NVBA Board Meeting June 30, 2026 – Minutes

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

Attendees as Non-Voting: Past President/Intermediate-Novice Program/Regional Tournament Chair Marty Bley; Standby Club Game (Co-)Director Ross Bley; De facto Sectional Tournament Deputy Chair Amy Brisson; Sectional Unit Game Chief Director Jim Gerding; Newsletter Liaison/Editor Lucy McCoy; Membership Coordinator Eric Pozkaner.

Initial Procedures

7:00: Georgette called the meeting to order.

7:01: Approval of the draft Minutes for our May 3 meeting. The Board Secretary had also recently circulated draft Minutes from the May 7 Annual Meeting and suggested that such regularly be corrected and provisionally approved by the Board and so posted when memory of the meeting is still fresh, and then at the next year's Annual formally be approved if acceptable or duly altered.

7:04: Approval of the Treasurer's Report for May.

Old Business

7:05: Consideration of Terry's draft welcoming letter for new members, which, as the discussion revealed, is fully consistent with the ACBL website on membership, and which, as she ascertained, the current ACBL President Cindy Shoemaker very much likes. In our deliberations the draft was in principle approved but may benefit from some minor adjustments. Terry plans to have a final draft ready for the next meeting.

7:30: Concerning the possibility of remote participation from Leesburg in the Fall Sectional, as discussed at the May 3 meeting with the Leesburg Friday game director David Rubin, it was noted that he had not made any contact with us since that meeting concerning player interest. After further discussion of all of the financial and time-consideration ramifications, we voted unanimously with one abstention to drop this idea in favor of our continuing our de facto exclusive on-site participation for the Friday-Saturday-Sunday sessions.

7:52: Given the need for another site for the October 15 Unit Game, we shall first check out Bethlehem Lutheran Church, the location of the regular Tuesday 10:30 game.

7:54: Concerning the issue of a one-time Unit Game free play for high rank advancement, we agreed that this offer should last only six months, and since one of our Board members just passed a middle-high master point mark, we shall be able readily to ascertain if we are receiving prompt notices.

7:57: Concerning our finishing reporting to Jay how our long-standing job descriptions match our current duties, and that some of these descriptions are way off the mark—Marty noted that such is to be expected, since they in fact go back to the pre-internet era.

8:03: Concerning our continued Return to the Fold efforts, there was nothing of significance to report since May 3.

New Business

8:05: Joe is working on an app that allows for sight impaired people to bid on tablets, and it also captures the auction at the table. He would like to test it at the Unit Game where the bidding sequence at one table will wind up in the results. It is uncertain if they will show up online. We agreed by unanimous vote for him to test this method at one Unit Game table. We agreed by unanimous vote for him to arrange to try this method at one Unit Game table.

8:13: Previous to the meeting Dan circulated a detailed proposal to build on the success of the LM-NLM game by establishing a mentor program. Reacting favorably to this, and noting that such had existed back around 2010, and that we could be flexible about this whereby more than one experienced player could be someone's mentor. We discussed also the possibility of having more than one LM-NLM game per year, since our recent June 11 game was so successful. We also discussed the possibility of having advanced players readily willing to partner with the less experienced, for which we could structure a sign-up system. Of note concerning flexibility was Jim Sandefur's regularly mentoring a set of Georgetown University students outside of NVBA functions, but then at times he and or David, who are frequent partners at the Tuesday evening Army-Navy Club game, would partner with a less experienced Georgetown student at that game.

8:29: Dan had likewise circulated another detailed proposal to attract newer players with a pre-Unit Game lesson in order re-establish a 99er section. Once again the Army-Navy Club game served as a model for discussion—here due to Marty's successful teaching program there for beginners, where volunteers among our experienced players help out. Among the possibilities raised for the Unit Game was an informal 5:30-6:30 or 5:45-6:45 teaching game, for which one model is an experienced player and three 'students'. For this too we would want to have a pool of volunteers.

At the end of these two discussions, the Board gave Dan the go-ahead to proceed with the mentorship program. On the second proposal, Dan agreed to take into consideration the board's feedback and come back with some revised ideas to the next meeting.

Of note as well was Marty's plea that we sign up ahead of time for the Army-Navy Club game, where our room can accommodate no more than 13 tables.

Concluding Procedures

8:50: Review of Action Items:

Terry: Newcomer Welcoming Letter final draft.
Amy: Ask Ron Kral to inform David Rubin of our decision re the Sectional
David: Inform Board if/when formal notification of rank advancement is received.
Georgette: Check Bethlehem Lutheran et al. for October 15 Unit Game.
Jay: Draft Job Description reformulation if possible.
All Others: Be sure you have given Jay your job description commentary.
Dan: Publicize proposals concerning mentoring and pre-Unit Game teaching.

8:52: The next Board Meeting was set for August 9 at 9:30am.

8:53: Georgette adjourned the meeting.