

Illinois Chess Association
Board Meeting Phone Conference
January 9, 2014

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 P.M. Present were Michael Auger, Bill Brock, Michael Cardinale, Scott Daniels, Carl Dolson, Bill Feldman, Jerry Neugarten (arrived late), Murrel Rhodes, and Pattie Zinski, Warren Junior Program Director. Steven Craig Miller was absent. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes:

Bill Feldman moved to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2013 meeting. Bill Brock seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Introduction of New Board Members:

Carl introduced new Board members Michael Auger, Scott Daniels and Bill Feldman, At Carl's request, each of them described their chess background.

Warren Junior Program Report:

Pattie Zinski updated the Board on the status of invitations sent for the qualifying tournaments for the national invitationals. 24 invitations were sent in December (12 K-8, 6 high school, 6 girls), with a deadline for response of tomorrow (1/10). The qualifying tournaments are scheduled for February 28 – March 2 at Chess IQ in Skokie, where Sevan Muradian has donated the use of the space and will provide equipment for the event.

Pattie also mentioned that Miranda Liu has been given the option of playing in either the Barber (K-8) qualifier or the Girls' qualifier, as she has qualified for both. Pattie also raised the question of filling out empty slots that might occur. Bill Feldman broached the idea of inviting strong players from neighboring states (WI & IN) to fill any empty slots rather than extending invitations to lower-rated Illinois players, but the idea was not generally supported.

Pattie also reported that the invitations for this year's Warren scholars would be forthcoming, based on February ratings, and incorporating the new criteria previously reported to the Board. The presentation of Warren scholars is once again planned for the Illinois K-8 state championship tournament, and a letter will be sent to the scholars encouraging them to play in the K-8 tournament.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill reported that contributions have been received by the two sponsors of the Illinois Chess Tour - Marbles: The Brain Store, and the Continental Chess Association. Bill also provided an update on the Illinois Class accounting, which is consistent with last month's estimate.

Youth Committee:

Jerry provided an update on ICA's CPS initiative.

President's Report:

Carl reported that the call for bids for the 2015 K-8 state championship tournament will be posted as soon as possible. Carl reviewed the bid details, and the Board discussed the possibility of extending the bid deadline, but ultimately decided to retain the February 15th deadline.

Carl then provided an update on the ICA Webmaster position and on the Website Policy Committee. Bill Feldman has been in discussions with Tom Sprandel regarding transitioning the Webmaster responsibilities to Bill, at least on a temporary basis. Bill expressed his hope to increase website content in the months to come. Carl reported that one Website Policy Committee spot remains unfilled, and the Board discussed potential candidates.

Next, Carl confirmed that a bid guidelines summit will be convened in conjunction with the U.S. Amateur Team – North tournament. The summit will be an open forum allowing organizers to provide feedback regarding ICA's bid guidelines. Glenn Panner is helping to organize, and the summit is scheduled to occur before Sunday's first round (February 23rd). Jerry provided some background on the history and reform of the bid guidelines.

Carl reported that negotiations have progressed on the 2014 Illinois Class tournament. Following last month's vote to replicate the 2013 IL Class to the extent possible, Carl has been able to confirm that Jeff Smith and Darren Erikson have agreed to repeat as TDs and that the site is again available. Carl is working on an increase in square footage for the skittles area. Bill Feldman asked that the awards for this year's tournament go deeper into lower class divisions, reflecting the attendance at the 2013 tournament. Carl reported that a budget and TLA would be forthcoming.

Regarding the 2014 Illinois Open, Carl reported that discussions with the Crowne Plaza in Northbrook are continuing, and that Tim Just and Wayne Clark are pleased to return to direct the event.

Finally, Carl reported that, absent any interest among general board members, the nominating committee will meet to identify individuals who fill the vacant Secretary position.

Metro Report:

Mike reported on the recent remarkable successes of Illinois players on the national and international scene. This included the performance of the University of Illinois team at the Pan-American championships, where the Illini repeated their success of the previous year by qualifying for the final four. Seeded #13 by rating, the Illini team, consisting of Eric Rosen, Leo Xin Luo, ICA board member Michael Auger, and Akshay Indusekar, scored three upsets over teams rated 200 or more points higher.

Also on the national level, Sam Schmakel won his fifth national championship at the USCF All-Grade, capturing the 12th grade championship. Additionally, the team from Whitney Young High School were 11th grade champs, followed by Benet Academy of Lisle in second.

On the international stage, at the World Youth Championships in the United Arab Emirates, David Peng won the silver medal in the Under 10 division, behind only gold medal winner Awonder Liang of Wisconsin. Also, Shreya Mangalam scored 7.0 of 11 to finish in 20th place in the Girls' Under 10 division.

Finally, Mike reported that this year's Tim Just Winter Open featured 129 players, up one from 2013, but unfortunately, the percentage of ICA members among tournament entrants dropped from 39.5% to 21.1%. Mike asked that membership retention be added to next month's agenda for further discussion.

Downstate Report:

Murrel reported that in there is a downstate scholastic event just about every weekend in January, particularly in Bloomington, and highlighted by the 27th annual MLK day tournament at the Bone Center in Normal. Murrel also mentioned the upcoming Bradley Winter Open in Peoria, scheduled for January 25.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on February 13th. Meeting was adjourned at 9:58.

Minutes submitted by Mike Cardinale