

**New Hampshire Bridge Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Proposed Minutes
July 16, 2025**

The quarterly meeting of the New Hampshire Bridge Association Board of Directors was called to order by President William Kennedy at 7:00 p.m.

Other members of the Board in attendance were:

Mary Barry, Sharon Beaty, Lucia Carlisle, Alan Carpenter, Donna Devlin, Sharon Kace, David Lawrence, John Pieper, Merrick Weinstein

Invited guests: Adam Parrish and Sue Miguel - candidates for Regional Director

Bill Kennedy opened the meeting by introducing and welcoming our guests. He then asked our guests to limit their remarks to approximately five (5) minutes; after both candidates have had their opportunity to address the Board, the floor would be open for questions.

Adam spoke about the present difficult time of the Bridge world; state that we need to embrace technology to adjust to the what is happening in the world now and in the future. Also stated that there are three areas he believes ACBL needs to focus on: recruitment, education and retainment.

Sue spoke of the exciting plans already planned by the ACBL. She then outlined her extensive background throughout the Duplicate Bridge world and her plans to continue to improve the experience for all interested parties. She also mentioned the changing world and stated one of her philosophies: "If we have always done it a particular way, it's wrong."

The floor was opened for a Q&A session with lively participation.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Sharon Kace took this opportunity to thank Mary Barry, one of the new directors, for volunteering to perform the duties of the Secretary at the Annual Meeting while Sharon was out of the country. The minutes presented were clear and concise; an excellent job.

Sharon also explained the process she uses to be sure that the minutes of the Board meetings are accurate; the draft minutes are sent to the entire Board

asking for any additions, deletions or corrections. Prior to the next meeting, Board members receive the corrected minutes which should be read for accuracy prior to the acceptance vote.

Minutes of the last Board meeting (taken by Mary Barry) were sent to the entire Board of Directors by Secretary Sharon Kace prior to this meeting. David Lawrence requested a change under New Business which was written by Sharon and accepted as correct by David.

Motion made by Lucia Carlisle to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by John Pieper. Motion passed with one abstaining.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report ending June 30 was sent to the entire Board of Directors by Treasurer Lucia Carlisle prior to this meeting. There was one addition since the report was sent and that was the addition of the tournament table count requested by a member at the Annual Meeting.

Motion made by Sharon Kace to accept the report as written; seconded by John Pieper. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report

Our President Bill Kennedy reported that NHBA (Unit 150) presently has 504 members which makes this unit third largest in the district behind Connecticut and EMBA (Eastern Massachusetts Bridge Association).

State Tournament

Question asked regarding the color of Master Points; it was explained that according to ACBL rules Sectionals may award Silver; Regional may award gold and National may award red & gold. John explained that the State Tournament is by invitation only; if it were open to all, different color MPs could be awarded.

Lucia explained that the evening meal is a major expense. She recommended that we eliminate the dinner and substitute with hors

d'oeuvres. There was discussion about the venue and the possibility of a change to encourage larger participation.

Lucia asked that we think about these possibilities; discuss and vote on them at the next meeting.

At the Annual Meeting, Kathy Benjamin questioned the cost of the trophies. This has been discussed over the past few years and decided the attraction of the trophies was worth the expense. The cost involving the large State Trophy is minuscule as it is just the small label of the State winner that gets attached to the trophy.

Keene Tournament

Due to John Pieper's injury, Sharon Beaty is working with John as the temporary Tournament Manager. This tournament is scheduled for August 16-17 at the Elks Club. All details have been taken care of including upgrading food to help increase attendance. Flyer has already been sent to ACBL for distribution.

Fall Foliage Tournament - Grantham

Scheduled for September 20-21. According to Jane Verdrager, Tournament Manager, all details have been completed.

Miscellaneous Tournament Information

It was suggested that the large State Trophy be displayed at the other tournaments as positive public relations. Members of the Board agreed.

Mary Barry has the schedule for all the New Hampshire tournaments for the next several years ... this information is attached to these minutes.

She also reminded the Board that due to the retirement of Jane Verdrager, we need to discuss at our next meeting the change of manager and venue for the Fall Foliage Tournament.

Next meeting: October 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Motion by Sharon Kace and second by John Pieper to adjourn this meeting. Unanimous acceptance. Meeting adjourned by the president at 8:34 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Sharon S. Kace
NHBA Secretary

See attachment below

Attachment to 7/16/25 Board of Directors Meeting:

Future NH Tournaments
provided by Mary Barry

Confirming for 2025:
August 16/17: Keene – Flyer done – Gary Peterson Director

September 20/21: Grantham – Flyer done – Tim Hill Director
November 1/2: Portsmouth - Flyer done (confirm distribution process) – Gary Peterson requested

Confirming for 2026 (all flyers need revision):

April 11/12: Portsmouth; Tim Hill requested

August 8/9: Keene; Tim Hill requested

ACTION ITEM: September 26/27: Grantham? (this requires action by the Board as Jane will no longer be managing this tournament); Tim Hill requested

October 31/November 1: Portsmouth; Gary Peterson requested

Confirming for 2027 (all flyers will need revision):

Note: Gary Peterson has been requested for 2027 tournaments

April 3/4: Portsmouth

August 14/15: Keene

September 25/26: Grantham?

October 30/31: Portsmouth

Proposed dates for 2028

To be discussed at the October 15 NHBA Board Meeting.

(Tourney Trax scheduling calendar shows no conflicts as of July 16, 2025)

This requires Board review and approval for submission:

April 1/2: Portsmouth

August 12/13: Keene

September 23/24: Grantham?

October 28/29: Portsmouth