

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

March 11, 2017

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

Call to Order:

President, Paula Najarian, called the meeting to order at 10:40.

President's Comments:

- Liz Brian is no longer a resident of RI and has resigned from the Board. She has moved to Florida and we wish her the best and thank her for her service to the Board.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the November 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.
- A question was received regarding the cost of the Johnston Senior Center site rental and the response was that there has not been a recent fee change for the site.

Tournament Report

- Joseph Brouillard presented the January Sectional Report.
- The change in the report presentation is due to a change in ACBL business policy. The Unit now pays the sanction fees.
- Sunday's Swiss table count was up 10 tables.

Reports:

- Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report. Our Unit has 149 members as of March 1.
- Lois DeBlois presented the Executive Board update. The District has had increased attendance at the Regionals. This is due to the tournament schedule changes including:
 - the introduction of the Mid-Flight choice for players with less than 2,500 points
 - x-tra point games offered in the evening side game
 - promotion and addition of Knockouts with no competing team games
 - and good weather
 - In June, the Nashua Regional will be offering free Knockouts.

Old Business:

- BRidge Bits have been approved and will be distributed via email in the next week.
 - For future BRidge Bits, it was recommended that we include a mini-lesson from a Club Director. Paula Najarian will reach out to Bart Buffinton for this first article.
- As the Webmaster, Joe Brouillard sends out emails to the Unit with the BRidge Bits, and announcements of the Sectionals. He also sends out emails to folks in EMBA alerting them to upcoming Sectionals as well.
 - There are limitations place on how many emails he is able to send using SPAM before they determine it is SPAM. In order to send the number of emails needed, Joe is proposing that he open a free Mail Chimp account which will allow him to do 2,000 emails per event which will allow him to reach out to all of Rhode Island members as that number is just over 500. This should also provide enough additional email addresses so that the Sectional email alerts can be sent to CT, EMBA, Western Mass, and Central Mass members. It was also recommended that we add New Hampshire and Vermont email addresses to the alerts that are sent publicizing the RI Sectionals. A motion was made and approved unanimously for Joe Brouillard to set up the Mail Chimp account.
 - The ACBL will send out one email notification per sectional and a motion was made and approved unanimously for us to begin using this service.
- The Barclay Players in Providence offered tickets to us for a fund raiser and Romeo and Juliet was selected. It did not raise money as attendance was not as good as last year's fund raiser for Alzheimer's. Next year before running the fund raiser, Marshall Williams and Maureen Fahey will discuss the proposed shows and ensure that before electing to do a fund raiser, there will be interest in the show being offered. Also, the ticket price will also be discussed as \$10 might not be the right price.
 - A motion was made and approved unanimously for the Unit to reimburse Maureen for the \$30 loss related to the tickets purchased but not sold.

New Business:

- March Sectional:
 - Meg Gousie will be available to be host both Saturday and Sunday until 2:30. Lois DeBlois volunteered to cover Saturday afternoon and Maureen Fahey volunteered to cover Sunday afternoon.
 - Horace Gower and Tim Hill are the March Directors. Horace will be the Director in Charge.
 - Set up for the pizza on Sunday was discussed. If the gym is not available, we will split the pizza and set it out in two places to move the process along. Also, the soda will be moved to be by the hospitality table as the pouring of soda slowed the lines down at the January sectional.
 - Lois DeBlois will be the District President beginning in 2018. At that time, she will no longer be able to be in charge of hospitality although still willing to assist. Please

- reach out if you are interested in taking on the responsibilities of Hospitality for the 4 sectionals and the Gala.
- There is a conflict with the March Sectional in Johnston with a Sectional scheduled in New Hampshire. There may be an impact to our attendance and we should review hospitality based on reduced numbers.
 - One topping pizzas only will be ordered going forward for the Sectionals. In addition, we will be ordering pizzas based on table numbers plus 3 additional pizzas.
 - Paula Najarian reached out to Horace Gower regarding how many extra point games we could offer at our sectionals. The response was that we can run four, two session extra point games per year. A motion was made and approved unanimously to run a Charity Game at the June Sectional. The June Sectional Flyer will advertise a Charity Game with extra points. We can determine at our next meeting which ACBL charity we wish to donate the funds to.
 - There was discussion related to adding back the cost of playing at the Sectional, but it was decided to continue to leave the cost off at this time.
- The Rhode Island Board information was updated on the ACBL website and the changes included adding Carol McCullough as Publicity coordinator.
 - There is an opening on the Board for the NAOP, GNT and STAC coordinator. Meg Gousie volunteered for the position.
 - Paula Najarian mentioned that we have publicized that we have a presence on Facebook, but there is currently no active link. The decision was made to not have a presence at this time on Facebook so any references to it will be removed.
 - There was discussion related to having 7 rounds of 7 boards at our Sunday Swiss Sectional. It was not approved at this time.
 - Phillis Bauscher, the President of the CT Unit reached out to Lois DeBlois for advise on how to increase attendance at the CT Sectionals due to the success we have had in Rhode Island. The key points that our Board felt were important included having a comfortable venue, continuity at a site and good hospitality. Also, it was recommended that they send flyers to clubs in neighboring Units. CT is moving to a new site in May as the previous site was not welcoming.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held :
 - Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 10:30AM
 - Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 10:30AM

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.