



**Illinois Chess Association Board of Directors Annual Meeting
Agenda
December 17, 2024**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call:
 - a) Present: Steve Plotnick, Danial Wilson, Emily Dawson, Amy Green, Eric Ortega, Larry Cohan
- 3) Approval of Agenda
- 4) Motion: Approval of Annual meeting agenda
 - a) Motion: Steve
 - b) Seconded: Danial
 - c) Motion Carries: 5-0
- 5) Approve November Minutes
- 6) Motion: Approval of Annual meeting agenda
 - a) Motion: Steve
 - b) Seconded: Danial
 - c) Motion Carries: 5-0
- 7) Opening Comments - Steve
 - a) Opening statement, reflecting on his tenure since 2017.
 - b) He expressed satisfaction with the current state of the ICA and acknowledged the team effort it took in overcoming previous issues.

- c) The editor position has been reinstated, filled by Jacob Plotnick, a junior at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.
 - d) Jacob has written nearly 30 articles since February, mostly about tournaments, with some featuring interviews.
 - e) Editor will start writing articles about the ICA Tour, not just state events.
 - f) Any current affiliate is welcome to write an article or send facts about events to the editor so an article maybe written.
 - g) ICA is planning to expand and the addition of staff reporter positions are open. Interested individuals can email the editor to become staff reporters. The position is volunteer-based, offering service hours for high school or college students.
- 8) State of Association – Emily
- a) The ICA is current as the US Chess state affiliate and as a non-profit with the state of Illinois.
 - b) Banking information has been moved to the Peoria area, with a new PO box established for consistency in mailings.
 - c) The association carries event insurance and bonding insurance for the board.
 - d) Current funds in checking and savings accounts total \$61,952.45, with approximately \$11,000 in investment accounts.
 - e) The checking account is now interest-bearing, earning a few hundred dollars annually in dividends.
 - f) Taxes and corrected taxes were filed last year, with extensions filed this year due to late access to investment accounts.
- 9) Upstate Update – Eric
- a) Reported that things are going well, coordinating with update clubs to help establish different places to play chess and increase public visibility.
- 10) Downstate – Emily
- a) Amy, unable to provide a detailed update due to location, had Emily fill in, highlighting the active chess scene in Peoria and Bloomington-Normal areas.

- b) Greater Peoria Chess hosts 17 tournaments between August and February, with recent tournaments attracting over 300 participants.
 - c) The club provides the Boy Scouts of America Chess Merit Badge and won a Title 1 US Chess travel grant, enabling eight players to attend Super Nationals.
 - d) Fundraising efforts allowed for two scholarships to Nationals and a bus trip to the K-8 State Championship in Bloomington.
- 11) WJS update – Edwin
- a) The program will officially start in January, with new qualifications posted and asterisks indicating near-qualification. Players with an asterisk should reach out to the WJS director to see what they are missing.
 - b) Common issues that would lead to a player having an asterisk: Not a current ICA member, missing one of two required tournament appearances
 - c) A new female/girl's/women's Warren Junior Scholars group will encourage more female participation. Should start early this year.
 - d) As of January, there will be 46 Warren Junior Scholars and about 72 Rising Stars.
 - e) Efforts are being made to reach out to chess education platforms for potential discounts or programs to benefit members.
 - f) Focus is on retaining female players, especially as they transition to high school and beyond.
- 12) ICA Tour - Emily
- a) Listed events can be found on the ICA website under rules for Illinois tour.
 - b) Twelve events are scheduled, evenly split between northern and southern locations, running from January through November, ending with the Illinois Class.
 - c) Prizes are divided into Open, Reserve, and Scholastic categories, with players earning participation points based on tournament entries playing at least half the number of rounds scheduled.
 - d) Winners will be announced and awarded in January after board

- approval, with the same rules and locations used for the 2025 tour.
- e) Plans include increasing publicity and membership participation in tour events.
 - f) Prizes also included if anyone played in a total of 7,9 or all 12 events.
- 13) Announce new executive board – Steve
- a) President - Danial Wilson
 - b) Metro VP - Eric Ortega
 - c) Downstate VP - Amy Green
 - d) Treasurer - Emily Dawson
- 14) Remarks from new President – Danial
- a) Danial shared his vision for the ICA, expressing gratitude for the work of current and past board members.
 - b) Plans include launching the revamped Warren Junior Scholars and Rising Stars program, the new website with enhanced content, and improved member benefits.
 - i) Producing more articles both informative and educational.
 - ii) Giving away free entries to our state events via a raffle for members.
 - c) There are plans to review and revise bid guidelines and bylaws, emphasizing the board's ambition and readiness to implement significant improvements in the coming years.
- 15) New Website – Steve
- a) The new ICA website is close to completion, with a demonstration of the functionality of the website.
 - b) Affiliates will be able to submit their own event listings, which will be displayed on the main page carousel once approved.
 - c) Members will have access to game analysis videos and articles, with different levels of access for free and paid memberships.
 - d) The website will feature ~600 practical chess exercises from the editor's overseas teaching experience.
 - e) Access to PGN games from Grandmaster games to state championship games.
 - f) Post demonstration if anyone has anything they would like to see

added or changed please email State Plotnick at: steve@thepla.com

- 16) Q&A – 3 minutes per question
 - a) No questions asked

- 17) Motion: to end the annual meeting
 - a) motion : Danial Wilson
 - b) Second: Eric Ortega
 - c) Motion carries: 5-0

- 18) End meeting 7:45 PM

Post Annual meeting

- 19) Roll Call
 - a) Presient: Steve, Danial, Emily, Amy, Eric

- 20) Motion to push all old and new business to Janurrays meeting
 - a) Motion: Steve
 - b) Seconded: Emily
 - c) Motion Carries: 5-0

- 21) Next Meeting January 7, 2025 at 7pm