

Unit 547 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 12, 2025
Temple Beth Torah

Board Members Present: Raeann Koerner, Kay Mendel, Suzanne Brenner, Gerri Knilans, Gary Ansok, Jim Wall, Craig Kavin, and Bunny Raymond.

Guest Member: Mark Eckhout

The meeting was called to order by Raeann Koerner at 11:06 a.m..

Old/Continuing Business

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Kay Mendel to approve the minutes from July 15, 2025 and 2nd by Jim Wall, M/S/A.

Treasurer's Report (Kay Mendel)

Prior to our meeting Kay had sent her report to the board. In summary:

Sheet 1: Monthly Income and Expense
We had a gain for the month of \$2,699.

Sheet 1: TBT Detail
We had a gain for the month of \$714 with 199 tables.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer Report by Gerri Knilans, and 2nd by Craig Kavin, M/S/A.

Director Liaison Report (Gary Ansok)

Gary reported that the scoresheets are incorrect, and that he is working on getting correct score sheets - double sided.

Our current plan for director coverage is, following Jody's retirement:
Tuesdays - Gary
Wednesdays - Stan
Thursday - Chris

Rosemary and Nancy are possibly a team to work as a sub, and Jody is willing to sub as well.

Club Operations & Management (Jim Wall)

Prior to the meeting Jim sent to the board the most recent Attendance Report and the Unit 574 In and Out Report. Suzanne shared that she and Raeann received a Unit Wide Guest Member Activity Report. Suzanne forwards the email to Jim and Bunny for information.

Jim has scheduled a Grand National Team Game for September 25, and Chris will direct. He plans to discuss with Chris and Bob Gruber what may need to be done to plan for as successful an event as possible.

Raeann brought up the current ruling from ACBL regarding players that have been suspended from the ACBL may now play in club games if a club decides that they would like to follow the new guidelines. The board agreed that at this time we will follow the new procedures and guidelines that the ACBL has outlined.

Richard Fox - Outreach Coordinator

Raeann will create a flyer that explains what we offer as a club: game times, classes, guaranteed partner, etc. which Richard will then take to a variety of locations to inform and invite potential players to our game.

Member recognition awards - Tournament Volunteers' Appreciation - Free Plays

Raeann gave out free plays to players that qualified and it was definitely appreciated.

Ice Cream Social August 14 - (Susan Lang)

Susan has the event planned in her typical detailed organization.

Pro-Am Game (Gerri Knilans)

Gerri spoke with Helen, from the 750 Club, and Tish, from the SB Club who shared that the Pro-Am games were successful and well liked. They also shared some of the challenges/suggestions:

- Determining the cut-off point to say who is considered a Pro, and an AM
- Getting enough Pros to play, suggested personally inviting those you wish to invite as a Pro.
- The need to discuss with the Pros that they should play the AMs card, and to remember to speak respectfully to their AM
- It was suggested to not show the score on the bridgemate during the game
- It was suggested that having the Pro meet with the AM after the game to discuss a few hands might be well received.

- Pros play for free that day
- Players come before the game to be able to discuss their card with the Pro

Gerri also shared that she had been told the Mentor Program had been successful - an experienced player offering to play with a newer, less experienced member over a period of an agreed upon time period. Gerri will inquire with Helen and Tish to see if they have any written information about how they ran their Mentor Programs.

Celebrating August Birthdays

We will be celebrating on August 26th.

Saturday Game - (Raeann)

Raeann confirmed that we will not be playing at the Town House at all in the immediate future. They are not interested in us having a game there.

New Business

Prior to meeting Mark sent the board the following report:

Aug 12, 2025

Ventura Unit 547 - Board Meeting - Tournaments - Report to Board

Mark Eckhout - Tournament Coordinator (TC)

HARVEST SECTIONAL - CANCELLED

1. The planned Limited Sectional (750 NLM) for Sep 6 (or 13), 2025 is cancelled. TC was unable to resolve numerous details within a timeframe that allowed adequate preparation.

2026 VUBC SECTIONAL TENTATIVE SCHEDULE & LINE-UP

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Valentine Sectional, Open, PVRPD Auditorium, Feb 6 & 7, 2026, Fr & Sa

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Strawberry Sectional, Open, PVRPD Auditorium, May 29 & 30, 2026, Fr & Sa

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Harvest Sectional, Limited-750 NLM, PVRPD Sr Center, Sep 19 (or 12), 2026, Sa

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED THE PAST 2 MONTHS

1. CARD TABLES

a. PVRPD-Camarillo is the only large venue (to date) that has 34"/36" square card tables; 40 in number.

b. Party Rental companies do not carry/rent card tables - they only rent banquet tables; rectangular & circular

i. One owner said, "... in my 22 years, you are only the second person to ask for card tables."

ii. He went on to say that rental prices are set to get their costs back after three rentals. We would be better off to purchase our own tables.

iii. When asked, he said his company would be happy to pick up our tables and deliver them to a venue.

2. VENUES

a. PVRPD

i. The Senior Center is now available for VUBC to rent for a bridge tournament - up to 30 tables

1. They now require that all drinking cups have lids

b. Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) - brought to my attention by our member Barbara (BJ) Fitzgerald

i. VCOE has a huge, beautiful, state-of-the-art facility (Adolfo Rd, Camarillo) whose primary purpose is to host conferences and classes for government and non-profit groups.

ii. After a considerable vetting process, it was determined that we are an appropriate organization to utilize their facility. iii. The facility is a Monday - Friday facility. They will open for a Saturday event but not for extended hours. We did not reach a conclusion on this issue.

iv. The base fee is very reasonable. But the anomalies associated with our needs add up quickly.

v. They require us to use their beverage package. \$0.50/person/hour. At first blush, this is a great feature, In the end, it is a bit expensive

vi. They have a modest counter space with a deep sink. No refrigeration. We feel this is workable - especially for a one-day tournament.

vii. The facility does not have card tables. They approved of us bringing in our own.

viii. I will have a 'final' conversation with them (for future possibilities) to expand on several problem areas

c. City of Napa

i. Rental of Community Rooms at the Camarillo Public Library goes through the City of Napa.

ii. These rooms are too small for VUBC's needs ... plus additional issues.

iii. BUT !! Leslie, City of Napa, needed a large conference room. She amassed a large inventory of venues which she shared with me. I will go through this list in the months ahead.

3. DIRECTOR(S)

a. I have yet to learn the requirements of a Director for a Limited Sectional nor the requirements of a second Director at an Open Sectional

HALLOWEEN REGIONAL

1. I will have the status updates at the Board meeting

a. The new I/N games ...

b. VUBC's 'responsibilities' at the Regional

i. Decorations Sunday afternoon

ii. Director at Monday's Newcomer game

iii. Caddies at Team games

c. Possible additional Newcomer, Supervised Bid & Play games at the Regional

Halloween Regional (Mark Eckhout)

The board agreed that those individuals that help decorate for the Regional event will receive a free to play at a club game.

Complaints regarding snacks

The issue seems to be that some people do not like the number of people who eat during play at the tables. The board agreed that we would like to request that people do not eat during play, though they may bring food to their table. It was suggested that the announcements include the request as well as a reminder for people to clean up their areas and to please silence their phones prior to play.

Team Game at the club in September (Jim)

This was previously discussed and noted. It was agreed that we should begin the game at 12:00, to provide more time for a team game format. Raeann will create a sign-up sheet for players interested in participating on a team, as well as one for those who would like to play, but do not have a team to play on.

Thank you for significant donation by a member

Raeann and Bunny will speak to the member to determine if they would mind being recognized publicly for their donation. We, as a board, will sign a thank you card at our next meeting that Raeann will bring.

Engagement Party for Chris and Janice

This will be announced prior to the event, and a treat will be provided on September 18th.

GP Program (Raeann)

Kay will be resigning from her role as the GP program. We are looking for a volunteer that would be interested in taking on this role. We do recognize that we may not be able to continue to offer a GP for every game, unless we have a volunteer willing to be responsible for the ongoing program.

Strategic Play and Need for new members and board member training guidelines (Gerri Knilans)

Tabled until the next meeting.

Next meeting

Will be held on September 8, 2025.

Raeann Koerner, President, adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Brenner, Secretary.