



Illinois Chess Association

Illinois Chess Association Board of Directors Meeting Agenda: Telephonic "Regular Meeting" January 1, 2020 7:30pm

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 7:31 PM
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Stephen Plotnick, Rachel Schechter, Patrice Connelly, Eva Harrison and Patrick Cohen
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved Unanimously
- IV. **Discussion of minutes from prior meetings:** Approved Unanimously
- V. **Reports**
 - A. **Officer Reports**
 - a. **President (Steve)**
 - Steve recently facilitated the overdue payment to one of the former Illinois Tour winners.
 - b. **Metro VP (Eric):** No Report
 - c. **Downstate VP (Rachel)**
 - Rachel is working with Maret to prepare the first Spotlight Affiliate article for Evanston Chess Club. There are no fundraising updates.
 - d. **Treasurer (Steve):**
 - Steve inquired if our accountant contact would be willing to assist with re-balancing the books (e.g. not as an ongoing job; just as a single-time clean-up); Patrick will inquire. The board discussed the busy time of year when there is high debit/credit activity; Steve

has agreed to assist with this accounting while there is no Treasurer.

B. Committee Reports

a. **WJP/RS (Rose):** No Report

b. **Youth (Steve):**

- Rachel, Eva, and Steve have finalized their proposal for a multi-year \$500 scholarship prize raffle for ICA youth members graduating high school. This will begin in 2020. Eva emailed the board the proposal to review with a motion to approve; the motion passed with 5 ayes, 2 abstentions. Eva will work with Bill Whited to pen an article and announcement for the ICA website.

c. **Veterans (Open):** No Report

d. **Membership (Eva):** No Report

VI. Open Issues

- a. **Email List:** This action is still pending; Eric will be addressing.
- b. **ICA Mission Statement:** The board approved an ICA Mission Statement in October. Patrice asked the board where on the website it should be included, and the board agreed that a new webpage for it titled "ICA Mission Statement" that is included on both the Toolbar and the Drop-Down Menu "About ICA." Patrice will work with Maret to facilitate.

VII. New Business

- a. **Election Results:** Patrick Cohen won a downstate seat; Eva Harrison and Megan Chen won the two upstate seats. The Election Committee will hold a separate meeting prior to the February board meeting to discuss potential candidates for the remaining downstate and at large board member positions.
- b. **Generous Donation:** Bill Goichburg of Continental Chess kindly made a restriction-free monetary donation to the ICA. The board discussed potential uses for the donation; one idea was to allocate some of the funds for the Qualifier Tournament, but there were no formal motions or decisions made regarding the distribution of funds.

- c. **Illinois Open Bid:** The ICA is behind schedule in posting the call for bids for the 2020 Illinois Open. Steve will work with Maret to access the ICA archives for the bid specs and publish to the ICA website immediately and will reach out to Patrick if he needs help. Steve will also notify potential organizers that the call for bids has been posted. There are some concerns that there may be some challenges as we are behind schedule; Steve will provide an update at the next meeting. He will also work on posting bids for the All Grade and the Illinois Class.
- d. **Inventory and potential relocation of all ICA equipment:** Chess Sets / boards / clocks: The ICA owns several chess sets and clocks for use for tournaments; there are stored by the webmaster. There are no updated inventory lists of these items, and it would be beneficial to create an updated inventory list, and label/potentially update labels as needed. There are also some advantages to storing the equipment at a board member location. **MOTION:** Relocate and inventory the ICA equipment; update labels if needed. 4 ayes; 1 opposed; **Motion Passed.**
- e. **Potential ICA equipment rental fees:** The board discussed the idea of charging an equipment rental fee for organizers using ICA equipment for tournament. There are currently no rental fees for equipment, though some previous bids have included equipment rental compensation from the organizers (the example provided was 50 cents per chess set). One board member strongly supports the idea that the ICA should not charge any fees for equipment as its aim is to promote chess; some members thought it would be appropriate to charge minor fees when the equipment is used for non-state-sponsored tournaments. This is something that can be constructed into bid specs/requirements. No formal motions were made, and this may be discussed further at future meetings.

VIII. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM

Next meeting Wednesday, February 5th, 2020