

RABA Board Minutes

August 5, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

Present [via zoom]: Denise Slattery, Margie Spence, Ken Kallio, Gerry Steenberge, Barb Shapiro, Dave LaTart, Michael Kirschen, Jill Miller, Doug Bradley (guest) and Jim Patton (*Ex Officio*).

Approval of Minutes: Denise Slattery moved, Barb Shapiro seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2025, meeting. Unanimously approved.

RABA Elections: Ken will utilize the Simply Voting website, and Jim Patton advised that it could be tested with five or six voters, for free. Three candidates for the three open board seats were identified. There was discussion about recruiting an additional candidate.

There are two candidates for the unit election - Ken Kallio and Jim Patton. The election results will be announced at the annual membership meeting which takes place at the Fall Sectional, ideally before the first session on Saturday to include as many members as possible.

Summer Sectional Report: Jill Miller reported a profit of \$756. The number of tables in both Sections was lower than anticipated. The Open Section dropped from 68 to 57 tables (16%) and the NLM Section dropped from 19 tables to 12 tables (37%). There was a general discussion of how to get NLM players to come to the sectionals. There were suggestions to have Roger and perhaps Ken have a conversation on Tuesdays on what might encourage NLM players to participate in sectional tournaments.

Jim Patton noted that the Spring Sectional is the largest in terms of participation, next in size is the Summer Sectional and the smallest is the Fall Sectional. He also noted that we lose about 10% of our sectional players each year.

It was noted that in 2023 for the NLM we had 16 1/2 tables, in 2024 we had 15 1/2 tables, and 8 1/2 tables in 2025. The Open Pairs have remained somewhat steady over the same periods - 31 tables in 2023; 29 in 2024, and 31 in 2025.

In trying to assess reasons for the decline of NLM participants, Jim Patton will ask Brian Meyer for a download from the ABCL for the past two years, so that an analysis by Gerry Steenberge might be accomplished.

Fall Sectional Planning: After considering options for improving attendance at the lesson, the lesson time will remain at 9:15. Mary Miller was identified as someone we could ask to offer a lesson at a future sectional. Most discussion focused on the Sunday lunch offering. After review of feedback (mixed reviews) from the summer sectional, consideration was given to offering sub sandwiches again, but at a lower price. Some players stated the sub sandwiches weren't as expected, but players seemed to appreciate the convenience of having lunch provided on Sunday. Jim Patton pointed out that

perhaps half the sectionals in District 4 provide a free lunch but then charge \$18 per session. We agreed that this would not be palatable.

There was a consensus that we should charge \$8 for Sunday lunch. Jim Patton will work with Barb on the wording of the flyer with respect to the cost and lunch choice for Sunday. The food choice and preordering will be decided by Jill and Margie.

Financial Report: Jill reported that the fourth quarter results were included in the end-of-year report. Our actual revenues for 2024-25 were \$3,183.63 (later corrected to \$3182.39) and our expenses totaled \$3,212.35 (later corrected to \$3211.35) for a net loss of \$28.76 (later corrected to \$29.96). Gerry Steenberge will be asked to do another audit when time allows in a couple of months. We essentially broke even this year. Income was \$900 less than budgeted, and miscellaneous expenses were about \$500 more, primarily due to the replacement of the award plaque.

Proposed Budget for 2025-26: Jill presented the proposed budget to the board. She recommended adjusting expected revenue to better match our results from the current year. This included reducing anticipated income from the summer sectional from \$1400 to \$1000, and to \$800 for the fall sectional. She proposed increasing the stipend for the webmaster by \$100 per year to recognize Doug's important role in communicating with the membership. We share the cost of the storage shed with Unit 112, and the cost is currently \$837 per year. A new line allocating \$250 for the cost of using Simply Voting for our election was added to the budget. After noting that miscellaneous expenses will be lower in 2025-26, having purchased a new plaque this year, the proposed budget projects a net gain of \$200 for 2025-26. Denise Slattery moved to approve the proposed budget and was seconded by Dave LaTart. The motion passed unanimously.

Goodwill Player Award: Ken Kallio noted that the new plaque is now on the wall at TBK, with thanks to Margie and Jill for that project.

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2025-26: Ken Kallio asked for comment on a list of proposed meeting dates. The November meeting date was moved to November 11 - Veterans Day, when we will need to elect RABA officers and select tournament chairs for the 2026 tournaments. The RABA election will run from September 17 to October 1, 2025. The February meeting would consider preparing for the Spring sectional, as well as the end of the second quarter. The May meeting will be after the spring sectional and the end of the 3rd quarter.

Jill Miller asked if the minutes could be distributed sooner after each meeting so they can be reviewed in a timely manner.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Kirschen
Secretary