

Minutes of ICA Regular Meeting, Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM. Present by telephone: Keith Ammann, Michael Auger, Bill Brock, Scott Daniels, Carl Dolson, Bill Feldman, Jerry Neugarten, Murrel Rhodes. Absent: Mike Cardinale, Steven Craig Miller.

JN moved to accept August minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

KA moved to receive officers' and committee reports submitted by e-mail (see below). Motion approved unanimously. MR declared he had nothing to report from downstate.

BB joined the meeting at 7:35.

CD moved to enter executive session. Motion approved unanimously. Executive session entered at 7:37 and exited at 7:53.

CD reported that sole bid for 2015 Illinois Open had been withdrawn and raised suggestion that the ICA self-organize the event again in 2015. **JN moved that the ICA organize the 2015 Illinois Open in substantially the same format as in 2014, with possible changes to side events. Motion approved unanimously.**

BF introduced discussion of bulk K–12 membership purchase offer from USCF. Rates have changed since previous negotiations with USCF took place. BF now waiting on input from USCF Executive Director Jean Hoffman.

CD moved to donate half a dozen chess sets to Connections for the Homeless in Evanston. Motion approved unanimously.

BF requested renewed board approval to proceed with organizing 2015 Illinois High School Open Championship. **KA moved to authorize CD to reinstate negotiation with BF on organization of 2015 IHSOC. Motion did not receive a second. BF moved to submit a proposal for IHSOC to Bid Committee. Motion approved unanimously (JN, MR abstained).**

BF introduced discussion of Illinois Girls' Open Championship, said he had a lead on locations in the western suburbs of Chicago and offered to organize it for free. Members expressed general sense that this should also be sent to Bid Committee first. JN requested that proposal be drafted in consultation with Pattie Zinski.

BF introduced discussion of various proposals for ICA revenue enhancement. **KA moved to refer discussion to e-mail. Motion approved unanimously.**

BB moved to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:04.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CD)

2014 Illinois Open

The 2014 Illinois Open was held at the Crowne Plaza Chicago–Northbrook Hotel August 30–September 1. 152 players participated in the Open and U1800 sections. That's the highest number of players for the Illinois Open since 2004. Another 63 scholastic players participated in the Labor Day Scholastic tournament, of which ICA shares a percentage of the profit. Final costs have not yet been determined, but there's indications that ICA is in the black on this tournament.

The Open section was very strong, with 4 GMs, 4 IMs, and 4 FMs participating with 64 others for the \$1,250 first place prize, which was taken by GM Vladimir Georgiev. GM Boris Avrukh and FM Sam Schmamel tied for 2nd–3rd. The Reserve section had 72 players, with Edward Zhang and Sureshkumar Rajamani splitting 1st/2nd place prize money. There were several ICA memberships collected during the tournament because of the \$20 plus score bookseller certificate only being awarded to ICA members this year.

Positions to Fill

I have received requests from Chris Merli, Membership Secretary, and Jeff Wiewel, Bid Committee Chair, to step down and be replaced. Jeff has indicated a willingness to remain on the Bid Committee, but time pressures are such that he cannot devote the time needed to chair the Committee. I have indicated to Mike Cardinale, Membership Committee Chair, an interest in taking the Membership Secretary role, whether permanently or on an interim basis. We need to identify other possible volunteers to work on these important committees. Please forward any ideas for candidates to me.

Annual Meeting and Banquet November 22

Our annual meeting and banquet will be Saturday afternoon, November 22, at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville. I'd appreciate a strong turnout of our ICA Board members for the annual meeting and banquet. Please let me know of your plans to attend.

TREASURER'S REPORT (BB)

ILLINOIS OPEN

The Illinois Open was a modest financial success! While I am pretty much up-to-date on QuickBooks, I am not currently able to access Associated Bank (more on that momentarily), so I want to hold off on financial reporting for a few days (also because of 9/15 tax deadlines)

The transfers from PayPal to Associated (not all of which are attributable to the Open, of course) will give you a flavor of the gate.... We did well because of the surprising number of last-minute entries. Entry fees collected (net of refunds issued via PayPal, b/4 PayPal charges) are \$15881--very preliminary #, will probably change when I do bank rec. PayPal charges related to the Open were \$415.60--worth every penny! So our net cash collected before a pawn was pushed was over \$100/player.

[deposits]

Wayne Clark sent us a check for \$392.21 for our 1/3 share of Labor Day Scholastic revenue.

My guess is that we beat the revenue side of budget by maybe \$500.

Our site expense of \$2,800 was reduced by \$235 (47 room nights at \$5/night). I'd like to see us use this site again next year.

As Carl noted, the honoraria to GMs & IMs was our only significant negative budget item. We might wish to somehow tie the honorarium to games played (minimum 5 games, perhaps), as we had some GM dropouts & unplayed games, and we erred on the side of leniency....

I double-paid one \$25 prize in the rush to get checks in mail (I'd already disbursed on site): sue me. I am sitting on a few prize checks for which I have no addresses (under \$100, I believe). I was able to get many addresses via PayPal, but South Asian names are particularly confusing, as parents & kids don't always have same family name.... And I don't have addresses for all cash entries.

Thanks to Carl for all his hard work making this happen!

WARREN PROGRAM

Checks to David Peng, Marissa Li, and Sam Schmakel are in today's mail.... (\$500 each)

BYLAWS / INTERNAL CONTROLS

Carl & I agree that two signatures have become impractical: with his verbal authorization, I paid several checks over \$600 with only one signature. I went to Associated Bk & got separate login IDs for Carl & myself (as of now, neither of us can access the account-balance after everything clears in operating should be over \$15,000, with another \$12,500 in WJP (keep in mind that WJP owes Operating money)

I also ordered debit cards for Carl & myself.

Key is that we can review each other's access to all cash, all debit, all PayPal, etc.

It is good to have a system in place so we don't have to rely on the honor of people. We trusted Carl, we trusted Bill, but we don't trust the next guy/gal??? Healthy orgs don't make decisions like that. Does our liability coverage include bond for check signers? This is generally an inexpensive add-on.

CHESS SETS

The 100 sets are in my personal storage locker (Edgewater, near Loyola Campus) I also have some vintage sets there.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (KA)

Per the ICA bylaws, I have contacted all current regular, patron, century and honorary members for whom we have an e-mail or postal mail address on file to notify them of the upcoming executive board elections and to call for candidate nominations. Mass e-mail notifications went out this morning, notifications to corrected e-mail addresses this afternoon, and mailed notifications went into the mail yesterday afternoon, so all members should receive notification in advance of the Sept. 15 deadline. All notifications included a nominating petition form designed to meet the requirements of the bylaws.

METRO REPORT (MC)

The Illinois Open drew 152 players over Labor Day weekend to Northbrook, the most since 2004. GM Vladimir Georgiev earned the title of 2014 state champion. See Bill Feldman's tournament recap on our website for details.

The Open was the ninth of 12 events on the 2014 Illinois Chess Tour. Next up is the Midwest Class, October 10th-12th in Wheeling.

The inaugural tournament for new organizers MindGames-Ed takes place on September 21st in Skokie. MindGames-Ed is the brainchild of Bill Buklis, chess coach at Chicago's Decatur Classical Elementary School.

The September calendar also features a wealth of events organized by regular organizers Chess IQ, Glenwood Chess Club, Evanston Chess Club and Renaissance Knights. They include a new event at ChessIQ, the "Exhaustion Invitational", designed to give amateur players a chance to get a FIDE rating. See the ICA tournament calendar for details.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (MC)

The membership committee met via conference call on Wednesday, September 3rd. We discussed the bulk USCF membership initiative proposed by Bill Feldman. Following our discussion, the committee voted unanimously to recommend proceeding with this initiative to the full board. Bill will relate details of the program to the board at our September 11th meeting.

In recommending this initiative to the board, the committee recognizes that its success depends on the timely and widespread communication of the offer, and counsels that at least one additional board member should share the responsibility for implementation.

The committee concluded by beginning a review of ICA's current membership structure, including types of memberships and dues. We're currently developing a family membership category, and will report back to the board soon with recommendations in this area.

WEB COMMITTEE (BF)

- a) Provided support to membership function through distribution of membership renewal request to all expired memberships
- b) Providing pretty much daily customer service on the ChessKid initiative. More than three dozen scholastic memberships have been activated in conjunction with the promotion, representing more than a 75% increase. Approximately 10 Gold Accounts remain unused, will need to purchase more going forward if desired. Most likely a good agenda item for October. Looking to use after-school programs, high school programs and All-Grade for next push.
- c) Established protocol for posting of game notation with Sprandel... risks assessed. Will be honing the procedure and posting a couple of Bill Brock's games as initial cases.
- d) Priority questionnaire circulated to committee members. To be discussed at October meeting.
- e) Need more content submissions from board members
- f) Committee approved \$200 recommendation for "contests" to promote web submissions. Motion seeking Board approval.