

NVBA Board Meeting December 14, 2025

Attendees as Board Members: President: Georgette Weiss; Vice President: Jay Simon; Treasurer: Ann Atcheson; Secretary: David Goldfrank; Joe Hertz; Hal Hindman; Hal Jones; Terry Jones.

Attendees as Non-Voting: Weekly Email Production: Daniel Morgan; Unit Game Director Jim Gerding.

9:34: Georgette called the meeting to order.

9:38: After some factual clarifications, approval of the draft minutes for the November 7, 2025, meeting.

9:39: Approval of the October 2025, and the November 2025 Treasurer's Reports.

9:40-9:44: Review of Action Items from the November 7 Meeting:

Georgette said that WBL does not wish to change its Unit Game date.

Georgette said that Jason made contact with the guest members on her older list; that she has a new list for Jason to contact; that Dan had made contact with the remaining teachers on her earlier list to give to new members, and that one teacher had dropped out.

David noted that that Jim Sandefur sees himself as the "coach" of the Georgetown student-players, not as a teacher to be listed as such.

Terry said that she will soon be circulated her draft welcoming letter for anyone who shows interest in playing with or joining us or finding a teacher and for our website.

9:44-9:48: Discussion of December 18 Unit Game/Holiday Party and General Meeting:

We set 5:30 to start our dining, and 6:00 to start the general meeting.

Joe will establish a zoom link for the meeting, which Dan will place in the Monday newsletter, and Jay will bring his computer.

Georgette and Jay clarified that two items will be in the agenda: the proposed constitutional changes and an update on the question of the location of the Unit Game if so needed.

9:48-11:00: The Question of the Future Location of the Unit Game: Beth El or St. Andrews?

Five issues figured in this discussion, of which the two most important were the linked finances and security; space, storage, and refreshments were also in play.

Ann noted that so long as we have only one hour of security at Beth El @ \$75/hr, which we have had for the past two Unit Games, that the cost of St. Andrews would be slightly higher. This is due to St. Andrews charging for bridge table and bidding box storage and not supplying coffee, plus added storage costs if we remove out 50 card tables and two long tables from Beth El. And since St. Andrews can accommodate only 21 bridge tables, we would have to secure a larger space for at least the Holiday Party Unit, and maybe another or two big events. St. Andrews could also be an added burden for check-writing and financial calculations, since the rental charge is not a flat fee, but 50% of the registration fee total—a fixed policy now, which Ann found to be non-negotiable. This arrangement does have the advantage that if attendance is small, the rent is lower, while if large, we take in for ourselves twice what the added rent would be.

The Beth El drawback, which generated a great deal of discussion, centered on security and costs in the light of the rising antisemitism and anti-Jewish violence evident in the US and globally even before, not to say after, 7 October 2023. Are we satisfied with just a normal 6-7pm security arrangement (5-7pm for the Holiday Party) and then doors locked, or do we wish to pay the extra \$300 for 6-11pm? And why on a non-Jewish service evening, seemingly an unlikely time for a violent attack on a synagogue, do we need security for just one hour and not for the other four. 7-11pm? What does WBL do at Ohr Kodesh Synagogue for its Thursday evening Unit Game? No special security whatsoever. for their Thursday evening Unit Game.

The cost of 6-11pm security at Beth-El would be \$300 more, if it required an extra \$6 per or \$22 total for registration, was seen as a non-starter, but the overall advantages of Beth El prevailed. In the end, taking upon ourselves at this point to represent our Unit, we held a Board vote to stay at Beth El for at least six months with just 6-7pm security and then doors locked. It carried with six ayes, one nay, and one abstention (also two absent).

11:00-11:03: Motion to change “Board and Committee Chair Position Descriptions 2026”:

Jay took care of the approved changes for now, but we need a committee to review and edit a 2026 version. Hal Jones and Dan Morgan joined Jay in offering to serve on the committee, but we shall ask for more volunteers outside of Board.

11:03-11:17: Our Underused Free Google Voice Account:

Jay and Joe noted that this number—571-789-8338—can be useful to forward information to five people. In reviewing carefully whose telephone numbers has been among the five and whose might be on this list if s/he so wished, we saw the value of those who are central to communication (Joe H and Jay S), to the Unit Game (Jim G) and to the Sectionals (Amy B and Jason C). The latter two would need to confirm.

11:17-11:30: The New Bridgemate III, as Experienced at the San Francisco National:

Several board members raved about these new machines, which look like iPhones and have a whole set of useful features to aid scoring, calling the director, communicating with ACBL, and so forth, and which are compatible with our current Bridgemate II'. The cost for ten with the needed accessories (server, charger, case) is ca. \$2500, but we would need five more for the Unit Game @ \$218 (+ tax?), so a minimum of \$3590.

On the positive side it was urged that this is a sound investment, for which we can dip into our reserves, and also that replacement cost of the Bridgemate II is not at all cheap: from \$152 (for 20 or more) to \$168.

On the purely negative side, the basic arguments, both of which were disputed, were two.

Do we really need them? And isn't it likely the price will go down, as with other new electronic devices? To the first: this change is coming so let's get with it. To the second: no the prices will not go down/

But it was also noted that there re ways now that cell phones can be used as bridgemates.

Several ideas of outside funding of the Bridgemate III were also forwarded.

This issue was tabled for now, so that we could inform ourselves more about the Bridgemate III and our options.

As a postscript, during the meeting, one Board member found this website for the Bridgemate III and afterwards forwarded it to the Board Secretary:
[\(https://www.bridgemate.com/\)](https://www.bridgemate.com/).

11:30-11:44: Confirmation of New Action Items:

David will post finalize and post the approved November 7 Minutes.

Georgette and Jason will continue their work to contact potential and new members.

Terry will complete the draft letter to newcomers.

Joe will establish a zoom link for the Unit Game meeting.

Jay will bring his computer for this zoom link.

Dan will place in the Monday newsletter the necessary information for the Unit Game meeting.

Georgette will:

Inform Beth El of need for Party set up and 5:00-7:00 security for December 18 Unit Game.

Remind membership that Beth El locks at 7pm now.

Request more volunteers to help with the further changes to the Board and Committee Chair Position Descriptions.

11:44-11:48: Set New Meeting Date:

Saturday February 7 at 9:30am (in order to accommodate the football fans and sufficiently precede the February Sectional)

11:48: Georgette Adjourned the Meeting.