

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

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

Board members present: Daniel Tordella, Allen Bozek, Knyvett Lee, Alan Rubin and Jonathan Salt.

Club manager Emilio Lopez was present.

FTLBC members Michael Schneider, Barbara Tate and Rosemary Boden were also present.

1. **March Board Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes of the March 11, 2024 FTLBC Board meeting were revised and approved.

2. **2025 Cruise Report:**

The Board voted to pursue and investigate a possible 2025 joint FTLBC / Quick Tricks Bridge Sectional at Sea Cruise.

3. **ACBL Unit 243**

Unit 243 has funds available for specific requests / special occasions by clubs in the Unit that will support ACBL membership and/or recruitment/retention of new duplicate bridge players. Barbara Tate will investigate obtaining funds for revision/addition of FTLBC's fence signs and/or buying new (replacement) white boards to use with new-player bridge lessons.

4. **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Rick Shapiro's report was reviewed in his absence.

a. **Cash:** Total bank, *PayPal* and petty cash/change balance was \$88,753.55 as of March 31, 2024.

b. **Operations:** FTLBC has a net operating gain of \$45,291.38 for the three-month period ending 3/31/2024.

c. Cash Handling: Board member Alan Rubin expressed concern about cash and accounting procedures regarding clarity, verification and accountability.

(1) Mr. Rubin suggested elimination of cash payments by members (go to credit card only) and elimination of the “punch cards”, which are cards used by members to pay for games in advance.

(2) Board member Tordella volunteered to contact some club members who use the punch cards to discuss possible elimination of the punch card system.

(3) The Board will continue to review and discuss Mr. Rubin’s suggestions / concerns about cash and accounting procedures regarding verification and accountability.

5. **Club Manager’s report**:

a. Table count for March 2024 was 371 compared to 395.5 in March, 2023.

b. Zero Tolerance: The Board implored the club manager to identify and penalize **all** bridge players whose phones go off during the games, every time!

c. The April 21st birthday lunch was postponed until May.

6. **President’s report**: President Salt reported:

a. 2024 FTLBC Budget: Pending.

b. Credit from Paradise AC: Pending.

c. 2025 Cruise: Joint venture with Quick Tricks to be investigated.

d. Allegro sponsorship of FTLBC: Pending.

e. Bylaws Update: To be followed up by Board member Allen Bozek.

f. Recognition Policy: Pending. Thank you Mr. President for your generous donation of \$1,000.00 to FTLBC.

- g. Accident/liability reporting: Barbara Sunshine, Insurance Committee Chair, to follow up.
- h. Request for reimbursement form: Board member Lee to follow up.
- i. Suggestions:
 - (1) Speed of play by newer players ... please play faster.
 - (2) Limited games brackets: It was suggested by a member to increase the 0-750 game to 0-1,000. Suggestion considered and the Board decided not to increase the 750 limit to 1,000 because the players closer to zero could be adversely affected. Players with more than 750 points should be able to compete adequately in the open game.

7. **Committee Reports:**

a. Events Committee (Chair – open):

- (1) Swiss Teams game is scheduled for April 28th.
- (2) FTLBC needs an Events Committee chair.

b. House Committee (Chair Allen Bozek):

- (1) AC filters are scheduled for change in April, 2024. “Full” routine maintenance is scheduled for July, 2024.
- (2) The “hole” between the office and the small bridge room has been filled in and looks great. A second shelf was added for the office.
- (3) Water filters was all recently replace.
- (4) A few bugs were found in the kitchen and pest control addressed the issues.
- (5) Emergency lights need inspection / maintenance.
- (6) Windows should be scheduled for cleaning (last done 5 years ago).

c. Education Committee (Chair Robin Kupperman):

- (1) Robust enrollment and completion of Robin's beginner bridge series' continues. Let's all remember to be nice and welcoming to all the new players.
- (2) Supervised games, free 30-minute lessons and mentor games continue.

d. Grievance and Ethics Committee (Chair Daniel Tordella):

A second hearing was conducted with a club member because of continuing complaints about his conduct during bridge games. Discipline to be determined by the FTLBC Board in a closed meeting.

e. Insurance Committee (Chair Barbara Sunshine): Nothing to report.

f. Membership: Chair Rosemary Boden reported:

- (1) FTLBC has 312 paid members as of 4/8/24.
- (2) Efforts to identify non-paying former members masquerading as paying members continues.
- (3) Efforts to encourage renewal will continue by Rosemary and her committee, to include phone calls to non-renewing members.
- (4) Chair Boden was authorized full access to FTLBC membership / roster records to be provided by the Club Manager.

g. Tournaments

- (1) The dates of the 2024 fall sectional were changed to 11/1/24 – 11/3/24.
- (2) The date of the 2025 spring sectional was changed to Valentine's Day weekend.

h. Marketing (Chair Knyvett Lee):

- (1) The Board agreed that the banners should be modified / increased to expose the words “Bridge Club.
- (2) The ad in *OUTSFL* ran at a cost of \$385.00 to be shared equally with Quick Tricks. No known response/applications came from the ad.

5:40 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Daniel F. Tordella – FTLBC Secretary