

**FTLBC Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date – September 18, 2023**

**Revised final version 10-9-23**

3:53 p.m. – Meeting called to order by President Knyvett Lee

Board members present: Mark Yaeger, Daniel Tordella, Knyvett Lee, Allen Bozek, Bella Ionis-Sorren, Jonathan Salt and Rick Shapiro

Club manager Emilio Lopez was present. Two FTLBC members at large, Barbara Tate and Keith Gellman also attended the meeting.

1. August Minutes: Minutes of 8/14/23 FTLBC Board meeting ratified.
2. Treasurer's report: Treasurer Rick Shapiro reported:
  - a. Bank and PayPal total cash balance of \$58,787 as of 8/31/23.
  - b. FTLBC had a net operating loss of \$2,517 in August, 2023.
  - c. FTLBC has a 2023 net operating loss of \$7,468 YTD through August.
  - d. FTLBC income, fees and expenses: Because of increasing costs of insurance and other Club operations, the Board voted to increase income/fees/expenses starting January 1, 2023 as follows:
    - (1) **Annual membership dues**: from \$35.00 to \$50.00 (The \$50.00 rate is effective immediately for all 2023 renewals and new memberships. **Note** – The Board voted to allow any new Club member that is given a complementary (remaining months) 2023 membership by virtue of paying the 2024 club dues to vote in the 2024 Board election.
    - (2) **Game fees**: From \$10.00 (members) / \$12.00 (non-members) to \$11.00 (members) / \$13.00 (non-members).

- (3) **Director fees:** From \$125 (+ \$3.00 per tables over 14 per session) to \$135 (+ \$3.00 per tables over 14 per session).
  - (4) **Bridge education / teaching fees:** The Board tabled discussion of whether an increase from the current 10% should be adopted.
  - (5) **Ft. Laud. Scrabble Club fees:** Club manager Emilio Lopez and president Lee will initiate discussions with the scrabble club director William Cody regarding a fair and appropriate increase from the present fee of \$4.00 per player.
- e. Insurance:
- (1) FTLBC needs to resurrect the insurance committee. Presently insurance matters are being handled by Treasurer Shapiro and President Lee.
  - (2) Because of a significant increase in premium(s) from \$9,224 in 2023 to \$12,073 (including taxes and fees) using the present carrier Underwriters at Lloyds through Len Miller, Shapiro and Lee obtained an alternate quote from West Chester Specialty Ins. Co. and Citizens, which was \$12, 490.
  - (3) The Board voted to retain the proposed new carrier for 2023.
  - (4) The Board voted **not** to obtain flood insurance (premium quote was approx. \$6,200.
  - (5) Shapiro and Lee advised the Board they will verify that: One – FTLBC has the insurance required under our lease with the City of Ft. Laud., and Two – that the agent is not charging for “fees” that are prohibited by Florida Statutes.

3. Club Manager's report: Club Manager Emilio Lopez reported:
  - a. Table counts (face to face) and Club membership continue to be significantly lower than prior years.
  - b. Promotions (also part of President's report):
  - c. (1) The Board approved:
    - A 4' by 10' banner to be placed on the fence near SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Federal Highway to be visible from 7<sup>th</sup> street and northbound Federal Highway. Design and copy to be finalized by President Lee and Manager Lopez for approval by the Board.
    - Cards (business card size) to be created for use by Board and Club members to promote the Club.
    - Flyers to be posted (hopefully) in condos, etc. to promote the Club.
  - d. Vacation: The Club manager will be on vacation from Sept. 22 – to October 10.
  - e. Facebook (also part of President's report): After receiving a suggestion from Club member Rosemary Boden about Facebook marketing (lack thereof). It was determined that there are two Facebook accounts. They will be consolidated (closed) so only one account exists. Club member Barbara Tate will “authorize” Club manager Lopez to manage the one FB account FTLBC will use.
4. President's report:
  - a. 2024 FTLBC Board Elections
    - (1) Four Board spots are open.
    - (2) Nominating Committee: Bella Ionis-Sorren, Daniel Tordella and two Non-Board member Club members to be added.

- (3) Slate Presentation – (By Nominating Committee) to be presented at the  
October 9, 2023 Board meeting.
- (4) Additional nominees – Due (via “petition” by November 13, 2023.
- (5) Ballot Release – November 15, 2023.
- (6) Election / voting closed – December 29, 2023
- (7) Results releases – ASAP after 12/29/23.
- b. 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FTLBC (see Events below).
- c. Conflict of Interest Policy: President Lee submitted a proposed policy for Board Members to include: Policy, Disclosure Statement (with Instructions) and Mitigation Plan that was approved by the Board.
- d. Club Rental Policy: Was submitted by President Lee and approved by the Board.
- e. FTLBC Annual Meeting (required by Florida Statutes) – to be held on December 4, 2023.
- f. Suggestion Box: Several suggestions were received and considered / discussed by the Board.
- 5. Events: FTLBC needs an Events Chair Person. Please contact any Board member if you are interested.
  - a. 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of FTLBC – The Board voted to incorporate it into the New Year’s Eve game / event.
  - b. Possible Silent Auction: On a suggestion by a Club member, the Board will investigate the possibility of running a silent auction.
  - c. Fund raising raffles: The Club conducted one successful raffle in August – September. The prize was advertised as 7 free FTLBC plays. Because of the

enthusiastic response by Club members and guests, the prize(s) were increased to 1<sup>st</sup> place – 7 free plays; 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 5 free plays; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 3 free plays for the current raffle. Future prizes to be determined. ***Compliance with Florida law (Fla. Stat. Section 849.0935 and related statutes) on non-profit raffles will be investigated for compliance.***

6. Education: Chair Robin Kupperman reported that beginner lessons, supervised games, chip games and mentor games (on line and face-to-face) continue. A *Swiss Team* game is also being planned for the beginners. FTLBC would like to re-start the face-to-face (open) mentor game, but we cannot do it without a chair for the event.
7. Grievance and Ethics: Nothing new to report.
8. House Committee: Current concerns are:
  - a. Coffee machine: Allen Bozek is following up on the coffee machine / circuit breaker issue (Thank you Allen!)
  - b. Cleaning clothes: Club member Lee Atkinson volunteered to take over (from Deborah Branch) the job of weekly cleaning of the clothes used by the FTLBC cleaning crew. Many thanks to Deborah and Lee for this.
  - c. Termites: Club Manager Lopez is monitoring the termite issue which has recurred in the office area and appears to be limited to one piece of office furniture.

6:00 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Daniel F. Tordella – FTLBC Secretary