

Illinois Chess Association Board Meeting

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Called to order 1:03 p.m.

Present: Bill Brock, Tom Sprandel, Maret Thorpe, Mikhail Korenman, David Long, Andi Rosen. Glenn Panner and Mike Zacate arrived at 1:35 p.m.

We reviewed the proposed agenda for the day's meeting.

We need to find previous minutes and get them approved. June 28, 2008 meeting was at US G/60 in Skokie; October 2008 meeting was in Champaign.

ICA has held face-to-face Board meetings are four times per year. Tentatively we will hold additional meetings via Skype internet phone service second and fourth Thursday of the month at 9:00 p.m.

Validation of January 2009 Election by Appointment

Chris Merli notes that the elected terms of all officers have expired as of December 31, 2008. He therefore appoints Tom Sprandel to the post of Metro VP and he himself resigns his post as President.

Accordingly, Tom Sprandel accepts the post as Metro VP and with the resignation of Chris Merli, Sprandel becomes President.

Tom Sprandel, in accordance with the results of the election tabulated January 31, 2009 by Sevan Muradian, Andrea Rosen and Maret Thorpe, appoints: Mikhail Korenman to be Metro VP, David Long to be Downstate VP, Carl Dolson to be Treasurer, Maret Thorpe to be Secretary.

Tom Sprandel also appoints Bill Brock to be Membership Secretary and Andrea Rosen to be Director of the Warren Junior Scholars Program.

Illinois Chess Bulletin

Current bylaws say we publish four times per year; funds are low. Maret presented estimated costs of a "cheap" (bare minimum) ICB of 4 to 8 pages. The Board discussed publishing 3 to 5 of those cheap issues per year plus one larger issue with more chess content. Pete Karagianis is not getting much material for ICB. Also discussed having a booth at the Chicago Open, both to collect dues and do outreach to members, and potentially having the larger issue done by then, with Bill Brock editing that particular issue of the ICB.

Membership

- Bill Brock will transition membership director responsibilities with Sevan Muradian.
- ICA and USCF membership in Illinois have been declining over the years, as has the number of rated chess tournaments in Illinois. We would like to hold an organizer

roundtable and try to encourage cooperation among organizers. The officers will pursue this.

- We need a formal mechanism for collecting memberships at tournaments where ICA membership is required.
- Parent or family memberships may be appropriate for parents of scholastic chess players, since the parents are the decision makers, and in some ways the stakeholders.
- We need to create a list of member benefits.

ICA Tour

Sevan Muradian has suggested restarting the ICA tour with a list of prizes to be donated from various sources, prizes valued at roughly \$4,000. All USCF rated events would be tour events, and all ICA members would automatically be enrolled in the tour. Board members expressed concerns about publicizing a tour with \$4000 worth of prizes without already having the prizes in hand, as well as concerns about sponsorship, ownership of the tour, inclusion of organizers other than NACA/Sevan, and recordkeeping for the tour. The old tour was stopped because it was losing money, but a tour is a benefit to members and worth doing at a small loss. Discussion of tour was tabled.

Warren Program

Andi Rosen gave a Warren Program report. She has done about \$1500 in fundraising, and has been very active in programming. She has taken over administration of Polgar and Denker qualifier tournaments. Andi would like to formalize procedures for Warren program participant selection and funds allotment. She would like to have a small advisory board for the Warren program to do this. Moved and passed. Andi will recruit her advisory board members and the board will ratify her choices.

David Long/Downstate VP

Turnout is off a bit in Bloomington and Peoria. Springfield is still looking for another playing site. Someone in the Quad cities is organizing chess but we haven't heard from them yet. There's a new club in Champaign that will hold its first tournament soon. Southern Illinois holds one tournament a year: the Mark Osterreich memorial in Salem. US Open will be in Indianapolis this year, so we could have a lot of people there.

Scanning of ICBs

David Long has been scanning an archive of ICBs from Kevin Bachler. Chris Merli will return some more issues to David to scan. There are still about 2 dozen more copies that remain to be found to make a continuous set of scanned ICBs, many of which may be in an archive that Bill Brock has. David is continuing to try and find even older issues from other longtime members, to extend the archive back farther. David would like to advertise a "call for old ICBs" in the next ICB listing all copies that are still missing.

Next meeting/ICA Banquet

David suggested holding both in Springfield at a buffet restaurant. It was suggested we hold it in Bloomington to make it more centrally located, and possibly do a fundraising or member appreciation quick tournament in conjunction with the banquet. David will look into this.

Treasurer

Since Treasurer Carl Dolson was absent, Bill Brock reviewed the financials. General fund and WJP have increased substantially, Broughton Fund has lost a little bit because of investment losses. Even though General Fund is up, it's still very poor compared to what it has been in the past.

Tom Sprandel noted that we need to identify a lawyer to volunteer to help the ICA should legal issues come up.

Glenn Panner told those present about the Chicago Blaze and said the Blaze would like to work with the ICA about ways to help each other and how they can both promote chess in the community. All agreed to work in that direction.

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.