NVBA Board Meeting August 9, 2026 – *draft minutes*

Attendees as Board Members: President: Georgette Weiss; Vice President Jay Simon, Treasurer: Ann Atcheson; Secretary: David Goldfrank; Joe Hertz; Hal Hindman; Daniel Morgan.

Attendees as Non-Voting: Past President Marty Bley; Tournament Chair Margot Hennings; Webmaster Ron Kral; Newsletter Liaison/Editor Lucy McCoy; Education Liaison Howard Stevens; 0-699 Game Duncan Wainwright.

Initial Procedures with an Unexpected Twist

9:30: Georgette called the meeting to order.

9:30: June 30 Board Meeting Minutes were approved with Joe Hertz proposed alternate wording concerning testing the app for recording bidding of sight-impaired players.

9:33: Approval of the detailed June and July Financial Reports with their noting of recent NVBA profits came after two unplanned derivative discussions. The first involved the current ACBL 5-5-5 policy (instituted in 2023) to encourage membership involvement and retention by rewarding success with higher membership dues refunds covered by a reduction in the standard base refund (now 5%). This measure, according to our records occasioned at first a 50% drop in refunds to the Unit, though now the difference has become much less. Expressions of dissatisfaction over this policy followed. [NB: one can access detailed criticism of 5-5-5 in the penultimate item of https://minnesotabridge.com/MNpages/MNACBLtables.htm].

Margot, temporarily donning what she termed her former ACBL President's "hat", assured us that the 'surplus' of ca. $300,000 retained by ACBL has not at all been used for routine administration and staff salaries, but most of it is on hold for Unit and District rewards. Noting the circulation some misinformation concerning 5-5-5 and (alleged but actually untrue) absence of increase of refunds to successful units, Margot likewise affirmed that Bronia (Jenkins, ACBL Executive Director) has readily addressed the numerous complaints elicited by 5-5-5 and remains open to communication and suggestions concerning these matters.

Our discussion then moved to complaints about ACBL failures regarding communication to members about near lapsed and lapsed memberships, for which Marty and Ron gave concrete examples, and Joe noted the discontinuation of hitherto regular in-and-out reports from ACBL. Margot expressed hope that ACBL's new tech man will improve communication mechanisms and procedures--this among the many tasks lying before him—and assured us that all of our concerns would reach Bronia. We then further probed possible means of informing members of upcoming renewal deadlines but came to no conclusion concerning how to do that.

Old Business

10:00: Terry Jones's revised draft Welcoming Letter, with the few changes requested at the June 30 meeting, was tabled without discussion, since she could not attend the meeting.

10:01: Jay reported that no work had been done by the team including him, Hal Jones, Dan Morgan, and Rene Costales to reformulate Job Descriptions

10:02: Regarding our reinstatement at the 3 May Annual Business Meeting Unit Game of a set of lapsed annual awards, we rejected requiring a certain number of master points earned for the Rookie of the Year.

New Business

10:04: For the upcoming Fall Sectional (September 24-27), Margot told us that the District really wants us to use RSVP Bridge for partnerships, that Amy and she need to have clear procedures in place, and that our notices and flyers include the actual games each day. The ensuing lengthy discussion focused somewhat on actual experiences at out Unit and club games with RSVP signups, that this certainly can work and has worked, but the consensus was that a certain percentage of players will invariably show up at games without so signing up, while we would like it to be otherwise, we welcome their coming. To work out the actual details of how we would set up the RSVP registration system, it was decided that a team of Georgette, Margot, Ann, Marty, Jay, and Joe would meet with the NVBA's own RSVP Bridge developer and facilitator Brenda Egeland as soon as possible (and such was quickly arranged during the meeting for four days henceforth).

In the discussion it was also noted that we shall be phasing out our expensive bridgemates and using RSVP Bridge or something akin to it for our scoring.

Further Old Business

10:51: There was nothing to report on our Return to the Fold, merely the intention to update our data in this regard.

10:52: Georgette informed us that the October 15 Unit game will be at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (on Little River Turnpike).

10:53: Joe gave a progress report on the tablet bidbox app he is in the process of developing to help blind people bid at the table and to capture auction data in recaps, and that he will be testing the app at a unit game sometime in the near future. Jay requested Joe to provide a written summary to the board of what the application does within the next two weeks so that we can better understand what it is and how it will be used.

10:57: Dan reported that we already have 12 mentor-mentee pairing established, and that we need more volunteers to mentor.

10:59: Dan also reported that the issue of how to attract new members and get more of those with few masterpoints to play in our live games remains a stumbling block requiring more thought.

Concluding Procedures

11:01: Review of Action Items:

Everybody: Be sure to have reviewed Terry's for the next Board Meeting
Jay and Jason: Update Return to Fold
Jay: Activate the Job Description reformulation team.
Georgette et al.: Meet with Brenda Egeland re RSVP Bridge for the next Sectional.
Joe: Create written report on the planned bidbox app for the sight impaired.
Dan: Continue expanding Mentorship program
Dan: Consider possibility of a Google survey regarding live game participation.

11:07: The next Board Meeting was set for September 13 at 9:30am.

11:08: Georgette adjourned the meeting.