

Unit 547 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2026
Zoom Meeting

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

Absent: Ray Tsuyuki

Guest: Mark Eckhout

The meeting was called to order by Bunny Raymond at 3:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Gerri Knilans to approve the minutes from April 15, 2026 and 2nd by Jim Wall, M/S/A.

The main goal for the meeting was to discuss our Saturday Bridge game at Camarillo PVRD. Last Saturday was the first game, with 9 full tables in a space that was configured for 6. Ultimately there were 7 tables in the main library area, and two by the side wall near the bathrooms. It was quickly discovered that there was not adequate power supplied in the area we were going to use, but that was remedied.

Gerri recognized Bunny for her efforts that day for welcoming the players and assisting in ensuring that everyone was as comfortable as possible.

It is important to note that on this day, there was another significant event being held at the center that impacted the parking on that day, making for initially a more stressful environment for all in attendance.

It was decided to provide an opportunity for all in attendance at the meeting to share their opinions regarding the Saturday game.

The Pros were:

- It is important for us to try to facilitate having a Saturday game
- To have the game be well attended
- For the game to be profitable, or at least break even
- Camarillo is a good location
- The game was well attended with many players coming from South of Camarillo, and many who are not regular players to our club
- The ability to offer a game for those players that may work during the week and cannot attend a game that we currently offer

The Cons were:

- Our current lack of directors who can run our game on Saturday
- The possibility of players coming to a game to find out that we have had to cancel because we do not have adequate coverage with directors
- Not having one person who is responsible for hospitality responsibilities
- No storage available at the current Camarillo location
- The requirement to ensure all necessary materials make their way to the game site
- We did not have many players from Camarillo as we had anticipated

Other considerations to consider were the hope to possibly offer a game on Fridays somewhere, and possibly offer a teaching bridge class on a Saturday if space was available.

Gary shared that Diane Gunther had attended the game, and decided that she did not think that directing was going to be something that she wanted to pursue. He was hopeful that she might reconsider her decision at some future time.

Gary will inquire with Diane if it might be an option for us to have our Saturday game at the Conejo Valley Adult Education center where she currently teaches bridge classes.

Gary had spoken with Jeff Goldberg regarding directing, and Jeff was interested if he could also play at the same time. This is not something that we believe is in the best interests of the game unless it was a unique situation.

It was suggested that we could possibly attempt to recruit someone at one of the colleges or universities in the area to consider becoming a director.

Raeann did clarify that she did send the most recent Pianola to a larger radius than what she typically does.

Mark shared that he had signed a new contract with PVRD, which can be cancelled at any time, to provide us with a larger space to eliminate the situation that occurred at the first game.

We then brainstormed how to potentially deal with the increased costs:

- We could ask our members for contributions to help us cover the increased costs as we attempt to get the game going on a regular basis.
- We could raise the card fee to \$10.00
- We could stay with the original room that we contracted for and limit the

- number of players to what the room can hold
- We could change the current plan of a game on every Saturday, to possibly just the 1st and 3rd Saturday, or have no game on the 4th Saturday of the month

The new contract will have the game in the multipurpose room, but on the 4th Saturday of the month we cannot use that room. We will have to utilize a different space, at this time it has been suggested this will be a classroom - Room 6- which has its limitations - no water / sink in the room. It was suggested that this could be workable by bringing in jugs of water and/or filling up containers from the drinking fountain.

It was discussed that having consistency of a game on every Saturday would be preferable to the other options discussed.

Recognizing that PVRD is not the “perfect fit”, that reviewing some other options should be revisited. For example Conejo Valley Adult Education, Ventura Adult and Career Education building, the Goebel Center, and Camarillo Freedom Center. Mark will review his notes and make any necessary contact for additional information.

In summary our two major issues are:

1. Availability of directors
2. The costs of the current location and how to proceed

Gary will create a director schedule for May, June, and July and fill in when it is best for his schedule to work. Then he will check with Rosemary Reitz and Don Cline to see if they will commit to any of the open dates.

Craig will speak with Peter Knee and Jeff Goldberg to determine their interest and availability for directing.

Gary did clarify that Aaron Zaidoff may be interested in becoming a director, and Raeann stated that Nancy Hall had said that she was willing to direct as well.

A motion was made by Jim Wall to approve the current contract with PRVP to utilize the multipurpose room at the increased cost, which can be cancelled at any time, the motion was 2nd by Gerri Knilans, M/S/A.

It was decided to keep the game fee at \$8.00 for the 3 months originally planned for.

Mark was asked to negotiate to utilize Room 6, or another space, for the 4th Saturday of the month.

The game is planned and prepared for on May 16th. Hospitality will be coordinated by Gerri on the 16th, and by Kay on the 23rd.

Raeann agreed to send out a Pianola tonight to let players know that we did in fact have a larger facility planned for the May 9th game.

Mark requested that he have a point of contact that he can go to when he is in need of an immediate decision, as occurred after our first game. It was determined that under those circumstances, he should speak with Raeann or Bunny when in need of immediate decisions.

Next Board Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on May 19th, at 10:30 a.m. at Temple Beth Torah. If anyone can come by 10:00 to assist Jim in the room set-up that would be appreciated.

President, Raeann Koerner, adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Brenner, Secretary.