

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting

November 18, 2017

Present: Linda Ahrens, Barbara Barrett, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Charleen Christy, Lois DeBlois, Maureen Fahey, Meg Gousie, Diane Lambert, Carol McCullough, Paula Najarian, Arthur (Butch) Norman, David Prentiss, Marshall Williams, Stan Williams

Excused: Bea Martini, Julie Goulet, Chris Soares,

Call to Order:

President, Paula Najarian, called the meeting to order at 10:33.

President's Comments:

- Thank you for the support provided for our most recent sectional and the Gala. The Board's support is what makes these events so successful.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the September meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was passed and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer's Reports were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Tournament Report

- Gala
 - Joseph Brouillard presented the Gala Report.
 - Our loss was just below average, remembering that we provide this as a benefit to our RIBA members and a loss is expected.
 - Attendance was disappointing, but this was not the normal weekend; we had moved it to accommodate the Imperial Room. This year it conflicted with Halloween.
 - Next year's date is booked for the Imperial Room and we will see how attendance is impacted when we move back to our regular weekend goes. If attendance continues to drop we will discuss alternatives.
 - Discussed that taxes were added to our bill after the gratuity. This is not in accordance with state law. We will talk to Hillary at the Imperial Room regarding this for future events.
 - Maureen Fahey to check on the Johnston Senior Center and the fee to use the site for the Gala as it might be less than the \$750 we pay for the weekend sectionals. Alternative sites may be reviewed if the Gala is not well received in 2018.

- September Sectional
 - Table counts were up.
 - Discussed the pizza order on Sunday. Decision was made to continue to order using the current formula.

Reports:

- Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report. Our Unit had 494 members as of October 1.
 - Our counts change as members move to Florida for the winter and change their address. ACBL changes their Unit membership according to their current address. Our Unit receives monies from the ACBL based on membership numbers. Members can keep their membership in Rhode Island even if they move to Florida for the winter by updating their Unit membership online. Information regarding how to do this will be included in the BRidgeBits.
- Lois DeBlois presented the Executive Board update.
 - Knockouts continued to be successful even with the NAPs offered at the same time. There will be two knockouts at each Regional going forward.
 - At the Senior Regional at the Cape (Falmouth) in April, the Gold Rush events will now be available for players up to 1250 points, increasing from 750 points. This will be for the Senior Regional only.
 - Some discussion regarding why 299'r events do not award gold. It is because they are one session events and to win gold, a player must play in a two session event.
 - Beginning January 1, 2018, Maureen Fahey has accepted the position of tournament scheduler for the District. She will be responsible for monitoring Unit sectional dates and regionals to ensure there are no conflicts between Units.
 - Lois DeBlois will be District President, effective January 1, 2018.

Old Business:

- BRidge Bits will be distributed in December. It will include: a lesson by Bart; Paula's pithy remarks; the charitable contributions that the Unit is making for 2017; how to remain in Unit 145 even when moving to Florida for the winter and a list of RIBA members we have recently lost.
- Our Charity Chairperson, Julie Goulet has recommended St Edwards Food Pantry/Women and Children's Center and the McCully House. After discussion, the board voted to contribute \$500 to each of those two charities in addition to another \$500 to the RI Food Bank for a total of \$1500.

New Business:

- October is Senior Month and there is a Senior Outreach with senior fairs at different locations. Maureen asked if we would be interested in manning a booth to promote bridge at one of these events. She was tasked with seeing what the cost of a booth would be.
- Another suggestion to perhaps help increase numbers at sectionals and regionals is to consider providing transportation to folks at senior homes. Perhaps locations like Laurel

Mead might be willing to provide transportation. Paula volunteered to make calls to the State Senior Office and to see if some senior centers have buses.

- Bart Buffington will provide a topic for the January Sectional's lecture by 12/1.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held :
 - January 20, 2018
 - March 3, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 AM.