Unit 547 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Temple Beth Torah

Board Members Present: Raeann Koerner, Bunny Raymond, Kay Mendel, Suzanne Brenner, Jim Wall, Gerri Knilans, Gary Ansok, Ray Tsukuki, and Buki Burke.

Absent: Craig Kavin

Guest: Susan Lang and Mark Eckhout

The meeting was called to order by Raeann Koerner at 10:35 a.m.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Jim Wall to approve the minutes from May 19, 2026 and 2nd by Gerri Knilans , M/S/A.

Treasurer Report - Kay Mendel

Prior to the meeting Kay sent the board her report for consideration:
A motion was made by Suzanne Brenner to approve the treasurer report as presented, 2nd by Jim Wall, M/S/A.

Club Manager's Report - Jim Wall
Prior to the meeting Jim sent the board:

May Attendance Report

Your Guest Member Activity Report since 5/1/2026

The reduction in members playing on particular days was discussed. It was agreed that follow-up with members who may have more regularly attended in the past, and are now not coming, should be contacted, to say hello and inquire if all is well. Bunny offered to create the list of those members, and Ray offered to make personal phone calls.

The reduction in attendance and the increase in directors' pay has had an impact on the revenues that are being generated on a daily basis.

The discussion then continued with how to potentially increase revenues - increased attendance (reach players that we do not have at this time - students; encourage players to play more than one day a week possibly by offering mentor games) , increase game fees, and request players in the supervised play game to pay fees.

Suzanne will check with the Santa Barbara Bridge Club as to how they are organizing their Youth Bridge Camp.

The topic will continue to be discussed at next month's meeting.

Jim also shared that the In and Out report that we have seen in the past, no longer exists in that format, but the information will be available in a different manner.

Director Liaison Report - Gary Ansok

Gary shared that Aaron Zaidoff is planning to take the ACBL Director class next month. Gerri shared that Marilyn Usher indicated that she was possibly interested in becoming a director. Gerri will contact her and provide Gary with the appropriate contact information.

Gary shared that he has been using the clock in order to maintain the game on a timely schedule, and will remind other directors to do so as well. At this time, Gary only pulls boards when the clock reaches zero (0).

Gary also shared that we could use a monitor, instead of using a new lap top, to be able to show the clock. Jim made a motion that we allow Gary to purchase a monitor not to exceed $100.00, and 2nd by Kay Mendel, M/S/A.

We discussed a director being allowed to play at the same time that they are directing. Though this had been discussed and decided previously, there were considerations for us to review once again. Following discussion, it was decided that changes would be made to our previous decisions. Jim Wall made a motion that a director may play in an open game, when a GP is not present. The director may not play in order to fill a table to prevent a sit-out. A director may play in a limited game to "make the game go" if necessary. The motion was 2nd by Ray Tsuyuki, M/S/A.

Gary shared that prior to the tournament, he had replaced the boards that were broken and had eliminated the card decks that were skipping when placed into the dealing machine.

Old/Continuing Business

Saturday Game

Bunny shared that reservations are working well overall, and that thus far we have had only one no-show pair for a game.

There was discussion as to how to improve attendance at the Saturday game. It was agreed that announcing the Saturday game at all games was important to do. It was suggested that possibly we create a data base of those players who have come to a Saturday game and of those players that we believe might be interested in playing and contact them via emails.

We have planned to host the Saturday game until the end of July, and that we may need to halt the game at that time due to the revenue loss that we are incurring. This will be discussed again next month. It was suggested that possibly we could begin again in the winter, Jan. 2027, if we can find a location that has rent fees that are less than what we are currently paying.

The board agreed that Gary should be paid for his director time for the tournament, and Rosemary Reitz for directing at the recent Saturday game.

Review of Strawberry Tournament - Mark

Prior to the meeting Mark provided the board with a summary of the tournament with suggestions and comments from the "wrap-up" meeting, including a

Strawberry Sectional 2026 Summary -

- comparing table counts from previous years
- Summary of the suggestions for our next tournament

- And Mark's goal is to set the Strawberry Sectional date, reserve the venue (PVRPD) and get approved by ACBL before July 9. The venue reservation may be canceled within 91 days of the event date and the 50% deposit is returned minus the $25 administration fee.

Raeann specially recognized Mark's effort and dedication in making the tournament a success. The board was in unanimous agreement.

Mark is ready to move forward in securing the PVRD location for 2027. His hope is to move the event to April, instead of May. He says that he is aware of planning the event so that it does not conflict with other tournaments - Sacramento, etc.

Other topics of discussion were:

- Number of directors needed
- Fewer players - 49er and 299er why?
- Requirement of players to be an ACBL player or guest
- Was there enough advertisement and encouragement given to 49ers and 299ers?

Due to the lack of time, it was decided to hold another separate meeting to discuss the Harvest Festival, Sept. 18-19. Raeann will coordinate with Mark, and then the board as to when this meeting might occur this month.

Mark shared that he plans to meet with Tish, the president of the Santa Barbara Bridge Club, and asked for someone to possibly go with him and meet with her and play bridge. They want to discuss the coordination of when tournaments are held so as to not conflict.

Birthday Cake
Raeann shared her frustration with the decision that was made at the last meeting to discontinue with the monthly birthday cake celebration; feeling it was a personal affront to her effort to make our game a more "fun"environment. Suzanne apologized that Raeann had felt that it was handled inappropriately. Gerri suggested that we could change the concept to a "Membership Appreciation" cake, and Kay suggested that we could have a smaller cake and plan to serve the cake on only one day alleviating the need to serve the cake on multiple days. It was agreed that this month, we could do informal inquiries with members to determine if having a monthly birthday celebration is in fact something that they look forward to/enjoy.

New Business

Voting for Tuesday and Thursday starting times

Will occur on the day that the awards are presented. The ballot has been prepared allowing members to select that the Tuesday and Thursday game can begin at 12:00, or remain at 12:30, or a member can select that they do not have a preference for the start time.

Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs Presentation

Will be held on June 24, Raeann requested assistance with the awards presentation. Jim volunteered to set up extra tables as directed by Raeann.

Stan's Celebration of Life

This will be held on June 17 at 11:00am. Bunny has been in contact with Stan's family. Jim will speak with TBT staff about extra tables to be set up. Bunny offered to be responsible for the desserts that will be provided that day. Raeann asked for individuals to come prepared with stories or comments that might be shared that day. She also announced this at the game.

Ice Cream Social

The theme game will be held on July 23. Susan is creating a flyer to advertise the special day.

July Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on July 7th at 10:30am.

Hospitality Sat. June 13th

Bunny volunteered to be responsible for hospitality for this week.

President Raeann Koerner adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Brenner, Secretary.