

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

November 2, 2019

Present: Linda Ahrens, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Maureen Fahey, Meg Gousie, Julie Goulet, Diane Lambert, Megan Mihara, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss, Don Rankin, Chris Soares, Marshall Williams, Stanley Williams

Excused: Charlene Christy, Lois DeBlois, Chris Soares

Missing: None

Call to Order:

President, Marshall Williams, called the meeting to order at 10:49

President's Comments:

Since the last meeting a number of good things have happened. I understand we had a good gala. In addition the last sectional was good. We had a lot of people who had not attending previously attend specifically for the 99 game on Sunday.

The president asked for a motion to add Cindy Mottle to the board which seconded and accepted unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the last meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with the one correction to Cindy Mottle's name, was passed and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer's Reports were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept the treasurer's report was seconded and accepted.

Prior to the motion, there was some discussion about the September sectional, which had outstanding attendance. There also followed a discussion about the gala and the loss it incurred and alternatives to the gala. This discussion was sent to the board members in a separate document.

Reports:

- Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report stating that Unit 145 had Nov 1 471 members as of November 1. Membership was down primarily due to snow birds
- Joe Brouillard presented the Executive Board update.
 - The Warwick regional very successful in part due to the Knock In/ Knock Out event,
 - Comments from Jay Whipple that were critical of the event were discussed with President of the ACBL and the issue was referred to audit and ethics committee. Many big time players are opposed to Knock in/Knock out so some conditions may be altered for the event. The event is definite for Mansfield but iffy for Cromwell.

Old Business:

There was a discussion of the annual Gala which is detailed in a separate document. We will table change to gala and discuss in January

January Tournament 25/26 still need help. Chris Soares will be host on Sunday. Megan Mihara will work in kitchen Saturday and Maureen Fahey will do sandwiches and be host on Saturday. Meg Gousie can organize who is bringing what for hospitality for example cut up vegetables.

When send notification of January meeting remind people to ask who is bringing what to tournament

New Business:

Notification of Club Directors

Should invite all the club directors to meetings to see if interested attending as invited guests motion, seconded and agreed upon

In the last two year charitable contributions in the amount of \$1000 have given to each of the two Houses of Hope and food bank. This year would like to give to food bank Julie Goulet spoke to the many good things House of Hope does in Warwick. Motion to make \$1000 donation to House of Hope in Warwick and Food Bank for a donation of \$in total.

Motion made seconded and passed

New Players - A suggestion was made to spend money to get more people to play bridge. Two suggestions were possibly half price for the 299 game on Sunday or maybe half price to any RIBA member that has not been to a sectional.

Another possibility is bring Bridge in a Day to Rhode Island and subside the course. This will be added to the next agenda.

Bridge bits for end of year in works and notification of January sectional

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held :

January 11, 10:15 AM in Warwick with snow date of January 18.
February 29 10:15 Warwick snow date March 7

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36.

President's Comments:

Welcome to our guests, Cindy Mottle who comes to us from Albuquerque NM and was on her Home Owners Association Board and did a newsletter there. And Mike McDonald who runs the Ocean State Bridge Club game on Monday which is growing and runs a game in Tiverton.

Secretary's Report:

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

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Reports:

- Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report stating that Unit 145 had 509 members as of September 1, 8 less than the July 1 membership number of 517.
- Lois DeBlois presented the Executive Board update.
 - Great Regional over Labor Day in Warwick.
 - Included a new event, titled Knock In/Knock Out for all players which resulted in more individuals receiving gold. Players from District 25 have reached out to the Board of Directors encouraging the Board to continue to allow Districts to offer this event. This event resulted in increased tables as Districts are struggling to get attendance at Regionals.

- NAP qualifier will be held in November at the Mansfield Regional for all levels, A, B and C players. There will be the Knock In/Knock Out event held there as well. It has been approved for Cromwell in February as well and is on the website and flyer.

Old Business:

- Mentoring – The first mentoring event held in Warwick in June was very successful. Kudos to Bob Garfinkle, Sue Miguel and Marshall Williams who worked very hard to make this event a success. They are considering planning another even soon.
 - Feedback was discussed regarding who should participate as a Mentor and what guidelines should be used to consider someone a Mentee. More discussion will be done prior to the next Mentoring game. It was determined that in this game, the Mentors should be using the Mentees card, even if there are no conventions used by the mentee. Also, time should be added so that a post mortem can be done for some of the boards. Something to be considered that some mentors did, was to email feedback on boards played afterwards.
- The Gala will be held in Johnston on October 19th. It is a Unit Championship game and will offer extra points. There will be hospitality in the morning; pastries and coffee. Maureen will be the contact person on the flyer for the event.
 - The Slate of Officers is all set with an email to go out. Maureen Fahey will be nominated for Secretary and will begin serving as of the Gala. Linda Ahrens will continue to create and forward the Sectional flyers while we look for a replacement.
- Our next sectional is September and Maureen Fahey and Stan Williams will do the set up both days. Meg Gousie and Marshall Williams will be the hosts both days. Meghan will do the shopping and drop it off prior to the event. Sunday will not have a Swiss event for 299'rs, but will have a Pairs game for 99'rs. An email blast will go out, written by Marshall Williams with pre-registration. It will go out to everyone in District 25.
- bRidgebits will become an online newsletter which would include the in'/out report. Meg Gousie will contribute an article for it and Meghan Mihara will take a stab at working on it with Marshall Williams.

New Business:

Open Discussion

Add to the next agenda, guided play to help promote newer players to play in duplicate games.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held :
 - November 2, 10:45 AM in Warwick
 - January 11, 10:45 AM in Warwick with snow date of January 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM.