

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.
Agenda
January 11, 2020

Present: Linda Aherns, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Charleen Christy, Megan Diorio, Lois DeBlois, Maureen, Fahey, Julie Goulet, Meg Gousie, Cindy Mottle, Paula Najarian, David Prentiss, Don Rankin, Chris Soares, Marshall Williams, Stan Williams

Excused: Diane Lambert

Guest: Joan O'Connell

Call to Order:

President, Marshall Williams, called the meeting to order at 10:22.

Marshall said that members were en route, but it was good to see everyone.

Marshall welcomed Joan O'Connell and hoped to have other directors attend.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the November meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting by email. A motion to approve was passed and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report, which was seconded and the reports were approved unanimously.

There was not a lot of activity for the last two months,

Details on expenses and income were provided.

The upcoming tournament, January, is usually one of our best tournaments.

Reports:

Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report stating that as of January 1st, 2020 Unit 145 had 470 members, down from 521 in June. 4 members had been reinstated. The loss in numbers is due to the fact that snowbirds switch out in winter and then switch back in summer. This is an issue when members renew away from Rhode Island Unit 145 loses the \$4.00 from membership fee. We have reminded folks in Bridge Bits to renew as Rhode Island members

Lois DeBlois presented the Executive Board update.

Venues for the regionals at Cromwell and Warwick have been fine. The District is replacing the NLM tournament location even though it was a good central location. The

The NLM Gold Mine Regional is going to be relocated to Springfield Massachusetts and the Keohane Senior Regional will be relocated to Marlborough. The Cromwell site is closed right now. It was closed by the state of Connecticut due to nonpayment of taxes. The hotel in Cromwell has changed hands multiply times region was only going to give Cromwell one more year to correct problems. The tournament manager investigating other options for Cromwell, but the need for a lot of space specifically many ballrooms is limiting options. Looking at a variety of other sites. If the tournament is moved or cancelled the region will contact all directors in New England to let all players know. Lois will let folks know once a decision is made but cancellation not the first choice.
(*Tournament was moved to Sturbridge.*)

Old Business:

Gala: There was an extended discussion of the gala and alternatives. The gala has steadily lost attendance over the years from 140 to 80. This year the gala lost \$700 and in the past it has lost as much as \$2000. The group then reviewed some of points from the Discussion at the last meeting and follow up with other units about how they hold annual meetings. There was a discussion about other locations for the gala and the logistics necessary to make that happen: times, dates, number of sessions, insurance, liquor licenses, and bartenders. Paula Najarian suggested that the gala remain at Johnston and get a liquor license and a certified bartender. Bart Buffington and Joe Broulliard both discussed the monetary loss and that was acceptable and even desirable to deplete the treasury. Julie Goulet suggested a more attractive location such as Potowomat, make the event special and a better date possibly earlier in the year. Cindy Mottle suggested the option of a one session event as most players play one session at their club. Several members mentioned that the food had been better at Shriners but the food quality had gone down. The issue of playing in one room and eating in another was brought up by several members. Other venues were mentioned: Jewish Community Center or the East Providence Squantum Club. Chris Soares suggested having the gala be a holiday party and make it more fun with prizes like Sue Miguel's fundraiser. Marshall Williams said that a big meal was not appealing unless the event is more special and the food better. Julie Goulet suggested rebranding and callin the event the RIBA Annual Meeting. Lois DeBlois suggested suspending the gala and having a meeting at a sectional and discuss at the meeting what people want for in an annual meeting versus a gala. Paula Najarian said the annual meeting at EMBA consists of mostly just passed out awards and the election of officers. Marshall Williams said that the annual meeting at EMBA is hard to follow with all the peripheral activity. Paula Najarian said that if the annual meeting is held at a sectional the treasurer's report and secretary reports should be passed out ahead of time and the meeting used to announce the slate of officers and vote for the slate. Julie Goulet suggested that the gala be held as a charity fundraiser which could potentially get a venue to give the unit a lower rate. Marshall Williams suggested that the fundraiser could be held in support of the longest day on 6/21. There was a general consensus that a fundraiser in support of the Longest Day could be a good alternative to the Gala in 2020. Action items for this

potential fundraiser are to contact the Johnson Senior Center about liquor license and to contact a caterer about food and also if the caterer had a liquor license and bartender. A motion to try to have the annual meeting at Johnston Senior Center as a fundraiser for the Longest Day with liquor and a caterer was made, seconded and passed Unanimously.

January Tournament:

Maureen hosting on Saturday. Meg hosting on Sunday. Set up will be done by Maureen and Stan. Maureen will take over Diane's duties. Megan doing pastries and David bringing food.

Support for new players:

Joan O'Connell would like to offer Bridge in a Day. The unit will contact Bridge in Day to see if we can get a unit license. A motion was made and seconded to acquire a unit wide license.

New Business:

There is a need for a new publicity chair who is responsible for Bridge Bits and flyers. Cindy Mottle and Linda Ahern volunteered to take on the position as co-chairs.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

Future meetings will be held :

February 29 at 10:15 (Snow date March 7)

May 9 at 10:15

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.