

**Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.**

**Minutes of Unit 145 Meeting**

**January 20, 2018**

Present: Linda Ahrens, Barbara Barrett, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Charleen Christy, Lois DeBlois, Maureen Fahey, Julie Goulet, Meg Gousie, Diane Lambert, Carol McCullough, Bea Martini, Paula Najarian, Arthur Norman, Chris Soares, Marshall Williams, Stan Williams

Excused: David Prentiss

**Call to Order:**

President, Paula Najarian, called the meeting to order at 10:31.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the November 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. A motion to approved the treasurer's reports was passed and approved unanimously.

**Reports:**

- Paula Najarian presented the In/Out report. Our Unit had 484 members as of January 1, 2018.
  - We discussed again how 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 was included in the previous bRIdgebits.
- Lois DeBlois presented the Executive Board update.
  - There is a new CEO for the ACBL and he has instituted many new programs. One such program is volunteer support to enhance volunteerism.
  - District 25 will be participating in a test of the Purple Pass. This is the acceptance of credit cards in addition to cash for payment to play. This test includes the ACBL paying the 2.75% credit card fee that the bank charges. After the two tournaments the District will evaluate whether or not they wish to continue to accept credit cards.
    - A suggestion was made to see if the ACBL would allow Bridge Bucks to be sold at Regionals in addition to at Nationals. Lois will inquire.
  - REACH (Regionals at Clubs) will be held in February. For a player to participate they would pay \$30 which allows them to play up to 6 times at a Club (still paying the Club fee) and then be eligible for Gold as they will be playing against many

other players across the District. You have to play in a minimum of 2 games to participate and your best 2 scores will be used to see if you are awarded gold.

- Sectional and Gala Report
  - Maureen Fahey checked with the Johnston Senior Center and we could hold the Gala there for \$650. Maureen will check to see if it's available for this year. We can bring food in, utilizing whatever caterer we want. The fee at the Shriners is \$400.
    - We would still have two sessions of bridge and we can most likely set up a separate section for eating so that folks do not have to eat at the last table they played at.
    - One consideration is that they don't have a liquor license or liability insurance so we would need a caterer that could cover the liquor license. Maureen will be checking with Luigi's to see if they could cater the event, the cost and if they can allow for alcohol. Maureen will also check with Deb Norman to see if she is interested in catering the event.
    - There was some discussion regarding the Unit getting liability insurance and that it would cost just \$170 for the day. Further research to be done.
    - The March sectional will be extra points as it is going to be a Grass Roots Event on Saturday.

### **Old Business:**

- bRidge Bits; the next one will be distributed in March prior to the March Sectional.
- Paula Najarian followed up on seeing if local retirement homes might be willing to provide transportation for players wanting to go to the Sectionals by talking to folks at Laurel Meade. They do not provide transportation but they are willing to distribute and post flyers for the tournaments. Paula visited the St Elizabeth Home and they are currently just beginning to have folks show interest in bridge. Paula also checked with The Seasons in East Greenwich and they are also just beginning to have folks play bridge and at this time they would not transport anyone to the tournaments.

### **New Business:**

- There was a request to change the March meeting from March 3 as we already know that there will be multiple absences. A new date of April 7 was approved unanimously.
- Joe Brouillard as treasurer requested approval to move RIBA assets from our current checking account into a new investment account in order to get a higher return for our money. He would like to invest into a Fidelity conservative fund (Puritan). The monies would still be liquid and it is a no transaction fee mutual fund. The Puritan fund is currently invested in 60% equities. There is a 90 day short term trading fee if we moved the money out earlier than 90 days, but that is the only potential fee. A motion was made and approved unanimously to have \$8,000 moved from the RIBA checking account into a new Fidelity Fund.

**Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:**

- Future meetings will be held :
  - April 7, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM.