



American Bridge Association, Inc.  
Southern Section

# Membership Meeting | MINUTES

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Sunday | 1/21/2018 11:00 AM | Meeting location Crowne Plaza Airport ATL, GA

Meeting called by Evelyn Adkins, SSVP  
Note taker Gwendolyn L. White  
Type of Meeting Southern Section  
Membership Meeting

**Attendees**  
Twenty-two (22) Members Signed -In and the sign-in sheet is on file.

Materials Distributed: Agenda, Treasurer's Reports,  
Minutes

## AGENDA ITEMS

**Absent:**

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Agenda topic Call to Order | Presenter Evelyn Adkins, SSVP

The ABA Southern Section meeting convened at 10:00 AM on Sunday, January 21, 2018 in Atlanta, GA at the Crowne Plaza Airport. The following agenda topics followed.

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Agenda topic Prayer | Presenter Winton King

Winton King of Funmakers DBC offered the prayer.

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Agenda topic Welcome | Presenter Evelyn Adkins, SSVP

The Vice-President's Welcome/Report:

1. The SVP provided an overview of the Section's efforts to **recruit, reclaim and retain**. She reported that "we (Southern Section) are still the largest Section in the ABA and noted "**we want to keep it that way.**" SVP Adkins mentioned that she'd received calls from other sections inquiring "What we are doing?" How do you keep growing as other Sections are losing members? Adkins commented that she attributes the success of the Southern Section to the tremendous Bridge Education and Staff Development that takes place in the Southern Section.
2. Adkins reported new club interest in Tallahassee and club revitalization in Jacksonville FL. She reported that Tallahassee members are interested starting-up a new club. The SVP reported her intentions to travel to Tallahassee (along with anyone willing to join her) to help get the new start-up off the ground. She mentioned that Tallahassee has two groups of card players who are interested in becoming bridge players and would like to organize a duplicate bridge club. Additionally, Jacksonville, FL intends to have a Tournament this year.

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Agenda topic Minutes | Presenter Gwendolyn White, Secretary

The minutes of the September 2017 Sectional Meeting were read by Secretary, Gwendolyn White. A motion was made by Dwight Bush that the minutes be accepted as read. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**MOTION:** Dwight Bush

**SECONDED:** YES

**VOTE:** All Approved

**RESOLVED:** The Minutes were approved as read and will be placed in the Section's records.

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**Agenda topic** *Treasurer's Report* | **Presenter** *Dwight Bush, Treasurer*

The Finance report was provided by the Treasurer, Dwight Bush. He reviewed the highlights of the Income and Expense Report from the *Tunica Sectional Tournament* which was held September 18 – September 21, 2017. He also provided a detailed financial report for the period 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017. Copies of both reports and a copy of the check register were distributed. Bush noted that the Section ended the period with a Cash balance on hand of \$17,302.69.

**MOTION:** Worth Christler

**SECONDED:** YES

**VOTE:** All Approved

**RESOLVED:** The Treasurer's report was accepted for audit

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**Agenda topic** *Tournament Update* | **Presenter** *Tournament Chair*

The Tournament Committee's report was provided by the Tournament Chair, Gloria Christler. She reported that the **Tunica Sectional Tournament** was successful and well attended despite a couple of problems that affected the bottom line. This included a 40-gallon coffee charge of \$3000 was added to the section's bill. Christler reported that she was able to negotiate \$1900 off of the excessive charges for the coffee bill and reported a net profit of approximately \$300 despite the excessive charges for the coffee.

The chair reported the 2018 Sectional tournament contract has been signed and that it will held in Tunica at the **Roadhouse and Horseshoe Hotel** on September 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

**She discussed suggestions received by the committee for future Sectional tournaments in January: It was suggested that we look at going back to Florida in 2019 for the Sectional** –. And, that we do not use the MLK weekend because airfares are high on the MLK weekend. The chair surveyed the body regarding the following two suggestions:

1. **The first suggestion was to move the** January Sectional Tournament off the MLK holiday weekend and to the following weekend?
2. **And, the second suggestion was to designate Florida** as the host state for our future Sectional Tournaments in January. Though the exact location had not been discussed by the committee, it was mentioned that most likely Jackson or Tallassee would be the location of choice.

Some discussion was had before the following:

**MOTION:** To ask the Tournament Committee to explore feasible times and places for future MLK Tournaments.

**SECONDED:** YES

**VOTE:** All Approved

**RESOLVED:** That the Tournament Committee Shall Research and get back with assembly.

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**Agenda topic** *COMMITTEE REPORTS* | **Presenter** *Committee Chairs*

**1. The Scholarship Committee report was provided by Leatrice Bell.**

Bell reported that two of our three Southern Section scholars (Lauren Frederick of Antioch, TN and Robin Golden of Lithonia, GA) will be graduating this year leaving the Section with (vacancies) and two slots to fill. Bell recommended two (2) new applicants together with our our continuing scholar as recipients for the F. Alberta Peterson Scholarship Award: Gye Riddick from Lawrenceville, GA (3.2), Brandon Amienyl of Snellville, GA (Single father of 2) and Ashley Googer (our continuing scholar).

After a brief discussion,

**MOTION:** To Accept Ms. Bell's report naming Gye Riddick from Lawrenceville, GA; Brandon Amienyl of Snellville, GA and Ashley Googer as this year's F. Alberta Peterson Scholarship Award Recipients.

**SECONDED:** YES

**VOTE:** All Approved

**RESOLVED:** The body accepted Ms. Bell's Report naming these three applicants as Southern Section 2018 F. Alberta Peterson Scholarship Recipients.

## 2. The Bridge Education report was provided by Bridge Education Chair, Anderson Williams.

Williams provided an overview of the goals of the Bridge Education committee. He reported that In January 2017, the Southern Section Bridge Education Committee set a goal of having at least one certified teacher for each club or unit in the Section. In keeping with this goal, the Bridge Education Committee organized three meetings which culminated in a "Bridge Teacher Training Seminar in Tunica."

Williams noted that as a result of the Bridge Teacher Training Seminar in Tunica" we have two people who have completed all of the steps in the *Bridge Teacher certification process* and three others who are well on their way.

## 3. The Staff Development Report was provided by Staff Development Chair, Shirley Williams.

Williams noted that the 2017 primary focus and objective of the Staff Development Committee had been on the training, promotion and certification of directors and Directors in Training (DIT). And, the goal was that each Southern Section Club/Unit would have one, or more certified directors.

**Williams reported that all active Southern Section Clubs have a certified director except Chattanooga.**

She provided a summary of the committee's 2017 Director Workshops and Training Sessions which generated five New ABA Certified Directors. She announced June Ingram, Columbus, GA; Margie Inman, Nashville, TN, Frances Scales, Nashville, TN; Sharette H. Simpkins, Atlantic City, FL and Joyce Toney, Birmingham were *promoted from (DITs) to Level I Certified Club Director - in 2017*. And, Larry Rich and Dianna Norris were **certified as ABA Level 2 – ABA Directors based on their extensive ACBL directing experience and Certification as Club Directors.**

Williams presented an Update on Directors in Training and Certified **Directors Upgrade Programs**. She noted that Two new trainees will participate in the Southern Section Director in Training (DIT) program; Four trainees have indicated that they will continue in the program and Three Level II directors (James Brown, Gloria Simmons and Anderson C. Williams) will enter a ten to twelve-month training program in 2018 **for an upgrade to Level III Associate Tournament Director.**

Williams provided the following **list of Directors in Training** \*Gloria Thomas, Columbus, GA \*Linda Johnson, Chattanooga, TN Barbara A. Jackson, Lithonia, GA Winton King, Decatur, GA Evelyn Lewis, Atlanta, GA Tarsellia Oliver, Snellville, GA Bernadette Porche, Atlanta, GA \*new Directors in Training.

## 4. The Merit and Life Membership Awards Report was provided by Committee Chair, Leslie Y. King.

King reported that the committee had worked very hard throughout the past year in their endeavors seeking qualified nominees for both the Merit Award and the Life Merit Award. The goal was to make an aggressive effort to inform the membership of the eligibility requirements. She then announced the nominees and provided a description of their exceptional service and devotion to ABA as follows:

**She announced Dwight Bush as the ABA Southern Section Merit Award nominee.** The chair provided a description of the exceptional devotion and service to the ABA and the Southern Section by Dwight. She provided an overview of his qualifications and of the service that he has rendered for which is considered to be meritorious service.

**MOTION:** That Dwight Bush be accepted as the **Merit Award Nominee** **By;**

**SECONDED:** yes

**VOTE: All Approved**

**RESOLVED:** Dwight Bush is the 2018 **Merit Award Nominee**

**King announced Mrs. Shirley Lamar Williams as ABA Southern Section LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD NOMINEE.** She provided a description of Ms. Williams' exceptional devotion and service to the ABA and the Southern Section; King gave a synopsis of her qualifications and of the outstanding service she has rendered at the local, sectional and national levels for more than twenty years.

**MOTION:** That Shirley Williams be accepted as the Life Membership Award Nominee **By;**

**SECONDED: yes**

**VOTE: All Approved**

**RESOLVED:** Shirley Williams is the 2018 **Life Membership Award Nominee**

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**Agenda topic** *Old Business* | **Presenter** *Evelyn Adkins, SSVP*

**1. Nominating Committee Report on Elections 2018 was provided by chair, Margaret Pulley-Johnson**

Pulley-Johnson reported that after due process for receipt of all nominations and certification of all candidates, the Nominations Committee presented the Slate of Recommended Candidates for the 2019-2020 Term. The nominees were:

Evelyn Adkins (Section Vice President-); Gwendolyn White (Secretary) and Richard Banks (Treasurer).

After the slate was submitted, the SVP declared, "Nominations to be in order for nominations from the floor" for:

**Section Vice-President** - none

**Secretary** -none

**Treasurer** - Emma Fountain nominated Noah Newman as Treasurer. Noah was not present but did accept the nomination via text message. Some discussion was had followed by **A motion that Noah Newman be added to the slate of officers. The motion was seconded and a vote for Noah's nomination was had. The motion carried.**

After which, the 2019-2020 Slate of Officers of the Southern Section of the ABA was Accepted.

**MOTION:** That the 2019-2020 Slate of Officers be accepted

**SECONDED: YES**

**VOTE: All Approved**

**RESOLVED:** The following is the 2019-2020

**Section Vice President**

Evelyn Adkins

**Secretary**

Gwendolyn White

**Treasurer**

Richard Banks  
Noah Newman

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**Agenda topic** *New Business* | **Presenter** *Evelyn Adkins, SSVP*

1. National and Section Dues

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**Agenda topic** *ADJOURNMENT* | | **Presenter** *Evelyn Adkins, SSVP*

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM

**Submitted By:** Gwendolyn Littleton White, Southern Section Secretary

**Signature:** *Gwendolyn Littleton White*

**Gwendolyn Littleton White (January 21, 2018)**

**Email:** SecretarySouthern@gmail.com