



Illinois Chess Association

Illinois Chess Association Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda: Telephonic "Regular Meeting" November 6th, 2019 7:30 PM

Meeting Facilitator: Stephen Plotnick, 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 7:32 PM
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Stephen Plotnick, Eric Ortega, Patrice Connelly, Eva Harrison, Patrick Cohen, Mike Lenox, Megan Chen, Rose Grandy
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda unanimously approved
- IV. **Discussion of minutes from prior meeting, potential approval:** Minutes unanimously approved
- V. **Reports**
 - A. **Officer Reports**
 - a. **President (Steve):**
 - Steve approached some people about involvement in potential affiliate committee; however, no one was interested.
 - Board encouraged Eric to head affiliate committee. Steve appointed Eric as Chair of the affiliate committee.
 - ICA Tour: Steve recently fielded an inquiry about non-Metro ICA Tour tournaments; the tour did not include Iowa tournaments because they did not provide schedules. The Tour schedule for 2020 needs to be created.
 - Election Committee: Patrice has confirmed the names on the ballot for the general board member positions and will work with Bill Buklis to send out the email ballots (and mail out any hard copies if needed). An election committee comprised of Steve, Rachel, and Eric will confirm the election results.

b. **Metro VP (Eric):**

- Eric has started a new chess club in Joliet and had a very successful start.
- Steve sent Eric images of a standing banner for work on the second ICA banner, but still needs to send Eric the logo/graphics.
- Email List: Eric still needs to reach out to tournament organizers regarding email list; Steve will assist.

c. **Downstate VP (Rachel, Written Report)**

- Emailed three people regarding potential general board membership; haven't received responses. Received one decline regarding invitation to head Youth Committee.
- Reached out to two professional fundraisers to learn more about their services; will update board when information is received.

d. **Treasurer (Steve):**

- Patrick worked with accountant to file 990 forms, but she declined book-keeping/accounting work for ICA.
- ICA recently joined a non-profit organization that trains and assists other non-profit with book-keeping. Mike will inquire about potential additional services.
- **MOTION:** Remove Patrick Cohen as an ICA account signer and add Stephen Plotnick as an ICA account signer with signing privileges.
MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY (8-0)

B. Committee Reports

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

- Banquet successfully completed; slightly over budget.
- Principal letters are in progress with a completed contact list. Rose will send the verbiage out to parents this week for confirmation and then draft letters; Steve will need to sign them all prior to mailing.
- Rose has notified ICC we will not be renewing WJS ICC memberships this year (not enough participants used the memberships to validate cost.)
- Youth Invitational: The Invitational will be organized in 4 sections this year with a maximum of 12 players in each section. Working to secure location (target location Schaumburg). In order to balance the budget the prizes will no

longer include the coaching credit (but will continue to include the travel stipend). Target date is March 6-8.

- WJS/RS T-shirts: T-shirts will be created this year, but the cost will be higher than last year and include shipping. More news soon.
- Sunday Night Training Sessions: 2 sessions have been held. None will be held in November due to availability issues but will resume in December.

b. Youth (Steve):

- Steve has been in correspondence with Mike, Eva, and Rachel about increasing membership and youth activities. One potential idea is a raffle with a monetary prize for youth ICA members to help them with a stipend for potential use when they are older (such as for college, etc.). Perhaps chances would increase for members the longer they were active members. Steve and Eva will discuss more details and return a more detailed proposal to the board for further discussion. Rose suggested instead of a raffle offering an application process.

C. Veterans (Mike):

- 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. Chess added as Paralympic event at 2022 Paralympics. FIDE announced Chess Paralympic event in 2020. This should be enough pressure for the VA to include it in the Golden Age and Valor Games next year. This was our organization's goal all along.
- Chess Vets will be facilitating a Veterans Chess Program for the Cook County Veterans Court for circuit Judge Hooks starting in Jan 2020. Nonviolent felon veterans will be assigned to the structured program designed for VA patients. They can earn ICV Caps, logbooks and chess sets by passing section written quizzes. Graduates will earn ICV Challenge Coins. ICV is looking for vet volunteers to help with the program. Chess ability is not a requirement. A couple hour commitment per month is all that is required.

- Partnered with American Chess Equipment to supply magnetic checkbook sets to deployed troops. Redeveloped and laminated a 1-page chess instruction sheet for rules and some strategy and tactics. Utilizing Operation: Support our Troops (OSOT) to deliver items in their “care packages”. OSOT has shipped over 2 million pounds to deployed troops. Sets received. Awaiting laminated instructions. Missed “Stocking Stuffer”.
- Chess at the Mall 19. November 10th. Chicago Ridge Mall. Flyer attached. Special Veterans Day Event. No ICA involvement requested. Simul with Candidate Chess Master, Lt Commander George Kraft, US Navy (Active), USCF 2130. See bio at ChessVets.org. Each Player will receive a free raffle ticket, +1 for vets, +1 if you draw, +2 if you win. Voluntary contributions - 1 raffle ticket for \$5, 5 for \$20. 100% of contributions received will be donated to local vet or 1st responder orgs. Max 15 players. RSVP have priority. Raffle items: 1-5 players = Chess Clock, 6-10 players + Chess Set, 10-15 players + 1 Chess Clock.

d. Membership (Eva): No Report

VI. Open Issues:

VII. New Business:

VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Next meeting Wednesday, December 4th, 2019