

Minutes of ICA Regular Meeting, Thursday, Oct. 9, 2014

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

KA moved to accept minutes from September meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

SD joined meeting at 7:35.

KA moved to receive officer and committee reports submitted by e-mail. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's report: KA reported deadline for nomination for officer positions was next day, Oct. 10, and so far he had received complete nominating petitions from CD (for president) and BB (for treasurer) and eight nominating signatures for MR (for downstate VP). He had not yet received any nominating petition for the office of secretary or metro VP but also had not checked the ICA post office box since Oct. 6, so other petitions might have been sent. *[N.B. By the end of the meeting, MR's last two required nominating signatures—along with one extra—were submitted, qualifying him for the ballot.]*

Web Committee: no report.

MC surveyed board on willingness to serve as delegates at 2015 USCF Annual Meeting in Phoenix, noting that Tim Just and Sevan Muradian had already agreed to serve; Garrett Scott and CD had given qualified agreement. BB agreed to serve as an alternate. JN noted that bylaws require 30 days' notice before selecting slate of delegates, and it was generally agreed that a notice should be posted on the ICA website.

MC noted that to date no candidate has declared his or her intent to run for secretary or metro VP and asked whether any at-large board member might stand for one of those positions. No member rose to the request at that time.

MC canvassed board members to determine who would be able to attend the ICA annual meeting and banquet. Four members present said they would be able to attend the meeting and banquet, one could attend the meeting but not the banquet, and one could attend the banquet but not the meeting.

BF reported that he was awaiting final approval from the Northern Illinois University student association to serve as a host for the purposes of reducing site cost for the Illinois High School Individual Open Championship in 2015. The Lisle Public Library expressed some interest in hosting the Girls' Open Championship in 2015, but BF said he did not expect to get final approval to use that site until late November.

KA moved that the ICA express its gratitude to the family of Heinz Lange for its cash donation to the Warren Junior Program and the donation of Lange's collection of chess books to the ICA. Motion passed unanimously.

BB noted that the Lange collection included many consecutive issues of Chess Life and recommended that they be listed as a single lot when itemizing the library for donation.

JN moved to adopt the recommendation included in CD's president's report:

[T]hat we list the titles of the remaining collection of books and magazines and offer them

to any of our ICA affiliates who have an interest. If more than one affiliate has an interest, we figure a way of dividing the collection appropriately between those clubs that expressed an interest.

BB moved to amend motion to add, "The items shall only be offered to nonprofit affiliates and the magazines offered as a single lot." Motion to amend passed unanimously. Main motion passed unanimously.

MC introduced discussion of bulk USCF K-12 membership purchase proposal by clarifying that although proposed purchase of bulk memberships could be used to entice players to join USCF, that was not the primary purpose of the proposal. Rather, the purpose is to identify large number of youth members who are not ICA members and to offer renewals of USCF memberships to scholastic members, bundled with ICA memberships, that would be less expensive than the cost of renewing directly with USCF; ICA would receive the difference between bundle cost and bulk membership cost.

SD moved to approve allocation of \$500 for 100 full-year Chess Kid Gold memberships. Motion passed unanimously.

SD moved to approve bulk purchase of 300 USCF membership vouchers at the \$9 rate, an expenditure of \$2,700. Motion passed unanimously.

BB moved to authorize the president to establish promotional memberships between this date and June 30, 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

BB requested input on draft budget to be brought before board at annual meeting on Nov. 22.

JN moved to enter executive session. Motion passed unanimously. Executive session entered at 9:02 and exited at 9:04.

JN moved to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:06.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CD)

Nominations for Executive Board positions on the Board for 2015-2016: Board members wishing to run for an Executive Board position must submit their nominations to the Secretary by this Friday, October 10. I'm aware that Mike Cardinale is not intending to run again for Metro Vice-President and Keith Ammann is not intending to run for Secretary.

Illinois Class Championships: The 2014 Illinois Class Championships will be held Sunday, November 23rd at the Hilton Lisle / Naperville. A TLA has been submitted to be published in the November Chess Life, and an e-mail blast will be sent this week to USCF members of all ratings who have played in a tournament in the last 2 years in Illinois, southern Wisconsin, St. Louis area of Missouri, and northwestern Indiana and Indianapolis.

The ICA Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, November 22nd, at 3:30 pm at the Hilton Lisle / Naperville. I'd encourage as many ICA Board members as possible to attend. I would expect the President, Metro Vice-President, Downstate Vice-President, and Treasurer to make reports during the annual meeting. We'll have time for Q&A from members.

The ICA Annual Banquet will be held Saturday, November 22nd, at 6 pm at the Hilton Lisle / Naperville. Ticket prices are \$45 per individual, same as last year. Again, I'd encourage as many ICA Board members as possible to attend. We'll invite former Broughton Award winners to attend as our guest.

The Natalie W. Broughton Lifetime Achievement in Chess Award for 2014 will be awarded to Garrett Scott at the ICA Annual Banquet. If you cannot attend the banquet, please take an opportunity to congratulate Garrett on this prestigious award.

The 2015 Illinois All Grade Championships: One bid was received by the October 1 bid deadline, and the Bid Committee is presently reviewing that bid.

TREASURER'S REPORT (BB)

ILLINOIS OPEN

Attached is an almost-final tournament report for the Illinois Open. We did well! It's not final because there were certain costs donated by Carl, and I'm pretty sure that I don't have all of them. Even subtracting the missing expenses donated by Carl, looks like we made over \$2,000.

I was particularly pleased by the age distribution of the participants: many young (and strong) players.

If it's not broke, don't fix it: if we can contract with Crowne Plaza under similar terms, let's do it.

Quite a few prize checks have not been cashed: most of these are sitting on my desk (I have no mail address); others are sitting on winner's desk, I suppose. Your help in contacting winners would be appreciated.

CASH & INVESTMENTS

Reminder: don't confuse cash balances with fund balances (except in case of Broughton, where investments currently = fund balance)

Associated Operating (reconciled thru 9/30) \$16,763.85

Associated WJP (reconciled thru 9/30) \$12,586.10

Busey (dormant, reconciled thru 5/31) \$3,354.16

Paypal (thru 9/30) \$507.64

Vanguard (two funds, fluctuates with mkt) \$10,179.01

I plan to distribute \$1,000 from Vanguard to cover the Broughton prize.

METRO REPORT (MC)

Connections for the Homeless: Bill Brock and I once again visited Connections for the Homeless in Evanston on Tuesday, October 7th. Bill dropped off ICA's donation of chess sets, as well as a number of books from his personal library. Thanks, Bill !

Program Director Quincy Mathis gave us the good news that he has expanded chess at Connections, adding a Wednesday evening program at their main office that includes and encourages youth participation, in addition to the adults-only Tuesday morning program at the shelter.

World Youth: Congratulations to David Peng and Aydin Turgut for their performances at the World Youth championships in South Africa! David finished 5th in the U12 division, while Aydin finished 14th in U10. See our website for detailed coverage from Bill Feldman.

MindGames-Ed: New ICA affiliate MindGames-Ed successfully staged their first tournament on September 21st in Skokie, with 23 players participating. Congratulations to Tournament Director Bill Buklis!

Illinois Chess Tour: In Tour news, this weekend's 23rd Annual Midwest Class championships in Wheeling is the 10th of 12 events on the Tour. Also, this month marks the debut of the Quad City Chess Classic on the Tour, October 25th in Moline, IL. Please note the new location for the tournament on our events page.

National Chess Day: Two additional events are on the schedule this Saturday 10/11 in celebration of National Chess Day: the Park Forest Chess Challenge Tournament, and the National Chess Day Midwest Class Blitz, held in conjunction with the Midwest Class in Wheeling.

DOWNSTATE REPORT (MR)

The well funded Springfield Frederick Ekstrom Memorial had disappointing attendance, was won jointly by Pete Karagianis and Tianlu Peng.

The Quad City Chess Classic: Now an ILLINOIS CHESS TOUR event, to be held 10/25 in Moline.

Downstate scholastics are revving up for the new year. School clubs and programs have mostly started.

Bloomington Normal has announced a full schedule of January–February tournaments in preparation for the 2015 K-8 Championships to be held in Bloomington.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (MC)

The membership committee did not meet in the past month. I'm planning to call a meeting soon to continue our discussion of membership issues and expect to deliver a report on that meeting at our annual meeting in November.

However, we did receive a response from USCF regarding pricing for the bulk membership initiative, and I have an update from committee member Bill Feldman to relate in advance of our discussion of this initiative during the October board meeting.

Here's Bill's update:

We finally heard back from Jean Hoffman and the USCF has rejected the \$7.50 bulk purchase of K-12 memberships due to the rules implemented in July. Jean feels that the \$9 already represents a significant discount.

The ICA could purchase vouchers for a \$9 rate which is less than the \$17 for Under 12, \$22 for Under 16 and \$26 for the remainder of high school.

We have two recommendations:

1) To make a bulk purchase of 300 vouchers at the \$9 rate, an expenditure of \$2700.

These vouchers would be good for adding a year to an existing K-12 membership or could be used for a new membership. Only one voucher could be used per member. If we place the order within the next week or two, they've agreed to extend our memberships until 12/31/15 so we can be specific in how we word the offering.

2) To keep our membership packages with minor modifications:

ICA Scholastic membership - \$10

ICA Scholastic membership + Chess Kid Gold through 12/31/2015 - \$12

ICA Scholastic membership + USCF Voucher - \$15

ICA Scholastic membership + USCF Voucher + Chess Kid - \$20

We are about a month away from the expiration of the trial Chess Kid membership program which was funded by Bill F.

Before the program was developed we had 47 scholastic members. As of October 1st we now have 99 scholastic members, an increase of over 100%.

We have several school programs interested in having each team member join and additional promotion can support this initiative but it is dependent on the approval of an allocation of \$500 for 100 FULL YEAR Chess Kid Gold memberships.

Chess Kid is offering to come to send two representatives at the K-8 this year and BNASC has accepted their offer after some delay.

It is hoped that with the All-Grade and an additional promotional campaign for both the Chess Kid offering and the bulk membership offering we will see a quadrupling of scholastic memberships to 400. It may require a purchase of an additional allocation of Chess Kid accounts in another month or two.

This will by no mean make the ICA rich, but should bring in \$1500-\$2000 net.

In addition, the ChessKid initiative should raise the general level of play for those who work the program.

Further, there are opportunities for coordinated online play which should support affiliates and the benefit profile for communities outside the existing major chess zones.