

FTLBC Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date – January 8, 2024

4:05 p.m. – Meeting called to order by President Jonathan Salt

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

Club manager Emilio Lopez was present.

FTLBC member Rosemary Boden, Barbara Tate and Michael Schneider also attended the meeting.

1. **December and January Minutes:**

- a. Minutes of 12/11/23 regular FTLBC Board meeting were approved.
- b. Corrections to 9/18/23 Minutes:
 - (1) Director Fees: Paragraph 2.d.(3) corrected to reflect that game directors fees will be increased from \$125 (+ \$3.00 per tables over 13 tables per session) to \$135 (+\$3.00 per tables per session over 13 per session), effective 1/1/24.
 - (2) Increase in fees for 2024: Paragraph 2.d. corrected to reflect fees increased (annual dues, game fees and director fees) to be effective January 1, 2024.

2. **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Rick Shapiro reported:

- a. Bank (\$74,496.11), PayPal (\$2,995.69) and petty cash (\$300.00) total cash balance of \$77,791.80 as of 12/31/23.
- b. Cash balance includes \$15,750.00 in 2024 FTLBC cruise deposits, from which various cruise expenses (to be determined) will be paid.
- c. FTLBC Reconciliation / Net profit for December 2023 and 2023 year-end is pending. To be reported in future minutes once finalized.

- d. The New Year's Eve raffle took in \$775.00 (\$50.00 less than announced), less the \$165.00 in prizes (15 free bridge games at \$11.00 each) for a net gain to FTLBC of \$610.00.
- e. Board members Alan Rubin and Rick Shapiro will review the FTLBC cash handling procedures and report to the Board in the future.

3. **Club Manager's report:**

- a. Table count for December 2023 was 369 compared to 346 for December 2022.
- b. Rhoda Schreider winners (for masters points) for 2023 are Bella Ionis-Sorren (A strata), Sheila Cesarano (for B strata) and David Kupperman (for C strata).
Congratulations to the winners!
- c. Advertising: The Board previously approved a 4' by 10' banner to be placed on the fence near SE 7th Street and Federal Highway to be visible from 7th Street and northbound Federal Highway. Approval from the City of Fort Lauderdale is being sought. Board members Lee and Bozek will follow up with seeking approval from the City of Fort Lauderdale.

4. **President's report:**

- 5. President Salt thanked vice president Lee for her outstanding leadership in 2023 as FTLBC president and also thanked outgoing FTLBC member Mark Yeager for his service to FTLBC and welcomed new FTLBC Board Alan Rubin.
- 6. 2024 Committees – Committees and chairs for 2024 were approved. List attached.
- 7. FTLBC "Sponsor": V.P. Lee will follow up with the Allegro Senior Living Center located at 1290 North Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale regarding its prior FTLBC sponsorship commitment.

8. Bequest / endowments: The Board discussed possible benefit of asking members to include FTLBC in their will.

9. 2024 FTLBC Club Manager Contract: Was signed on 12/20/23.

10. Committee Reports:

a. Events Committee:

(1) Events chair Bella Ionis-Sorren presented a schedule of events for the first quarter of 2024 to include continuation of Friday mentor game / happy hour, presentation of Lolla Marshman and Al Levin Trophies, Valentine's Day special desserts, February 2024 Sectional Tournament and Birthday Brunches.

(2) ACBL Unit 243: Club member Barbara Tate reported that ACBL Unit 243 has funds available to promote efforts by clubs to attract new club and ACBL members.

b. House Committee:

(1) The Board approved retention of a new air conditioning vendor – Engineered Air.

(2) Funds (up to \$400.00) were approved for Allen Bozek to buy a new microwave oven (the existing microwave stopped working on 1/8/24).

(3) The Board voted to close off the opening from the club office / reception area to the small bridge room because the noise through the opening is a distraction to bridge lessons and games in the small room and because the opening is never used. A committee of FTLBC club members to raise funds for the project will be formed.

c. Education Committee:

- (1) Chair Robin Kupperman reported that 16 students have registered for the beginner lesson series starting on 1/15/24. Another beginner series is scheduled to begin on 3/4/24 and a “2nd Level” series “Bid, Play, Learn” will begin 2/13/24 on Tuesday mornings.
 - (2) The Board approved Rosemary Boden’s request to market and conduct complementary “Introduction to Bridge” events/lessons at her condominium and others which Rosemary will conduct at no charge. *Thank you Rosemary!*
 - (3) Club Member and bridge expert John Albright is scheduled to begin a 5-week (Wednesday mornings) lesson series for players with 500 – 1,500 masters points.
 - (4) Free 30-minute lessons (Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m.), Supervised games (Saturday mornings and Wednesday afternoons) and “chip” games (Friday afternoons), limited face-to-face mentor games continue..
- d. Grievance and Ethics Committee: Chair Tordella reported that warning letters were written to club members Zibi Palowski and Farrell Sheftal regarding complaints against their conduct.
- e. Insurance Committee: Directors and Officers policy renewal is due in February 2024.
- f. Membership: Chair Rosemary Boden reported:
- (1) FTLBC has 267 paid members as of 1/7/24.

- (2) 206 former members have not renewed. Reasons given for non-renewal include, moved away, only play for short season, reluctance to pay before January, 2024, given up bridge and deceased.
- (3) Efforts to encourage renewal will continue by Rosemary and her committee, to include phone calls to non-renewing members.

5:49 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Daniel F. Tordella – FTLBC Secretary

End of minutes.

Copy of FTLBC Committee Chars for 2024 attached.

FTLBC Committee Chairs 2024.

Committee	Chairperson	Comments
Charity/Sunshine	Barbara Tate-Cerato	
Education	Robin Kupperman	
Events	Bella Ionis-Sorren	
Decorations	Allen Bozek	Jonathan Salt
Finance / Fundraising	Alan Rubin	Rick Shapiro
Food Service	Nancy Paris	
Governance	Allen Bozek	
Grievance and Ethics	Daniel Tordella	
House	Allen Bozek	Brian Vass
Insurance	Barbara Sunshine	
Membership	Rosemary Boden	
Suggestions	Jonathan Salt	
Tournament	Barbara Tate-Cerato	
Marketing	Knyett Lee	

Updated January 8th 2024 Board Meeting