

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Agenda

May 9, 2020

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

Guest: Sue Miguel

Absent: Bart Buffington

Call to Order: President, Marshall Williams, called the meeting to order at 10:23.

President's Comments: Marshall welcomed everyone to our first zoom meeting. He mentioned that it was great to see everyone and that no one knows how long this pandemic is going to go on. Sectionals and the Gala are going to be on hold until a vaccine. It could be months before we play bridge in person. There were some technical issues to the meeting but everyone was able to join the zoom meeting.

Secretary's Report: There were some corrections to the February Minutes. Specifically to add Bart to comments about Gala and correct spelling of two names. With the three changes the minutes were accepted, seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: There were some questions about the reports which have been sent out. The Treasurer's report versus the tournament report for the January sections did not match. There were some questions about income but the difference between the two reports was due to the fact that some of the expenses were in cash. We will not pay cash in the future. Though there was no tournament in March there were a few expenses for hospitality and postage. There was a small amount of income from EMBA for Stac games. Because the tournament cancelled at the last minute so now we have credit for the September sectional. If September does not run, we will get the money back. At this time it seems that it is most likely September will not run. There is plenty of money in the bank. The expenses are very minimal going forward. The annual report is filed for the IRS and will file the state report in June. Report approved seconded and approved.

Reports:

In/Out report

As of May 1, Rhode Island has 482 members. As of March 1st, there were 5 members reinstated and one passed. As of April 1st, two 2 members were reinstated and 2 passed. As of May 1st, there were 6 new members and 1 deceased.

Executive Board update

The Nashua Regional Tournament has been officially cancelled. The BBO Regional made more money than the Nationals was supposed to make according to Bob Bertoni. In the works is to have regionals by Districts on BBO and potentially Unit sectionals. Julia mentioned how great it is to play on-line bridge at virtual clubs. It is very safe. Sue Miguel may open in July. Meg G says there is a place for both on-line and clubs.

With respect to playing in person, Lois is concerned about bidding boxes more than cards and the need to keep your hands away from face. Some other fears are about restrooms. Until a vaccine is developed, we can not determine a safe way to go forward. Right now is not the time to worry about clubs reopening

Paula mentioned that the ACBL is considering realigning the districts. Lois said the current plan with respect to districts 24 and 25 would combine district 24, upstate NY, with our district 25. The plan is not to combine finances but just representations to the ACBL board.

Old Business:

The Gala is on hold for now and we will consider cancelling or going forward at the next board meeting.

All upcoming tournaments on hold.

The unit purchased Bridge in a Day to support new players. The vendor has agreed to extend the contract for a second year.

There is some information available for learning online.

New Business:

All open board positions will be put on hold corrections. Maureen will update the board roster and send out to see if any other corrections are needed.

Cindy has been doing a lot of work on the newsletter. There have been lots of contributions from board members and directors. She is missing the district and unit president list. She is not going to list upcoming events, specifically the sectional and Gala. Sue mentioned that we could do an on-line Gala. Chris Soares would like to not cancel September Rhode Island has phases that limits the number of people at events. If the limit is 50 then there will be no sectional and no gala unless virtual. So the newsletter will not announce cancellations for now but will say events will be held based on current state rules at that time

There was a question about the annual meeting. Julie liked the idea of at least saying hi to folks when playing at a virtual club in the chat section. With a strong consideration of the players with health issues, put in newsletter that tournament and gala will be held pending Rhode Island state regulations

Sue Miguel can set up a special RI game to raise money for The Longest Day that will have extra points. Marshall will get together with Sue to set it up. Sue and Clint are only two virtual clubs running in Rhode Island at this point. Sue answered some specific questions about her games.

No more information about David Prentiss is available despite Marshall making several attempts to find out more.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held :
 - August 8, 2020 10:15 a.m.
 - September 12, 2020 10:15 am

Meeting Adjourned at 11:09