

**The Illinois Club
Board Meeting
May 10, 2016**

The Illinois Club Board met at 6:30p.m. Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at the home of Ann Campbell. A delicious potluck, provided by the outgoing Board, was enjoyed before the meeting. Attending were Mike Haney, Susan Haney, Marguerite Maguire, Sandy Camargo, Ann Long, Ann Campbell, Kathy Valdes, Pat Davis, Carl Altstetter, Jenny Kokini, Carrol Bunick, Julie Angel, Teal Ashworth, Patty Gropp, Tom Hodson, Libby Johnston, Chris Lyke, Kathy Marshak, Renée Mullen, Patricia Ricketts, Julia Schmidt, Shirley Splittstoesser, and Sandi Thomas.

The meeting was called to order by outgoing President Sandy Camargo and incoming President Ann Campbell. Minutes of the last meeting on March 14, 2016, were distributed and approved electronically in March. Everyone present introduced him/herself.

OUTGOING BOARD REPORTS

Conducted by outgoing President Sandy Camargo

President

Outgoing President Sandy Camargo presented the following report.

With Patricia Simpson, attended the Big Ten conference in June 2015, at Ohio State. While it was pleasant to see old friends and make new ones, the conference itself was more about advertising OSU and its Club than it was about sharing information. The next conference, in June 2017, will be hosted by the University of Minnesota.

Digital liaisons established with Big Ten clubs to be monitored by the Assistant Communications chair.

Established a lovely relationship with Roberta Johnson Killeen, the University president's wife. She came to our Holiday Party, Scholarship Brunch, and Spring Luncheon, and seemed to have had a jolly time. She, her husband, and their daughter and her boyfriend came to Burns Night in January. She has agreed to let us hold this December's Holiday Party at the President's House.

Detached the Illinois Club from Scholarship Sales; inventory ceded to Judy Ikenberry to use as she sees fit. Jenny Kokini has arranged for our Sales Tax account to be closed as of December 31. (Note: Jenny reported that this occurred on April 15, 2016.)

Had several useful meetings with Communications and Webmaster about improvements to our digital communications, Mailchimp, weekly e-news and resultant privacy issues. Increasing activity on our Facebook page: more postings = more "Likes"

Presided over Board meetings where the Board members reported on their accomplishments over the year, which far surpassed my own.

Vice President

Paula Carns was not present. There was great activity among our programs this year, surpassing attendance of past years. The Spring Luncheon was held on May 5, at the Hawthorn Suites, with a charming guest speaker, Janice Harrington, arranged by Sandy. 44 members and 9 guests attended.

As Reservations Manager, Marcy Joncich sent the following report: I handled reservations, payments and nametags for the following:

Holiday Party 2015 Illini Union 57 members and guests

Scholarship Awards Brunch 2016 Hawthorne Suites 42 members, 35 guests (2015 attendance was 32 members, 29 guests)

Spring Luncheon 2016 Hawthorne Suites 44 members, 9 guests (2015 attendance was 38 members)

Treasurer

Jenny Kokini's report as of May 10 showed \$19,383.18 in the Busey checking account and a deficit of \$1100 in the University account. Jenny will be funding the University account. There is a perennial problem with getting statements about activity in the University account. The Spring Luncheon incurred a small deficit. All of the Club events this year, with the exception of the Fall Tour to Rantoul, incurred deficits, but this had been expected and allowances made. The sales tax account was closed on April 15, 2016. Incoming President Ann Campbell will go to Busey to have her signature placed on our account.

Budget

Shirley Splittstoesser, who replaced Angie Prendergast, will arrange for a meeting in early August with the Treasurer, President, Vice President and Past President to prepare a budget for 2016-17. Jenny will provide her with a copy of the old budget to use as an example.

Membership

Ann Campbell passed out business cards for the Club. Members were encouraged to be on the lookout for new and younger prospective members, and to use the cards in their travels. It was agreed that the Directory deadline will be pushed back to October, because of summer travel plans and the need to include members who enroll at the Fall Expo in September.

Newcomers

Pat Davis provided the following report.

Nine events were planned specifically for newcomers, mentors, and board members (last event was combined with Tours so all were invited). The average attendance was 5 with only 1-3 newcomers participating in any event. The largest attendance was at the WILL tour and viewing of the taping of *American Gardener*. Only 2 of the 11 were actual Newcomers. Events were advertised in the weekly President's e-news, the e-newsletter and specific emails to newcomers, mentors, and board members.

The events for 2015-2016 were as follows:

June 20, Sat. 4 till dusk, Strawberry Jam at Meadowbrook Park

July 16, Thurs. 6 – 8, UI Band Concert on the Quad

Aug. 23, 5 - 7pm, Gospel Jazz Fest at Hessel Park
Sept. 10, Thurs. 5-7pm, Wine and Cheese Meet and Greet at the home of Alma Bellafiore, Elm Blvd., C.
Oct 22, Thurs. 4pm – 6pm, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts Backstage Tour.
Nov. 19, Thurs. 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Common Ground Food Co-op Tour
January 17, Sunday 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Good Old Fashioned Potluck hosted by Linda and Len Lopez.
February 18, Thurs. 10 to 11:30 am, Eastern Illinois Food Bank Tour, 2405 North Shore Drive, Urbana
April 7, Thurs. 6:15 – 7:45 pm, Tour of WILL station at Campbell Hall, 300 N. Goodwin Ave., Urbana
May 19, Thurs. 2PM, Japan House tour and tea ceremony, joint Newcomers and Tours

It is obvious that planning special tours and events for Newcomers has not appealed to their interest. In conversation with some of the newcomers, they chose to join The Illinois Club for the major purpose of participating in a particular interest group and were not very interested in involvement outside of that group.

The mentoring concept was set up 3-4 years ago to provide a contact person within the group to encourage participation and be present to answer questions about the club. Many mentors made an extra effort to invite their mentee to an upcoming event. It is my opinion that this has not provided a needed service and has not been worth the time to set it up or to encourage mentors to respond.

At this time I see the most valuable reason for Newcomers is to couple with membership and act as an additional welcoming voice to both new members and visitors to the Fall Expo. Perhaps following up each contact with a written note to each new or interested party would help increase involvement. An initial Meet and Greet with wine and cheese and light goodies for board and new or possible members to attend after the Expo would provide a small group experience to help others know more about the club, the interest groups, and other special events as well as the scholarship program.

I encourage next year's Newcomer coordinators, Renée Mullen and Teal Ashworth, to meet with membership, and any other interested board member to brainstorm other possibilities.

Interest Groups

Carl Altstetter reported that the Club has over 20 Interest Groups with the addition of Walk and Talk and Women's Sports this past year. It is expected that the German Group and Evening Literature will disband in the fall. Finding leaders for the existing groups is difficult. A suggestion for a new interest group is Tech Tips, a support group for tech users. Give your suggestions to Carl. Carrol Bunick proposes a Tea Lovers group for the fall.

Tours

Sheila Krein was not present. Successful tours this year included Rantoul, the U of I Maker Lab and Japan House. Upcoming Tours include the dinner theatre in Oakland for September 24, for "Lincoln's Trials and Tribulations." A tour of the State Farm Center when its renovations have been concluded has been suggested, as well as a tour of the new center for wounded veterans and the family resilience center next door to it.

Newsletter/ Club Communications

See the March 14 minutes for a complete status report. The last paper newsletter has been sent by USPS. In future, there will still be 4 informational mailings but they will not include articles and photos. These will appear on the website and Facebook page.

Corresponding Secretary

Marcy Joncich sent the following report.
As Corresponding Secretary, I sent cards to members and families of members based on newspaper articles and notification from club members. From May 2015-May 2016 I sent fifteen condolences, three "get wells" and 1 birthday card. Approximately 36 thank yous for Peri Ceperley donations were also sent.

Webmaster

Webmaster Mike Haney reported that his work is ongoing, and he will be happy to make improvements to the Club's webpage. Tell Mike if anything is needed.

INCOMING BOARD REPORTS

Conducted by incoming President Ann Campbell

President

Ann thanked Susan Haney for her many years of service as Scholarship Chair.

Ann gave the new Board the following Guidelines: Use Dropbox, the Board email list, Board Calendar, TIC website, calendar, reimbursement forms, Facebook. The website calendar is updated by a few Board members. Use the TIC Board Google calendar to record vacation dates or to organize meetings. Board members were invited to stay after the meeting for a demo of these tools by Ann. New Board members should talk to their predecessors, and look at the timeline used by the Club. Send photos for posting to the President or Communications. Send expenses to Treasurer Jenny Kokini. Note that access to the membership database is limited.

Events Calendar

Kathy Marshak reported events for the 2016-17 Club year as follows:

Mon. Sept. 12, Sign-up/Expo, Champaign Public Library

Thurs. Dec. 8, President's House Holiday Party

Sat. March 4, Scholarship Brunch, location TBD

Thurs. May 4, Spring Luncheon, location TBD, and program TBD by Julia Schmidt

Board Calendar

Ann proposed the following dates for future Board meetings: Tuesdays at 7PM on August 23 and November 8, 2016, and January 24 and March 29, May 9, 2017.

Special Event

The University of Illinois will be celebrating its sesquicentennial over the next year. TIC would like to participate to celebrate and to advertise our group. Send Ann your suggestions.

Miscellaneous

Sharon Michalove sent the following report for the Scholarship Committee: Obviously our first task will be to select the remainder of the committee members. I didn't get the impression that anyone wanted major changes in the process so according to my understanding of our initial meeting, the plan is to move up the application deadline by two weeks, slightly simplify the initial selection process, make sure that all committee members can access everything via computer, and stay on schedule.

See "Tours" under old year section for plans for 2016-17.

NEXT BOARD MEETING will be on Tuesday, August 23, at 7PM at Ann Campbell's home.

Respectfully submitted,
Marguerite Maguire
Recording Secretary

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