

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Agenda

January 9, 2021

Present: Linda Aherns, Joe Brouillard, Charleen Christy, Megan Diorio, Maureen Fahey, Barry Gilbert, Julie Goulet, Meg Gousie, Sue Miguel, Cindy Mottle, Chris Soares, Stanley Williams, Marshall Williams

Absent: Bart Buffington, Don Rankin

Call to Order:

Marshall Williams called the board meeting to order at 10:18.

President's Comments:

He was saddened to hear Will Everett died from pancreatic cancer. Also Paula Najarian has resigned from the board. Some light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine news. It is great to see everyone and hope they are all well.

Secretary's Report:

There were a few corrections in the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes . Keepintouch needs to be corrected.

Treasurer's Report:

Joe sent the treasurer's report out. Some small income came the unit's portion of ACBL membership. There were expenses of \$3000 in donations for House of Hope and RI Community Food Bank. There was an additional donation of \$1702 from the gala to the Food Bank. Motion made to approved and seconded and approved. There was a question about the annual budget but we don't have one. Barry did not get notification or minutes. So will add to minutes. Three year comparison of income and expenses was sent to everyone. Our current on hand money is high compared to previous years.

Reports:

In/Out report

As of November 1, 456 members 1 reinstated, 5 transferred in and 15 transferred out 6 changed to inactive.

As of December 1, 449 members 1 new, 3 reinstated, 1 transfer in and 4 transferred out 10 changed to inactive.

As of January 1, 446 members, 3 new, 1 transfer out and 5 changed to inactive.

There was a question about reaching out to members that are inactive. The names will be put in a spreadsheet and sent out to all members. Contact should include reference to Sue's club. Will send to Sue Miguel first to see if she recognizes any names.

Executive Board update.

Proofed document a document that Bob Bertoni sent out. He talked about cheating and the work doing to stop it. There were a lot of meetings about the future of bridge including changes in masterpoint awards. There is still no answer about the St Louis National in March. Bob mentioned that a unit regional was being held in line with the district getting money that had money awards on BBO. People seem to want masterpoints not money. Letter mentioned fewer in person tournaments no further info but ACBL making a ton of money so real possibility of fewer in person

Providence ACBL not cancelled as of yet though Joe mentioned not optimistic. Need at least a 5 - 6 month window to pull off the tournament. ACBL books tournaments out 5 - 6 years so we would have to go to the back of the line. If another tournament gets cancelled/changed we could get that tournament. Question about having a tournament outside. Sue Miguel tried to do an outdoor game in spring and said it is a logistical nightmare. Hotels are also an issue as they are near the convention center. Discussion of advantages of outdoor tournaments.

Sue Miguel said just like Amazon changed shopping, Covid will change everything about duplicate bridge. For example there will no longer be food at tournaments.

Old Business:

Keeping in touch (KeepinTouch) Marshall loved the postcards and said it was a big success. Thanks to Julie, Barry and Chris for their effort to get these cards out. Cindy has a report that will detail what went well and what could change in the future. Would like to do it again. Lois asked Sue how many RI folks are playing bridge. Sue has 360 folks in her directory and has some that did not want to be in directory. Sue said she has a list of everyone who has played bridge in Rhode Island and knows when they played last and is starting to see a few more coming on line. Virtual bridge is here to stay. Sue and Joe discuss those from Clint's club that have not come back. Megan mentioned a local company that could print cards. Also maybe do calls next time as people appreciate the call. Chris said she felt the Keep in touch project was a one shot deal. Marshall said we should try to stay in contact with those who do not play in person but definitely reach out when clubs open again. Barry asked if we could generate a list of those who used to play and do not play on-line. Julie spoke to Bob Garfinkle and he has no intention of closing up his shop and has made arrangements to follow strict guidelines when he can open. Sue checked and 106 out of about 450 have not played on line. Could be on-line playing casually.

March Tournament

We have to cancel this tournament and probably will need to cancel June but keep on books for now.

Newsletter

Cindy said no newsletter in January. Only real news is March cancelled and June is wait and see. Cindy can put a one page newsletter in a couple of days. Cindy said that more brief newsletters are good to keep in touch. Lois said no real new district news. Please put a nice thank you in the newsletter about Paula.

New Business:

Open Committee Chairs: Hospitality, Tournaments

No tournaments scheduled so the issue will be revisited at a future meeting.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held :
March 6, 2021 10:15 Zoom meeting
May 8, 2021 10:15 Zoom Meeting

Marshall said thank you for a great meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 11:13.