

Illinois Chess Association
Annual Meeting

November 7, 2010
called to order 11:00 a.m.

Bucca di Beppo Restaurant, Lombard, IL

Board members present: Tom Sprandel, Carl Dolson, Maret Thorpe, Andi Rosen, Jerry Neugarten, Garrett Scott, Bill Brock, David Long (arrived late)

Board members absent: Mike Cardinale, Bill Barton

Others present: Dennis Bourgerie, Vito Vitkauskas, Surya Kopula, Colley Kitson, Frederick Rhine, Al Chow, Claire Nicolay, Betsy Dynako, Mike Zacate, Brad Rosen, Jim Egerton, Mark Nibbelin, Glenn Panner, Larry Cohen, Helen Warren (arrived late), Jim Warren (arrived late), Joe Splinter (arrived late)

We introduced everyone then established a quorum of 7 out of 10.

Tom Sprandel noted that the ICA Board has spent the last two years getting ICA back in order. Our goal is to serve members: 1) new and scholastic members, 2) club and established players and 3) titled players.

Jerry Neugarten moved that we approve the minutes from the previous meeting; they were approved unanimously.

Carl Dolson presented the treasurer's report and annual financial report. He noted we have spent the last two years re-establishing the financial soundness of ICA. Our general fund balance is now \$12K after being as low as \$3K. Carl also noted we do have some expenses not yet reported.

Memberships will be a bit down from last year, donations will increase somewhat. Some donations specifically balance expenses such as our support of the Illinois Open. He feels much better about our financial situation. Garrett Scott moved we accept the treasurer's report and it was accepted unanimously.

Warren Program: Andi Rosen explained that this is run so revenue matches expenditures. She has been able to do more programming program due to having more revenue. A few Warren Scholars get subsidies for lessons; group seminars are offered to Warren Scholars as well as youth players rated 1600 and above. The Warren Program also funds prizes for the Denker Qualifier and Girls' invitational tournament. They've gotten a \$1500 grant two years in a row. The program has an advisory committee to establish guidelines for qualification, the Denker and Girls' Invitational, and to review the awards that are given. Bill Brock moved to accept the report and it was accepted.

Membership report: Tom Sprandel gave this report in Chris Merli's absence. Tom reviewed programming and systems for membership. Memberships are now entered quickly; ICA has a

system for linking Paypal receipts with membership renewals. In October Tom programmed a semi-automatic email membership reminder system; ICA does reminders by email only now. We will be working on mail reminders for those members who have not provided an email address. ICA is now at 281 members, not including some renewals due from Bill Goichberg's tournaments. There is now a system for collecting memberships from Goichberg's CCA tournaments, which require Ica membership. Titled players are automatically ICA members if they list Illinois as their membership state. Bill Brock moved to accept the report and it was accepted.

Al Chow moved that we offer a free ICA membership to any FIDE titled player who plays in a major tournament in Illinois, regardless of residence. Approved unanimously.

Web: Maret Thorpe reported on this. There are three people working on the site: Maret Thorpe, Tom Sprandel, and Tim Chung, plus contributors. In the past year, the site was redesigned to work with ads and greater amounts of content. Paypal links have been fixed. Web revenue has risen from \$10 to \$545, largely due to ads for summer chess camps. Site visits are now about 4500 per month. Maret designed a prototype and structure for the Youth Site in April; the Youth Site was launched after Jerry Neugarten completed content in August. The event listings receive the most traffic. The volume of event listings ICA handles is up: January through end of October handled 320 event listings including camps. The three web programmers have a list of goals, roughly prioritized. A major goal is to expand chess content.

Youth Committee: Jerry Neugarten reviewed ICA's progress with the Bid Committee, Youth Committee, and the Revised Constitution. the Youth Committee has launched a section of the ICA site devoted to youth content. The next project will be to list as many school coaches on the site as possible, on an opt-in basis, without disclosing emails. As of Thursday, 300 were signed up for the Illinois All Grade tournament planned at Whitney Young. A proposal for chess programming was made to Chicago Public Schools in July and continues to be discussed with CPS. Currently only 10 percent of Chicago's title 1 schools have chess programs, and Jerry is hoping to improve that. ICA will be helping publicize the IESA tournament scheduled for February; deadline is January 12 for registration. A Girls Open State Championship has been organized by Andi Rosen at Niles North in January. Jerry has been having committee conference calls and subgroup meetings; will probably have a whole-group meeting at some point. Carl Dolson moved to approve the report; the report was approved by the board.

Mike Zacate noted that we should pledge money to the Chicago Proposal in the amount of \$3000, noting that Jerry Neugarten needs the money now. Jerry would like to get a commitment from CPS before raising funds, and is not sure he'd spend his whole ICA allocation on this project. Maret Thorpe asked for an organizational plan for the program. Tom Sprandel noted that we are starting on our budgeting process right now and he'd like to consider this in the context of the whole budget. Bill Brock moved to table the motion, Mike Zacate seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Bid Committee: Garrett Scott reported. He is working to find out whether Peoria wants to bid on the 2011 All Grade, normally scheduled for downstate. If not, ICA will open the bidding to upstate bidders, though that was scheduled to be held downstate. 2012 State K-8 champs call

for bids needs to go out early in 2011. Tim Just and Wayne Clark will need to notify us by year end if they want to cancel their contract to do the 2011 IL Open. The Bid Committee also needs to check the status of the Illinois Class. The Board is also working on finding an organizer for an annual State Blitz Championship. Carl Dolson moved to approve the report and it was approved.

Other business:

USCF delegates for 2011 have been chosen and reported to the USCF.

ICA is currently running elections for officers. All current officers are running for re-election; David Long is running as a write-in candidate. Larry Cohen volunteered to be the third member of our election committee and Joe Splinter volunteered to be a backup member.

The next Board Meeting phone conference will be November 18.

Betsy Dynako offered to take board photos for use on the ICA site and for personal portraits.

Colley Kitson gave an update on activity in Bloomington/Normal: there are 23 after school programs, 700 players; Pete Karagianis is the master/teacher.

Dennis Bourgerie is looking for a way to organize internet club matches for Twin Cities Chess Club in Bloomington Normal.

Bill Brock moved to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Bourgerie seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.