

The Illinois Club Board Meeting Minutes

Monday May 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Susan Haney's

Present: Sandy Camargo, Carol DeVoss, Susan Haney, Marcy Joncich, Birgit McCall, Christina Myers, Sally Spaulding, Sandi Thomas, Paula Watson, Cathy Williams

Absent: M. Thomsen, B. & J. Endres, L. Ainsworth, A. Leakey, J. Kokini, V. Larson, D. Day, N. Diamond, M. Maguire, R. Shekar, V. Wittig, D. Lamb, C. Bunick, P. Thiessen, S. Price, K. Nagle, K. Andrews, A. Long, N. Komlanc-Hamblin, L. Barria, J. Myers, P. Bates, T. Rowland

Ikenberry Report

The meeting began with a discussion of how to list the amount of money likely to be available in the Ikenberry Scholarship on the UI Scholarship database, since it will be a considerably smaller amount than this year's \$7,500. Susan projects that, depending on the payout rate, the amount available will be in the range of \$4,500 to \$6,000. The consensus view was to list the scholarship at \$4,500 to avoid raising false hopes. Three to four "Make a Difference" Scholarships and 6 to 8 Purnell scholarships will also be listed at \$1,500 each.

The second item of discussion concerned the cards that Judy is making available to the club as a fundraiser. Issues were: what to charge for the cards; how many and which scenes to include in a box. We agreed that the cards should be 6 for \$12 and that they should be sold as a mix of 2 each of the three scenes and also 6 of all one scene. (Judy suggested in a conversation with Susan after the meeting that we might also want to have boxes that were just the two campus scenes). 1,000 cards of each design will be donated and the proceeds will go half to the Make-a-Difference Scholarships and half to the Ikenberry Scholarship Fund. Copies of the note card scenes were available. They are Altgeld Hall, Hallene Gateway Plaza, and an old grain elevator.

Other Scholarship Issues

Susan asked Birgit whether it would be practical to have students apply for the scholarships online and to import the data into spreadsheets for the selection process. This is technically feasible but could probably not be done this year. There would have to be an initial screening and then assignment of a login and password to weed out "crank" applications.

Ted Rowland resigned as Assistant Scholarship Chair at least in part because of the component of the job that involves sales at Market at the Square. Sandi observed that there need not be such emphasis on Market sales and we don't have to have anyone there unless there are volunteers available. All Market dates are paid for and there are no refunds, but we can request other days.

AT THIS POINT WE BROKE FOR A DELIGHTFUL DINNER

Minutes from last Board Meeting – Paula Watson

Minutes were approved as distributed and revised via e-mail.

Board Reports

- **President – Susan Haney**
 - **E-mail Voting Results for Amendments**

Proposed amendments passed. Those voting in favor of them were: Susan Haney, Mary Jo Thomsen, Jody & Bryan Endres, Cathy Williams, Jenny Kokini, Paula Watson, Vivian Larson, Nancy Diamond, Victoria Wittig, Carrol Bunick, Pat Thiessen, Ann Long, Sandy Camargo, Marcy Joncich, and Nancy Komlanc-Hamblin.

- **Amendment Results from Luncheon**

Proposed amendments passed. Vote was 28-3 in favor of the Quorum amendment, and 31-0 in favor of the others.

- **Any Amendments for next year**

Can be collected and voted upon at Mystery Dinner or Awards Brunch.

- **Membership Retention Issues/Budget**

We lost 25 members overall this year and now have 90 couples. Male membership is now approximately one quarter, so the mix has changed. Some of these are single men.

- **Budget Cuts continued**

The Newsletter came in at \$1,000 over budget. Just under 200 members still prefer paper. Travel to the Big Ten conference will be \$400 less than what was allocated which will help with the Newsletter overage. We will have to be very careful about expenditures next year and Susan expects to run a tight ship.

- **Budget Requests/Estimates due July 1**

Those should be sent to Susan, who will review them, get back to you with any questions, and then forward them on to Sally, who will then work on the budget.

- **Honorary Members**

A letter will go out to Stan Ikenberry asking him to become an officially listed honorary member in light of his support for our Scholarship Funds.

- **Web Outreach**

Hiring someone to help to is a budgetary issue, and we will try to get volunteers first.

- **Dues Renewal Game**

Susan wants to have the Newsletter at the printer no later than July 15, to allow maximum opportunity in the dues renewal drawing. This will ease problems greatly from last year for the membership team by encouraging early renewal. The sooner you renew your dues, the more chances you have to win.

- **Scholarship Contracts**

The new Purnell contract and revised TIC contract will be sent in this week to UIF for processing. Ted Rowland is compiling a list of departmental websites. We also need a list of editors of college and department publications for post-award publicity.

- **“Flowchart” of Positions & Info; Duty Lists**

Susan will work on those and have them completed some time in June.

- **First VP Programs – Mary Jo Thomsen; Susan reporting**

- **Spring Luncheon**

46 people signed up; 41 came. Bruce Fouke did an outstanding job on his talk. This should not be over budget by very much, perhaps \$20 or less.

- **Ideas for 2009 – 2010**

Still thinking about a Murder Mystery dinner. The Scholarship Brunch will be at the I-Hotel next year. In response to concerns about the cost of the spring lunch, we will try to keep the cost at \$20 for next year which will mean fewer courses.

- **Events – Fall Expo: Thurs. Sep. 17, 4:30-6:30; Holiday Party: Thurs. Dec. 10, 6-7:30**

- **Second VP Newcomers’ – Jody & Bryan Endres; Susan reporting**

Jody and Bryan still hope to have the Kiddy Olympics sometime this summer.

- **Third VP Interest Groups – Cathy Williams**

- **Need Asst. 2nd VP, Publicity (General), Co-Chair, Tours**

If a co-chair for Tours is not found, tours will be limited to local sites. Susan will be in charge of General Publicity for now.

- **Interest Group Reports**

Interest group reports are coming in slowly. We need three new interest group chairs.

- **Treasurer – Debbie Day**

- **Treasurer’s Report**

There are still a few outstanding bills and we are still waiting for the refund from the Chicago boat cruise. Copies of expenses and income to date were handed out.

- **Contingency in case UIF changes its payout percentage**

Despite Debbie's best efforts, she was unable to get information from UIF regarding the probable payout rate this summer. We are holding back some tile sale money from the endowment just in case the earnings this year do not cover the awards we have committed to. The Ikenberry is fully funded for this year's payout. The others are uncertain at this point. For next year's Ikenberry, should something unforeseen occur and the income falls short next summer, we should inform Stan and Judy, and they will decide then whether to make up the difference between earnings and award, or to let the next award be a lesser amount. The Ikenberry half of the monies earned from note card sales are to be placed into the Ikenberry Fund and not used for current awards.

- **Newsletter – Susan**

- **July/August Newsletter deadline July 1 – to printers on July 15**

Mary Jo is assuming overall supervision of the newsletter process to help her get ready for her presidential year. Publication dates are going to be adhered to very strictly this year.

- **Set publication dates that remain constant every year?**

This standardizing might help in retaining members and providing certainty for when to expect a newsletter and directory, and therefore increase event attendance.

- **Who's getting a paper newsletter this summer; coding on address labels**

This summer's paper newsletter will go to every member from last year and will go to drop outs from previous years. Various ways to use the address label to indicate whether you had paid dues or not were discussed.

- **Membership – Susan**

- **Final membership numbers & costs of Directory**

We now have 394 members. Some directory costs were over what was expected, so a review of what to do for next year's directory is underway.

- **New Directory Features**

Forgotten in the shuffle, the proposed new feature is including bare bones event reservation forms in the center of the directory, since everyone gets a paper copy of the directory. This will facilitate event registration for those who have computer problems.

- **Publicity, General – Susan**

No money is being spent currently on publicity, but there will be advertising for the Newcomers Wine and Cheese and the Fall Expo, as well as for the Ikenberry note cards. It was proposed that the newsletter have black and white images of the cards with advice to go to the website for color images.

- **Publicity, Interest Groups – Pat Thiessen**

There will be bi-weekly e-mail notices for this summer's activities.

- **Webmaster – Birgit McCall**

- **Website Migration by June 30 & PayPal**

The website will be temporarily frozen while the migration takes place.

Birgit will request funds for spring luncheon from PayPal. She observed that it would be preferable not to use PayPal for donations, but to encourage potential donors to send checks.

It was also suggested that we have a link to the Foundation on the website like WILL does.

- **Tours – Katy Andrews**

No report.

- **Corresponding Secretary – Vivian Larson**

No report.

- **Scholarships – Stephanie Price/Susan**

- **Application Form & Web Updates**

The form is being updated this summer, and Susan will update information on the UI scholarship database and other websites which have our scholarship information.

- **Tile Sales**

Around 40 tiles are left. Susan will rehabilitate and frame some tiles to be used as gifts.

- **Ikenberry Report**

See above

New Business

➤ **Golden Member rate, Couples rate**

In light of budget situation it was decided that we would not institute a Golden Member rate and would raise the couples rate to \$40 to bring better parity between individual and couples rates.

➤ **Post Office Box rental**

We agreed that having a post office box and an official address would be useful. Christina and Susan will pursue this.

➤ **Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas on Website, in weekly E-news, and Newsletter**

A summary of the meeting minutes and agendas will be posted on the website, in weekly E-news and in the Newsletter.

➤ **Standing Rules**

Discussion of changes to the standing rules was postponed to the August meeting.

Next Meeting: August

Some discussion was held on which day of the week is a good day to meet. There were some conflicts with Mondays and Tuesdays from various members, so meetings will probably take place on Wednesdays. Susan will poll those who were absent and find a consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Watson
Recording Secretary.