

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

May 4, 2019

Present: Linda Ahrens, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Lois DeBlois, Julie Goulet, Meg Gousie, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss, Don Rankin, Chris Soares, Marshall Williams,
Excused: Charleen Christy, Maureen Fahey, Diane Lambert, Carol McCullough, Stan Williams
Guest: Barry Gilbert

Call to Order:

President, Marshall Williams, called the meeting to order at 10:55

- Welcome to Barry Gilbert who is considering joining the Board.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the January meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting. 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.
- Using a new service to send emails, Amazon webservice which is 10 cents per 1,000 emails. This enables all emails for sectionals and bRIdgebits to go out in hours rather than in days.
- The checks that were mailed for our charitable contributions cleared.

Reports:

- Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report stating that Unit 145 had 507 members as of May 1,2019 an increase 22 from the March 1 membership number.
- Lois DeBlois presented the Executive Board update.
 - The Senior Regional continued to have low attendance; down 56 tables from the previous year. Next year the Regional is being moved back to Hyannis and if there is no improvement in the table count, there will be research done to move the Regional off Cape.
 - The NLM Regional in Sturbridge (Gold Mine) had less than expected attendance, but still good attendance. The room pickup was high but did not convert to a high table count. This event will be repeated next year. Some concerns expressed from attendees was that the amount of gold that would be awarded was not transparent and that the Swiss was not an open swiss but was for the GNT.
 - There will be a Pro Am held at the Warwick Regional this year. We would like to promote this event, perhaps by sending out a separate flyer and

perhaps an article in the bRIdgeBits. Joe Brouillard can also send out an email promoting the event.

Old Business:

- Suggestions regarding a Mentoring game were made. After discussion it was determined that it would be an extra point game held at the Warwick Bridge Club July 14 at 1:00. It will be \$5 per person and will include pizza. Thank you to Bob Garfinkle for allowing us to use his Club for this event. Marshall Williams is taking the lead on this event which will include an email that will go out looking for mentors. Paula Najarian will be assisting Marshall. In order to award the points, Bob will have to apply for a sanction to play on that Sunday.
- bRIdgebits to go out before the June Sectional.
- June 7, 8 Sectional:
 - Maureen Fahey and Stan Williams will take the lead for the set up on Saturday. They will bring the soda. If someone could contact Piezoni's to ask if we could get cans instead of additional large bottles of soda as we have more than enough for the next sectional.
 - Thank you to Lois who is standing down from Hospitality. Further discussion will occur next meeting regarding who will take on those responsibilities.
 - There was discussion regarding the 299 Swiss and lack of tables. A decision was made that instead of wrapping the players, if they want, into the open Swiss, a 299'r pair game will be held if there are not enough tables for a Swiss. However, in order to promote more tables, Meg Gousie will speak at Clint's to offer partnership help for potential teams for the Swiss. Also, we need the Club Directors to help promote the sectionals and the Sunday Swiss for 299's. We will also have the Sunday host available to help with scoring, if needed.
 - A poll will be developed by Marshall to be handed out at the June sectional to get feedback on what players would like to see on Sunday.

New Business:

None at this time

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held:
 - September 7 at 10:45

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.