

Illinois Chess Association Board Meeting
Via phone conference
February 11, 2010

Present: Bill Brock, Andi Rosen, Maret Thorpe, Carl Dolson, David Long, Jerry Neugarten, Bill Barton, Garrett Scott.

Review of last meeting's minutes will be deferred to the next meeting.

Carl Dolson gave the Treasurer's report. We have \$4300 in our operating account and approximately \$4600 on the Warren Junior Program account. Our bank balances are steady. Carl will be completing the tax return for 2009 soon.

Tom Sprandel gave the ICA Membership report. We are getting new affiliate memberships steadily: we now have 21 affiliate members, and 282 total members. Tom would like to form a task force to work on stimulating membership and on devising processes for managing membership and renewals as efficiently and well as possible.

Andi Rosen reported on the Warren Program. There are 35 Warren Scholars this year, same number as last year. They will have a seminar with Dmitry Gurevich and Nikola Mitkov. March 19-21 will be the Denker Qualifier (a round robin of seven players) and the Girls' State Invitational Championship, which will also be an invitational round robin. Winner of the girl's tournament gets a choice of travelling to the Polgar Girls' Invitational Tournament or the new USCF tournament girls' tournament being held during the US open.

Maret Thorpe and Tom Sprandel reported on the web site. Youth chess section of the site is starting up: we have lots of resources and volunteers. In general, we'd like to get more articles for the site. We are getting articles from the St. Louis Chess Center and hope to get more affiliate articles.

David Long and Bill Brock reported on the ICB. Bill is a bit behind schedule on the ICB, wants to get an 8 page ICB out this month. Deadline is 2/20. Bill could use some more content. He mentioned that he needs an editor for the April issue.

Garrett Scott reported on the Bid Committee. By a vote of 5 to 1, the bid committee has recommended a bid from Whitney Young (Paul Kash, Zack Fishman, and Michael Cardinale) for the 2010 Illinois All Grade Championships. Garrett noted that both bids were very strong, and had many similarities and thanked the bidders for their work. Andi Rosen raised a concern about trophy sizes on the Whitney Young bid. Jerry noted that we should explore our philosophy about scholastic trophies and write some of it into the guidelines. Other concerns regarding the recommended bid are: insurance, parking, a request from Whitney Young that ICA waive our capitation for the free entries for hot lunch recipients, and the need for the organizer to negotiate a group rate with a nearby hotel. Garrett said all these will be points of discussion for the winning bidder and the ICA Bid liaison. The bid committee's recommendation was accepted unanimously by the full board and the bid was awarded subject to working out the issues with the winning bidder. Tom Sprandel will call both bidders and advise them and thank them for their work. Tom Sprandel appointed Bill Brock to be the bid liaison for the 2010 all grades. Jerry Neugarten thanked Garrett and the bid committee for their work on this first bid.

Tom asked the executive board to finish writing the bid specs and get the call for proposals up. We will work with Garrett to devise deadlines and a timetable and get it up on the web site.

Jerry Neugarten reported on the Youth Committee. Had two meetings: a Chicago sub-group meeting and a meeting of the entire Youth Committee. Jerry will start coordinating people who have committed to work on things. The youth committee is off to a good start.

Other news

Andi Rosen told us about the Warren-Blaze Benefit and the State Blitz Championship. Turnout was small, but it was successful considering both events were new and at a new venue. The two events raised a small amount of money.

Tom Sprandel is in the process of working on the Illinois Open with Wayne Clark.

Bid Liaison Bill Barton last heard from Paul Raso about the 2010 Illinois State Scholastic Championship 2 weeks ago and everything is going well. Bill will check in with them and ask for a copy of the hotel contract.

The meeting adjourned. The next meeting is 2/25/10 7:30 p.m.