

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

June 16, 2018

Present: Linda Ahrens, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Charleen Christy, Lois DeBlois, Carol McCullough, Paula Najarian, Arthur (Butch) Norman, David Prentiss, Chris Soares, Stan Williams
Excused: Bea Martini, Julie Goulet, Diane Lambert, Marshall Williams, Meg Gousie, Maureen Fahey
Absent: Barbara Barrett

Call to Order:

President, Paula Najarian, called the meeting to order at 10:50.

President's Comments:

Thank you for a successful sectional. Special thanks to Meg Gousie for hosting on Saturday; to Chris Soares and Stan Williams for hosting on Sunday; Butch Norman for assisting with set-up; Lois DeBlois with hospitality; David Prentiss with clean-up, Bart Buffington for providing the lesson on Saturday and Carol McCullough for the flyer.

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:

- Joseph Brouillard presented the sectional report and stated that we had net income of \$770 from the June tournament. Table count was down from the previous year.
- Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report stating that Unit 145 had 520 members as of June 1, a gain of 12 from the May 1 membership number of 508.
- Lois DeBlois presented the Executive Board update.
 - A new initiative is to find ways to print fewer flyers but reach more people.
 - Suggestions included using email to link to a flyer or to attach a regional flyer to sectional emails. Also to add the flyer as a page to the newsletters that Units distribute to their members.
 - The Warwick Regional is being held Labor Day Weekend. Please support it.
 - The District will accept credit cards at the Nashua Regional and the Warwick Regional on a trial basis only.
 - Jay Whipple the current President of the ACBL will be in Nashua and available to answer questions

Old Business:

- Discussion on the proposal that Clint Wright presented to the Board in April. The decision was made that the Board's role would be to communicate the proposal via bRidge Bits with an article outlining the proposal and asking for volunteers to support it. Folks would be needed to help with marketing and someone to assemble a list of companies that we could have folks reach out to sponsor us. If we get a sponsor then individuals will go to the business and teach and coach bridge.
- bRidge Bits – Carol McCullough thanked everyone for their kind comments on the newsletter. She stated that its success was due in large part to the contributions made by others including Paula Najarian who does most of the work including the jokes and Butch for content and photos. For the next bRidge Bits we will ask Jack Maselli to write an article on Swiss play.

New Business:

- September Sectional :
 - A discussion about the flyer; should it be updated to include a class by Bart on Swiss games, strategy and play. The decision was made to offer the class at 9:00 instead of 9:15 and it would include information on how points are awarded in addition to strategy.
 - There was discussion about the strats for the Swiss and whether or not we should change how it's stated on the flyer. The decision was made to leave the flyer as is.
 - The Hampton Inn did not honor room reservations for the June Sectional. No changes are going to be made at this time regarding rooms. We can offer the names of the Hampton Inn and the Holiday Inn Express.
 - There has been feedback received regarding the start time of the Sunday Swiss and the number of boards being played. After discussion, it was decided that we would do a survey at our next Swiss Tournament to see what folks actually want. There will be no change at this time.
- Open Discussion:
 - The Longest Day is next week. Please support it. An email went out listing club dates and times although there is nothing on the ACBL website for our unit. Joe Brouillard will add something to the RI website.
 - Volunteers are needed for the Warwick Regional. Please contact Joe Brouillard if you can assist. Need pair available for Gold Rush Knockouts as we are guaranteeing play for all.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held :
 - September 8, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.