

## **Illinois Chess Association**

Board Meeting Phone Conference

September 19, 2013

### **Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. Present were Bill Brock, Mike Cardinale, Carl Dolson, Steven Craig Miller, Jerry Neugarten, Murrel Rhodes, Tom Sprandel & Will Tseng. Absent was Chris Merli. A quorum was established.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Tom moved to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2013 meeting. Minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Warren Junior Program Report:**

Carl presented the Warren Junior Program report on behalf of Pattie Zinski. The Chicago summer clinic featured GM Mesgen Amanov, and the fall clinic is planned for Champaign, featuring University of Illinois students Michael Auger and Eric Rosen.

Carl further reported that the Warren Program received a generous \$3,000 donation from the Mander Foundation, and that the program is currently reviewing qualification criteria. Under discussion is removing the 10 game requirement for high school players, and adjusting the minimum age for qualification.

### **Youth Committee Report:**

Prior to the meeting, on August 21<sup>st</sup>, Carl called for a vote on the publication of an editorial on the ICA website, entitled *Opportunity Lost: Chess in CPS*. The vote was completed August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The final tally was six votes in favor of publication, three against, and one abstention. Voting in favor were Mike Cardinale, Carl Dolson, Steven Craig Miller, Jerry Neugarten, Tom Sprandel and Will Tseng. Voting against were Bill Brock, Mark Nibbelin and Murrel Rhodes. Chris Merli abstained. The editorial was subsequently published.

Jerry Neugarten provided an update on recent press coverage of the editorial and of ICA's Chicago scholastic chess initiative, as well as the GM's letter to the mayor, also published on ICA's website. Bill asked Jerry to provide the Board with an idea of when ICA's efforts on this initiative will "wind down". Carl thanked Jerry for his work and complimented his responses to press inquiries.

### **President's Report:**

Carl reported that all delegates to the USCF annual meeting except for Bill Feldman have expressed an interest in serving again at next year's meeting. The call for delegates for 2014 has been posted on the web page.

Carl provided a report on the Illinois Open, congratulating the winners of the Open section, and state co-champions, Mesgen Amanov and Nikola Mitkov, as well as the winner of the reserve section, Aaron Maney. A final financial report will be forthcoming soon, and includes a healthy contribution from the successful IL Scholastic event, held concurrently with the Open. The Board discussed a possible adjustment to three-tiered entry fee deadlines, to get a better handle on projected attendance.

Tom reported on preparations for the Illinois Class, including TLA postings.

Carl nominated Fred Gruenberg for an honorary ICA membership, highlighting his many contributions to chess, including service as a president of ICA; many other office and chairman positions; and his resurrection of the National Open. The motion was seconded by Bill and approved unanimously.

Prior to the meeting, on August 26<sup>th</sup>, Mark Nibbelin resigned his position as an at-large member of ICA's Board of Directors. Carl will appoint a committee, chaired by Murrel Rhodes, to identify downstate candidates for the open ICA Board position.

Tom reviewed the schedule and deadlines for this year's election of five general members to the ICA Board, and will post the schedule to the ICA website.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Bill reported on several items previously circulated by email, including a preliminary report on the Illinois Open, and detailed the promotional expenses incurred. Bill provided current balances of all cash and investment accounts.

### **Metro Report:**

Mike reported on the distribution of the *Why Join ICA?* flyer at the Illinois Open, and on some membership statistics for players in the Open (53.3% total ICA membership among Open players). Mike pointed to abundant metro events on the calendar, including those organized by Chess IQ (successor to the North American Chess Association), and to Chicago Chess Center fundraisers.

### **Downstate Report:**

Murrel reported on upcoming events in DeKalb and Springfield, leading up to the Illinois All-Grade November 16<sup>th</sup> in Normal.

**Bid Committee Report:**

Prior to the meeting, on August 21<sup>st</sup>, Tom moved to extend the bid deadlines for the 2014 Illinois All-Grade and 2014 Illinois Class, both by one month, to give organizers more time to better investigate school sites for the All-Grade. Bill seconded the motion. A vote was called by Carl, and the motion passed unanimously via email.

Carl reported on a proposal by Mikhail Korenman to host the Illinois Senior Open, on the weekend of March 14-15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in Naperville. The Board discussed the merits of the plan in general, and agreed to turn over consideration of the details to the Bid Committee.

**Broughton Award:**

Carl reported that the Broughton committee has recommend the nomination of Mike Zacate to receive this year's Broughton award. Carl moved, and Jerry seconded, Mike's nomination, and the motion was approved unanimously. Carl reported that the annual meeting is scheduled for 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, to be followed by the banquet at 6:00 P.M., at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville, site of the 2013 Illinois Class on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

**2014 Illinois Class:**

At Tom's request, the Board discussed the format of the 2014 Illinois Class, as well as the question of whether the tournament should be put to bid or organized by ICA. Tom moved that the tournament be staged as a one-day event, and Jerry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Tom then moved that the tournament be put out to bid and Mike seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be on October 10th. Meeting was adjourned at 9:33.

Minutes submitted by Mike Cardinale