



Illinois Chess Association

Illinois Chess Association Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda: Telephonic "Regular Meeting" September 4th, 2019 7:30pm

Meeting Facilitator: Eric Ortega, Vice-President

Invitees: Stephen Plotnick, Eric Ortega, Rachel Schechter, Patrice Connelly, Eva Harrison, Mike Lenox, Megan Chen, Patrick Cohen, Garrett Scott, Rose Grandy,

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Stephen Plotnick, Eric Ortega, Rachel Schechter, Patrice Connelly, Megan Chen, Patrick Cohen, Eva Harrison, Mike Lenox
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda unanimously approved
- IV. **Discussion of minutes from prior meeting, potential approval:** Minutes unanimously approved
- V. **Report**
 - a. **Officer Reports**
 - i. **President (Steve):**
 - Met with other state chess association presidents during US Open conference and discussed different ways they promote their respective associations.
 - The Illinois Open was held this past weekend; Rachel encouraged ICA presence. Steve worked as a TD, and Michael Lenox attended on Monday as an ICA representative and provided an enrollment sign-up sheet.
 - ii. **Metro VP (Eric):**
 - Eric also stopped by the Illinois Open to meet some of the local titled players and tournament directors in person.
 - iii. **Downstate VP (Rachel, Written Report):**
 - The US Chess Open Delegates Convention exceeded all expectations with phenomenal groups of people and discussions. The ICA Logo was well received.
 - During the convention Rachel attended several committee discussions, including the Accessibility & Special Circumstances,

Barber Tournament of Champions K-8, Ethics, Scholastic Chess, and Women's Chess committees, among others.

- There will be a significant change to the Barber-Denker event: "The Barber event will become Grades 6-8 and the new Rockefeller will become a K-5. It should not affect the format of the sections of most state championships. If a state has only a K-8 then two reps will be qualified--highest finisher Barber 6-8 and highest finisher K-5. For example, a 4th or 5th grader cannot play in the Barber. He/she can only play in the Rockefeller regardless if the finish at the top of the K-8 qualifier. Some states will have a K-8 and a K-6. I would advise the state affiliate to select the Barber from the K-8 and the Rockefeller from the K-6. In this case if a 5th grader plays in the K-8 instead of the K-6, they will not be eligible to play in the Rockefeller or the Barber."
- The next Meet Our Members article will feature Ari Kaplan.
- The first Affiliate spotlight will feature Evanston Chess Club.
- Chess in Schools (Chess in Education), a group out of Alabama has successfully achieved obtaining state funding for training chess teachers, tracking their progress. Chess is integrated within the school day (a few are after school programs. Anyone interested: Jerry Nash or Niel Dietsch at www.chessinschool.us
- Rachel inquired if any board members would be interested in meeting in person next month.

iv. **Treasurer (Stephen):**

- Patrick provided Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss documents for Board review.
- **MOTION:** Approve current financial reports to finish completing 2018 finances. **Motion Passes Unanimously**
- Board discussed the Illinois Chess Tour format and prizes, how the system currently works, and how the ICA Tour prizes/reimbursements are funded. The board agrees additional oversight is required to ensure reimbursements are facilitated (as the position of Tour promoter is vacant), and the subject will require additional discussions.

b. **Committee Reports**

i. **WJS/RS (Rose):**

- Invitational Youth Tournament: With the two new sections in the reformatted Barber tournament, the invitational tournament will also be reformatted next year and will include a 4th section. As a result, operational and prize costs will increase. The board discussed these changes, and Steve will be reaching out directly to Rose in the next

few days to discuss potential prize restructuring and/or additional funding for Invitational Tournament.

ii. Youth (Steve): No Report

iii. Veterans (Mike):

- Officially changed the name to Chess Vets, and website is now www.chessvets.org.
- Ongoing VAMC programs at Hines, Forest Park, and Veteran Community resource continue.
- Submitted letters and petitions to US Paralympic Committee to get chess admitted to US Paralympic games. Coordinating with FIDE to do the same internationally. Chicago CBS reporter, Vi Nguyen, reached out to us to conduct a TV interview with me on September 17th regarding this petition. We collected 38 more signatures on Monday at our Illinois Chess Championship booth.
- Upcoming September events include Chess at Chicago Ridge Mall #15 and #16; weekly TD support for Oak Park Library Chess Club, and a new chess club at Evanston Vet Center.
- CV will be setting up several booths this month to accommodate requests.
- There will be a Veteran Tournament/BSA Scout Workshop on December 26th and December 27th. Mike hopes to have an ICA presence from 9 AM- 2 PM (and is letting everyone know in advance!).

iv. Membership (Eva):

- Reminder to ICA board memberships to renew expired memberships and update the “Meet the ICA Board” section on website.
- There was no call for nominations for the Broughton award this year, so it has not been awarded. The board discussed posting an article on the ICA website to call for nominations. Steve will work with Bill Whited to post a call for Broughton nominations on the website.
- Call for nominations for the general election needs to be posted on the ICA website by September 15th. Steve will create a call for nominations and work with webmasters to post.
- Steve will also reach out to Bill about Illinois Open article for website.

VI. Open Issues:

- a. **2nd Banner for ICA:** We still only have one banner, currently used for downstate events. The board approves of a banner, and Eric will facilitate the design and creation of the banner.

VII. **New Business:**

- a. **North American Youth Tournament:** Will be held in Chicago next August shortly before the Illinois Open. This will be significant scholastic tournament for the Chicago Metro area. Steve encourages an ICA presence and will reach out to the organizers to discuss ICA participation.
- b. **“Elevator Speech” Concept to encourage ICA Membership:** Steve recommends we create promotional ICA membership texts; Michael referenced the tri-fold pamphlet he previously created last year and sent out at various events. The board can use this text to create an elevator speech promotion (Michael resent to the board).
- c. **ICA in-person meeting:** Board discussed potentially meeting in person around time of WJS Banquet on October 5th, and potential budgeting of hotel for overnight stay for downstate members.
 - **MOTION:** Budget one-night stay for hotel for Rachel to attend October ICA meeting. **Motion unanimously approved.**

VIII. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned 9:44 PM

Next meeting Saturday, October 5th, 2019, 1:30 PM, Naperville North High school