

**Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.**

**Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting**

**September 9, 2017**

Present: Linda Ahrens, Joe Brouillard, Charleen Christy, Lois DeBlois, Maureen Fahey, Julie Goulet, Meg Gousie, Diane Lambert, Bea Martini, Paula Najarian, Arthur (Butch) Norman, David Prentiss, Marshall Williams

Excused: Barbara Barrett, Bart Buffington, Carol McCullough, Chris Soares, Stan Williams

**Call to Order:**

President, Paula Najarian, called the meeting to order at 10:40.

**President's Comments:**

- Welcome to our new board member, Arthur (Butch) Norman
- Stan Williams has expressed interest in joining the Board. Approved unanimously.
- Attended the Toronto NABC and enjoyed the bridge and the city tremendously

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the May meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting. Changes need to be made to the attendance list with Diane Lambert excused, Barbara Barrett in attendance and Lois DeBlois excused. With the changes, a motion to approve the minutes was passed and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Treasurer's Reports were reviewed and approved unanimously.

**Tournament Report**

- Joseph Brouillard presented the June Sectional Report. It was one of our most successful sectionals to date.
- There was a change to cash responsibility which moved from the directors to the Unit/District.
- A question was asked regarding fees. Director fees come out prior to the deposit but sanction fees are paid after we receive the proceeds and the treasurer then writes a check.

**Reports:**

- Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report. Our Unit had 521 members as of September 1.
- Paula Najarian reviewed numbers over the past 4 years, comparing year to year for the month of June. 6/1/2013 there were 544 Unit members, 6/1/2014, there were 549 members,

6/1/2015 there were 555 members. 2016 there were 536 members and 6/1/2017 there were 528 members. A 5% drop from the high of 555 to the present number.

- Lois DeBlois presented the Executive Board update.
  - The District Executive Board is continuing to work on designing schedules for the Regionals to appeal to the most people.
  - A decision was made to spend additional money on becoming more welcoming at the Regionals, similar to the Nationals, by providing stickers and a welcome desk and having folks register.
  - More volunteers are needed for the Regionals to man both the Welcome Desk and the Pairing Desk.
  - There was an ACBL survey on line regarding tournaments and volunteerism; if you receive one please provide your feedback.
  - Partners were guaranteed in Nashua and in Warwick, but it was unclear for which games and we were unable to provide partners for all requests at Warwick; in particular the Gold Rush Swiss. Lois DeBlois stated that it was guaranteed pairs for knockouts in Nashua and that she will clarify before Warwick 2018. If it is determined that partners should be guaranteed, we will have to request board members assistance to be partners if needed and we will reach out ahead of time.
  - The Regional partnership form is very confusing and needs redesign. Bart Buffington will submit a redesign. One suggestion was to have a different color for each day of the tournament and that a form should be filled out by anyone needing a partner, one for each day needed.

### **Old Business:**

- BRidge Bits are ready and Paula Najarian has reviewed and they look good. If there are any suggestions please submit them to Carol McCullough.
- Discussed having an extra point game at the Sectional on Sunday, for the International Fund. New sanction number is 96.
- Paula Najarian presented Julie Goulet's charity report, suggesting McCauley House (only 2 paid positions) with an 11 to 12% administrative costs. House for Hope was another suggestion with 19% administrative fees. Another proposal for a charity was made by Charleen Christy for St Edwards Holy Family Home which is a shelter for mothers and children. Further discussion regarding our charitable contribution will be made at the next board meeting.
  - Our annual charitable donation typically totals \$1,000.
  - Any other proposed charities please provide to Julie Goulet prior to our next meeting.

### **New Business:**

- Sectionals – In 2018 it was proposed that we would have an extra point game at each one.
  - For January, we can do the Junior Fund, for March we can do Grassroots, for June we can do Charity and then for September, International Fund.

- Extra point games will be run in September on Sunday and the others will be on the Saturday of the Sectionals.
  - A concern was raised regarding the 0 – 299 swiss on Sunday, pizza not always available. The 299’rs are not charged for the pizza so no changes will be made to when it’s served.
  - Diane Lambert requested changing the fee for the Saturday sandwiches/salads to eliminate the need for quarters and it was approved unanimously that we could now charge \$7.
  - The Gala is also an extra point game, we run it as a Unit Championship and we have the sanction #. A 299’r section will be offered.
- Prior to the September meeting, Butch Norman asked for a copy of the Unit’s Mission Statement but received our Bylaws. He stated that he hoped that our Mission incorporated the responsibility of assisting club viability; keeping in mind that clubs are individually owned.
  - A suggestion was made that board members should support additional clubs by playing occasionally at them and bringing a partner.
  - Because RI is such a small Unit and the clubs are very close to one another, there is no way to motivate players to move from club to club. Bridge players will play where they feel most comfortable based on playing skill, club time and club location and there is little that the RI Board can do to motivate players to move from club to club. The responsibility for growing a club lies with the club owner.
- There was discussion regarding Unit 145’s Mission.
  - The Mission Statement was to be provided to all new potential board members.
  - A Mission Statement had been approved previously, May 21, 2016, and it will be distributed and Joe Brouillard, the webmaster, will add it on line.
- Thanks were given to Butch for his comments and bringing the Mission Statement omission to light.
- The nominating committee headed by Meg Gousie presented the slate and will present the slate at the Gala. It remains the same.

**Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:**

- Future meetings will be held :
  - November 18 at 10:30

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.