

NVBA Board Meeting March 22, 2026 – Minutes

Attendees as Board Members: President: Georgette Weiss; Treasurer: Ann Atcheson; Secretary: David Goldfrank; Jason Carter; Joe Hertz; Hal Hindman; Hal Jones; Terry Jones.

Attendees as Non-Voting: Past President/Intermediate-Novice Program/Regional Tournament Chair Marty Bley; Unit Game Chief Director Jim Gerding; Publicity/Webmaster Ron Kral; Newsletter Liaison/Editor Lucy McCoy; Weekly Email Production Daniel Morgan; Membership Eric Pozkaner; Education Howard Stevens

9:33: Georgette called the meeting to order.

9:34: Approval of the draft **minutes** for our Feb 7 2026 meeting.

9:35-9:39: Approval of the **Treasurer's reports** for Feb 2026, with Ann's relaying that we almost broke even in the Feb 19-20 Sectional, but that the smaller fee share from the **SE Carolina** online games (\$55 in Jan, \$34 in Feb), rather than the former \$150 when there were more such games offered means she will have to revise the 2026 budget projection. We also discussed the possibility and problematics of **ACBL Clubhouse** which remits in chunks of \$100 and has not sent us anything in quite a while. During the meeting Lucy emailed to us a SE Carolina online game schedule (games email: lbalbcetal@gmail.com). Ann noted as well that we had benefitted financially from the successes of **Return to the Fold**.

9:39-9:59: 9:39-9:59: The ACBL Clubhouse discussion segued seamlessly into a discussion of the letter from the board that Terry is proposing be emailed to new players by teachers and directors. The letter would be a welcoming message to people making inquiries about lessons or games and would be intended to reach people who are just learning about bridge who are not already members of ACBL and NVBA. The proposed letter would not replace the **Newcomer's Booklet** and **welcome letter** that Eric Poskanzer sends to new members when they join ACBL and NVBA. Terry had emailed a draft of the newcomer welcome letter to the board, and Margot (Hennings) had suggested to Terry to include a link to ACBL's **Sapphire** program (www.acbl.org/sapphires). Marty explained the various things, including older bridge bulletins, which she gives her students to interest them in the game. Terry then emphasized the overall benefits of employing the best marketing strategies to attract such total newcomers and the specific utility of the most effective material being in the hands of bridge teachers for distribution. Jason observed that some of the people returning to the fold or whom he is contacting are possible prospects who could benefit from such material. It was noted that our NVBA Marilyn Goliath and James Connor are the teachers for the Fairfax County sponsored bridge lessons, who ought to have this material too. Eric, on another note, suggested underscoring the advantages of being an NVBA member and hoped some application link could be provided.

10:00-10:03: Review of Action Items from the Feb 7 meeting:

David had Ron Kral post the **approved minutes** from Dec. 7.

Jay had not yet first-drafted "**Board and Committee chair Position Descriptions 2026**".

Jay and Jim Gerding had not yet gone to Gainesville to test the **smart phone scoring option**.

Jay did send David the letter explaining the **Return to the Fold statistics** for the minutes.

10:04-10:51: The **Alternatives for the Unit Game** discussion ranged over a host of issues, starting with the fact that the current (Iran) war makes it imperative that **Beth El** gave full-time security, which it demands now, and this would add a prohibitive \$300/session to our costs—all note with regret, since we have held the Unit game there for 25 continuous years and a stretch before that much earlier. Since with declining membership Beth El is in financial straits, we cannot get any relief regarding the fees. The **Knights of Columbus Hall** (KoCH) now is less attractive due to small rooms available for Thursday evening and a much higher cost than before Covid when we had quite a few games there. And the (**Springfield**) **American Legion Post 176** (6520 Amherst Ave.), where we are scheduled for April 2, poses a host of logistical problems, so our focus returned to **St. Andrews Church**, where we figured that the advantages of a place already proven convenient for the Wednesday day game, with everything we need already on hand, and the lack of security costs to offset additional refreshment costs, now outweighed disadvantages, chief among these being the 1-2 days per quarter, when for religious or other scheduling needs, we cannot play there. When the question of going back to a \$14 entry fee was raised, Ann said that this did not make budgetary sense. Jim, who directs the Wednesday game, informed us that St. Andrews will want a one-year contract. The ups and downs of their 50% gross intake fee were hardly mentioned this time, but when the question of trying to negotiate a flat fee was raised, Marty countered that after accepting their terms for one year and being “good citizens” in our use of their facilities, we might consider negotiating the year’s average as a flat fee (which for Ann’s disbursing and accounting work would be much, much easier).

After a vote of 7-0-1 (abstention) in favor of the St. Andrews 50%-gross fee option, and we moved on to other matters, Jim checked the St. Andrews schedule, noted their schedule, and he found that April 16 was blocked for us there. So we agreed with a quick, informal consensus vote to pay Beth El the extra \$300 for April 9 and 16 and **start St Andrews on April 26**.

10:52-11:05: Regarding the **Life Masters/Non-Life Masters Game**, scheduled for June 11, when, it turns out, neither Georgette nor Ann will be in the US, we sought alternatives and found none, so **June 11** it is. Since last year we had 24 tables, but our St Andrews room accommodates 22 at the most, we have to have a signup limit, which might be tricky, since in the past there have been a lot of last-minute registerers.

11:06-11:17: We jumped ahead to a Review of Action Items (thus missed the Ron/Jim purchase).

Joe, with Dan having offered to help, will set in motion the registration mechanism for the LM/NLM game, to be ready early April.

Georgette will talk to Beth El about April 9, 16.

Jim will talk to St Andrews about the 1-year Unit Game contract.

Georgette, Anne, Hal Jones, and David will coordinate to pick up tables and other equipment from Beth El after the March 26 Unit Game for the April 2 Unit Game, and plan to arrive at the American Legion Post 176 by 5:30 for the set up there.

Everyone else will continue what s/he has been doing as per commitment

11:18-11:33: New Business – **New Sectional Playing Cards**. For this older issue of intolerably aged cards, Ron had prepared a spread sheet with seven options, noting that the metal boards hold thinner cards than do the plastic boards. After a discussion including that we had not bought new Sectional cards since the 2909 World Games in Florida, and some price calculations indicating we may be in for a c. \$1700 hit, we agreed that Ron and Jim should determine the best option for purchasing 10 sets of cards for 36 boards and proceed with the purchase.

11:34-11:36: We set the **next meeting** for May 3, 9:30am.

11:37. Georgette adjourned the meeting.