

# **Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.**

## **Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting**

**November 3, 2018**

Present: Linda Ahrens, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Charleen Christy, Megan Diorio, Lois DeBlois, Julie Goulet, Meg Gousie, Diane Lambert, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss, Marshall Williams  
Excused: Maureen Fahey, Carol McCullough, Chris Soares and Stan Williams  
Absent: Barbara Barrett

### **Call to Order:**

President, Paula Najarian, called the meeting to order at 10:48.

- Paula announced that Butch Norman and Barbara Barrett have both resigned and thanked them for their service.
- Paula thanked the Board for their service and help to her over the past two years and wished Meg Gousie and Marshall Williams all the best as they begin their tenure as Vice President and President of the Rhode Island Board.

### **Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from the October meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was passed and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Treasurer's Reports were reviewed and approved unanimously.

### **Reports:**

- Joseph Brouillard reported on the September Sectional. It was successful with a net income of \$1565.
- Joseph Brouillard reported on the October Gala which had a loss of \$545 vs an \$1124 loss in 2017. The feedback from RI members was very positive; they liked the food and the venue (the Johnston Senior Center).
- Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report stating that Unit 145 had 513 members as of November 1, a loss of 4 from the August 1 membership number of 517.
- Lois DeBlois presented the Executive Board update.
  - There has been no Executive Board Meeting for District 25 since our last RIBA meeting. Both the Executive Board and a Delegates' Meeting will be held at the Mansfield Regional.
  - The delegates meet two times per year and in between these two meetings, delegates typically do not participate in initiatives for the District. Rhode Island has four delegates and each Unit has delegates based on ACBL

membership in the Unit. A CT Executive Board Member has volunteered to think of ways to have delegates more active throughout the year.

- At this point, there has been no finalization of: the use of credit cards at Regionals; and the future of the Cape Cod Tournament. They will be discussed further in Mansfield.
- Marshall Williams asked if he could attend the Executive Board Meeting (which he will be attending as President of RIBA in 2018). These meetings are not open and can only be attended by invitation or by being an Executive Board Member.

### **Old Business:**

- bRidge Bits – The next one will be published the end of December. Please let Carol know if you have anything you would like to see added.
- Guided Play – A discussion was held on instituting a Mentor/Guided Play bridge session on Sundays. There was a positive response and we will look further into having a monthly Mentor/Guided Play session on Sundays at various Rhode Island Clubs. The Unit can sponsor these games as they are allowed to run Unit games.
- Sectional – There was discussion about the pizza and the continuing poor service we have been experiencing from La Nuevo; late delivery even after repeated feedback from us. Paula has spoken with the owner and he assured her it would not happen again. We will give them one more opportunity and if the pizza is late again, we will find someplace else to get our pizza from. We will begin looking now. The next sectional is January 26, 27, 2019. Charleen will talk to Pizzoni's which is nearby to see if they can handle the number of pizzas we need in a timely fashion. We typically get 65 – 70 sandwiches/salads on the Saturday and 40 pizzas, with each pizza sliced into 8 slices. The pizza shop has to deliver and we have to take priority. Paula will talk to the Johnston Senior Center to see if they use anyone for any of their events.
  - Sectional Flyers– Paula has been printing and distributing the flyers. She has them printed at Staples and then mails them to approximately 15 clubs in RI, MA and CT. She asked for someone else to take over this responsibility going forward. Bart volunteered. Carol does the flyers and will be responsible for giving them to him for copying and distribution. This is done six weeks prior to the scheduled sectional. (After the meeting and prior to our next meeting, Paula met with Carol who volunteered to do the printing and distributing of flyers.)
  - Partnership Chair – This is done primarily by email or phone. Paula has been the partnership chair and asked for someone to take over this responsibility. Meg Gousie volunteered and the flyers will be updated with her information.
  - Storage Director – Charleen and Julie volunteered to do this. This includes: calling Randy 2 weeks before the tournament to have him transport tables, get the bidding boxes etc.; contacting the clubs via email, to bring the bridgemates, there is a rotating list that Paula will provide,; and finding two folks with good backs to help with the table setup Saturday morning. Paula stated that her husband will continue to assist with table setup if requested.

- Beverage Director – Buying and transporting sodas and waters; a new volunteer is needed. There was discussion about no longer providing bottled water and sodas. Diane will contact the senior center to see if they could have it delivered.

**New Business:**

- No new business at this meeting.

**Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:**

- Future meetings will be held :
  - January 12 at 10:45

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 AM.