

## **Illinois Chess Association**

Board Meeting Conference Call

January 20, 2015

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Present were Michael Auger, Bill Brock, Scott Daniels, Carl Dolson, Bill Feldman, Jerry Neugarten, and Murrel Rhodes. Absent were David Franklin and Steven Craig Miller. A quorum was established.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The December Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Approval of Officer / Committee Reports:**

The President's Report and Web Policy Committee Report submitted separately were approved, and are attached as part of the meeting minutes. Other Officer / Committee reports were not submitted in advance, or offered at the meeting.

### **Regular Business:**

Because some confusing invoices were received from ChessKid, Carl Dolson offered a motion to approve the purchase of 50 4-month memberships for \$149.99. Bill Brock seconded the motion. Bill Feldman explained that the invoices were not indicative of the actual transaction, which was the purchase of 100 1-year memberships for \$501.25. The Board had previously approved the allocation of \$500 for these 1-year memberships, and BF maintained that the motion was not necessary and that he should be reimbursed the full amount instead of \$351, which was shown on the invoice for 100 1-year memberships. The Board voted to approve the motion, and directed the Treasurer to reimburse BF for his full out of pocket cost for the memberships.

The balance of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of an idea proposed by Scott Daniels that the ICA transition towards a membership organization that includes all chess players and enthusiasts in Illinois with no dues structure. A copy of his proposal is attached as part of these minutes. The Board expressed a general positive view towards the proposal. Members were asked to relay questions and comments to Scott for further development of the idea.

David Franklin was able to join at the end of the meeting, and introduced himself to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2015.

## **President's Report:**

**Open Board Position** - the 2014 ICA Board election resulted in no candidate receiving enough write-in votes to be elected Secretary, and the people that have been approached so far have declined the position. The Nominations Committee continues its work to identify a suitable candidate. If any Board member has a candidate they believe would make a good Secretary and ICA Board member, please let anyone on the Nominations Committee (Brock, Dolson, Neugarten) know.

**ICA Organizers' Forum** - we have been approached by Glenn Panner to hold an ICA Organizers' Forum at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg (1800 E. Golf Rd.) during the USAT North weekend of February 20-22. I'll get back in touch with Glenn to work out details. I'd like for ICA Board members to attend if possible.

Submitted January 19, 2015  
Carl Dolson, President

## **Web / Data Report:**

1) Sent multiple emails to Paul and Blair trying to get full data file for All-Grade participants including school affiliation, grade level, name and USCF ID so that it could be combined with 680 file from 2014 K-8 and others.

This would allow us to build intelligent histories on participants and retain awareness of the best email addresses to use as well as affiliations with groups, an important strategic concept.

Carl and Jerry were copied on these correspondences but did not respond either.

No response at all. Assuming they are not wishing to cooperate.

2) Web content 2014 Summary: Articles primarily written by:

Scott D: 1  
Mike C: 1  
Keith: 2  
Pattie: 1  
Bill B: 3  
Carl: 10  
Bill F: 73  
Others: 4

3) Numerous technical issues exist but have been unable to reach Tom S. to resolve issues with undocumented systems; currently at a standstill

## **Chess Kid Initiative with ICA membership:**

a) ChessKid promotion has profoundly expanded scholastic membership and provided initial buzz with coaching world and parents suggesting ICA is seeking synergies to benefit the Illinois

chess. Currently about 70 of the existing 100 memberships are being used, most coming from Bill's personal outreach, a small handful from Rockford, Knight Moves, BNASC, HP and YCFC and Jeff DiOrio (Naperville) referrals. (Thanks to Scott D for having two kids on the program!)

b) If all other board members could promote 3 to 4 sign ups, the entire allocation will be spoken for,

c) Regardless of billing sequence due to credit card auto-renewal, what WAS purchased was 100 one-year memberships for \$500... and ChessKid generously added on an additional 6 weeks for FREE. Reimbursement pending. Contact at Chess.com / ChessKid.com provided so that Brock could verify.

d) Further marketing efforts on hold until reimbursement from 11/15/14 transactions received.

e) Coordination with BNASC and ChessKid staff to bring ChessKid personnel to K-8 championship for added excitement to the attendees.

f) Created detailed Coaches Guide to over 400 videos with over 60 hours of material which is receiving positive feedback from coaching community; copy distributed to Scott D as well

#### **Membership Committee Member Report:**

> Uncertain who is coordinating committee

> Uncertain who is Membership Chairperson at this time

> Uncertain as to status of initiatives discussed at last committee meeting / board meeting

#### **Board Member at Large Issues:**

> Sent Carl (with copy to Jerry as primary author of the bylaws and guidelines) multiple notes asking if a liaison was appointed to the 2014 All-Grade

> No response to any of them

> Circulated event feedback to known board members in attendance and received comments from Murrel and Jerry

> Uncertain if feedback was recorded in such a manner as to assist in future bid considerations

> Supportive of Organizer Summit; encourage ICA to take leadership if it wishes to mend fences and not rely on organizer to be anything other than the provider of a venue

> Approached 10-12 long time chess parents and chess aficionados about potential roles with the ICA in October-November time frame; only two have heard from ICA

> Two year tenure as "Deputy Commissioner of the Illinois Tour" has concluded

#### **USCF Bulk Membership Initiative:**

> 300 memberships purchased, vouchers expiring 5/31/15

> 50 memberships purchased by Peoria in early December, Carl agreed to price and codes forwarded to Murrel prior to December 6th event

- > Multiple follow up notes have not received courtesy of a reply from Murrel
- > Carl did reply, indicating it may have something to do with the holidays
- > 100 memberships purchased by BNASC; Jeff Smith reports no problems, Scott D reports 70 vouchers were used at first event of the season
- > Miscellaneous voucher purchases have been sporadic, chief marketing push is currently on hold pending resolution of above issues

### **Conclusion:**

As indicated previously I have club responsibilities on Tuesday nights and may be able to monitor teleconference but most likely will not be in a position to speak at tonight's meeting

### **Recommendations by Scott Daniels Regarding ICA Membership and Structure:**

Recommendations to the Illinois Chess Association (ICA) transition our focus on how we interact and support the chess players within the State of Illinois, I have put the following recommendation together:

- Membership: Change the Constitution and Bylaws of the ICA to remove the charges associated with being a member of the ICA.
  - Any chess player that lives in the State of Illinois will be considered to be a member of the ICA as long as they are a member or associated with FIDE, USCF, IESA, IHSA, or other State recognized chess association and Illinois is their State of Residence.
  - This change allows ICA to have a truer representation of all State chess players as the official state affiliate of the United States Chess Federation as outlined in our Constitution Article II, Section 3.
  - This change allows the ICA to encompass those players who may have economic hardship. This includes all age groups from juniors to senior players.
  - This change allows the ICA to offer additional services to multiple State chess groups without the need of membership. This will allow the ICA more flexibility in helping to support, create, and/or promote such groups. As well as putting solutions together around USCF Membership, chess learning tools, or other services that help the individual or team to advance.
  - In 2014, ICA membership brought in revenue of \$4,000.
    - With the change to all players being included in the ICA going forward, should allow the ICA access to government and corporate grants and other educational funding that would have been denied as a paid for membership organization.
    - To offset this revenue, the ICA will look to tournament fees, website advertising, grants, and corporate sponsorship to replace these funds.
  - Voting: All Members the age 18 or older shall be considered voting members
- Board of Directors: Change the Constitution and Bylaws of the ICA to change the composition of the ICA Board of Directors.

- Change Board of Directors from ten (10) to eight (8) members consisting of the President, Vice-President, Social Media, Metro Representative, Downstate Representative, Education, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- The two Chicago/Metro and Downstate Vice Presidents will move to Board Membership status with the establishment of a true Vice President position and an order of succession. We must understand that with this change that the board is now responsible for all players in the State of Illinois with the change of membership.
- The Social Media Representative roll/responsibility
  - Moving forward the Social Representative will be responsible to all forms of communication with the Statewide membership. These will include, but not be limited to, Website management (Webmaster), Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, or others), and event communication (ICA Minutes, Tournaments, advertising).
  - The Social Media Representative will be in charge of keep a data base of all State Members (within reason). This will be an ongoing data base with the players name, date of birth, address, email, membership ID(s), and rating (if known). This will require ICA to be more diligent on our information and should be anonymized / metadata for the purposes of soliciting or sharing.
- Education Representative roll/responsibility
  - Moving forward the Education Representative will encompass the ideal of helping all those Illinois players that are showing improvement in their chess through an increase in their USCF rating. Under this position, they will be in charge of the Warren Jr. Scholars Program as well a new program (still to be named) to reach out to the next level of improving players. These can be Scholastic or Adult players. The objective of this program will be to target the next 200 (or so) players and develop an on-line programs that will bring Master level training to these interested / developing players. This will be funded similar to the Warren Jr. Scholar Program.
- Committees
  - Today, ICA has the following committees Broughton Committee, Election Committee, Membership Committee, Nominations Committee, Warren Junior Program, Web Policy Committee, and Youth Committee. Most of these committee (outside of Warren) are staffed with only Board Members. It is my recommendation that we change this to reflect the above realignment of Board Members line up as follows with each Committee Chair being responsible for bringing in non-board members to be on their committees. Similar to the Warren Committee.
    - President – Broughton Committee (chair)
    - Vice-President – Nominations Committee (chair)
    - Social Media – Web Policy Committee and/or New Social Media Committee (chair)
    - Metro Representative – Youth Committee & Membership Committee
    - Downstate Representative – Youth Committee & Membership Committee
    - Education – Warren Jr. Program and New Education Program Committees (chair)
    - Treasurer – New Grant /Funding Committee (chair)

- Secretary