

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

September 8, 2018

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

Excused: Barbara Barrett, Maureen Fahey, Carol McCullough, Chris Soares and Stan Williams

Call to Order:

President, Paula Najarian, called the meeting to order at 10:34.

President's Comments:

Welcome to our two candidates for District Direct; Mark Aquino and Bob Bertoni. They will each have five minutes to speak to us. After a coin toss to determine the first to speak, they will address the board with a Q&A after they have both spoken. After they are finished, ballots will be distributed and each board member will complete their ballot and seal it in an individual ballot with the board member's ACBL number across the envelope.

- Bart Buffington expressed the concern that by adding his ACBL number to the envelope makes the voting not confidential. Others agreed with that comment.
- Thank you to Bea Martini for her service to the Board. She has resigned but has said that she will continue to assist as needed, in particular at the Sectionals.
- Paula has reached out to Sue Miguel from Portsmouth to see if she had any suggestions for individuals from that area that might be interested in joining the board as we would like to have representation from that part of the Unit.
- Thank you for attending the Ocean State Regional in Warwick. Our Unit was well represented there.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the April 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.

Reports:

- Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report stating that Unit 145 had 517 members as of August 1, a loss of 10 from the July 1 membership number of 527.
- Lois DeBlois presented the Executive Board update.

- There will be a 0 – 750, non-life master regional in Sturbridge, MA in April with Gold available every day. On Sunday the 0 – 500 GNT will be held in addition to other events that day for non-district players and for players in the 500 – 750 point range. Thanks go to Peter Marcus and Sue Miguel for their hard work, creativity and support in helping this event to happen.
- A President's message will go out addressing the price increase for Regionals in 2019. The fee is going up just \$1, the first increase in six years. Considering that the cost of living goes up 2% per year, this increase is very reasonable and overdue. Everything has been going up as we are in a high cost area with rooms, hospitality and directors' fees. Our hope that this increase will allow us to stop sustaining these losses.
- Helen Pawlowski has retired as the District 25 Tournament Director. She has done a great job over the past years and we will miss her. We are very excited to now have Sally Kirkley as our new District 25 Tournament Director. She has worked closely with Helen this past year and is ready and eager to begin in her new role.
- The Senior Regional on Cape Cod lost significant money this year. It is one of just two Senior Regionals left in the United States. If we decide to cancel it, we can never get it back. It does have to be on the Cape and we are hoping that we will get support for this tournament in 2019. Currently we are committed to running the tournament for two more years, 2019 and 2020. The dates for 2019 conflict with Gatlinburg which will make it even more difficult to have it be successful.
 - Julie Goulet suggested that we add a story to the bRIdgebits about the Senior Regional, its history and that it needs our support.

Old Business:

- The Gala will be held in Johnston on October 20th. It is a Unit Championship game and will offer extra points. There will be hospitality in the morning; pastries and coffee.
- Our next sectional is September 22 and 23. Sunday will be extra points as it will be an International Fund Game. Joe will host on Saturday and Charleen and Maureen will host on Sunday.
- bRIdgebits are ready for distribution.

New Business:

- Julie Goulet suggested that this year we make our charitable contribution to the House of Hope. They offer travelling showers for the homeless. Carol Rooney is the founder. Julie stated that she recommends charities that our members are affiliated with. A \$1,000 contribution was approved unanimously for House of Hope.
 - There was then a suggestion that we typically contribute to the RI food bank each year and would we be able to make a contribution to them as well. Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer stated that we have sufficient monies to make an additional contribution. A \$500 contribution to the RI food bank was approved unanimously.

- Nominating Committee report was made by Meg Gousie. The Nominating Committee is Linda Travers, Karen Koppersmith, Charleen Christy, Justine Greenwell and Meg. The slate for this year's annual meeting at the Gala will be as follows:
 - President – Marshall Williams
 - Vice President – Marguerite Gousie
 - Treasurer – Joseph Brouillard
 - Secretary – Linda Ahrens

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 3, 2018 at 10:45

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.