate this since the game is expressly designed to accommodate beginners. Strats will still be available as A, B, C with C <=100 points.

Financial Report for September: The financial report was emailed to the Board. No comments were made specific to it. George reported that our water bill is still excessive, over \$500. Last month was \$700. Normal water bills have been in the \$40-\$50 range. The toilet leak was repaired, but a leak is obviously still present somewhere in the system. Larz and George will check with our landlord whether other tenants are also reporting a problem.

Calendars and Special Events: Wed. Oct 15 is currently scheduled as a Club Appreciation game. An alternative option is to change it to an ACBL-wide Silver Seniors with silver points awarded for a \$4 upcharge. This does come with the age restriction of >=60 years old. A consensus was reached for George to change it in an updated October calendar that will be mailed out in the next newsletter.

Larz opened a discussion on raising our playing fees but continuing to pay all fees for mid-level upcharge games with enhanced points. Fort Worth has increased their table rental rates (\$15 raised to \$19) for their directors, with only some of the increases passed on to the players. A lot of considerations were voiced on how to offer and pay for the upcharge games. Limiting the number of enhanced points games has been frustrating for some players, but we are struggling to remain fiscally responsible to the club. Game sponsorships by individual members who would be willing to pay for the day's upcharge? Small dollar increases can create obstacles for directors when collecting payments. A proposed charge of \$12 creates sticker shock and makes us the 'high end' among our competition. The Board has the authority to set the game rates. Diana motioned that a compromise of an \$11 game fee effective November 1 would still make a dent in our monthly deficit, and perhaps be viewed as less inflationary. We will absorb as many mid-level upcharge games as possible. Wayne noted that this can be revisited at the annual meeting in March when a more complete financial picture will be presented to the entire membership. George seconded the motion. It passed by majority vote. StaC and ACBL-wide games will still incur additional fees. The increases for these games will be reflected in the monthly calendars.

Kate presented a draft of the November calendar. Mary Ellen gave data on the table counts for Thanksgiving weekend games for 2023 and 2024. Nationals in LV began last year and this year in SF on Thanksgiving so the table counts were insufficient last year. We voted to hold games on both Friday and Saturday if directors can be found.

Some concern was raised about whether we should have a reservation system put in place for the I/N tournament held from Nov 9-11. My goodness, we can hope to be so lucky to have a full house! Flyers have been distributed to Denton and Fort Worth for promotion purposes. Larz will also email directors at all the local clubs as a reminder. Dorothy will monitor the table count on the Sunday game and communicate with Steve as necessary.

Nov. 8 will a Veteran's Game. Vets play for free, and lunch is included. It will be a Club Championship. Other games for Nov. will include a Red Hot Challenge on Nov 2, CCs on Nov 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 30. Nov 22 and 23 will be a PopUp Red game. Nov 24, 25, 26 are StarDust games with fractional 34% Gold points. Sunday the 16th will hold both a beginner game (Dorothy's) as well as a Unit Championship to attempt to increase a Sunday table count. Charity games will be held on Nov 13, 15, 17, 19, and 21. The Nov 15th format will be an 8 is Enuf team game.

December calendar planning was deferred.

Revenue Sharing: Until recent changes, 11% of ACBL membership dues were passed forward to each Unit. This program is now called the 5/5/5 with incentives built in for contacting lapsed members, recruiting new members, and the availability of a special time limited free Guest Membership. These guests can then convert their memberships to a full ACBL one for a deeply discounted fee. These guest members need to be contacted by email to offer complete information about membership benefits. Margot Hirsch has volunteered to contact them on behalf of the unit, asking them to consider full ACBL memberships.

Overall revenue sharing is still scheduled to begin in 2026.

Studio Issues: Our refrigerator is dead. A capital campaign for donations has already yielded \$510 towards the purchase of a new one. George wants to look around for a good sale of an appropriately sized unit. But we do need one sooner than later. Ice supplies for weekly games has been a problem. He proposes perhaps just a freezer? Adding a water line to a new freezer/refrigerator is another possibility.

Door locks haven't been addressed yet.

Renting our Facility: Diana proposed renting our facility out for the purpose of evening game clubs, specifically Mah-Jong which is a big hit among younger people right now. She has identified no nearby location for this outside the Fort Worth area. There is already a successful commercial club in FW where players play an hourly rate to participate. At the moment, we are paying rent on a facility that is pretty much used only during the day. We can set rules for no alcohol, but we need to explore liability issues, rental fees, members who can volunteer to monitor games (perhaps once per month) etc. Diana will investigate this idea further.

Telephone Calls to Missing Members: Diana proposed we form a committee that reaches out to members who haven't played in a while. Perhaps it is a health issue, or perhaps they need a ride, or perhaps there is something else we could have done better to enhance their experience at the club. Another action item to confer with directors on who hasn't been seen recently.

Subscription/Pledge Donations System: Diana noted that it has been difficult to encourage people to play more often on a reliable consistent basis. Perhaps an automatic pledge system can be set up with our bank, similar to donations made to other nonprofit organizations. There is no obligation, but donation privacy is protected this way. George will check with our bank on the technical needs of this.

New Business: Ballots for Unit 183 Board elections have been printed. Doug will print out more. George will make them available with the ballot box. He will promote the election by email reminder and point to Doug as our illustrious candidate.

Set Date for November Board Meeting: November 12 at 10:00.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:05.