

ADBC BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 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 moved for approval, seconded by Wayne. All voted to approve the minutes.

Financial Report for August: George presented the updated financial report. We are still losing money, but at a significantly slower rate than last year. Our monthly deficit has declined from \$1300 to \$900, partly due to donations. The upcoming holidays will be worth watching as they are important to our account balance. The fall and winter months find many of our members busy and perhaps not able to play as often. Weather closures can sometimes happen as well.

We did have an unusually large water bill. Normally around \$60, but this one was \$700. George believes that the woman's toilet was the source of the leak. He will verify that the repair has solved this by monitoring the water meter.

Calendars and Special Events: Kate presented the October calendar. She noted that the special events calendar that is published by ACBL at the beginning of the year is modified as the year goes on, and the changes can become hard to follow. We all agreed that the club will not hold ACBL charity games for the month of October. Club Appreciation games will be held on Oct 11, 15, and 21. Royal StaC games will be held the third week, and Community Club Silver Quest games held on Oct 27 and 28. Another 8 is Enuf game will be held on Oct 11 since they appear to be popular. We will be closed for 10 days in October due to the three Local Sectionals held in Denton, Fort Worth, and Dallas. However, we will be compensated by all three of those clubs for the closures.

George commented that the calendar as prepared by Kate is in an Excel form. This makes it possible for changes or updates to be made as the month goes on. These changes can then be easily communicated through the newsletters that George sends out.

November calendar recommendations include having Unit Championship games again. Larz will seek sanctions, including one for Sunday Nov 16, making it either a mentor game or an 8 is Enuf. Nov 8 will be a Veteran's Appreciation Day. Maybe serve S*O*S – Stuff on a Shingle? We will be holding an I/N Sectional on Nov 10 and 11, as well as our usual open game. Doug is handling those details. We will be closed for Thanksgiving. George will check on the historical table counts for the Friday after Thanksgiving, helping us to determine whether we will close.

December: We will request a Unit Championship for December 13, and hold our Christmas party then as well. We should consult with the Fort Worth club to avoid a date conflict.

George also brought up the idea of offering more special events for our online games.

Revenue Enhancement: Doug presented some data and ideas that our deficits cannot be eliminated by increasing membership dues. The benefits of membership includes a free game, a vote, and a sense of belonging and investiture in the health of the club. The alternatives are increasing game fees and/or donations. Our current table fees are set at \$10 per session, increasing this for high upcharge games. Medium

upcharge table fees have been absorbed. Other local clubs have a \$10 fee as well. Does it yet make sense to increase this in the presence of the competitors? Diana commented that our last couple of months have scheduled fewer upcharge games. George confirmed that our average cost per F2F game and therefore our fees to ACBL have gone down. This has been a successful strategy to partially limit our monthly losses. However, the downside is that we have fewer opportunities for enhanced points for our players.

Larz pointed out that some of the other clubs in Tarrant County have much lower expenses/overhead, including the donation of director services. This is difficult to compete with. The customer or player always has their freedom of choice.

Kate offered the suggestion that current members be incentivized to bring a new player to a game by giving them a free play when the new player subsequently joins as a member. Diana likened this to a coupon system. She suggested we go back to the idea of proactive marketing. Perhaps request permission from our landlord company to put a 'sandwich board' or stuck in the ground advertisement out on the grassy street or on the sidewalk to draw attention to our club. It would have to be brought in at the end of each session? George can approach our landlord on what would be acceptable to them. Melody suggested printing flyers on regular paper and asking local businesses to post them on community boards or counters – Subway, coffee shops, Tom Thumb?

George also will investigate whether we have a timer to ensure our Bridge sign gets turned off at night.

Update on Sectional Limit and Discussion on Revenue Sharing for 2026: The District has had a limit of 4 sectionals per Unit per calendar year. These have been held with 2 in Denton, and 2 in Fort Worth. They have now changed this policy to 5 per Unit. We need to commit to hosting a local Sectional and at least one I/N Sectional to contribute our fair portion of the revenue sharing agreement. This necessitates a location that can accommodate 20-25 tables in order for it to be profitable. Our club cannot handle that many tables. We also need to avoid date conflicts with the other clubs (including Dallas), pushing our sectional most likely to the April or June 2026 timeframes.

We agreed to move forward with planning. Diana focused a question on whether we can host our sectional at the Fort Worth Unit Studio, since it is a Unit asset. The answer is that it may be possible to do so. George offered up the idea that we can perhaps use a reservation system and hold our sectional in our facility, just as Fort Worth does in their club. Whichever location is used, the primary goal is to make a significant profit to contribute to the Unit, which then dispenses those profits to the three commercial clubs within the Unit.

Studio Issues: The ice machine that has been donated appears to be working fine. The fraying carpet issue has been mitigated by simply moving the tables that rest on the seam, and applying duct tape. Wayne will look for clear or brown Gorilla tape for a better fix.

Door lock procedures and codes for the club door lock should be modified. We have had a couple of instances where the door was found to be unlocked when the club was not in session. Perhaps a door lock with a timer or internet connection? George will look into what is possible.

New Business: None mentioned.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 8 at 10:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.