



# Illinois Chess Association

## Illinois Chess Association Board of Directors Meeting Agenda: Telephonic “Regular Meeting” January 6th, 2021 7:32 PM

**Meeting Facilitator:** Stephen Plotnick, President

**Invitees:** Stephen Plotnick, Eric Ortega, Rachel Schechter, Patrice Connelly, Eva Harrison, Megan Chen, Patrick Cohen, Rose Grandy, Ren Escalera, Garret Scott, Darren Erickson, Joshua Flores, Eric Luster, Larry Cohen

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM
- II. **Roll Call:** Stephen Plotnick, Eric Ortega, Rachel Schechter, Patrice Connelly, Eva Harrison, Megan Chen, Patrick Cohen, Ren Escalera, Darren Erickson, Joshua Flores, Eric Luster, Larry Cohen
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved Unanimously
- IV. **Discussion of minutes from prior meetings:** Approved Unanimously
- V. **Reports**
  - A. **Officer Reports**
    - a. **President (Steve)**
      - **WJS Director discussion:** Eric Luster is has accepted the position of WJS Director and is working with Rose to facilitate the transition.
      - **ICA Executive Board Election; Secretary Position:** All current Executive members retain their positions with the exception of Patrice Connelly, who is stepping down as Secretary, and will be replaced by Joshua Flores.
      - **Online/Remote ICA tournament discussion:** Larry Cohen, an organizer who has organized online tournaments on Lichess.org, attended the ICA meeting and spoke about organizing online tournaments. Steve, Darren, and Ren provided a spreadsheet comparing three online chess platforms

for potential use, and the board discussed the pros and cons of the various platforms. Patrick offered to show members (outside of meeting) various ways to organize tournaments on Lichess.org. Rachel asked the audience for the tournament, e.g., ICA members only, etc. Board discussed offering it statewide with ICA discount for members. **MOTION:** Steve is authorized to organize an online open tournament on the ICC platform on behalf of the ICA with expenses not to exceed a budget of \$800. It will be scheduled for first quarter of 2021. **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.** Steve to present proposal next week.

**b. Metro VP (Eric):**

- **New Chess Podcast in the Works.**

**c. Downstate VP (Rachel):**

- **Welcome to new members, Joshua and Eric.**
- **ICA Facebook Page:** Thanks to Eric for posting information on ICA Facebook page about Solidarity Tournament.
- **Chess and Coffee Podcast:** Rachel is working with Megan on news for the website.
- **Article about Stipend Winner:** Winner is working on questionnaire provided by Rachel for website article.
- **Potential ICA Online Marketplace:** Rachel is still organizing information/ideas about this potential virtual initiative but is willing to move to next meeting due to time constraints.
- **Downstate Board Tournaments OTB:** Discussions about potential scholastic tournaments for June.

**d. Treasurer (Darren, also provided written reports):**

- **Bank Reconciliation:** Daren completed bank reconciliations in recent months. Still reviewing additional accounts; will have complete 2020 Financial report by next meeting.
- **Insurance:** Insurance has been paid.

- **COVID Affect:** COVID significantly affected ICA expenses and revenue in 2020 (due to lack of OTB tournaments), but ICA finances are still positive.
- **WJS Fund:** Need to discuss Treasurer's role in WJS finances.
- **Projected January Revenue:** January may be negative due to upcoming 2021 expenses and delayed 2020 expenses.
- **MOTION:** Approve Treasurer's Report. **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

## B. Committee Reports

### a. WJS/RS (Eric)

- **Class List:** Final list of this year's class to be released in next weeks.
- **Transition:** Eric is working with Rose to finalize details for transition

### b. Youth (Steve and Rachel): No Report

### c. Veterans (Open): No Report

### d. Membership (Eva):

- **Scholastic Membership:** Scholastic Membership is down, most likely due to COVID/lack of OTB tournaments.
- **Ideas to increase Membership:** Suggestion of potential mass mailing for membership drive; addresses could be requested from USCF. Steve will reach out to USCF to learn more.

## VI. Open Issues

### a. ICA Website Article Editor: Position still open

## VII. New Business

- ### b. Secretary Changes: MOTION:
- Thank you Patrice for your years of service to ICA, and welcome to Josh as the new secretary. **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

- c. **Delegates:** The ICA needs to begin accepting submissions for Illinois delegates. The previous year's article about a call for delegates should be updated and posted on ICA website.
- d. **Broughton Award Account:** Patrick will work on transferring Broughton account access to others, as well as Paypal. Darren will follow up with Patrick to resolve post-meeting.
- e. **Potential Virtual Illinois Chess Tour:** Suggestion of formatting a virtual Illinois Chess Tour, whether for ICA tournaments, or to adopt virtual tournaments by local organizers to encourage more participation. Darren and Josh will review potential resources for virtual ICA Tournament.
- f. **K8 Tournament:** Proposal received from organizer has been withdrawn due to COVID restrictions. MOTION: Officially cancel the 2021 K8 State Championship due to COVID. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY. An official cancellation article should be posted on the ICA website.
- g. **Chess Trophies:** Steve has a large group of chess trophies available for re-use/salvage for potential future uses.

VIII. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM

**Next meeting Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021**