

Illinois Chess Association
Board Meeting Phone Conference
November 18, 2010
7:30 p.m.

Present: Maret Thorpe, Jerry Neugarten, Carl Dolson, David Long, Michael Cardinale, Bill Brock, Andi Rosen, Tom Sprandel, Bill Barton, Garrett Scott

Absent: Chris Merli,

We have a quorum. Maret Thorpe presided over the meeting.

Minutes from the annual meeting will be presented before the next meeting and reviewed at the next meeting.

Treasurer: we will have a budget presented at the next meeting. No treasurer's report.

Metro Vice President's report: Mike Cardinale reported on the Illinois All Grade Tournament: 505 entries, 99 tournament memberships, 100 free entries. This was one of the largest All Grades in a while. The organizers feel like they did OK financially. There were problems in the running of the tournament; ICA may need to step up oversight and quality control for these events. The Bid Committee will take this up, write a postmortem, and consider writing a tournament organizers guide. Mike Cardinale will talk to the other two organizers and get their post mortem. It was suggested that we report back to the community that ICA is working to correct the problems that there were. YCFC paid the USCF tournament memberships and rating fees with help of a donation from Chess Education partners.

Mike also delivered his benchmarking report comparing various state associations. The report was very well received by the board; we'll set aside time at a later meeting to review and discuss it.

The Illinois Class tournament is coming up soon.

Tom Sprandel reports that an email newsletter is coming out soon and will include info on the Illinois class and a reminder to send in ballots.

Downstate: David Long had nothing to report.

Warren Junior Scholar program: Andi Rosen will report on the ICA banquet when Carl has the financial report for it.

Membership: no report.

Web report: Maret Thorpe reported that she and Tom Sprandel are making progress on the web to-do list. They will be starting to push for more chess content as soon as they've figured out how to publish games in a foolproof manner. The home page has been rearranged and will continue to evolve. The site had 5700 home page hits last month.

Youth committee: Jerry Neugarten said documents went out for the ICA Fellows program: program description, application, outline of training and orientation. There would be a half-day training session. Jerry is awaiting more feedback on his documents from the rest of the board.

Regarding the Chicago Proposal, Jerry reported that another top CPS official is now involved in the discussions: Robert Runcie, Chief Administrative Officer. Runcie has our proposal and letter to the mayor, as well as the reply from Renaissance Knights. He attended the Nov. 13th All Grade tournament and Jerry introduced him around. Jerry also remains in touch with Terence Patterson, and Runcie said he would talk to Patterson to coordinate their response. Both are strongly committed to growing the chess program within CPS and told Jerry they would get back to him shortly.

In the last few days Jerry has been in touch with a number of private service providers who run programs in CPS schools who have expressed an interest in exploring ways they can play constructive roles in helping to build chess within CPS. All said that if a meeting were held to kick ideas around, they'd be glad to attend. Jerry told them that ICA is not looking to disturb anything presently underway, and that the present plan is to offer as many choices as possible to principals interested in starting new programs, including listing private programs among the options.

Bid Committee – Garrett Scott will have the All Grade Bid Announcement soliciting downstate bids soon, and a call for bids for the 2012 State Championship around December 20.

Broughton Fund – Carl Dolson and Bill Brock are filing the papers to change the trustee over to them.

ICA Elections – Ballots went out on November 10 and are also on the web site with an article reminding people to vote.

Next meeting: December 9. This will probably be the only meeting in December.

The meeting was adjourned.