

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

January 16, 2016

Present: Linda Ahrens, Liz Brian, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Charleen Christy, Lois DeBlois, Maureen Fahey, Meg Gousie, Diane Lambert, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss, Beatrice Martini, Fredda Sharfstein and Marshall Williams

Excused: Liz Brian, Will Everett, Julie Goulet, Chris Soares

Call to Order:

President, Maureen Fahey, called the meeting to order at 10:05.

President's Comments:

- Thank you to Bob Garfinkel for allowing us to use his club for our board meetings.
- A reminder that for next year's Gala, the nominating committee must inform the membership of all board members approved by the board since the last Gala (membership meeting). For the October 2016 Gala, new board members that would need to be mentioned would include Charleen Christy and Chris Soares.

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

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer's Reports were reviewed and approved unanimously.
- Currently have assets just under 10K.
- Our current treasurer, Joseph Brouillard was asked at what point would we be concerned about our funds and he stated that the Rhode Island Bridge Association would not need to be concerned until our assets fell to approximately 5K.
- For 2015 we showed a slight profit of \$959.
- The 2015 charitable donations will be made in January of 2016.

Tournament Information:

Maureen reported on the Director in Charge fees. She followed up and the ACBL policy is to pay, if the directors are of equal rank, for the Director in Charge to be the director that lives closest to the tournament. So, if both Horace and David are our directors, since David lives closer, he would be considered the Director in Charge

Sectionals:

- The March dates are March 19th and 20th and they do conflict with the Nationals in Reno. We were unable to move the dates as the only open weekend was the weekend of Easter Sunday.
- Duties of the Host Person were distributed. Also a sign-up sheet for board members to sign up for one date to host. On the day that they host, they should plan on not playing bridge.
- A second volunteer is needed to assist with hospitality duties for each sectional. Charleen Christy volunteered to partner with Lois on hospitality. Lois and Charleen will arrange to meet at a later date.
- Sunday only one person needs to be a non-playing volunteer. The “host” can cover hospitality duties once play has begun and hospitality has been set up.
- January’s lecture will be held in the 299’er room between sessions. Bart will be providing the “class”.
- Maureen will speak to Clint about a lecture for the March sectional.
- Recommendation to move the lecture to 9:30 and shorten lunch. Maureen will follow up with the 299’ers to see if they are willing to come in early to attend the lecture. The flyers will be sent out after Cromwell so we need confirmation about the time before that so the flyers can be updated with the new times. At this point, the lecture remains between sessions and the sessions are 10:00 and 2:15.
 - We need to have a start time for the second session for folks that may be planning on playing in just the afternoon section.
- The Gala date is 10/29 and will not conflict this year with Auburn as their sectional date is the weekend of 10/22.

Old Business: No old business to be discussed

New Business:

- A decision was made to continue to use Randy for the tables for the Sectionals. He currently charges \$50 to bring the tables and bring them back to storage. In addition, he has provided us storage space at the center. We will revisit the Gala table situation at a later board meeting.
- Julie Goulet sent recommendations via email for our 2015 charitable donation. After discussion it was decided to make four donations of equal value, \$250 each. The donations will go to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, St Edwards Center, Blackstone Valley Children’s Center and the Kent Center.
- Please submit anything that we need to do yearly or monthly; for example flyers to Lois DeBlois who will put together a calendar of important dates and what needs to be done.
- Bart Buffington was unanimously approved as the Education Chair.

- Any clubs that offer NAP qualifying games can submit the dates to Joseph Brouillard, Webmaster and he will send an email out to all Rhode Island players communicating the dates.
- There was discussion about educating RI bridge players about the GNT and NAPs. An article will be added to the next BRIDGE bits. The GNTs will be held in Sturbridge and the NAPs will be held in Mansfield for B and C players and the A players will have the NAP in Watertown during a sectional.
- We will be adding Executive Committee Update to our agenda as both Lois DeBlois who is currently Vice President of the District, Joseph Brouillard who is Treasurer for the District and Maureen Fahey Rhode Island President attend the District Executive Committee meetings held at four of the Regionals: Cromwell, Nashua, Warwick and Mansfield.
- Lois DeBlois gave a quick update about some District Executive Committee decisions. The ACBL has determined that they will allow future EGG tournaments which allows for a 2 x 2 x 2 format. This will make it much easier for B players to compete.
- The Board Meetings will be held at 10:30 going forward, please see below for the next two scheduled.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held :
 - Saturday, February 27th 10:30AM
 - Saturday, May 21 at 10:30AM

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.