



Illinois Chess Association

Illinois Chess Association Board of Directors Meeting Agenda: Telephonic “Regular Meeting” December 2nd, 2020 7:30 PM

Meeting Facilitator: Stephen Plotnick, President

Invitees: Stephen Plotnick, Eric Ortega, Rachel Schechter, Patrice Connelly, Eva Harrison, Megan Chen, Patrick Cohen, Rose Grandy, Ren Escalera, Garret Scott, Darren Erickson

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM
- II. **Roll Call:** Stephen Plotnick, Eric Ortega, Patrice Connelly, Patrick Cohen, Garret Scott, Ren Escalera, Darren Erickson, Rachel Schechter, Megan Chen
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved Unanimously
- IV. **Discussion of minutes from prior meetings:** Approved Unanimously
- V. **Reports**
 - A. **Officer Reports**
 - a. **President (Steve)**
 - **Condolences for Chess Community Member:** With the passing of a spouse of a local Chess TD, the ICA discussed sending condolences for his loss, and the potential creation of a standard condolence card for the ICA to make future acknowledgements. Steve will pick up a card to send on behalf of the ICA. **MOTION:** The ICA recognizes Jeff Wiewel’s contributions to Illinois Chess, the ICA expresses its condolences on the recent loss of his wife. **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**
 - **Online/Remote ICA tournament discussion:** The board continued discussing various online platforms for potential online tournaments, as well as ideas about scale, pairing methods, etc. Local chess player and tournament organizer Larry Cohen would be willing to attend an ICA meeting and discuss

organizing an online tournament. Steve, Darren, and Ren will respectively research ICC, Lichess, and Chess.com platforms and logistics to put together potential resources for an ICA 2021 spring remote tournament.

- **Stipend Winner:** The payment stipend for the winner was returned by postage; the stipend will be resent with corrected address. **MOTION:** Add a line that requests that winners must also submit a brief biography. **MOTION FAILS**
- **WJS Director discussion:** Eric Luster is willing to accept the position of WJS Director and is working with Rose to facilitate the transition.
- **WGN Interview:** On 11/30/20 Steve had an interview with WGN radio on the ICA and the current interest in Chess. Congratulations to Steve for representing the ICA!
- **ICA Executive Board Election:** The ICA Executive Board election is in progress; digital and hard copy ballots have been sent out. The deadline to vote is December 8th. Patrice and Eva (potentially) will serve as the Election Committee to confirm the number of votes received. Steve will check the PO box next week for any mail-in ballot.

b. **Metro VP (Eric):** No Report; OTB play limited due to COVID.

c. **Downstate VP (Rachel):**

- **Article about Rose's Work with WJS/RS:** Rachel will interview Rose about her work with WJS/RS and draft an article thanking her for her work for the ICA website; interview pending.
- **Article about Stipend Winner:** Rachel reached out to winner but has not received a response about an biography article.
- **Chess Base/Thank You article:** As per discussion from last meeting Rachel and Steve are drafting an online article thanking members and reminding them of membership benefits including the tournament discount (applicable to ICA online tournaments as

well) as well as the opportunity for discounted ChessBase purchases for \$45.00 via the ICA.

- **Chess during COVID:** OTB sessions suspended due to COVID. Working behind the scenes with C-U YMCA to pilot a chess program in January, potential space for incepting C-U Chess society.

d. Treasurer (Darren, via written report):

- The IRS tax return was postmarked November 8th. Since submission Darren discovered a single error and will file an amended return (without penalty).
- Daren will report on additional follow-up items, including Warren funds and bank and checkbook access, next year after further review.
- Darren plans to have a report including reconciled balances for the end of 2020 before the January meeting or early 2021 if deferral is required.

B. Committee Reports

- a. **WJP/RS (Rose):** No Report
- b. **Youth (Steve and Rachel):** No Report
- c. **Veterans (Open):** No Report
- d. **Membership (Eva):**

VI. Open Issues

- a. **ICA Website Article Editor:** Position still open

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Next meeting Wednesday, January 6th, 2021