

**Illinois Chess Association Executive Board
Meeting Agenda: Telephonic “Executive Board Meeting”
January 3rd, 2018**

7:20 pm

Meeting Facilitator: Patrick Cohen, President

Invitees: Patrick Cohen, Stephen Plotnick, Patrice Connelly, Rachel Schechter.

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call: All present.

III. Approval of agenda

IV. Open Issues

- A. Patrice confirmed that correspondence motion to appoint Rachel Schechter as Downstate Vice-President passed unanimously.

- B. Motion to approve Maret Thorpe as Election Committee Chair. Maret has declined the chair position, but has agreed to serve on election committee.
Motion withdrawn by Patrick, Stephen seconded. Passed 4-0.

- C. Motion to approve Michael Lenox as Veteran’s Committee Chair.
Seconded, Passed 4-0.

- D. Motion to approve Eva Harrison as Membership Committee Chair.
Seconded, Passed 4-0.

Meeting Agenda: Telephonic “Regular Board Meeting”

7:35 pm

Meeting Facilitator: Patrick Cohen, President

Invitees: Patrick Cohen, Stephen Plotnick, Rachel Schechter, Patrice Connelly, Eva Harrison, Mike Lenox, Rose Grandy

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call: All present.

III. Approval of agenda; Patrick motioned, Stephen seconded. Passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion of minutes from prior meetings: Minutes approved.

V. Reports

A. Warren Junior Scholars & Rising Stars Report (Rose)

- Significant accomplishments in K-12 National tournament in December from Illinois youth players, including some Warren Junior scholars.
- 75 letters to principals (whose schools have one or more students enrolled in WJSRS) are completed, and will be signed and mailed out next week. 4 letters are incomplete due to pending information.
- WJS will hold its first online tournament (on ICC) on Thursday, January 4th. If it goes well, the program hopes to incorporate future digital tournaments.
- Plans in Progress for Denker & Polgar Qualifier Tournament, which will take place May 5 & 6th. Rose has sent updated qualification requirements and prize section to Patrick for review.
- WJSRS website has been updated, with information for future potential members. Rose hopes to create a Facebook page as well.
- Sunday night online training schedule is underway, and an in-person training event will take place in April.
- Potential for coordinating a WJS USAT team for February tournament.
- Parents have inquired about WSJ jackets; idea in development. Michael made some recommendations about vendor/logo sources.
- Rose has submitted grant application for Mander foundation, and doing additional research for grants. Rachel will investigate potential grants through the Polgar Foundation.
- Budget Discussion: January expenses include online training sessions, and potentially deposit for Qualifier tournament hotel. Not a lot of information available about program budgets from previous years; however, Rose has prepared a budget estimated for 2018.

Rose left call at 8:11 PM after completing report.

B. President's Report (Patrick)

- Access to online banking accounts is now confirmed, and the ICA can write checks to pay out prizes. Board membership has also increased.
- Patrick raised concerns about drawbacks to the current membership database, and how it may prohibit growth.
- Eva confirmed current database can handle increase in membership; however, requires manual updates. She is working with Bill Buklis to learn

how to update online membership list. Future goal may be to use an automated database.

C. Metro Report (Steve)

- Steve continues to visit chess clubs in Chicagoland and open dialogue about ICA Affiliate memberships and incentives.

D. Youth Committee Report (Steve)

- Rachel has recommendation for a potential member for the Youth Committee from downstate.

E. Downstate Report (Patrick)

- Rachel has been appointed new Downstate Vice President. Patrick reviewed Downstate Vice President's responsibilities to communicate with affiliates and prepare report on downstate activity for board meetings.
- Rachel noted a lack of Tournament Directors available downstate and inquired if Board had any TD recommendations for downstate tournaments.
- Patrick encourages more networking and communication initiatives between upstate and downstate.
- Michael has downstate connections through his Vet Associations, and offered to assist with downstate chess vet initiatives.

F. Treasurer Report (Patrick)

- Checks have been ordered and are on the way. Access to bank account; Quickbooks and bank account has been restored.
- As the link between Quickbooks and account was temporarily severed, accounting clean-up is required, and the board is receiving assistance. Unfortunately, we will lack itemized expense and some inaccuracy due to lack of treasurer for several months.
- Michael inquired about treasurer status. Patrick mentioned potential candidates, but none yet confirmed.
- One potential option is to hire a CPA, and the position of treasurer would serve as a bookkeeper and liaison with CPA. The board will need to make a firm decision in another month or two.

VI. Open issues

A. Election (Patrice)

- Patrice confirmed she received nominations for three At-Large board positions, and members have been added to the ballot.

- Maret has agreed to serve on the election committee, as well as two other people. One additional person needed.

B. Budget

- Patrick has prepared 2018 estimated budget.
- Other forms of revenue/addressing loss is needed. Brief discussion of potential future initiatives including offering digital online tournaments and online accounts.
- The Illinois Senior tournament is a financial loss and may be unsustainable. Address potential changes at next month's meeting.
- The IRS is still reviewing the issue of late backpay. The debt will most likely be completely/partially forgiven, but contingency plan should be in place if debt needs to be paid.
- There will be a filing fee with the Attorney General (though this may be listed under 2017 financial report, expense would still be incurred in 2018 fiscal calendar.

Michael Lenox left meeting at 9:06 PM.

C. Delegates to USCF

- Ten people interested in serving as delegates to USCF. Review of Bylaws regarding selection; confirmed 5 delegates and 5 alternates are needed.
- Board discussed candidates and made recommendations on delegates and alternates.

Steve motioned to appoint the following five people as delegates, Rachel seconded. Passed unanimously.

Steve Plotnick
 Michael Lenox
 Maret Thorpe
 Tim Just
 Garret Scott

D. Networking Ideas (Skipped due to time limitation)

E. Increasing Membership Move items. (Discussed earlier)

F. Board and Organizational Vacancies

i. Treasurer

ii. 2 Downstate General Board Members

- Garret Scott interested in joining board; but limited in email/online use.
- iii. One Election committee Member Short
- a. Patrice has volunteered to serve on Election committee and chair election committee.
- iv. Tour Commissioner is still open.
- G. Organizational Safeguards (Steve)
- Need two signers for financial document in the future.
 - Passwords should be maintained by multiple board members.

VII. New business

- ICA has agreed to provide sets and clocks to the winning bidder of the Illinois Open. Bidder will be responsible for equipment pick-up and drop-off and any loss or damage to equipment.

Next board meeting is scheduled for February 7th, at 7:30 PM.

VIII. Adjournment Motion to adjournment Patrick, seconded by Stephen

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.