

International City, Unit 159, of the ACBL
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
April 10, 2026

Call to Order

With a quorum present, President Gustavo Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Present were:

- President, Gustavo Gonzalez
- Bill Hickman, Vice-President
- Renee O'Donnell, Secretary
- Lucy Pfirman, Board Member
- Dr. Lorraine O'Donnell, District 17 Representative
- Ashley Erwin, Advisor to the President
- Scott Norris, Unit 159 Manager

Absent:

- None

President's Comments:

Old Business.

Gustavo remarked that the BOD's October Membership meeting minutes still need approval. Ashley reminded the BOD that the membership will approve the October minutes the next time the membership meets, which will be on Saturday, May 30, 2026. The BOD took no action on this item.

Approval of Minutes:

Gustavo called on Secretary to discuss minutes from the meetings of January 7 and February 18, 2026. Renee reported that she sent minutes via email and that all BOD members accepted the minutes as emailed. Lucy moved that the BOD approve the minutes as emailed, and Renee seconded the motion. Minutes were approved for both meetings without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

Since Treasurer, Christy Horton, resigned from the BOD, Gustavo has been serving as interim treasurer. Mr. Gonzalez presented a detailed report on revenues vs. expenses for March 2026. Net revenues for March were \$2050. Total expenses were \$2,376. Net income to Unit 159 was \$2,674 due to a generous donation of \$3000. As of March 2026, club cash assets equal \$59,015. Renee moved the BOD approve the treasurer's report with Lucy seconding the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

Carpet. At the last BOD meeting, the BOD discussed that the wrinkles in the carpet are a safety risk to our members, and that the Unit should replace the carpet. Discussion followed after Gustavo shared information about the cost of replacing the carpet. He obtained quotes from three carpet vendors in El Paso for rolled carpet vs. carpet squares. Renee moved that Unit 159 install new carpet at the club. Lucy seconded the motion, and BOD approved the motion without dissent. Bill Hickman moved that Unit 159 purchase Scoreboard II, Touch Dowd 00 402, rolled carpet. Lucy seconded motion and it passed. Installation will occur the first weekend in May.

Club Signage.

Gustavo informed the BOD that he has researched the signage needed at the club in regard to the new no alcohol policy. Renee moved that we accept the signage Gustavo proposed. The signage will state that Unit 159 is a fragrance, alcohol, and smoke-free club. Two 11x17 inch signs will be posted in the front and back rooms. Bill seconded the motion and the motion passed without dissent.

Board Vacancies.

The continued search for new BOD members was not successful, so Gustavo informed the Board that he is proposing we amend the Bylaws allowing four BOD members to serve on the Board instead of six. Ashley drafted the changes to the Bylaws as presented under New Business below.

New Business:

Bylaws Modification.

Ashley Erwin, Advisor to the President, explained his recommendations regarding Bylaw changes.

- **Page 1. Article I, Designation, Section 2** - Delete phrase in first sentence that states, *“is a subsidiary of the League”*. First sentence should read, *“The Unit has a charter agreement with the League to operate sanctioned Bridge games and tournaments; recognizes the League as the organization having authority and control over tournament Bridge in the United States; exists under the sanction of the League and functions within the Constitution, Bylaws and regulations of the League.”*
- **Page 2. Article VII, Unit Board of Directors, Section 1, General** - Delete six (6) persons to read, *“shall consist of four (4) persons...”*
- **Page 2. Article VII, Unit Board of Directors, Section 2, (a) Term of Office** - Delete three (3) to read *“shall be for (2) years with two (2) directors being elected each year.*
- **Page 3. Article VII, Unit Board of Directors, Section 7, Quorum** - Delete phrase in sentence one that states *“...for the transaction of business shall consist of no fewer than four (4) voting directors physically present”*. Last sentence in this section, delete *“four (4).”* Change sentence one to read as follows: *“A quorum of the Board of Directors is needed for the transaction of business. A quorum is reached when a majority of active Board members is present.”*
- **Page 4. Article VIII, Unit Officers, Section 2, Election** - Add as the last sentences in this section: *“The Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Directors from its own membership;*

however, the duties of the Treasurer may be delegated to a person in the membership at large, or contracted to a qualified bookkeeper/accountant. With the exception of the Position of President, the Board position of Treasurer may be combined with another officer position.

- **Page 4, Article VIII, Unit Officers Section 3, Vacancies** - Add, *“(See Article VII, Section 5 above)”*.
- **Page 5, Article VIII, Unit Officers Section 4c, Duties** - Add introductory paragraph that says, *“There shall be a Board member designated as Treasurer, whether the duties are contracted or not. If the duties are contracted out, the designated Treasurer shall be responsible for oversight of the designated bookkeeper/accountant and to ensure the contracted duties are clearly defined. The duties of the Treasurer/accountant are the following:*

1. Shall be the custodian of the funds and securities of the unit...

Add #2 to read: “All Unit expenditures in the form of checks shall require two (2) signatures, one of which is from a Board Member.”

Renee moved the BOD accept changes to the Bylaws as Ashley recommended. Bill seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to accept changes and to bring them forward for membership approval at the May 30th membership meeting.

Snacks.

Gustavo commented that some directors feel pressure to provide snacks for the Unit games. BOD discussed and agreed it is not the directors' responsibility to bring snacks. Participants at the unit games usually volunteer to bring snacks. No action taken.

September Sectional.

Gustavo discussed the possibility of suspending the September Sectional since the labor and expense to hold the sectional outweigh the advantages. Discussion ensued. BOD mentioned having a special game in September that could be combined with a fundraiser to benefit the unit. Bill moved we suspend the September Sectional and hold a Unit Championship instead that will also serve as a fundraiser on September 5. Renee seconded and motion passed. Gustavo will present suspending the September sectional to the membership at the membership meeting on Saturday, May 30th.

Hi-Lo Games

Gustavo informed the Board that these games are not well attended. BOD discussed ideas on how to improve the format. Lorraine O'Donnell suggested we form a committee to create a more balanced Hi-Lo game. Renee moved that a committee consisting of Lorraine, Renee and Scott work on creating a new game format pairing developing players with experienced players possibly providing opportunities for mentoring. Lucy seconded the motion and it passed.

Saturday Game Participation.

Item will be discussed at a later date.

Club Manager Report.

No report submitted.

Non-Members Requesting to Address BOD.

Since the start of the year, non-members have not requested addressing the BOD.

D17 Meeting Information by Representative, Lorraine O'Donnell

Lorraine O'Donnell provided a comprehensive advisory council report. Following are the highlights:

- Growth of ACBL membership continues to be the number one priority of the organization.
- ACBL management identified five strategic pillars to expand growth: (1) Retain existing members; (2) Broaden participation ensuring diversity; (3) Collect accurate data on lapsed members undergirding outreach to this group; (4) Track and recognize member engagement through the Sapphire Program; (5) Recognize that engagement with guest members within the first sixty days is the most critical time in converting guests to permanent members.
- Online cheating continues to be a problem for the ACBL as it undermines the integrity of the game.
- Financially, the ACBL for 2025 fiscal year finds itself in a stable position. Net assets increased by \$1.367 million to a year-end total of \$12.58 million. Operating revenue finished below budget (shortfall due to decline in club table fees) but was offset by strong NABC performance and steady membership dues. Total expenses finished 99.2K under budget ensuring a positive bottom line.
- Various committees reported:
 - Appeals and Charges Committee;
 - Real Deal Update: See <https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/realdeal>; and,
 - The Communications Committee.

Next Meeting.

Next meeting will be the Membership Meeting on Saturday, May 30th, time to be announced.

Adjournment.

With no further business to discuss, Lucy moved the meeting be adjourned, and Bill seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 11:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee O'Donnell, Secretary

May 22, 2026
Date Approved by the BOD
Renee O'Donnell