

Illinois Chess Association

Annual Meeting

Hilton Lisle/Naperville

November 23, 2013

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 P.M. Present were Mike Cardinale, Carl Dolson, Jerry Neugarten, Will Tseng and Bill Brock (arrived 4:49); and many guests. Absent were Chris Merli, Steven Craig Miller, Murrel Rhodes and Tom Sprandel. A quorum was established upon Bill Brock's arrival at 4:49.

President's Report:

Carl devoted the first half of the president's report to the year's highlights and the accomplishments of Illinois chess players, organizers, and administrators. He began by recapping the remarkable achievement of Illinois' Warren Scholars in national and international events, highlighted by first place finishes by David Peng in the Open Under 10 section of the Pan American Youth Championships, and in the K-6 section of the Supnationals; and by Aydin Turgut's first place finish in the K-3 section of the Supnationals. Carl also made mention of the outstanding performances of Sam Schmakel, Alex Bian and Vincent Do at the Supnationals, and of Jonathan Kogen, Alex Bian, and Madeline Reiches at the national invitational tournaments; the Denker, Barber, and Girls' Invitational.

Carl recapped the tournament season, which included two successful national tournaments; the US Amateur Team – North, and the national All-Girls. On the state level, the four ICA-sponsored state championship events drew participants as follows: 594 to the K-8 Championships; 139 to the Illinois Open; 303 to the All-Grade Championships; and 73 pre-registered for the Illinois Class (*final tally of 99 – ed.*). Carl also noted the IL Blitz championship, run in conjunction with the USAT-N, and ICA's approval of the inaugural IL Senior Open for 2014.

Carl then cited four national awards received: Garrett Scott for Outstanding Career Achievement; Erik Karklins for Outstanding Player Achievement; Wayne Clark for Tournament Director of the Year; and the City of Chicago for Chess City of the Year.

Finally, Carl pointed to the collaborative effort in producing the "Why Join ICA?" document, elucidating the benefits of ICA membership.

Following his report on the year's accomplishments, Carl continued with a list of five challenges facing ICA in the year to come. First, ICA needs to improve the perceived benefits offered to individuals and affiliates, with the goal of increasing membership. Second, an increase in coordination with USCF is necessary, as relations have sometimes been strained. The third challenge is to find a new webmaster, as Tom winds down his many years of hard work on the website. Fourth, a review of the bidding

procedures is called for. While the revamp four years ago successfully removed conflicts of interest, the procedures have been cumbersome and challenging to organizers. Finally, ICA needs to increase participation in its membership, both by encouraging volunteerism, and by soliciting membership input.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill provided a balance sheet and profit and loss statement dated 10/31/13. He walked through the balance sheet with those in attendance, explaining the integration of the Warren Junior Program and Broughton Fund budgets, as well as the deferred revenue component of the accrual-based balance sheet. He also highlighted the significant increase in web advertising income, and affirmed the overall healthy state of the Association.

Metro Report:

Mike reported on the quantity and quality of the year's events in the Metro area. This included the return to organizing of Fred Gruenberg; new large tournaments in July and at Thanksgiving, and numerous regular affiliate events, topped by 52 rated tournaments organized by Chess IQ. Combined with many lectures and summer camps, and new events associated with the nascent Chicago Chess Center, activity thrived in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Mike also recapped the 2013 Illinois Chess Tour, drawing to a close on the next day with the Illinois Class. Following a bigger than expected participation in the 2012 Tour, which resulted in a total of \$2794.47 in prizes awarded to Tour players, the 2013 Tour set higher bars for participation prizes and reduced the overall prize budget. Based on a projected total of around \$1100 in prizes, Mike explained the goal of finding a midpoint between these two extremes for the 2014 Tour. He also discussed the Tour schedule for 2014, which will be largely unchanged, with the possible addition of a fall event in the Quad Cities area, organized by the Illowa Chess Club. This would further the Tour's goal of a wide geographical distribution of events throughout the state.

Finally, Mike fielded questions about the Tour, and took suggestions regarding possible promotional items beyond t-shirts.

Youth Committee Report:

Jerry returned to the initial meeting of the Youth Committee four years ago, and to the two priorities set by the committee. The first was the building of web resources, which have been completed successfully, resulting in over 20,000 hits to the Youth home page at our website.

Jerry then provided an update on the other priority to come out of the meeting, the CPS initiative. Jerry recapped the decision to go public in August with the publishing of an editorial on the ICA website, and the resultant press activity, which remains active and

includes a piece in tomorrow's (Sunday, 11/24) Tribune. Jerry then summarized a recent meeting at the Board of Education, and expressed that he remains "guardedly optimistic" about the progress of the initiative. Jerry also answered questions from Bill Feldman and others about the initiative.

Following Jerry's report, Bill Feldman initiated a discussion of possible financial support for the two Illinois players attending the World Youth Championships in December, David Peng and Shreya Mangalam. Carl mentioned the need for website recognition of this event, and the group also considered whether any support for these players should fall under the auspices of the Warren Junior Program, as both are Warren scholars.

Warren Junior Program Report:

Carl read a recap of the year for the Warren Junior Program provided by the program director, Pattie Zinski.

25 elementary and 12 high school students nationally ranked for their age were invited to participate in the Warren Junior Chess Scholars Program in 2013. Quarterly training seminars were offered in Chicago, as well as semi-annual seminars downstate, in Bloomington and Champaign, taught by Illinois Grandmasters. Subsidies were offered to scholars to attend advanced level chess camps.

The top 12 K-8, top 6 high school, and top 6 girls competed in a three-day tournament in February to determine the Illinois representatives to the national invitational tournaments, the Denker, Barber, and Girls' (see the president's report for the winners). A funding proposal submitted to the Mander Foundation resulted in a \$3000 grant to cover the cost of attendance at these three national events. Finally, Warren scholars played and taught chess to attendees at the Chicago Gospel Music Festival and the Taste of Chicago during the summer.

Membership Report:

Carl presented the membership report on behalf of Chris Merli. The current membership count includes 243 individual members, and 27 affiliate members.

Approval of Minutes:

Bill moved to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2013 meeting. Jerry seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Q & A:

Carl opened up the floor for a Q & A, and encouraged the non-board ICA members in attendance to raise any points of interest.

To further Carl's goal of improving the bidding process, Glenn Panner offered to host an organizer "summit" in conjunction with the 2014 U.S. Amateur Team - North tournament in February, to better communicate concerns to the Board.

Harold Winston, Chairman and CEO of the U.S. Chess Trust, reminded those in attendance of the good work of his organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10, to make way for preparation of the banquet and the Broughton Award, presented this year to Mike Zacate.

Minutes submitted by Mike Cardinale