

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes

August 8 , 2020

Present: Linda Aherns, Joe Brouillard, Charleen Christy, Lois DeBlois, Maureen Fahey, Julie Goulet, Meg Gousie, Sue Miguel, Cindy Mottle, Paula Najarian, Don Rankin, Marshall Williams, Stan Williams

Excused: Megan Diorio

Absent: Chris Soares, Bart Buffington

Call to Order: 10:20

President's Comments: Very glad to see everyone. Our number one priority for the next month is to get out an updated directory.

Bob Garfinkel, Warwick Bridge Club, may open in September for in-person bridge, depending on status of Rhode Island opening, Sue Miguel's space, a church, is still not open. She is thinking about having a game outside in a tent. Consensus is that Rhode Island will not start games until spring.

Secretary's Report: February minutes approved last minutes. Motion to approve minutes made, seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: There was obviously no income because there were no tournaments. Credit for the cancelled March tournament could not be applied to June so earned credit. Storage is the only expense and reports have been filed with the State of Rhode Island. Investments have done well. Motion made, seconded and approved to accept treasurer's report

Reports:

In/Out report

There were 488 members as of August, 3 were new. In July 6 new members and in June 4 new members and 2 transfers Some of the new members were people who played but never joined. Also Sue said that virtual games are bringing new members

Executive Board update

It appears that Bob Bertoni, D25 Representative, is quite ill but surgery helped. Joe and Lois are hoping for the March tournament in St. Louis will run so Providence NABC will happen in July. So far there has been no spending.

The district has an award, the Weiss District Award, for exemplary behavior, service and volunteer work in the district. Jack Mahoney wants to start a new award named for Victor King, a Grand Life Master from Connecticut. Lois suggested that two awards be combined and made a single district award. Some discussion about what a great player he was, and that he was also an outstanding sportsman. He was gracious and kind to players at all levels and kept his partners polite as well. Suggested donation in his memory, but that would cause precedent for other deceased players. Maybe should have a named game at the Nationals

Old Business:

Gala There was a suggestion that Sue can host a virtual game for the Gala 12:30 on October 31. In lieu of a meeting the unit would have a Zoom webinar style meeting at 2:30. There would be a single session. The game does not have to be sanctioned as a state tournament but can set it up to make money or have money beyond expenses go to a fundraiser. The RI Foodbank is in especially bad shape and could definitely use the money. There was a question about the maximum number who can attend a zoom meeting. Julie was curious if a virtual club game could be done in a zoom setting to actually see the players. Marshall will look into but zoom and game would be separate like right after the game. The week of Halloween is a special week for club championships so there will be extra points available anyway. BBO can have special games but need to be across all clubs.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to hold the gala on October 31. There was a discussion about price and possibly having the unit match some of the income from money on hand. Joe mentioned we have plenty of money on hand. The emphasis was to price the Gala to get as many people to participate as possible. Non-members need to play with a member, but members can invite a guest.

Sue will make a notice about the gala that includes information about playing on BBO. The charge will be \$6. The unit will make a donation for every player. This will be included in the newsletter.

(added after meeting by request from Marshall Williams)

Our last fundraiser, the Longest Day efforts this year were limited to online BBO games and individual donations. We had a "Marathon" of 12-board games from 10 am to 8 pm, Saturday, June 20, as well as a few more Virtual games on Sunday, June 21. We raised a total of \$1878.18 to go to the Alzheimer's Association for research, including game fees and extra donations.

There are no upcoming tournaments this year. There was a survey from ACBL to see what the future will look like after the first of the year. The ACBL will not cancel January 2021 but will wait for results from the ACBL survey.

Newsletter

To advertise the gala, in addition to the August/September newsletter, Sue will make a flyer to send to all members of the unit.

Cindy sent out an excellent preview of the newsletter. There was a question about the link on BBO to Hartford Bridge Club. Cindy has a lot of tutorials available on advanced aspects of BBO and she will mention that in the newsletter and people can contact her directly to get the advanced stuff.

Joe will add information to unit website about using BBO.

New Business:

New Officers: The unit President can not serve another year under our current rules. Unfortunately Megan Gousie was not able to physically go clubs and that made it really difficult to recruit new officers.

Marshall has volunteered to take on the presidency for one more year with Megan D'Orio as new vice president. Unfortunately, the by-laws do not allow this but because of the pandemic it may be possible to suspend the rules for one year. There was a discussion that it was important to rewrite by-laws to add a one year exception Paula will research what other organizations are doing.

NABC Providence update committee meeting with Mark Hudson, the ACBL NABC point person. All NABC's are cancelled this year. We are waiting to see if the March 2021 NABC in St. Louis will run. The committee is not committing a lot of money to an event that could potentially be cancelled. Several issues about hospitality and sponsorship have not yet been answered.

The directory will be published on-line. Paula and Joe said that because this gala is not in person, the directory will not be printed. Instead it will be published electronically. About 80% of members have email contact information, which is 377 e-mail addresses.

Some members who could no longer come to clubs due to vision issues or not being able to drive are now able to play.

Some email addresses are listed as confidential but people can contact Paula to get directory. We suggested calling people but Sue says that if people do not want ACBL to have their email address we can not get it either.

The Annual Meeting will follow the Gala.

Deceased Members Clint Wright and Sue Irwin passed since the last meeting. Sue has taken over Clint's game. There will be something in the newsletter about both of them. Players donated approximately \$2600 in Clint's memory.

Cindy wants to put the awards Mini Mckinney and Ace of Clubs on the first page of the newsletter.

We will discuss Charitable donations at the meeting. Thoughts were that it should be a food bank or soup kitchen. Contact Julie with suggestions.

Future meetings will be held :

September 12, 2020 10:15 am

October 24, 2020 10:15 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28.