

**BRIDGE BITS - UNIT 145 Newsletters**  
**Rhode Island Bridge Association**

August 2011

**From the President:**

This is my second and last year as President. We continue to have good news! As you know, we have a fantastic site for our sectionals, our membership has held steady, the attendance at our tournaments is steady, and we are in good financial condition. We get great comments from folks all over New England about the quality of our tournaments.

We need a volunteer to head up hospitality for our sectionals. Lois DeBlois has been doing it for a few years, and it's time for someone new to step into the position. There's always a lot of help, but we need someone to take charge of it. Interested??

We are always looking for new volunteers to become Board members. We meet four times a year and it's always interesting.

If any member has a concern or suggestion they would like the board to consider, do not hesitate to contact me. We are always looking for new ideas and ways to make our organization better and improve bridge in Rhode Island.

Good luck at the bridge table!

Sue Erwin, RIBA President

**Unit Officers and  
Board of Directors**

There have been some changes and additions to the board and officers of the unit. The list below is based on the August 2011 Board of Directors meeting:

President: Sue Erwin  
 Vice-President: Lois DeBlois  
 Secretary: Lisa Eklund  
 Treasurer: Vacant

Board of Directors:

Ann Broomfield  
 Joe Brouillard  
 Grace Charron  
 Chris DelSesto  
 Lisa Eklund  
 Robert Erwin  
 Maureen Fahey  
 Ray Hayden  
 Danuta Lamparsky  
 William Lang  
 Jo Murray  
 Paula Najarian  
 David Prentiss  
 Nancy Rosenbaum  
 William Shockley  
 Richard Tropper  
 Stan Williams

**Tournament Manager's  
Report**

This year our tournaments were well attended and successful on every level. The location of the tournaments at the Johnson Senior Center continued to be a great asset, drawing players from as far as Maine. We would like to give a heart-felt thanks to Lois DeBlois and her contributors, who made the hospitality at each tournament second to none.

Efforts to continually improve the tournaments included the use of Bridgemates for all of this year's tournaments. The pre-made boards were used for every pairs game allowing games to begin in a timely manner. We continue to look at grouping and other aspects of the tournament for possible improvements in the future.

Stan Williams and Maureen Fahey took over duties as Tournament Managers. We would like to give a warm thank-you to Joe Brouillard, the previous Tournament Manager for making the transition so smooth and easy.

**Thanks!**

Thanks to those who volunteered to help at the recent District 25 Regional Tournament in Warwick. Your efforts helped make this successful and were appreciated.

It is in the plans to have a Regional in Warwick for the next few years over the general Labor Day timeframe.

**Unit Officer Election**

The Nominating Committee has put forward the following slate for election at the Gala:

President: William Shockley  
 Vice President: Lois DeBlois  
 Secretary: Lisa Eklund  
 Treasurer: Richard Tropper

**RIBA Schedule**





**2011 GALA:**

22 October  
 RI Shriners' Imperial Room  
 Sign-up sheet is attached to this mailing.

**2012 Sectionals\*\*:**

January 28/29  
 March 30/April 1  
 June 9/10  
 September 22/23

\*\*All Sectionals are at Johnston Senior Center\*\*

<p><b>2014 Fall National Tournament</b></p>	<p><b>Snow Bird Alert</b></p>
<p>Are you aware that the <b>Fall Nationals will be in Providence in 2014</b>? This tournament always takes place at Thanksgiving time. Games will be played at the Convention Center. There will be nearby hotels to provide rooms and we will be working with local restaurants for meals.</p> <p>Want to participate? Ask us about it!</p>	<p>Very shortly the annual migration of the Snow Birds will begin. In fact, there have been sightings of some vehicles packed with luggage heading south on Route 95 already leaving the rest of the non-migratory bridge players looking for their winter coats and hats.</p> <p>When you call the ACBL with your new winter address, <b>tell the ACBL you want to remain a member of the RI unit – Unit 145.</b> When you change your address the ACBL will also <b>transfer your unit affiliation from the RI unit to the unit based on your new address.</b> Why is this important? There are two reasons. First, if you're in the running for a Mini-McKinney or Ace of Clubs award, your points will be transferred to the new unit and you will not be eligible for the RI awards. Second, if you renew your membership while away, a portion of your renewal will go to your temporary unit and not Unit 145.</p> <p>Have fun playing bridge in your warm weather winter home.</p>
<p><b>Bylaws Update</b></p>	
<p>Every few years we update the Bylaws for the Rhode Island Bridge Association. Once the bylaws changes are approved by the Board of Directors, they go before the RIBA members at the annual meeting – the Gala.</p> <p>The suggested changes are enclosed on a sheet with this mailing. Please look them over. Our bylaws are similar to the District 25 bylaws, which were updated last year. Most of the RIBA changes are minor, such as changes in wording; however, a few changes have new content.</p> <p>At the Gala, the bylaws changes may be approved in one vote, or individual changes may be discussed and voted on separately.</p>	<p>   </p>

<p><b><u>Email Communication</u></b></p>	<p>keep their email address private there is another option. Go to the RIBA website, <a href="http://www.ribridge.org">www.ribridge.org</a>, and click on the “Contact Us” link. At the bottom of that page you will see “Click Here to Join Our Mailing List”. Click the link and send us an email so you can be added to our email list. We never give our email address list to anyone.</p> <p>Make sure you add <a href="mailto:Webmaster@RIBridge.Org">Webmaster@RIBridge.Org</a> to your email safe sender list to prevent the email from going into your Junk Email folder.</p>
	<p><b>GALA</b></p>
<p>We are continuing our efforts to obtain as many email addresses as possible from our members. We currently have email addresses for 45% of our membership. We are hoping to increase that number although we do understand that some members do not have computers. To send a mailing to each member the cost with printing, envelopes, and first class postage is approximately 70 cents per piece not to mention the time and labor involved. With 578 members you can see how the expense will quickly add up. Email is the fastest and most cost effective way to communicate with members. There is virtually no cost at all since everything is all electronic.</p> <p>The association automatically receives a member’s email address from the ACBL but there is on <b>IMPORTANT</b> catch. You have to select the privacy option to allow the ACBL to share you email address with our unit. When you log into your account at My ACBL click on the “Manage My ePrivacy” link on the left. Under ePrivacy Options make sure the “Shared” option is selected. <b>If “Private” is selected we will NOT receive your email address.</b></p> <p>For those members who want to</p>	<p>The unit gala will be held on October 22nd, 2011, at the RI Shriners’ Imperial Room located at 1 Rhodes Place in Cranston, RI. (See website for map/directions)</p> <p>For RIBA members, tickets are \$22 per person for either one or two sessions of bridge and dinner. The cost is \$30 per person for those who are not RIBA members.</p> <p>The schedule is as follows:  9:15 Continental Breakfast  10:00 AM First session begins  1:30 PM Dinner  2:30 PM Second Session begins</p> <p>Sign up soon! This fills up fast! See attached sheet.</p>