Board of Directors Meeting

ACBL Unit 178 (Viking)

July 15, 2025

Preliminary, pending board approval

The meeting was held online via Zoom

Called to order at 4:48 by Keith Thompson

Attending
Board Members: Keith Thompson, President; Sue Sanger, VP; Jane Schmidt, acting secretary; Teri Blu; Marilou Doerrie; Todd Flowerday; Jenny Peterson
Others: Vicky Smith, Treasurer; Steve Gaynor; Patti Stuhlman

Agenda:

1. Minutes of previous meeting (6/19/25).
   No comments, corrections, etc. Jenny moved to approve, seconded by Marylou. Approved, unopposed

2. Financial Report was accepted.
   A CD is up for renewal, Vicky took care of it.
   The Board approved a check to Second Harvest for $858 ($176 from entry fees, $682 in cash donations). Additional $125 in checks made directly to Second Harvest brings the total donations to $983.

3. Request from Patti Stuhlman for subsidy for 2026 Nationals
   Patti asks that each MN unit sponsor a day for $1000, as this will give her leverage for other requests.
   Jane pointed out that the Gopher and Aquatennial tournaments will be cancelled next year, so the Unit budget will be impacted significantly. We discussed holding the Aquatennial Sectional during the week that would be the Gopher. Patti is looking at that week for another fundraiser for the Nationals. <u>Keith</u> will see if the week is available.
   Todd moved to approve the request, Sue seconded. Motion passed unopposed.
   Patti expressed thanks. She is also asking clubs to sponsor a game.

4. Tom Botten's memorial service will be Thursday, July 16. Keith requests Board members to attend.

5. Recap on Aquatennial tournament
   Net proceeds from the tournament were about $1000.

The St Paul Bridge Center would have lower rent, and higher table count. On the other hand, Maple Grove has nicer facilities (larger space, better rest rooms, 1st floor location), and drew more players from St Cloud and even Mankato. Construction was a problem, and there was no access to the kitchen.
Tom Botten was tournament chair, and his death caused enormous problems. Sue and Todd stepped in, but there were issues with communication with the venue. Sue proposed a checklist for tournament chairs. Keith also advocated for a cochair with no specific duties, but to be copied on all communications. A cochair would also provide training for persons considering chairing a tournament. No action was taken.

6. Board
Question was raised about adding to the Board; one person was named who might be interested. This was supported without opposition.
As Keith is now President, we need a VP. Sue volunteered, if no computer assignments are involved. Todd moved, Teri seconded that Sue be VP; passed unopposed.
We also need a secretary, as Jane has resigned. There were no volunteers. We discussed recording the meetings, or rotating the duties or having a paid secretary. Todd volunteered to take minutes of the next meeting.

Future meetings will be at 4:45 on the third Wednesday of the month; i.e., Aug 20, Sept 24*, Oct 15, Nov 19, and Dec 17. *Sept meeting will have to be rescheduled due to the October Sectional. The Aug 20 meeting will be f2f at the Edina Senior Center after the game.

7. Club Directors
Some names were discussed of people who might be interested.
Other directors are available in an emergency. There is a spare computer in Edina that has been set up for use by backup directors.
Jenny is helping in the new game on Friday to get experience.
Paid directors might help; they would be paid by the Clubs rather than the Unit.
Efforts to recruit new directors will continue.

Marilou Doerrie had to leave at this point.

8. Subsidies for special games
Keith had preliminary assessment, comparing table counts in Unit 178 to those in St Paul. Through 4 months (Feb-May), St Paul was down about 10% compared to last year, while West Metro was down 5%. Total table was equal in 2025, while St Paul had about 50 more tables in 2024.
Sue asked for a head-to-head comparison of a single game, i.e., NAP qualifier, between the last year and this.
Sue moved that the subsidies be suspended until we see the impact. There was no second.
Teri moved to continue the subsidies through Aug. Passed 4-1.

9. Incentive program to get players in non-sanctioned games to our clubs
   Unit 249 (SW Ontario, ~1100 members) offers 100 free plays to such players every 4 months, which directors give out at non-sanctioned games.
   Keith knows of at least 5 non-sanctioned clubs in the area.
   Due to the late hour, this was deferred to the next meeting.

Next meeting: Wed, Aug 20, at the Edina Senior Center following the game.

Actions:

	Action	**Responsible**	**Update**
1	Contact lapsed members, update online list	All	Ongoing
2	Challenge Match proposal	Todd	No change
3	Meet with Unit 103 on details of possible merger	Sue, Keith, Todd	On-going
4	Draft questionnaire on table fees	Keith	Pending
5	Recruit new directors	All	On-going
6	Report on success of subsidized table fees to board	Keith	
7	Day-to-day comparison of table counts	Jane	
8	Identify week for Aquatennial Sectional 2026	Keith	