

**Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.**

**Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting**

**November 14, 2015**

Present: Linda Ahrens, Liz Brian, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Charlene Christy, Lois DeBlois, Maureen Fahey, Julie Goulet, Meg Gousie, Diane Lambert, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss,. Beatrice Martini, and Marshall Williams

Excused: Will Everett, Fredda Sharfstein, Chris Soares

**Call to Order:**

President, Maureen Fahey, called the meeting to order at 10:05.

**President's Comments:**

- Maureen welcomed two new members to the board, Charlene Christy and Chris Soares.
- The Board for 2016 was approved at the Gala. Thank you to Karen KupperSmith for presenting the Board slate for approval to the membership.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the Gala were distributed via email prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Treasurer's Reports were reviewed and approved unanimously. One was for the September sectional and the other was for the Gala.
- September sectional had a profit of \$399.20. The biggest increase in expenses at this sectional were the director fees which were \$3,100 including the hotel. Because David was the Director in Charge we had to pay for mileage for Horace. The Director in Charge's mileage is paid for by the ACBL. We had room rate charges of \$489.
- Maureen will speak to David about future sectionals and directors to try to reduce the fees. We can request who will be the Director in Charge.
- The Gala had a net loss of \$1500. The two biggest increases in expenses were \$200 to Randy for set up and duplicate board set up fee of \$50.
- In 2015 we had a profit of \$900.

**Tournament Manager's Report:**

Gala:

- As a reminder for next year, the nominating committee report should be included at the annual meeting. This report should include all names of new board members.

- For next year's Gala; although the ACBL is now running larger sections, 18 tables, the feedback for the Gala is that we should have 2 sections. If we have a 17 table section, 2 sets of boards are needed. In addition, the Director should plan on assisting play by moving boards.
- There was a conflict with the Auburn Sectional and some RIBA members attended that in order to win silver. Check with Gala date to see if it conflicts in 2016 with Auburn.
- The 299 section was smaller than anticipated. For next year we should try to get more participation by club owners to help promote the Gala.
- One way to help attendance may be to provide door prizes; 2 free plays at each club that helps promote our sectionals and Galas. The plays to be purchased by the Unit. Provide a ticket and then let players put their ticket in the bucket for the club they wish to play at.
- Thank you to everyone for their participation in providing items. We can limit the purchases next year if we get that same level of contribution which will help cut costs.

#### Sectionals:

- Lois DeBlois and Paula Najarian attended the Auburn Sectional. They broke for a pizza lunch and did it quickly. Their recommendation is that we shorten the break at the Sunday sectionals as many players have suggested that the time provided is too long and they would prefer to get done earlier.
- Dates were changed for the March and June sectionals. However, we need to move March back as the new date conflicted with Easter. Therefore, the March date will conflict with the Reno Nationals.
- Maureen will check with David to see about the availability of director's for March. She will send an email to confirm the availability of directors for that date. Maureen also to talk to David about helping us keep costs down by having Horace be Director in Charge next time we need to use him as a Director.
- Hosts for January and March. Meg can host for March and will check to see if she's available for January.
- Recommendation to move the lecture to 9:30 and shorten lunch. The flyers will be updated. The new times will be 10 and 2 for Saturdays. Bart is to supply a topic to Linda for January. Maureen will reach out to Clint as well to see if he's interested for March lecture and to get a topic.
  - The Sunday Swiss will continue to start at 9:30. This was voted on and approved unanimously by the board.
  - World Wide Game will be held at the June Sectional on Saturday afternoon. Information promoting it will be added to the flyer.

#### **Old Business:**

##### Education:

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- The Compensation Policy was approved unanimously.
- B's Needs is a Committee that continues to meet at the Regionals in our District. One area of concern is how to recruit new players. Diane Lambert received something from CT about mentoring.
  - Discussion about having a subcommittee to review mentoring and ways to increase numbers in RI. We need a two pronged approach to address increasing the numbers of players in RI and the number of players that attend tournaments.
  - Charlene Christy stated that not everyone can mentor and that we need to also introduce some training for mentors.
  - Mentors should have to commit to at least meeting with a mentee a minimum of 3 times.
  - Committee will be Charlene Christy, Julie Goulet and Maureen Fahey. They will talk to Bart Buffington, Clint Wright and Joan O'Connell who all teach new players to get ideas.

### **New Business:**

- Transporting tables for the Sectionals and Gala; Paula Najarian will look at alternate options.
- Charity Board Coordinator – Julie Goulet was nominated and approved unanimously. She accepted. She will provide suggestions for our year end donation and will send out the recommendations via email.
- Board updates were provided to the ACBL.
- Thank you to Joe for updating the bridge mates for all the clubs. Lois DeBlois made a presentation to Joe to thank him for his work at the clubs.
- Lois DeBlois has been nominated to the District Board and is now the Vice President of District 25.
- There are 2 District Delegate Meetings per year and our Unit 145 has 4 delegates that attend these meetings. We asked for volunteers to attend at the Regionals. Marshall Williams and Liz Brian expressed interest. There is one at Nashua at the June Regional and the other is in November in Mansfield.
- IRS and RI Forms are done by Joe in the Spring.
- Lois DeBlois suggested having an online calendar of all events and business that need to be done. This would provide historical value to ensure no critical pieces of business are missed. For instance, all tournament flyers have to be provided to the ACBL 6 months prior to every tournament. There is the liability insurance form that needs to be completed for the ACBL insurance for our sectionals as well. Lois DeBlois volunteered to start a list and send it out for everyone to add on to.
- District 45 has had 6 regionals per year. Most districts only have 4. The Newton Individual regional in 2016 will be the last Individual Regional held. The District will continue to have 5 Regionals as we have the Senior Regional in Hyannis which is grandfathered.
- In and Out Report - Paula Najarian reviewed the In and Out report for membership in RI.

- As of 11/1/15 RI has 530 Members, 1 new ACBL member
- We will continue to provide the minutes on line for the past 3 years.

**Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:**

- Future meetings will be held :
  - Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM – Snow day January 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM
  - Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.