

**Illinois Chess Association Executive Board
Meeting Agenda: Telephonic “Executive Board Meeting”
February 7th, 2018**

7:25 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

i. Motion: Accept the 2018 Illinois All Grade bid submitted by Jeff D’Orio on behalf of Elite Chess

- Two dates for Illinois All Grade were considered; 11/03/18 and 11/10/18. Unfortunately, both compete with local High School area tournaments, but bid committee recommends 11/03/18.

Patrick motions to conditionally accept Illinois All-Grade bid for 11/03/18, submitted by Jeff D’Orio on behalf on Elite Chess, pending the hiring of staff. Rachel seconds.

Motion passes 4-0.

**Meeting Agenda: Telephonic “Regular Board Meeting”
February 7th, 2018**

7:30 PM

Meeting Facilitator: Patrick Cohen, President

Invitees: Patrick Cohen, Stephen Plotnick, Rachel Schechter, Patrice Connelly, Eva Harrison, Mike Lenox, Megan Chen, Rose Grandy, Murrel Rhodes, Garrett Scott

I. Call to order 7:41 PM

II. Roll call.

All present except Garret Scott;

III. Approval of Agenda

Patrick motions, Stephen seconds to approve the agenda. No changes to agenda.

Motion passes 8-0.

IV. Discussion of minutes from prior meetings, potential approval

Patrice confirms January meeting minutes were approved via email; posted to ICA website.

V. Welcome new board members

Welcome to our five general board members following the January 2018 Election: Megan Chen, Eva Harrison, Michael Lenox, Murrel Rhodes, and Garrett Scott.

VI. Board Meeting Procedures

Patrick welcomed the new general board members. He emailed members information about board meeting format, and Robert's Rules.

VII. Reports

A. Officer Reports

1. President' Report (Patrick)

- Election is finished. There are three upstate general board members, and two downstate board members.
- Patrick is still serving as interim treasurer, and is working on updating ICA accounts, and ICA organization status with the Illinois Attorney General.

2. Metro Report (Steve)

- Steve helped connect Michael Lenox and the Burr Ridge Chess Club to potentially collaborate on new initiatives.

3. Downstate Report (Rachel)

- Exciting news- Through her connections with the Susan Polgar Foundation, the ICA has received a small grant from the Susan Polgar Foundation. This amount will be used as a travel stipend for the Illinois player attending the Polgar National Invitational Tournament.
- Rachel will work with Rose to receive, process, and earmark grant money. Rose confirmed it should be attributed to the Invitational Budget; Patrick will assist.
- Rachel will write up a brief article recognizing the Polgar Foundation's generous gift for the ICA website.
- A new downstate initiative is the Sunday Chess Challenge at Champaign Urbana library. Rachel hopes she may be able to use this to encourage ICA membership.

4. Treasurer Report (Patrick)

- The ICA renewed its insurance recently (debit to accounts).
- All prize paid for Illinois Senior and Illinois Class.
- Position of Treasurer still open, and vacancy to be discussed later in agenda.
- Michael mentioned preparing a potential fundraising initiative in the future.

B. Committee Reports

1. WJP/RS (Rose)

- WJP/RS hosted two online tournaments through ICC in January with 18 and 16 players respectively. They will continue to host online tournaments as schedule and budget allows. ICC accounts are \$6 each for players in program.
- They have restarted Sunday night online training sessions in January. They are scheduled through April, scheduled around tournaments & holidays.
- There is an in-person March 3rd Training session scheduled.
- The Qualifier tournament has been confirmed for May 5 & 6th. It will be held concurrently with the Illinois Senior Tournament, so the two will share the same facility and reduce costs. A two-day format was selected over a three-day format due to cost consideration and player preferences.
- The total cost for the Qualifier tournament is approximately \$3,900. There is a \$50 entry fee per player.
- The WJP/RS information has been updated on the ICA website, and lists qualification descriptions and player lists.

a. WJP Budget

- Patrick and Rose will meet with a CPA and review Quickbooks accounts prior to finalizing budget.
- The program has been awarded a grant from the Mander Foundation, which will be received soon.
- \$200 was spent on online training in January, and the same will be spent for February online training sessions.
- Rose requests a PayPal account for the WJS/RS program, independent on the ICA PayPal Account, so donations and payments can be processed directly. Finances would be run autonomously but would still be transparent and subject to ICA board review.

Motion by Patrick to create WJS/RS independent PayPal account with two ICA representatives on account. Mike seconded.

Motion passes 8-0.

b. Motion: Approve Rose and Patrick as signors for WJP Checking Account Patrick

Motion by Patrick Rachel seconded.

Motion passes 8-0

2. Youth Committee Report (Steve)

- Steve has an idea for an initiative to encourage ICA affiliate and individual memberships. This initiative includes creating an accumulative point system available to players playing in ICA and affiliate-hosted tournaments, and prizes and titles could be awarded.
- Steve will draft a potential proposal for the board to review.
- Eva confirmed there are currently 21 ICA club affiliates.

a. ICA Youth Grand Prix

- Tabled due to time.

3. Veterans Committee (Michael)

- Veteran's Cup Tabled due to time.

3. Membership Committee (Eva)

- The membership committee has four members. Michael and Eva met last month; the others could not attend. A meeting for all four members is scheduled for February.
- Eva has updated the membership list and correcting errors (still in progress).
- Eva sent out reminders for ICA membership renewal. There are over four hundred former members. Two people asked to unsubscribe, but there were multiple renewals and new members.
- Rachel suggested the idea of selecting an ICA member every month to highlight on the ICA website with a brief article and picture and use the “member showcase” to encourage membership for individuals and affiliates. Everyone agreed this is a great idea.
- Rachel spoke with Chesskids website. They have offered the ICA an opportunity to purchase bulk memberships (300-600) at a lower cost, which the ICA could resell for profit. They also offer the opportunity to create a landing page, and the ICA would receive a contribution for whomever buys an account through the landing page. This is less risk.
- The ICA will need to assess the demand for Chesskids account (engage the affiliates) before committing to buying.
- Rachel has also spoken with Chess.com, who has offered a special deal to the ICA to purchase select membership levels for a discount in bulk; ICA could then sell to players. The membership committee to draft proposal after further player research; the minimal target group is ten players.

VI. Open issues

A. Tournament Bids

1. 2018 Illinois Open

- The 2018 Illinois Open has been awarded to Glenn Panner and Maret Thorpe on behalf of Chess Weekend.

2. 2018 All Grade

- The 2018 All Grade has been conditionally awarded to Jeff D’orio on behalf of Elite Chess.
- The Bid Committee recognized that the organizer previously ran a competitive event to the 2017 All Grade and discussed whether this should impact bid selection.
- After discussion, the ICA board agreed to dismiss this and work with the bid winner towards the success of the 2018 All Grade tournament.
- The organizers suggested splitting the All Grade into two tournaments held downstate and upstate to encourage more player participation.

However, this would create two regional tournaments, not state events, and the ICA does not award prizes at regional tournaments.

- Board agreed to leave the All Grade as a single day, state event.

3. Future of Bids

- The board discussed the pros and cons of the ICA running their own tournaments versus bidding them out to chess organizers. While bidding out tournaments may be a loss of potential income, it also avoids risk of loss.
- Everyone agreed the ICA may alienate organizers by running its own tournaments and may not be sustainable due to ICA personnel changes.
- The board agreed the ICA will continue to bid out tournaments.

B. Budget

- Patrick recommended addressing budget at March meeting.

C. Board and Organizational Vacancies

i. Treasurer

- The position of Treasurer is still vacant. Patrick recommends hiring a CPA and having a board member serve as a book keeper liaison. Steve agrees a CPA would be best to file taxes and check books once a quarter.
- The board agreed that \$500 a year would be an acceptable cost to hire a CPA. Patrick will begin researching potential candidates.

ii. Tour Commissioner:

- This position is still vacant.

iii. Committees:

- Patrick encourages committee membership, including non-board members.

Organizational Safeguards (Steve)

- Steve recommends creating bylaws requiring two board signatures on bank accounts and at least two members having access to financial accounts.

F. Illinois Tour

- i. Motion: Amend the previously approved tour schedule to include only the

open section of the Western Illinois University 5 de Mayo Chess Tournament

- It is noted that the WIU tournament is the same weekend as the IL Senior Open; however, as the Senior Open is not part of the ICA Tour, it would not violate bylaws to include the WIU tournament. The two tournaments should also not compete for players due to the differences in time controls and prize funds.

Patrick motioned; Steve seconded.

Motion passes, 6-1.

G. Website/Calendar (Michael)

- Michael has begun working on calendar for ICA website; in progress.

H. Motion for Closed Session (Steve)

Closed Session begins at 9:24 PM.

Closed Session ended 9:27 PM

VII. New business

- Suggestion to write article on ICA website to recognize new board members.
- Eva requested brief biographies for new members to add to Board information on website.

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

VIII. Adjournment Motion to adjournment Patrick, seconded by Stephen

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.