

Illinois Chess Association
Board Meeting Phone Conference
February 13, 2014

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 P.M. Present were Michael Auger, Bill Brock, Michael Cardinale, Scott Daniels, Carl Dolson, Bill Feldman and Murrel Rhodes. Jerry Neugarten and Steven Craig Miller were absent. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes:

Scott Daniels moved to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting. Carl Dolson seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Warren Junior Program Report:

Carl reported that the invitees are lined up and ready to go for the national invitational qualifying tournaments, set for 2/28-3/2 at Chess IQ in Skokie.

President's Report:

Carl reported that this summer's USCF annual meeting has been moved from St. Louis to Orlando. The move was necessitated by the unexpected closing of the site hotel in St. Louis. Carl has contacted all of the Illinois delegates, and is awaiting replies to determine who will be able to travel to Orlando for the meeting. It's likely the majority, if not all, of our delegates are still planning to attend.

At Carl's request, Mike relayed a few details of the USCF's new pilot program for rated play for non-members. The program is being launched in selected states, and allows for non-USCF members to play rated games based on a pay-per-game fee structure. The stated purpose of the program is to explore ways to grow chess and introduce chess players unfamiliar with the USCF to the organization and rated play. State affiliates interested in the program must submit a one-page application to USCF by April 15, 2014, and all pilot program tournaments must be held between June 15 and August 15, 2014.

Bill Feldman spoke enthusiastically about Illinois participating in the program and offered to help with development. Carl appointed a three-member committee consisting of Bill Feldman, Bill Brock and Mike Cardinale to work on the application and generate ideas for potential program events.

Carl then provided a recap of the discussion surrounding the conflict between the invitational qualifiers and the IESA tournament. Carl made three suggestions for constructive changes: 1) consideration of both IHSA and IESA champions as qualifiers to the tournaments; 2) promotion of the IESA event to provide a higher level of competition; and 3) the formation of a joint ICA/IESA task force charged with the

promotion of scholastic pre-high school chess and to encourage cooperation between the two bodies. Bill Feldman offered to work on a preview article of the IESA event for the website.

Next Carl reported that Bill Feldman has resigned from the Bid Committee, owing to his increased website responsibilities.

Carl reported that the time for the Bid Guidelines summit has been set by Glenn Panner for 2:00 on Sunday, 2/23, but further details have not yet been finalized, and a postponement may be necessary until the Board is comfortable with the agenda, participants and format.

Carl announced that the upcoming March board meeting will include a strategy session wherein the Board will discuss goals and direction for 2014. Carl asked that board members identify goals for consideration prior to the March meeting

Finally, Carl reviewed the working budget for the 2014 Illinois Open. In conjunction with the review, Carl suggested that ICA should provide sets for the event, and proposed purchasing some sets for this purpose. Bill F. wondered who would act as custodian of the sets and suggested more planning might be needed. The Board generally agreed with the idea of purchasing sets, and after further discussion, Carl moved that he be granted the authority to "purchase as many as 100 boards and sets to be used in state championship events". The motion was seconded by Scott, and all in attendance voted in favor, except Bill F. who abstained.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Brock reported that the 2012 income tax returns have been filed, but unfortunately the filing was one month late, and a penalty has been assessed. Bill is confident that the penalty will be abated, but agreed to cover the penalty if not, so there will be no cost to ICA..

Bill then asked for the advice and consent of the Board regarding obtaining a credit or debit card to make purchasing easier and more timely. There was general agreement, given appropriate controls to ensure ICA against any potential fraud. The possibility of multiple bank statements and/or a fidelity bond were discussed, and Carl will investigate the cost with our insurance carrier.

Metro Report:

Mike reported on the success of former board member Wilbur Tseng in winning the 2009 Electronic Knights correspondence championship, covered in a feature article in the January issue of *Chess Life*.

Upcoming metro events include the U.S. Amateur Team – North tournament in Skokie,

and a new event, the Tom Fineberg Memorial tournament, organized by Fred Gruenberg, and taking place in June.

In Tour news, Mike reported that the David Mote Memorial Open in Springfield in March has been added to the 2014 Tour calendar, and that one final addition is likely, bringing the total number of events to 12 for 2014.

Downstate Report:

Murrel reported that while the adult calendar is relatively quiet, the scholastic schedule is booming, with events every weekend leading to the IESA tournament on the first weekend in March.

Website:

Bill Feldman reported that he's working with Tom Sprandel on the webmaster transition, and beginning the process of inventory and assessment of our current content and programming. The main issue that Bill sees is a need for more contributions in order to ensure a timely stream of content. It's more than a one person job, and help is needed. Bill is hopeful that the Website Policy Committee will be helpful with advice and outreach to those who might provide content.

Bill also enumerated three specific goals for the coming year: 1) to make the website more mobile-friendly; 2) to offer better support and coverage of major events; and 3) to offer improved support for affiliates.

Carl reported that work continues on finalizing the membership of the new Website Policy Committee.

Membership:

Carl described his idea of limiting the IL Open plus-score prizes to ICA members as a new tactic intended to encourage membership. Mike applauded the idea.

Carl reported that membership currently stands at 181 individual members.

Bill Feldman raised the issue of requiring committee members to be members of ICA, and a discussion ensued as to whether the bylaws currently require it, with no definitive conclusion. Bill pointed out that just 3 of 8 bid committee and 5 of 29 youth committee members have active ICA memberships.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on March 13th. Meeting was adjourned at 9:37.

Minutes submitted by Mike Cardinale