



Illinois Chess Association Agenda August 5th, 2025

- 1) Call to Order - 7:03pm
- 2) Roll Call - quorum established

Present: Chair (Speaker 2), Eric, Amy, Larry, Edwin, Kat, Abdallah; later Emily joined; Jeff Smith added during meeting.

Absent/Late: Henry absent/late; Emily initially absent then joined.

- 3) July Minutes: Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Motion brought by Larry, Seconded by Abdallah

- 4) August Agenda: Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Motion brought by Larry, Seconded by Amy

- 5) Executive Board Reports - President (Danial Wilson) -

- a) Access to accounts - Bank (card), Quickbooks -

- i) Add president to Quickbooks

- b) Open Board Positions -

- i) General Board Members

- (1) Down State - Jeff Smith - Vote

Motion to approve Jeff Smith as board member passed unanimously. Motion brought by Larry, seconded by Amy

Board Composition

Jeff Smith appointed to downstate at-large; motion passed unanimously.

Note: Jeff to submit petition next month to remain on board per process.

- c) US Chess Email Blast

- i) Guidelines for sending - Writing?

Communications Guidelines

Social/Email guidelines to be drafted by the social team.

Team: Daniel (chair), Emily, Eric.

Plan: Chair to initiate draft and circulate.

d) Legal action possible

i) Email with Jan Lubeck about LJUPCO STERIEV

Legal Threat on Historical Rating Change Request

An individual demanded a 1996 game/rating change and a physical address; threatened legal action against ICA and US Chess.

Action:

ICA is not providing personal addresses; service should go to the registered agent.

Current registered agent on state record: Stephen Platnick; change pending on next filing (cost acknowledged).

No further engagement on frivolous demands.

e) Ethics report

i) Review email

Ethics Complaint Regarding TD Conduct (Non-ICA Matter)

Context:

Complaint pertains to a US Chess national event in Illinois; issue concerns a Tournament Director's conduct (Glenn), not an ICA-run event.

Emails were misdirected to US Chess Ethics; the appropriate channels are the event organizer (Glenn) and the US Chess Office (formal complaint process with \$50 fee).

Position and Approach:

ICA acknowledges notification but has no jurisdiction unless hiring decisions or ICA-run events are involved.

Response will:

Direct complainant to event organizer and US Chess Office.

Acknowledge parent experience empathetically without implying ICA investigation or monitoring.

Noted context: Voice was raised to remove a parent from the playing hall during live games for noncompliance with instructions.

6) Treasurer -

- a) Audit
- b) Savings account
- c) Youth invitational stipends

Treasury, Financial Operations, and Audit

Current State:

Bank card and QuickBooks access obtained; backlog exists but initial review appears sound.

Audit:

Target timing for year-end audit: Initiate after bringing books current by December.

Interest Optimization:

Decision: Move \$20,000 from checking to a 6–12 month certificate/money market at CEFCU (approx. 3.3–3.6%) to earn interest.

Rationale: ~\$60,000 balance; keep majority liquid; reassess later for potential additional moves.

Execution: Treasurer can transfer within same bank to avoid new signatory setup.

Youth Invitational Stipends:

Amounts:

Senior Representative stipend: \$50.

Other Youth Invitational representatives: \$300 each.

Disbursement:

Preferred via PayPal with memo for purpose; record in QuickBooks (attach attendance documentation as feasible).

Formal request not required but good record-keeping is encouraged.

Event Proceeds Receivables:

Funds from Youth Invitational (run by Bill on ICA's behalf) have not been received by ICA.

Action: Chair to follow up with Bill for breakdown and remittance; verify affiliate links and PayPal routing.

7) Memberships – Amy -

Membership

July activity: 10 total (6 scholastic, 4 adult; 3 adult renewals, 1 new; 2 scholastic renewals).

Outreach Ideas:

Light-touch promotion at camps; clarify benefits (e.g., \$5 event discounts).

Consider bundling ICA membership into future camp registration (build into price).

Address website asterisk confusion (Junior Scholars/Rising Stars pending due to membership) via clearer guidance.

8) Secretary – Henry Getz -

9) Metro VP - Eric Ortega -

10) Downstate VP - Amy Green -

a) Down state camp - review

Camps and Downstate Activities

Bloomington-Normal (Kat-led):

One-day camp (9–5) with 46 K–8 students; strong instruction; feedback positive.

Lessons learned:

Consider multi-day format to reduce fatigue.

Charge single registration including food to avoid split-pricing issues.

Facility heat challenges managed; future scheduling/venue climate considerations noted.

Peoria (Emily-led):

32–33 students (some partial-day), peak ~56–65 by week's end.

Field trip: St. Louis Chess Campus (SLCC, US Chess Hall of Fame), arch visit; charter bus critical due to heat.

Strong parent appreciation; seeded local season momentum; coordination with Bloomington to minimize date conflicts by grade/venue caps.

Assets:

Giant chess set acquired (37-inch pieces with optional extender; foam tile board base); school storage arranged; useful at tournaments, placed away from playing hall to reduce noise.

Financials:

Revenues logged; expenses pending; full report next month; reimbursements from Kat outstanding.

Future Camps:

2025: Expand up north and down south.

Potential partner up north: Chicago Chess Foundation (inner-city youth focus).

Explore alternating field-trip destinations (e.g., Chicago Chess Center) and inter-state joint events (e.g., meet Indiana halfway).

Local Clubs:

New Thursday club in Eric's area gaining traction; Bloomington-Normal Monday club steady; Southern Illinois startup in progress (seeking ICA promotion).

11) Committee Reports

a) WJS – Edwin -

i) Calendar of WJS/RS meetings

ii) Setup the data share to maintain WJS with committee

WJS (Warren Junior Scholars) Program

Scheduling:

Calendar set through end of year; instructors confirming topics/dates; next session this Sunday.

Temporary format for dual sessions: 9:00–10:00 and 10:15–11:00 on same day due to single-meeting limit.

July gap made up by two August sessions; monthly cadence into 2025; exploring budget for two sessions per month.

Access and Content:

Sessions recorded; shared upon request; plan to centralize storage (Google Drive/new website).

Attendance typically 5–10% of invitees; this cycle invites sent to all (~80 scholars).

Operations Improvements:

Create Gmail contact groups (WJS/Rising Stars) to manage access to recordings via permissions (avoid open link sharing); manage adds/removals as students age out.

Data hygiene: Edwin to provide roster (names, emails, phones) for central records.

Eligibility/Alumni:

Graduates age out; may return as instructors (some interest received).

Timing Feedback:

Some families prefer non-Sundays; team will test alternatives while acknowledging no universally perfect slot.

- b) ICA Tour - Emily -
 - i) Updated standings
 - ii) Edwin help pulling data

Illinois Tour

2024 prize payouts outstanding; need to compile results and pay before 2025 concludes.

Edwin to coordinate with Emily on data retrieval approach and follow-up.

Prize fund:

2024 budgeted \$4,000; 2025 increased to \$4,500; ensure visibility and timely payout to reinforce value.

- 12) Open Business -
 - a) Website - Edwin/Bill - Website server
 - b) Plaques- Last ones to be given out were 2019-20
 - c) "All-Girls Scholars"
 - d) Bylaw changes to process

Website Redevelopment

Current site down; coordinating with developer on hosting/server plan.

Next Steps:

Chair to schedule meeting early next week with developer (include Bill if available; record session).

Maintain progress to transition from long-time volunteer (Merit) without losing event posting continuity.

Bylaws

Previously approved minor changes:

Delegate adjustments.

Membership types updated to match offerings.

Constraint:

Original document not available; full reconstitution required to integrate approved changes before year-end.

- 13) New Business -
 - a) ICA Scholastic Clinic's -
 - i) One upstate & one Down State - in the Fall / Summer
 - (1) Group lessons
 - (2) Tournament
 - (3) Coaches Clinic

ICA Scholastic Coaches Clinic

2024 Status:

Not proceeding due to scheduling and ownership gaps.

2025 Plan:

Kat to lead planning; Amy to co-develop scope.

Pre-work:

Define terminology statewide (coach vs. coordinator vs. sponsor) to target audiences correctly.

Gather needs at IHSA/IESA/state events (Feb–Mar) for agenda design.

Interim Options:

Consider a Zoom-based information exchange later (e.g., early June or holiday break) only if definitions/audience targeting are resolved; otherwise focus on 2025 in-person/virtual hybrid.

- 14) Total est. Time 1:40 hour
- 15) Next Meeting: Sep. 2nd, 2025 at 7 PM

Other Notes:

Broughton Award:

Last award paid after delay; before soliciting new nominations, resolve access to the funding source (funds currently owed to ICA).

Bring back to next meeting for process/timing once funds accessible.

Bids/renewals and potential changes.

Tour 2026 planning (events, prize fund).

Illinois Open (State Championship) ICA Presence

Dates: Aug 28–Sep 1 in Lisle (near Naperville).

Highest traffic: Sun Aug 31 (scholastic day).

ICA Table:

Aim to staff on Aug 31; promote membership, WJS, raffle, and camps (requesting photos/media from Emily).

Volunteers:

Edwin tentatively available if not playing.

Emily and Amy coordinating carpool and banner/table runner logistics; consider transporting giant chess.

Action Items:

Chair: Respond to TD conduct complainant with correct routing (organizer and US Chess Office) and empathetic acknowledgment without implying ICA investigation.

Chair: Follow up with Bill for Youth Invitational funds breakdown and remittance to ICA; verify affiliate/payment routing.

Treasurer (Emily): Prepare year-end audit readiness plan; bring books current by December.

Treasurer (Emily): Execute transfer of \$20,000 into a 6–12 month CEFCU certificate/money market; confirm rate and term.

Chair: Initiate draft of email/social media communication guidelines with Emily and Eric.

Emily: Compile and share camp photos/media via Drive for Illinois Open table materials.

Edwin: Share WJS roster (names/emails/phones) and set up Gmail groups; configure recording access controls for WJS participants.

Edwin: Coordinate with Emily on Illinois Tour data extraction to enable 2024 prize payouts.

Chair: Schedule developer meeting (Mon/Tue next week) regarding website/server; include Bill if possible; record session.

Kat and Amy: Define coach/coordinator/sponsor terminology and outline 2025 Coaches Clinic plan; propose timeline and format.

Emily: Complete camp expense entries and reimbursements; present full camp P&L next month.

Chair: Confirm ICA representation coverage at Illinois Open on Aug 31; coordinate materials (banner, table, giant chess).

Secretary: Add Broughton Award funding access and nomination process to next meeting agenda.

Chair: Provide list of Youth Invitational stipend recipients to Treasurer; confirm amounts (\$300; \$50 for Senior Rep).