

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

February 23, 2014

Present: Linda Ahrens, Joe Brouillard, Lyn Bradford, Bart Buffington, Lois DeBlois, Marguerite Gousie, Brenda Iemma, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss, Nancy Rosenbaum, Cathie Sallar, Marshall Williams, Maureen Fahey and Stan Williams
Excused: Liz Brian
Absent: Lisa Eklund

Call to Order:

President, Lois DeBlois, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

President's Comments:

- Will be covered under new and old business

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the November 17th meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report was distributed via email prior to the meeting. The Annual Report was also emailed prior to the meeting. Both reports were approved unanimously.

Tournament Manager's Report:

Sectional:

- January sectional was the largest number of tables in recent RI Sectional history.
- 299 Swiss was also a success with six teams.
- Swiss AX, Horace Gower (Director) mentioned that there had been a request to use Mid-Chart conventions.
- It was decided that the next sectional would also use the same stratiflighting.
- Lois DeBlois discussed email sent by Rich DeMartino regarding upcoming shortage of directors for Sectionals due to conflicting schedules throughout District 25.
 - In order to become a tournament director you have to be a sanctioned ACBL director, take a test and then shadow one tournament.
 - Currently we do not have director for the September Sectional.
 - Rich recommends that we stay on top of it and watch for conflicts.
- A sign-up sheet will be distributed prior to the March Sectional for Board Members to use to help assist the days of the Tournament.

NABC 2014 Report: Joe Brouillard reported on the most recent accomplishments for the 2014 NABC.

- All tournament chairs are doing an excellent job.
- Just finishing up an email campaign. 81,000 emails were sent promoting the Fall Nationals to ACBL members throughout the US and Canada.
- Promotion of the Providence NABC will continue with his attendance at the Dallas Nationals in March.
- More shirts and a new woman's t-shirt were ordered with the Providence NABC logo on them.
- Kudos to Phyllis Chase who continues to do fund-raising successfully.
- Registration gifts have been ordered; fleece throws with the Prov NABC logo on them.
- Section prizes will be night lights with the Prov NABC logo, flashlights and flash drives.
- There have been over 2,500 hits on the Providence Tourism video on youtube.com.
- There will be a torch parade at Waterfire and up to 16 people can participate. At this time, there are no definite names.
- Asking for contributions from other units at this time.

Old Business:

Document Retention Policy and Reimbursement Policies:

- Paula Najarian put together boiler plate procedures for each. Meg Gousie (Document Retention) and Marshall Williams (Reimbursement) are still tweaking the procedures and will send them out via email prior to the next meeting.
- These are not part of the bylaws and will be voted on next meeting.

Longest Day:

- Cathie Sallar reached out to the ACBL and they were happy to help.
- The Longest Day is Club run, for approximately 16 hours (but doesn't not have to be consecutive, and can be multiple games getting to 16). There should be a team captain and it does not have to be a Director.
- Any Club can have a sanctioned game that day even if it is not part of the club schedule. It will be a charity game with sectional points.
- Marshall Williams expressed interest in coordinating a game.
- There is a Team Captain's toolkit that comes from the ACBL.
- It will be announced at the next sectional as the date is June 21.

GNAT/NAP updated:

- Tabled until next meeting.

bRIdgebits:

- Gearing up for tournament play by providing helpful information to IN players who play at Clubs but not typically in tournaments.
- Marshall Williams has written an article about Zip Knockouts.

- Meg Gousie has written an article about the difference between Stratified, Flighted and Stratiflighted events
- Meg Gousie has written an article about Rules, Rule of 7, Rule of 15 etc.
- There is also going to be an article about STac games held in January.
- Further discussion about an article by David Prentiss outlining his experience getting ready for the NABC in Boston. This will be done closer to the NABC.
- An additional article promoting the Longest Day will also be included.

New Business:

Delegates Meeting:

- District 25 Delegates meet twice per year. Each Unit within the District has an allocated number of delegates based on ACBL membership. Our unit (145) is allowed four representatives. There are approximately 50 Delegates in the District.
- At the meeting the Delegates receive a report from the Executive Committee.
- The next meeting is in Nashua. Currently the Delegates are: Linda Ahrens, Joseph Brouillard, Lois DeBlois and Maureen Fahey.
- For future meetings, Meg Gousie and Marshall Williams have expressed interest in attending when a delegate replacement is needed.
- Maureen Fahey will not be at the Sectional on June 7.

Nomination Committee:

- The District needs a VP & a President in 2 years. The current VP took the position stating that he would not be interested in being President at the end of Mark Aquino's term (current District President).
- Looking for a volunteer to attend this meeting which will be held in Nashua. A name must be submitted to Carolyn Weiser, District Secretary by May 1.

Sectional:

- Dean Panagopoulos will be attending the June Sectional and giving a talk about the Nationals. The target audience is IN program. We should promote that in the flyer.
- Discussion about bRIdgebits and taking photographs of the winners for the newsletter. Decided to table pictures at this time.
- Gala tastings may become available, more to come. Having a Swiss at the Gala instead of the current Pairs Game was mentioned.

B's Needs:

- At the meeting in Newton, there was discussion about the 2013 National Goodwill Award winner who sent personal postcards to players after Sectionals.
- One representative discussed that we needed more goals for players, that many players achieve Life Master and then lose interest in attaining additional ranks.

- Lois was impressed with the “postcard” process and suggested that we “copy” the idea with letters to players as they achieve new ranks (Junior to Club, Club to Regional, etc.). She had prepared a letter and read it to the group. All approved the idea but felt it should be limited to those attaining levels at Life Master or lower. Lois asked Kathy Thornton to do the research monthly and has already begun sending names.
- Charity Chair:
 - District 25 is a 2014 recipient of a \$30,000 grant for distribution to a 501 (c) charity before the end of the year. This happens once every 4 to 5 years. Lyn Bradford will be Unit 145’s Representative as they evaluate and determine worthy charities.

Mini McKinney Medals:

- These have been ordered.

Request for Email Notification:

- Arlene Roberti reached out to Joe Brouillard to ask him to use the RI Bridge email list to send out a flyer advertising a tournament being held in Portugal.
- The only requirement is that the email addresses can only be used to promote bridge game information.
- Motion was made to not allow the use of the email list for this purpose or for similar purposes and it was approved unanimously. Flyers can be distributed, if someone wished to, at the Clubs.

Fast Results:

- At Regionals, an application that will allow almost immediate results to be available to Smart Phones. This may be available as soon as Nashua. You would have to sign up for it with your ACBL# and email address.

Youth Bridge:

- Maureen Fahey has a group of 10 students attending an EMBA Youth Game in Watertown. Requested RI to consider sponsoring free play for Junior Players at the Nationals. A motion was made to approve paying for the kids and it was approved unanimously.

New Business:

- Currently 3 open positions on the Board.
- Next meeting we will discuss Unit Nominations

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

June 1 (6/1)

August 3 (8/3)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.