

## **RABA Board Meeting Minutes July 1, 2025**

Present [via zoom] @ 5:00 pm:

### **Preliminaries**

Denise Slattery, Jill Miller, Margie Spence, Ken Kallio, Gerry Steenberge, Barb Shapiro, Dave LaTart, Michael Kirschen, Doug Bradley, and Jim Patton - Ex Officio

Denise Slattery moved, and Gerry Steenberge seconded, a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 15, 2025 Board meeting. Minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Election of New President**

Denise Slattery moved for a vote electing Ken Kallio as President for the remainder of the term of Denise Slattery - Motion carried by acclamation, and Ken Kallio was elected President for the term that will run through the end of September.

Ken will send out an email announcement of his acceptance of the RABA presidency and Denise's departure from that role due to health issues, while remaining on the board.

### **July Sectional**

Jill Miller as Tournament Chair intends to address the participants at the sectional with a variety of greetings, comments, and thanks.

Jill led the discussion on the Sectional. Graham will bring the tables from the storage unit. Dave LaTart will help with setup at the Gates Recreation Center. Jim and Ken confirmed they could help with setup; more people will be recruited. Arrival for setup, coffee prep at 8:30 am. There was a reminder of supplying cream cheese, bagels and donuts, with separate orders made each day.

Ken Kallio indicated he would make a brief statement about upcoming elections during the tournament's introductory remarks.

Margie Spence will assume responsibilities as Hospitality Chair with Elaine Badain and Kathy George providing support. Denise noted they previously ordered 5 dozen donuts and 4 dozen bagels, though they could potentially reduce these quantities. The board opted to pre-order subs probably without beverages or chips. Attendees would purchase colored tickets (corresponding to their chosen sub) in advance. Margie agreed to research prices and delivery options. She will coordinate with Elaine regarding sub orders, while the group was hoping to keep the price under \$10 per sub. The subs need to be delivered well before they are served so there is no disruption to the bridge game. Salvatores and Firehouse are two possible sub shops.

### **The RABA and the Unit 112 elections by October 1.**

The board agreed to continue using Simply Voting for the upcoming election. (It was noted that most regular bridge players have email addresses; our current email engagement rate is unusually high at 60-65%. Email is the best way to reach the most people.) Jim offering to either manage it himself or train someone else to take over for future elections. Ken agreed to take the lead on transitioning someone to handle the election process, with Jim providing support.

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Three candidates will be elected this fall. Several candidates were discussed for the RABA Board openings.

#### **Unit 112 elections**

There are plans to hold elections for two Unit 112 board director positions in September, with Jim Patton and Ken Kallio confirming their willingness to run. The election will use the same Simply Voting ballot as the RABA election.

#### **Plaque and Awards**

The 2024 RABA Goodwill Player award used the 24<sup>th</sup> and last available spot on the plaque. After discussion of various options, the Board voted [with one dissenting vote] to purchase a larger plaque to accommodate all the award recipients on a single plaque. Plaques with a capacity of 36 or 40 names make the most sense. We can transfer the existing 24 names to the new plaque. They voted to change the plaque's header to "RABA Goodwill Player of the Year" without mentioning Phil and Shirley Jenkins. The board unanimously decided to continue presenting certificates suitable for framing to award recipients instead of individual plaques. Barb Shapiro volunteer to create the certificates. Margie Spence agreed to contact Penfield Trophy about a new plaque and will report back on costs. There was consensus, with Jill's acknowledgement of sufficient funds, that RABA would cover plaque expenses up to \$500.

Margie Spence departed at 6:58 to play bridge.

#### **Fall Tournament Planning and Leadership**

The Board discussed plans for the fall sectional tournament. Margie Spence is the Tournament Chair, and Jill Miller is the Hospitality Chair. Jim Patton agreed to be partnership chair again, and Barb Shapiro will start to work on a draft flyer. The flyer is generally sent out about 5 or 6 weeks prior to the Sectional, so waiting until after the July sectional allows time to finalize details particularly reviewing the sub sandwich experience.

#### **Next RABA Board Meeting is August 5, at 5-6 pm**

**Last Item:** There will be new chairs for the Finger Lake Regional for the next two years, subject to District 4 approval. Gerry Steenberge will serve as Chair in 2026, and Ken Kallio will chair in 2027. A committee was formed to recommend a venue for the next regional tournament, including Mary Miller, Roger Wooden, Gus Garnsey, Ken Kallio and Betty Youmans.

Denise Slattery moved to adjourn the meeting, Jill Miller seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:

Michael Kirschen  
Secretary