

ADBC BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025

Call to Order: Vice-President Doug Berke called the meeting to order at 10:02. Doug Berke, Larz Smith, George Morey, Wayne Corbett, Kate Wickham, and Diana Clive were in attendance at the ADBC. Mary Ellen Stanton attended by Zoom.

Minutes of July 9, 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 July: George reported that our bank account is holding steady at about \$33,000. The last few months have been better than expected and together with significant donations have stabilized the club's cash position. However, the last couple months of the year usually show a fall off in attendance due to the holidays.

Larz noted that the BBO in July made the club a profit of \$1000, and BBO is significantly underwriting the finances of the club.

Calendar and Special Events: Larz discussed the limited success of the Double Play Saturday format, reflecting that the most recent event on August 9 produced only \$261 in income, and only 3 tables in the AM and 3 tables in the PM sessions. This income doesn't differ significantly from revenue we normally see on a Saturday. Many of the players were from the ADBC board. One comment heard from other players is that they do not feel physically capable of playing a double session. Diana asked the question whether we can identify the players who normally attend on Saturdays and why they were not in attendance. Perhaps because of the times, cost, or travel plans in August. We can revisit the Double Play format idea in the future.

Larz also discussed with Steve Shirey the potential of hosting Unit Championships once per month for the remainder of the year. This is an idea to add to the calendars during the planning process.

Melody has suggested in the past that we hold some special celebration event in November reflecting on the 100th anniversary of the ACBL on November 1. This would conflict with the Dallas Sectional, but leaves the rest of the month to consider such an event. Dorothy would prefer not to hold it on a Sunday, since it would disrupt the growth in attendance by her beginners on Sundays.

Kate presented a preliminary September calendar. We clarified that IFG (International Fund Games) do cost the club extra fees to ACBL. We decided to hold only one per sanction. If an IFG game doesn't 'make' early in the month, it can be brought forward to a different week. We will hold a Unit Championship on Sept 13. StaC games will be held the week of Sept 14-20. Saturday Sept 20 will include both StaC and an 8 is Enuf format.

Considerable discussion was held on how to continue to support our charity obligations - both those controlled by ACBL, and the local charities we voted as a club to support. George felt that we should continue to support our local charities. Diana suggested that a box or envelope for local donations could be made available during a week of charity games. Larz suggested that extra donations simply be added

to the normal game envelope. The week of Sept 21 will be so designated , and marked as Local Charity Fund Week on the calendar. Doug will make this clear to all directors running games that week.

Diana presented an idea of holding a 50:50 raffle as a type of fundraiser. Little or no financial risk if the 'prize' is free play tickets, or 50% of the proceeds. This can be discussed in more detail in the future.

Denton Sectional: Denton will hold a Sectional on Thursday Oct 2-Saturday Oct 4. There is no revenue sharing agreement in place right now. Larz proposed that we close all three days of the Denton Sectional if Denton would reimburse us \$150 for closing, as we have done so in agreements with Fort Worth and Dallas for their Sectionals. We will be closed all 3 days in October (Oct. 16-18) for Fort Worth with compensation. Doug will verify this with Randy from FW, and Larz will talk with Ken from Denton. [Subsequent to the Board meeting, Denton agreed to reimburse Arlington \$150 for closing].

Dallas Sectional: We will be closed Wednesday Oct 29 through Saturday Nov 1. We will be compensated. We understand that all these closings affect playing opportunities for our members, but the Sectionals create a lack of resources. Our directors want to play in the Sectionals, and aren't available for club games.

Kate requested confirmed info for the October calendar planning as soon as possible.

Update on Dorothy: Dorothy is doing ok. Doug will contact Tom about directing games that Dorothy normally directs for the near term.

Institutional Knowledge Transfer: The ADBC has been very fortunate to have members with expertise in various areas necessary to the operation of the club. Dorothy for example knows how to run Swiss games. Tom runs the club website. Mary Ellen has extensive knowledge on Club Manager responsibilities, George with the finances and expenses. A plan to share and train others to these areas should be put into motion. Doug noted his IT background, and will try to create SOPs with Tom's assistance.

Unit 183 Updates: George has shared our financial reports with board members of both FW and Unit 183. John Robbins, a current board member (soon to rotate off in October,) has said that revenue sharing was approved by the board as it exists now. A new board to be elected in October may reconsider this agreement given that FW is also revenue conscious. For example, FW has increased their game costs to their directors and players too.

Kate asked whether casual unsanctioned games at the ADBC could be held on days when we are closed for sanctioned games due to local tournaments. Older and new beginner players may not want to travel, and/or are intimidated by the structure of a tournament. Can the facility be available for 'party bridge'? This is especially relevant in months like this October with so many closed days on the calendar. Let's examine our bylaws.

Old Business: George requested that we revisit the idea of raising the compensation schedule for our directors, who haven't had a raise in 17 months (April 20204). Doug: the largest cost to directors is gas and wear and tear on autos. Mary Ellen: she doesn't direct for the money, but because of the need for service and help to our membership. George: proposed/motioned for a \$3.00/table increase in director fees. For the current average 4 table game, the proposed fees represent a 4.7% increase similar to a CPI (4.3%). Therefore, the director compensation will increase from \$60 to \$63 for a two table game and

will increase \$1/table for each half table. George wants to adequately compensate directors for their travel distance to games, as well as their time. Larz commented that Fort Worth's new higher entry fees result in their Directors making less than Arlington on smaller games but more on larger games. Our directors get a food allowance (up to \$10), and a \$5 payment for making boards. Larz seconded the motion, with George creating a new table of compensation. Doug called for a vote. It passed, with Doug abstaining. The new pay structure will be effective September 1, 2025.

New Business: Larz proposed that a member from ADBC run for the Unit 183 Board of Directors, whose election will be held in October. Ideally, a member from Denton should be encouraged to run as well. This could create some representation from the other clubs among the nine Board members responsible for Unit 183, when currently there is none. Everyone registered as a member in ACBL, and in Unit 183 is eligible to vote, with a ballot box made available to our club 2 weeks prior to the sectional. Doug volunteered to be a candidate and will present a biography.

Our ice maker is broken, and unlikely to be reparable. We have had a tabletop icemaker donated for now.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36.