

Illinois Chess Association
Board Meeting Conference Call
March 17, 2015

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

The February Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of Officer / Committee Reports:

The President's, Metro Vice-President's, and Downstate Vice-President's Reports submitted separately were approved, and are attached as part of the meeting minutes.

Warren Junior Program Report:

Pattie Zinski reported on the new class of 55 Warren Scholars, 37 from grades K-8 and 18 from high school. Pattie attended both the IHSA State Chess Tournament and the Illinois K-8 Chess Championships to make presentations regarding the Warren Scholars.

Pattie also reported on the results of the Illinois Youth Invitational tournament hosted and directed by Sevan Muradian. The Illinois representatives at the national invitational tournaments are George Li (Denker), Caeley Harihara (Girls Invitational), and Jacob Furfine (Barber). Pattie described the work that was done by a working group she organized in advance of the tournament to address some issues that had been raised from last year's tournament.

Pattie also acknowledged that this would be her last Board meeting as the Warren Director, and that the person she was grooming as her successor had decided not to accept the position. The Board had a general discussion of alternatives to pursue for the Director position. Pattie agreed to do some work on summarizing various aspects of the Warren Program, Carl and Scott will work on presentations of the expectations of the ICA Board, and a group of Pattie, Carl, and Scott will approach viable candidates with the position before the April 9th Board meeting.

Various members of the Board thanked Pattie for her 4 years of service as Warren Director.

Caution to Board Members Regarding Communication:

Carl took a few minutes to reiterate a caution given in 2013 to ICA Board members regarding their e-mail and other communication.

Regular Business:

The Board unanimously approved an amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws to add Family and Senior memberships to the ICA's membership categories. This amendment was originally proposed and discussed at the December ICA Board meeting.

The Board approved, by a vote of 6-0-1, an amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws removing the requirement for ICA membership to be declared the State Champion in Illinois state title tournaments.

The Board reviewed a proposed Tournament Bid Schedule for 2015 ICA state title tournaments and directed some changes in the description of preferred dates. The revised Tournament Bid Schedule will be circulated to Board members within the next week and voted on by e-mail so that it can be posted to the ICA's website.

Having received no bids for the 2015 Illinois Class Championships, the Board approved ICA organizing the event in as similar a manner as was done with the 2014 tournament.

Carl provided an update on the status of organizing the 2015 Illinois Senior Open, which, due to some health issues, has been delayed. David Franklin agreed to make a site visit instead of Carl, and Carl will continue to organize it for as early a date as possible.

Scott provided a recap of the Illinois K-8 Chess Championship tournament. In addition to the K-8 champions identified in the President's and Downstate Vice-President's Reports shown below, the Colley Kitson Award for Top Coaches upstate and downstate were given to Dmitry Gurevich (upstate) and Serge Minin (downstate). The Board had a discussion of the Colley Kitson Award, first given at the 2014 Illinois K-8 Chess Championships, and believed it appropriate for the ICA Board to have some oversight or approval of the upstate and downstate recipients of the Award as it was being given in connection with an ICA state championship tournament. The Board approved this unanimously for future Colley Kitson awards.

The Board discussed two ideas raised by Bill Feldman. The first idea was whether ICA should provide some level of financial support to the K-8 champions who decide to play in the National Junior High and Elementary tournaments, similar to our financial support for the Denker, Girls Invitational, and Barber Qualifier champions. This was tabled pending further financial analysis relative to the possible elimination of membership dues going forward. The second idea was whether, because of such low participation in ICA state championship scholastic tournaments, a requirement should be placed on Warren Scholars to participate in either the Illinois K-8 or Illinois All Grade tournaments in order to be eligible for the Warren Program for the succeeding year. This was also tabled with the direction that ICA would work with the incoming Warren Director to determine whether such an idea should be implemented.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2015.

President's Report:

USAT-North - This national tournament was again hosted in Schaumburg February 20-22 by Chess Weekend (Glenn Panner) with 74 teams, a big increase over previous years! Congratulations to Team Pinoy of Chicago Revamp 2015 (IM Angelo Young, NM Eden Diano, Prash Amarasinghe, Philip Parker-Turner) who finished with a perfect 5.0 score. Top boards included Illinoisans Angelo Young on Board 1 (4.5/5), George Li (who won the 2015 Denker Qualifier) on Board 2 (4.5/5), and Rishi Narayanan on Board 4 (5.0/5).

Illinois Youth Invitational Tournaments - In addition to comments Pattie will make about this past weekend's Illinois Youth Invitational Tournaments, I want to add my congratulations to George Li (Denker), Caeley Harihara (Girls Invitational), and Jacob Furfine (Barber) for their clear wins, and wish them the best as they represent Illinois at these national invitational tournaments. I also want to sincerely thank Pattie Zinski, Warren Junior Program Director, for her efforts in organizing these tournaments, including finding last minute replacements, and Sevan Muradian of ChessIQ for hosting and directing these tournaments at no cost to the ICA.

Illinois K-8 Chess Championships - 571 of our youth participated in the 2015 Illinois K-8 Chess Championships March 7-8 in Bloomington. Clear champions included Dimitar Mardov (K-1), Vrishank Ramnath (2-3), Advait Prabu (4-5), and Jacob Furfine (6-8). Congratulations to these state champions. Thanks to Bloomington-Normal Area Scholastic Chess, for organizing the tournament on behalf of the ICA.

Looking for Bid Committee Volunteers - We have a need for two additional members of our Bid Committee. If anyone knows of an ICA member or potential member with tournament organizing experience that we could approach for this Committee, please let me know.

Membership - As of March 15, ICA has a total of 260 members (25 affiliate, 1 Corporate, 3 Honorary, 6 Century Club, 8 Patron, 79 Regular, and 138 Scholastic). Renewal notices for memberships expiring through March 31 have been e-mailed.

Submitted by Carl Dolson
March 17, 2015

Metro Vice-President's Report

ChessIQ hosted the 2015 Illinois Youth Invitational in Skokie on March 14 and 15, with 22 players competing for entry to the Denker, Barber and Girls Invitational national tournaments. ChessIQ also organized a closed round-robin tournament, the 31st ChessIQ Masters, in Schaumburg from March 9 through March 13. Ten titled players competed, including several International Masters.

In other tournament news, MindGames, also in Skokie, held a tournament on March 1 that attracted 15 players. The Renaissance Knights 111th Quest on March 15 drew a field of 122 players. The Glenwood Chess Club's March 15 Swiss tournament attracted 16 players. The St. Charles Club Championship, held during February and March, featured 17 players.

In non-tournament news, the Chicago Chess Center continued its series of educational events, such as "Intro to Tactics," at various locations throughout the city. The Chicago chess meetup group continued its Monday night meetups, with modest attendance most weeks. The Chicago Industrial Chess League entered the final rounds of its regular season schedule.

Downstate Vice-President's Report

Since I missed last month's meeting I thought I should mention events which have occurred over the past 2 months.

Held:

February 13-14 State IHSA Championship (IHSA) Civic Center, Peoria, IL (won by Naperville North), 146 high schools, 8 boards per school

February 21 Tazewell County Georgetown Middle School, Marquette Heights, IL

February 28 State IESA Championship (IESA) Bone center, Normal, IL

6th Grade: Normal Chiddix, followed by Dunlap Valley & Peoria Washington, 94 Players

7th Grade: Bloomington Evans, followed by Normal Chiddix, 144 Players

8th Grade: Normal Chiddix, followed by Dunlap, 182 Players

March 7-8 State K-8 Championship Bone center, Normal, IL - 571 Players

Won by DIMITAR MARDOV (6.5/7), Lower Primary; VRISHANK RAMNATH (7/7), Upper Primary; ADVAITH PRABU (6.5/7), Elementary; JACOB FURFINE (7/7), Junior High

Coming:

April 6-June 1 Peoria Championship

April 11 Rivermont College Scholastic (Illowa/Bettendorf)

April 25&26 Greater Peoria Open

Other organizations:

BNASC - No Events Scheduled

Twin City Chess Club - Site not updated - next Tourney December 23rd

Springfield Chess Club - 404 - Not found

Decatur Chess Club - Site is blank, apparently moved to
(Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/decaturchessclub/)