

BRIDGE BITS - UNIT 145 Newsletters
Rhode Island Bridge Association

August 2009

From the President:

Where has the time gone? It has been a busy but quick two years as President. I am happy to report the association is in excellent condition. We have a fantastic site for our sectionals, our membership has increased to 525 registered members, the attendance at our tournaments is steady, and we are in good financial condition.

I want to thank the members of the Board of Directors for their help in running the association: Bob and Sue Erwin for volunteering their time for many years to the association; Lois DeBlois for her exceptional efforts for providing great hospitality at our tournaments; Brenda Iemma for taking care of our financial records; Judy Biegner for her charity work and for coordinating the partnership desk for our tournaments; and Nancy Rosenbaum for her excellent lectures at our sectionals.

We are always looking for new volunteers to become Board members. We would welcome help at the sectionals in the hospitality area and also with helping clean after the tournament is over.

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.

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Good luck at the bridge table.

Joe Brouillard

**Election Slate for 2009
RIBA Officers:**

President: Suzanne Erwin
 Vice President: Lois DeBlois
 Secretary: Kathy Thornton
 Treasurer: Brenda Iemma

The election of officers is held annually at the Gala.



**Unit Officers and
Board of Directors**

There have been some changes and additions to the board and officers of the unit. The below list is based on the August 2009

Board of Directors meeting:
 President: Joe Brouillard
 Vice-President: Lois DeBlois
 Secretary: Suzanne Erwin
 Treasurer: Brenda Iemma

Board of Directors:

Judy Biegner
 Chris DelSesto
 Robert Erwin
 Danuta Lamparsky
 William Lang
 Nancy O'Donnell
 David Prentiss
 Nancy Rosenbaum
 William Shockley
 Kathy Thornton

Mentoring

Contact the following people for information, if you desire to be a mentor, or have ideas or interest in bridge mentoring:

South County Bridge Club
 Bill Niemi 783-3118
wniemi@verizon.net
 Narragansett Bridge Club
 Joan O'Connell
 364-0607
jmoc34@cox.net
 Bridge Club of RI
 Dave Regenstein
 621-0323

RIBA 2009 Unit Gala

The unit gala will be held on October 24th, 2009, at the RI Shriners' Imperial Room located at 1 Rhodes Place in Cranston, RI. (See website for map/directions)

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.

The schedule is as follows:

10:00 AM First session begins
 1:30 PM Dinner
 2:30 PM Second Session begins

Sign up soon! We've sold out the last two years. See attached sheet

RIBA Schedule

2009 GALA:

24 October
 RI Shriners' Imperial Room

2010 Sectionals:

January 30/31
 March 27/28
 June 12/13
 September 25/26

All at Johnston Senior Center

<p align="center">Upcoming Change in Life Master Requirements</p>	<p>leaving the rest of the non-migratory bridge players looking for their winter coats and hats.</p>
<p>Effective January 1, 2010 the ACBL is changing the point requirements for becoming a life master. You will need 500 total points of which there must be 50 gold, 50 red or gold, 75 silver, and 75 black. This will apply to all members who join the ACBL starting in 2010. Current members who are not life masters will NOT be required to satisfy the new point requirement. You will be “grandfathered” and the current standards will apply to you.</p> <p>However, DO NOT ALLOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO LAPSE. If you let your membership lapse and decide to rejoin after January 1, 2010, you will be subject to the NEW Life Master requirements. Also, if you know of bridge player who is not an ACBL member yet, suggest to them they join the ACBL prior to December 31 so they will be under the current life master requirements.</p>	<p>When you call the ACBL with your new winter address, tell the ACBL you want to remain a member of the RI unit – Unit 145. When you change your address the ACBL will also transfer your unit affiliation from the RI unit to the unit based on your new address. 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>Snow Bird Alert</p>	<p>Tournament Manager’s Report by Joe Brouillard</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</p>	<p>Our sectional tournaments continue to be successful. I believe there are 2 main reasons for such good attendance. The first being the beautiful facilities that we have at the Johnston Senior Center, and second the great hospitality we provide. We have the facility booked for our tournaments through 2011.</p>

<p><u>Email Communication</u></p> <p>We are continuing our efforts to obtain as many email addresses as possible from our members. We currently have email addresses for 50% 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 522 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 IMPORTANT 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. If “Private” is selected we will NOT receive your email address.</p>	<p>For those members who want to keep their email address private there is another option. Go to the RIBA website, www.ribridge.org, 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 do not give our email address list to anyone for any reason.</p>
<p>Tournament Manager’s Report -- Cont’d</p> <p>I would like to ask all members to assist us in being a good tenant. Everyone can contribute by helping surrounding area. Please deposit cups, plates, napkins, bridge supplies, etc. in the trash cans at the end of the day. There has been an inordinate amount of trash left on tables, ledges, and the floors that we have to pickup and dispose of. We could also use help with cleaning the facility on Sunday at the end of the tournament. We have been asked to leave the center in the condition it was in when we arrived on Saturday morning. If you can volunteer just a little of your time to help us it would be very much appreciated.</p>	