

Illinois Chess Association

Board Meeting Phone Conference

December 12, 2013

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 P.M. Present were Bill Brock, Mike Cardinale, Carl Dolson, Jerry Neugarten, Murrel Rhodes, Steven Craig Miller, Tom Sprandel and Will Tseng. Chris Merli was absent. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes:

Jerry moved to approve the minutes of the November 23rd annual meeting. Tom seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Warren Junior Program Report:

Carl relayed details of an email update on WJP activities provided by program director Pattie Zinski. The update indicated that invitations have been sent to prospective Warren scholars for the qualifying tournaments for the national invitationals (Denker, Barber, Girls') based on December rankings, and that the final clinic of the year was successfully conducted at Benet Academy. Pattie also indicated that she would be contacting the WJP advisory board to ratify changes in the selection process previously discussed with the Board.

Jerry asked that the advisory committee membership be published on our website. Carl agreed.

Bid Committee Report:

Carl reported that he received clarifications from the organizer on aspects of the 2014 All-Grade bid, and that concerns previously raised by the Board were negotiated.

Carl reported that no bids were received for the 2014 Illinois Class, but one organizer has inquired about moving the tournament to April. The Board discussed the idea and concluded that ICA should maintain the timing of the tournament and repeat as organizers in 2014 (a motion to this effect was introduced during the treasurer's report – see below).

President's Report:

Carl reported on the results of the 2013 election of general board members. Elected to two-year terms beginning January 1, 2014, with vote totals in parentheses, were: Steven Craig Miller (27), Bill Feldman (26), Jerry Neugarten (25), Michael Auger (10), and Scott Daniels (3). The committee responsible for counting and certifying the results consisted of Carl Dolson, Murrel Rhodes and Mike Cardinale. Tom moved that the

Board accept the results of the election as reported. Mike seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Next Carl reported on delegate appointments for 2014 to represent Illinois at the USCF annual meeting in St. Louis. The slate of delegates includes Tim Just, Sevan Muradian, Garrett Scott, Jeff Wiewel and Carl Dolson; with Bill Brock as an alternate delegate. Carl moved that the Board accept this slate of delegates. The motion was seconded by Jerry and approved unanimously.

Finally, Carl reported that Tom Sprandel has resigned as Secretary, effective at the end of the year. Carl also indicated that Tom will continue as webmaster until a replacement is in place. Tom offered further explanation, citing the scarce time he has been able to spend in state.

Carl thanked Tom personally and highlighted Tom's long history of service, particularly as ICA president during a difficult period. Other board members also offered their thanks to Tom for his inestimable service to ICA, and for his personal helpfulness and friendliness.

Executive Session:

The Board briefly entered executive session to address questions raised by Bill Brock.

Youth Committee:

Jerry provided an update on ICA's CPS initiative.

Bill Brock moved that ICA terminate its efforts with regards to the CPS initiative. The motion was not seconded.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill provided an expense report on the Illinois Class via email and explained that the bottom line is very close to break even, with an estimated net loss of \$11.28.

Carl remarked that he was proud of ICA's efforts in staging the IL Class. Jerry proposed repeating the formula, and Carl agreed. Jerry introduced a motion to put together the same team and to replicate to the degree possible the conditions of this year's tournament for the 2014 Illinois Class. The motion was seconded by Tom. The motion passed with six votes in favor (Cardinale, Dolson, Neugarten, Miller, Sprandel and Tseng), one opposed (Rhodes), and one abstention (Brock).

Metro Report:

Mike reported on the state championships won at the Illinois Class. They were as follows: GM Nikola Mitkov (Master/Expert), William Blackman (A), Scott Kolb (B),

Kevin Oliver (C), Ritesh Sivakumar (D), and Sahil Conjeevaram and Vikram Dara (Under 1200). Mike suggested, based on the size of the U1200 section, that next year's tournament should further divide the bottom section and award prizes to more classes.

Mike provided documents related to the Illinois Chess Tour to the Board via email, including an expense report for the 2013 Tour, a budget for 2014, and an award schedule for 2014. The Board approved an amendment to 2014 award schedule to bring the cash performance prizes back to 2012 levels. Both the 2014 budget and 2014 award schedule (as amended) were approved unanimously. Mike reported that the 2014 tournament schedule is still being finalized, and will hopefully include a new event in the Quad Cities area, organized by the Illowa Chess Club.

Web Report:

Carl moved that the webmaster position be offered to Bill Feldman, to begin by 4/1/14, allowing time for a smooth transition. Tom seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Downstate Report:

Murrel reported that activity is generally quiet over the holiday period. Two events remain in December: the Washington scholastic, which is going ahead despite the considerable tornado damage in the area, and an open tournament in Bloomington. Murrel explained that activity will increase considerably in January.

Web Policy Committee:

Carl announced the formation of a web policy committee, initially consisting of Tom Sprandel, Jerry Neugarten and Bill Feldman. Other candidates to round out the committee were discussed.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on January 9th. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

Minutes submitted by Mike Cardinale