

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

August 3, 2014

Present: Linda Ahrens, Liz Brian, Joe Brouillard, Lyn Bradford, Bart Buffington, Lois DeBlois, Will Everett, Brenda Iemma, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss, Nancy Rosenbaum, Maureen Fahey and Stan Williams

Excused: Meg Gousie, Brenda Iemma, Cathie Sallar, Fredda Sharfstein, and Marshall Williams

Call to Order:

President, Lois DeBlois, called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

President's Comments:

- Welcome back to Liz Brian
- Welcome to Will Everett who is joining us for the first time along with Fredda Sharfstein who was unable to be with us today
- Welcome to Diane Lambert who has volunteered to join the Board. Her addition to the Board was accepted unanimously.
- Paula Najarian reviewed the In and Out report for membership in RI over the past year. The report showed from November 2013 to July of 2014 there were 22 new ACBL members in RI. This did not represent a net gain. It was mentioned that we should try to ensure that RI members that may be snowbirds renew while they're in RI as their renewal is based on where they are at the time that they renew. We currently have 524 RI Bridge ACBL members.
- Dean Panagopoulos will come to the Sectional in September to present information about the I/N programs at the Nationals.

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

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved unanimously
- 3 more Sectionals and the Bridgemate fund should be reimbursed 100%.

Tournament Manager's Report:

Sectional:

- June sectional numbers were down due in part to the conflict with the Las Vegas NABC. The numbers for the 299ers remain good.

- The September Sectional dates conflict with a Sectional in Connecticut which might impact our numbers.
- Discussion and unanimous agreement that Dean could have a free play for himself and a partner at the September Sectional.
- Maureen will discuss the number of boards played for the September Swiss with the Directors at the Sectional. There were some complaints by AX players related to the Swiss, but the decision was made to allow the Director to continue to determine the strats.
- 299er games will continue to be held on both Saturday and Sunday.
- Gala:
 - After review of the buffet choices, the Pawtuxet Buffet was selected. A tasting was scheduled for August 15 from 4 – 7. Volunteers to attend the tasting were: Nancy Rosenberg, Lynn Bradford, Diane Lambert, Maureen Fahey, Lois DeBlois, Stan Williams and David Prentiss for 5:00PM.
 - Bridge convention cards were ordered as the novelty gift for the Gala with an NABC sticker to be applied.
 - Pairs will be held this year at the Gala, but further discussion regarding moving to a possible Swiss for 2015 Gala will be held.
 - Lynn Bradford volunteered to record minutes from the Gala as Linda Ahrens will not be attending

NABC 2014 Report: Joe Brouillard reported on the most recent accomplishments for the 2014 NABC

- The ACBL Bridge bulletin had a great picture of Providence helping to promote the Fall NABC.
- A Basin Waterfire has been sponsored for November 29, the first Saturday of the Tournament.
- August 29, an NABC meeting will be held at the Omni after a tour of the Convention Center for the Executive Board of the District and NABC Committee Chairs.
- Brenda Montague is the Volunteer Coordinator. She is continuing to look for volunteers. There will be a Volunteer Hospitality Suite available each day from approximately 8AM to 12:30PM. Vouchers will be provided to volunteers that will allow them to go there for 2 hours and have a lunch.

Old Business:

Document Retention Policy and Reimbursement Policies:

- On hold until the next meeting.

B's Needs:

- Lois has begun sending letters congratulating players as they achieve different levels. There have been quite a few and it appears to be well received.

Longest Day Results:

- Lois reported for Marshall Williams. 7 people on the Board joined the RI Kings & Queens. Over \$2000 was raised.
- The recommendation for next year was to not try to add any extra games to the schedule as the turnout wasn't high. Just have the regular games and promote the Longest Day at those games.
- \$35 was sent from the Bridge Club of RI for the Longest Day
- There was some conflicting information this year about how to run the games and whether or not they were a charity game.

Nominating Committee:

- The 2015 slate that will be presented at this time will be Maureen Fahey for President and Paula Najarian for Vice President.
- Discussion was held on changing from one year commitments to 2 year commitments and the decision was made to table this at this time.
- The updated membership directory (which is produced every 2 years) will be available at the Gala. Paula Najarian is working on completing this.

Tournament Manager Position:

- Stan and Maureen have volunteered to store the bidding boxes
- Maureen and Stan will be meeting with the individual volunteers for the new roles to discuss the positions. Finalization will be handled at the December 10th meeting.

District Charity Committee:

- Lyn Bradford has selected three charities she thinks we should consider as recipients of our \$5,000 share. She will provide the information on these three charities to the Board via email.
 - All six states in the District received the same dollar amount.
 - The theme for this year's charity is to help the homeless.
 - As a reminder, anytime a Club holds a Charity Game, that extra dollar that we pay to play goes into the ACBL Charities of the Year fund. The \$30,000 District grant comes from that fund.

bRidge Bits:

- Please get any information you may want to have included to Meg and Marshall. They will have them ready to distribute at the Gala.

New Business:

District Business:

- The District currently has openings for District Treasurer and District VP.

Youth Bridge:

- Maureen will contact private high schools about conducting and interest in holding possible Learn to Play Bridge in a Day Programs and some free bridge
- Maureen will be taking the Teacher Certification Program at the Nationals.

- Further discussion is needed for what we will donate as a Unit for youth bridge. NE Bridge has a good program.

Facebook:

- <https://www.facebook.com/ACBLUnit145> is our Unit's address on Facebook. Cathie Sallar is updating the page as she gets information. There's a lot of great information on that page with highlights and pictures from tournaments with local winners named.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- We discussed continuing to have the meetings on Sundays or if another day would work better, particularly in the summer. Based on the discussion it was decided that our next meeting would be Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 6:30PM.
- Linda Ahrens will reach out to everyone prior to the meeting to see who is interested in going in on pizza.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.