

**Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.**

**Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting**

**November 19, 2016**

Present: Linda Ahrens, Joe Brouillard, Liz Bryan, Bart Buffington, Charleen Christy, Maureen Fahey, Meg Gousie, Julie Goulet, Diane Lambert, Carol McCullough, Marshall Williams  
Excused: Lois DeBlois Bea Martini, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss  
Absent: Chris Soares

**Call to Order:**

President, Maureen Fahey, called the meeting to order at 10:38

**President's Comments:**

- Gala went very well with many positive comments from attendees; thank you to everyone.

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Treasurer's Reports were reviewed and approved unanimously.

**Tournament Report**

- Joseph Brouillard presented the Gala Tournament Financial Report. The Gala had a \$1,284 loss which is close to what was planned for and expected. The bridge costs are subsidized by the unit with attendees covering the cost of the meal.
- In response to Julie Goulet's question last meeting about sales exempt status, Joe Brouillard did additional research, read the legal definition and the Unit does not qualify. We do have non-profit status, not tax exempt.

**Gala:**

- Discussion about coffee being included in the price and upon review of the contract, coffee is included with the meal but would not be available for the morning bridge session so we will continue to provide the coffee.
- Going forward, we will only offer favors every other year, when we don't provide the new membership book.

- We saved \$200 by Stan Williams bringing the tables and taking them back to storage for the price of the Gala.
- Based on the membership, next year's strats will be 0 – 750 for C. By moving C from 500 to 750 there were only 2 more teams that were considered C.

### **Old Business:**

- Tournaments:
  - Strats next year
  - Sue Miguel is still first choice for Gala Tournament Director. Waiting to see if she will be available.
  - If Sue is not available, we will need a computer, printer and boards. We will check with Bob to see if he will use his machine to do the boards. Another option is to see if Sue can do the boards and Mike McDonald bring everything we need including the computer and printer, paying Sue for the equipment. A third option is to talk to Dave Metcalf and see if he is available. – Joe Brouillard will talk to Dave.
  - The menu for the Gala is set.
  - Flyers for the Gala are available at Clubs.
  - The doors for the Gala will open at 8AM for set up.
  - We are promoting the 299'r section.
  - Slate for the Board will go out to the clubs, hard copy.
- Flyers - Carol McCullough has volunteered to do the Sectional Flyers and to assist with the bRidge Bits.
- Carol McCullough recommends a new position as Publicity Person to help communicate to Rhode Island groups about bridge
  - Carol would like ideas; for example perhaps a monthly newsletter, listing the top games of the month
  - Groups, they are potential bridge players; news releases to try to promote bridge
  - Suggestion Box at the sectional for ideas to build bridge in Rhode Island
  - Publicity items to newspapers promoting bridge, even having the sectionals listed in things to do.
  - Get a list of teachers and when they're available to teach
  - Please email ideas to ChristmasCarol999@yahoo.com.
- Sectionals:
  - In August we voted to change the C strat to be 0 – less than 750 and B 750– 2000. The Directors, David Metcalf and Horace Gower recommended that we leave the C strat as 0 – less than 500. It was voted on to move the C strat back to 0 – less than 500 and have the B strat be 500 to less than 2000. It was approved unanimously.
  - We will offer the Grassroots for the January Sectional.

- The second session will remain at the same time, 2:15.
- There will be no lunch menu changes at this time. A recommendation was made to remove the meatball sub from the choices due to the possibility that that was making the delivery late. There was discussion about how to prevent late delivery of both the Saturday lunches and the Sunday pizza. Next sectional we will make it clear prior to the order that a late delivery is unacceptable and if necessary, we will look for another provider. Diane Lambert calls the week of the Sectional to remind them that we will be ordering on Saturday and Sunday. She will remind them that they should be opening at 10:00AM and deliver the lunch by 1PM. Meg Gousie or whoever is in charge of the tournament that day will confirm that same information when the order is called in. Also, we must review the pizza order as well and reduce the number of cheese pizzas that are ordered.
- We will not be offering a Pro-Am at this time. It is open for discussion for future sectionals, but based on feedback, it does not appear that we would generate enough tables without offering free meals to make it an attractive option.
- We had voted on an additional charge for non-ACBL members to be \$4, however upon review of the minutes of the District Directors that is only needed at Regionals so there was a vote to have the charge continue to be \$3. That was approved unanimously.
- The next sectional is January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Maureen volunteered to do hospitality in the morning. Meg Gousie will do the shopping. Joseph Brouillard and Linda Ahrens will do the fruit and pick up whatever supplies are needed and stored at Lois DeBlois' house.
- Carol McCullough has volunteered to do recycling at the Sectionals.

### **New Business:**

- Charity Donation – Children's Shelter has had some fund raising limitations and Julie Goulet recommended that as the charity for our donation of \$750. After discussion it was decided to also donate \$250 to the Gloria Gemma Charity in Sue Miguel's name. For our 2017 donation, please make suggestions to Julie Goulet throughout the year. It would be nice to have a picture taken of the recipients receiving their checks and have that added to the newsletter.
- In and Out Report – Linda Ahrens provided the report for Paula Najarian who provided the data. As of November 1 we have 502 members. A drop from our September numbers of 526 with 2 new members, 2 reinstated members and 3 moves into the unit.
- The Players are offering another fund raiser this year and Maureen Fahey selected the production on March 9<sup>th</sup>, Romeo and Juliet. We pay the Players \$120 and then whatever additional we are able to raise we can donate. This year it will be for Alzheimers.
- Carol McCullough suggested doing a newsletter every other month. It was suggested that rather than just ask for volunteers, that we request volunteers for specific tasks as members

will find it easier to volunteer if they have a specific task in mind. This will be added to the newsletter. The newsletter should also include an article on knockouts to educate members as the Regionals will be adding more knockouts to their schedules. Great way, with enough teams and brackets for individuals with fewer points to get more gold.

- It was voted and approved unanimously to have Carol McCullough be the Unit's official publicity chair.
- Executive Board Update was given by Joseph Brouillard. The 2021 Summer NABC has been awarded to Providence and Lois DeBlois and Joseph Brouillard have volunteered to be the co-chairs.

**Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:**

- Future meetings will be held :
  - Saturday, March 11, 2016 at 10:30AM

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.