

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

February 22, 2015

Present: Linda Ahrens, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Lois DeBlois, Will Everett, Maureen Fahey, Meg Gousie, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss, Fredda Sharfstein, and Marshall Williams

Excused: Liz Brian, Nancy Rosenbaum, Diane Lambert and Cathie Sallar

Absent Brenda Iemma, Lyn Bradford

Call to Order:

President, Maureen Fahey, called the meeting to order at 3:00. Due to weather, meeting time was called to order earlier than initially schedule so some board members arrived during the meeting.

President's Comments:

- Maureen thanked everyone for coming.
- Cathie Sallar resigned from the board. She has volunteered to continue updating our facebook page. Information should be forwarded to her that we want included.
- Discussion related to recruiting new Board Members; mentioned alternating the location if that would enhance participation from RIBA members from the West Bay area.
 - Maureen and Paula will talk with prospective candidates
 - Joe will send out an email asking for volunteers
- Announced after the meeting but added to the minutes, Brenda Iemma has resigned from the board.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the Gala were distributed via email prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved unanimously.
- Tournament lost money due to weather. Going forward flyers will include a statement saying to check the website in case of weather, that cancellation will be posted.
 - If the weather is bad, we must make the decision to cancel
 - Further discussion about raising the fee for future tournaments. This was postponed until the next tournament.

- A vote was done via email to raise the fee on Sunday by \$1 per person as the pizza cost has increased to over \$400. This was passed unanimously and the June sectional will have an increased fee on Sunday.
- The June sectional will pay off the sinking fund. For future sectionals, the entry fee will remain the same to cover the current losses. Further discussion will be held regarding possibly increasing the price on Saturday as there are increased costs including the storage and table delivery fees.

Tournament Manager's Report:

Sectional:

- Discussed responsibilities and the need for everyone to lend a hand.
 - Meg will get extra towels and toilet paper from Randy
 - Meg will empty trash and not play during the March sectional
 - David Prentiss will take responsibility for the June sectional and Maureen will be available for him to shadow.
 - Subs and pizza to be ordered.
 - In the future we will shut down the tournament both days during inclement weather. The decision will be made by the Thursday before the tournament.
 - A statement will be added to the flyer stating that cancellations due to bad weather will be posted on the RIBA website.
 - If we cancel we don't have to pay the Center Fee and the Director's Fees.
 - Hospitality was discussed and having more people volunteer to supply cookies and afternoon snacks.
 - The Senior Center is booked through 2016. Maureen touches base with the Senior Center one month out for each sectional. She will continue to do that.
 - Flyers – Maureen will provide the information and addresses and numbers for the flyers to Linda and Lois. Linda will create the new flyers and mail them and distribute them with Lois's assistance.
 - The Sunday Swiss will continue to start at 9:30. This was voted on and approved unanimously by the board.
 - World Wide Game will be held at the June Sectional on Saturday afternoon. Information promoting it will be added to the flyer.

Old Business:

ACBL Privacy Rule:

- Need approval from all new members to add them to the directory. Approval can be via email. Existing members can be considered approved. There needs to be a statement in the directory as well. Email can be sent to folks telling them to tell us if they want to opt out.
- We could do a notice with the gala, having folks opt out by filling out the form or by going to the website

B's Needs:

- The committee is working hard to come up with new ideas to improve attendance by B players at tournaments. In Nashua they will be having a Pro Am event on Saturday night at 7:30. Please try to support it. For the purposes of this Pro Am a pro is anyone that is a life master or has more than 500 points.
- Reimbursement and Retention Policy Reviews: Marshall presented drafts. Paula will be reviewing and sending out updated drafts prior to the next meeting. Language regarding travel and expenses will be updated.

New Business:

- Maureen will send email to Sue Miguel letting her know that we are offering the World wide Game at the Sectional on June 6 so her request to run the game in her club was not approved.
- Discussion about reaching out to existing directors about training to become Assistant Tournament Directors to help alleviate tournament costs by paying fewer expenses for directors coming to the Sectionals. Recommendations were to reach out to Bob Garfinkle and Clint Wright.
- Maureen wants to promote Learning to Play Bridge. A class will be offered at the Sectional and Barton Buffington will be teaching the Saturday class. Maureen and Bart will work on a flyer and a fee. The flyer will go to folks that did the Learn to Play Bridge In a Day at the Nationals and to local Senior Centers.
- In and Out Report - Paula Najarian reviewed the In and Out report for membership in RI.
 - As of 2/1/15 RI has 529 Members, 13 new ACBL members joined in December and January.
 - Paula sends out a welcome note to new players in RI.
- A list of new members could be added to the BRIDGE Bits. We will aim to do 2 BRIDGE Bits per year.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held on Sundays except for the summer meeting. The future dates are as follows:
 - Sunday, May 17 at 4:00PM
 - Wednesday, August 19 at 6:30PM
 - Sunday, November 15 at 4:00PM

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.