

**Louisiana Bridge Association
BOD Meeting Minutes
January 2026**

DATE: January 12, 2026

Meeting called to order at: 1:30

Attending: Keenan Romig, John Hurley, Glenn Barnett, Charles Waldrop, Vicki Willis, Mike Russell, Sherrie Goodman, Beth Bayer, Hans Jonassen, Carolyn Stolz and Newt Jackson

Also Present: Sid LeBlanc and Judy Rowley

Minutes of December, 2025 meeting were approved.

Judy Rowley and Beth Bayer presented proposals for building repairs and replacing carpet. The board asked them to provide more information on costs and other options. The matter will be revisited. Judy left at conclusion of this section.

New Officers: The following were elected for one-year terms:

President: Newt Jackson

Vice President: Vicki Willis

Treasurer: John Hurley

Membership Secretary: Sherrie Goodman

Recording Secretary: Mike Russell

Keenan relinquished control of meeting to the new president. Newt thanked Keenan for her leadership during an especially difficult year. Thanks were also expressed to Sid for his years of service and leadership and to Sherrie for an outstanding job leading the recent tournament,

Sid turned over documents that were in his safe-keeping and keys to the club's safe deposit box.

Financial: Sid presented the December financial reports showing a profit for the year of \$28,602.45. BBO numbers were not yet available and were entered into the report as an estimate to be corrected when they are received. The message again is that BBO funds will continue to shrink as they take a larger and larger share of the entry fee for playing. He prepared a budget for 2026 and it has been entered into Quickbooks.

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Sid turned over the financial chair to John and left the meeting. He was applauded on his way out.

John laid out a general picture of his goals as treasurer. He was part of the audit committee this year and will work to implement suggestions that were made by that team. Some of the items touched on were a transition to web-based version of Quickbooks, recruit new members for audit committee, create a budget committee, find an assistant treasurer (Carolyn Stolz volunteered), find a bank that will provide digital support to Quickbooks, and set-up departments on chart of accounts.

Club Manager: Turnout for tournament was excellent, especially the 499'er participation. In the past the club hosted Sectional tournament for 499'ers. If the participation of 499'ers continues for our next tournament in July the board will consider hosting a 499 Sectional again. Beth will talk with Jackson and Gulfport clubs regarding their success hosting 499 tournaments.

Installing a monthly Saturday Swiss game will be studied and promoted. Swiss participants, especially players who have week-day jobs, have expressed interest.

At this point the club has not received any funds for our RealBridge games. Sherrie reports that the company has been overwhelmed by participation and is gearing up to meet the demands of play and administration. LBA has not made any payments to directors for these games, so our cash flow has not been impacted.

Sherrie again stressed that the fee structure, in terms of payment to participating clubs is much better at RealBridge vs BBO. She also reiterated that we receive nothing from BBO when players from our club play in ACBL online games instead of club games.

Recruitment: Newt proposed, and the board agreed, that the Vice President position takes on responsibility for recruiting club members to various committees that are necessary for operating the club. As examples, finding members who will serve as tournament chairs and workers. Vicki said her focus would be on gathering members from all experience levels so that the club has a pipeline of experience for future operations.

Maintenance: Charles has agreed to be the head of Maintenance and Beth has agreed to assist. Several items are at top of their list – leaking door/mold being the most prominent. Jackie has asked to be relieved of monitoring janitorial services; Beth and Charles will review options for contracting this service and take on that responsibility.

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Building Rental: Currently the club rents the use of the building to other organizations for a fee. A local AA Chapter has asked to use the building every day starting at 7:00AM and out by 8:30. They would pay a rental fee and be responsible for leaving the building in suitable shape for our games to start.

The board has agreed to the concept, subject to negotiation on several points. Currently on the table is a trial period of 3 months, a rental fee of \$500/mo and a liaison person responsible for assuring the premises are left in order each day.

Education: The Education committee met on Friday January 9th to finalize first set of 2026 classes. The AM Beginner Bridge class is projected to be very small; the PM has 20 pre-registered. John Federico will teach 10 sessions on Defense starting Feb 4th. A flyer will be produced and published. Wayne will teach 4 Saturday sessions on Bridge Tips. Dates have not been firmed up but will be after Mardi Gras. Saturday, March 21st will be 8 IS Enough Swiss game; BOD members have been urged to organize teams.

The committee asked the board to consider creating a ceiling on the \$5 per student per class fee that goes to the club to cover use of the facilities. The board discussed and was not in agreement to that proposal. If the total amount becomes an issue in the future, the matter would be revisited.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:30

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Russell, Recording Secretary