

Illinois Chess Association
Annual Meeting
November 6, 2011
Buca di Beppo Restaurant, Lombard, IL

Attendance

Board Members: Maret Thorpe, Carl Dolson, Bill Brock, Jerry Neugarten, Tom Sprandel

Other Attendees: George KrasnopolSKIY, Jim Egerton, FM Albert Chow, Keith Ammann, Vyto Vytkauskas

Meeting called to order at 11:22 a.m.

Since we did not have a quorum of officers, no votes were taken. Any motions made at this meeting will need to be raised at the next meeting. Minutes will need to be approved by email or at the next phone conference in December.

Those present introduced themselves.

President's remarks. Tom Sprandel reviewed the upcoming ICA election, which is for five board members at large (directors). Two people submitted petitions to be on the ballot: Bill Brock and Jerry Neugarten. Chris Merli intends to run for re-election as a write-in. Murrel Rhodes and Mark Nibbelin will run as write-ins. ICA bylaws require that we choose the two top vote-getters from the metro area, the two top vote-getters from outside of the metro area, and then the next highest vote getter after that.

Ballots will be sent to all members by email, and are also available from the ICA web site.

Treasurer. Carl Dolson gave the annual treasurer's report. As of the end of October, we have \$15,000 in our general fund. Our financial situation is healthy. The Warren Program fund is lower because we've done less fundraising while continuing the same level of programming for the Warren Scholars. We will need to increase fundraising for the Warren Program to keep the same level of programming. The Broughton Fund is about \$100 ahead of last year. Income is similar to last year, though from different sources. Our expenses were a bit higher. We did not spend many of the items we had budgeted for.

Warren Junior Program: Pattie Zinski forwarded a report

- The Warren Junior Chess Scholars Program provides recognition and training opportunities to the top scholastic chess players in Illinois.
- In 2011, Warren Scholars attended quarterly training sessions and summer camps taught by chess grandmasters living in Illinois.
- Warren Scholars hosted a chess tent in the Family Pavilion at the Taste of Chicago this summer and received a visit from Mayor Rahm Emmanuel.
- The Warren program sponsored invitational tournaments for the top high school players, the top elementary players and the top female players, with the winners receiving stipends to represent the state of Illinois at National invitational events.
- A national champion emerged from the Warren Scholar ranks this year, with Eric Rosen winning the National High School Championship in Nashville.

Albert Chow suggested that we evaluate the Warren Program and make sure that instructors at the IM and FM level have an opportunity to be involved and teach. Tom Sprandel moved that we review how

funds are spent in the Warren Program. Vyto Vytkauskas seconded the motion. Keith Ammann offered a friendly amendment: The Warren Advisory Committee should do a cost/benefit analysis to see if more value can be obtained by hiring IM or FM instructors instead of GM instructors. The motion was tabled until the next meeting we have a quorum.

Membership: Our membership is 365 total. We're holding steady membership numbers because we now maintain online records and can do membership renewal followup more easily and maintain an up-to-date list more easily. Some suggestions were made for Affiliate membership benefits by Keith Ammann and Albert Chow.

Web Site: We have a web site content editor, Dan Leroy. Tom Sprandel is trying to do an emailed newsletter every month with top stories from the ICA site and a listing of affiliate member events. We had budgeted for honorariums for titled player game analysis for the web site, but we don't have a volunteer to administer this program. Advertising on the web site is up over prior years. Bill Brock created an Illinois chess games database, and Tom Sprandel implemented it on the site. The webmasters thanked Tim Chung, who has been helping us with technical support for the last couple of years. The site welcomes any game analysis from any member for the Illinois Chess Blog.

Albert Chow commented at length on how organizers often fail to collect games from players at state title and other major events, making it much harder for anyone to do game analysis. Keith Amann made a motion: To amend the ICA bid guidelines to include a requirement that organizers submitting tournament bids specify in their bids whether scoresheets will be collected from players for analysis in post-event publicity and for archival purposes. Motion will be held to next meeting when we have a quorum.

Metro VP Report: Jerry Neugarten reported on behalf of Mike Cardinale. The kickoff for the Illinois Tour was an Eric Rosen simul with 14 players at Marbles Brain Store on Grand Ave., in Chicago. The first tour event will be the Tim Just Winter Open. A web page section for the tour is in progress.

Youth Committee: Jerry Reported on progress on Youth Committee's proposal to improve chess programming in Chicago Public Schools. Jerry has been providing info at their request and revising the proposal this summer to include more details. The proposal is now in the hands of the Mayor's office as well as the Board of Education. Discussion is ongoing, and there is now another proposal similar to ICA's. Tom Sprandel thanked Jerry for his extensive work on this proposal and project. He also noted that ICA's emphasis on this is to keep the program open to input from a variety of people involved in chess, as opposed to just one organization or company.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. and was followed by the ICA Banquet and Broughton Award Presentation. Next phone conference board meeting is the second Thursday of December.