

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

December 10, 2014

Present: Linda Ahrens, Liz Brian, Joe Brouillard, Lyn Bradford, Lois DeBlois, Will Everett, Maureen Fahey, Meg Gousie, Diane Lambert, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss, Fredda Sharfstein, and Marshall Williams

Excused: Bart Buffington, Nancy Rosenbaum and Cathie Sallar

Absent Brenda Iemma

Call to Order:

President, Lois DeBlois, called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

President's Comments:

- Thank you to the board for coming out on a Wednesday evening. Important meeting as this is the last one prior to our new Tournament Committee takes over

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 Report was reviewed and approved unanimously.
- There was discussion related to the fee being charged at the Sectionals to repay the Sinking Fund for the Bridgemates. Should it be continued once the Sinking Fund reaches 0? To be discussed in 2015.

Tournament Manager's Report:

Sectional:

- Was notified by the ACBL that each of our flyers must state that there is an extra \$3 fee per person per session for non ACBL members.
- Gala and the buffet were a success. Positive feedback about both.
 - The Gala lost \$400 more this year than last year so we must look at the pricing going forward.
 - Director to be booked for next year
 - The membership directory was provided
- The slate nominated for the Board was approved

Membership Report:

Paula Najarian reviewed the In and Out report for membership in RI. As of 10/1/14 RI has 539 ACBL members. We had a net gain of 08 new members from August through November.

- For future meetings the In and Out Report will consist of the most recent total number of ACBL registered players in RI.

NABC 2014 Report: Joe Brouillard reported that the feedback received was positive; good lighting, the rooms were large enough, etc. A huge positive was that all the games were in one building and folks loved the restaurants.

- We had table count of 9,500.
- A proposal has been given to the ACBL for a return to Providence in 2021. They will be voting on it in March.

Charity/Grant Committee:

- There was discussion about what charity we should provide our 2014 donation to from the Unit and it was unanimously decided to present \$1,000 to the Food Bank. Lyn stated that she would like to present the check in person and that she would like someone to accompany her when she does present the check. Marshall offered to go.
- Crossroads did receive the \$5,000 that was donated to them as part of the ACBL Charitable Donation that the District received.

Old Business:

Document Retention Policy and Reimbursement Policies:

- On hold until the next meeting.

B's Needs:

- No update at this time.

Tournament Manager Restructure:

- We are asking for all Board Members to attend the next sectional regardless of their role.
- Maureen and Lois will have their names as contacts on our flyers going forward.
- Prior to each sectional, Lois and Bart will check in on each tournament chair to insure they are all set with their roles and/or don't need assistance.
- Maureen is to distribute a list of all phone #'s related to the Gala to everyone on the Board who has a role within the new tournament structure. This should include the Senior Center #, the number of the Cleaner etc.
- The Senior Center is booked through 2016. Maureen touches base with the Senior Center one month out for each sectional. She will continue to do that.
- Flyers – Maureen will provide the information and addresses and numbers for the flyers to Linda and Lois. Linda will create the new flyers and mail them and distribute them with Lois's assistance.

- Additional folks will be needed to help set up. Maureen will take the lead in January and March. Diane Lambert, Marshall Williams and Meg Gousie will follow and assist Maureen. Meg is not available for all the sectionals due to her work schedule. David Prentiss will help in June.
- Food and Beverage – ordering pizzas and Saturday lunches will be done by Maureen in January with Diane and Lyn assisting so that they can then take on the responsibility going forward.
- The coffee pots and the bins with the bidding boxes will be stored at Joe Brouillard's and he will take them after the January sectional.
- Storage of the tables was discussed. Paula Najarian will research the costs for storing them in a storage facility. She will also look for alternatives. We have 60 tables and approximately 9 are used at the Sectionals and 30 at the Gala, depending on attendance.
- Joe Brouillard will order the Mini-McKenney Award medals. ~~and Ace of Club Awards~~

bRIdge Bits:

- The Fall edition of the bRIdge Bits were distributed at the Gala
- Lois mentioned that Meg had provided some additional items for future editions

New Business:

Privacy Policy:

- The ACBL distributed their new Privacy Policy. This does have an impact to us as we can no longer distribute a Membership Directory unless each member within the directory gives us permission.
 - After discussion about what constitutes permission, Paula Najarian will contact the ACBL directly to ask. We can then decide what we want to do going forward as we have two years before our next directory would be done.
- Further discussion is needed for what we will donate as a Unit for youth bridge. NE Bridge has a good program.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held on Sundays except for the summer meeting. The dates are as follows:
 - Sunday, February 22 at 4:00PPM
 - Sunday, May 17 at 4:00PM
 - Wednesday, August 19 at 6:30PM
 - Sunday, November 15 at 4:00PM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.