

The Illinois Club Minutes, 8/28/2017

The Illinois Club Board met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 28, 2017, at the EnterpriseWorks building. Attending were Kathy Valdés, Julia Schmidt, Kathy Marshak, Sandy Camargo, Libby Johnston, Allan Penwell, Mike Haney, Jenny Kim, Sheila Krein, Linda Lopez, Marcy Joncich, Patty Gropp, Marita Romine, and Cathy Jackson. The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Valdés.

President, Kathy Valdés

The president welcomed the board and thanked Jenny Kim for providing the location for this year.

Kathy Valdés and Ann Campbell attended the Big 10 conference of similar clubs this summer. They found it a little light on content, but were able to network with a number of people from other clubs and gather information that way. TIC is somewhat weak on community service and outreach compared to other clubs, and a bit short on interest groups compared to many clubs. On the other hand, we are leaders in welcoming men as full members. Kathy brought some swag from the conference to share.

Kathy brought notecards, brochures, and business cards for the club, and offered them to board members to use to publicize the organization. Also related to publicity, TIC was disinvited from the New Hire Resource Fair in August, because they claimed they had a lack of space.

Also relating to publicity, Linda asked if TIC had access to a new hire list. Currently, we do not. She suggested that perhaps the university could at least include information about TIC in an email to new hires.

It is also possible that expanding our publicity to groups such as Chambana Moms could be a resource for identifying new members.

Meetings and Events, reported by Kathy Marshak

The Fall Expo will be held at the Champaign Public Library on Friday, September 8, from 3-5 p.m., with the same catering company as last year. Lists of interest groups will be printed up before the Expo. RSVP (Retired Senior and Volunteer Program) will have a table at the Expo this year, per their request. This group facilitates volunteering. by matching people's interests with groups that welcome volunteers

The Holiday Party will be Tuesday, December 5, from 4-6 p.m., at Milo's. If we have sufficient attendance, the restaurant will be closed to others during that time. There will be a cash bar, iced tea, water, and both savory and sweet foods.

The Scholarship Brunch will be March 3, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the I Hotel.

The Spring Luncheon will be Thursday, May 3, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Silvercreek.

Treasurer, reported by Allan Penwell

Allan is making sure that financial information is reported in the right fiscal year.

Our account sponsor who has been handling our University Accounts for the past several years has asked us to find a new sponsor. We really need a university account for some things. Working through the Foundation may be our best bet.

Per the audit, everything was satisfactory for last year.

Budget, reported by Kathy Valdés

The budget committee met August 15th.

A draft budget with historical budget and actual expense amounts from prior years (excluding the actual expenses for 2016-2017) was sent to the Board in advance of the meeting and input was solicited. Jenny provided the actual expenses for the 2016-2017 year prior to the meeting and created a draft budget. During the meeting, we considered input from board members, reviewed historical data and trends, considered situations unique to the coming year, and made adjustments to the proposed budget accordingly. Many of the line items in the historical budget are no longer in use; the current budget includes only the line items that pertain to our current budget. The club balance remains high; the committee suggests that the Board discuss the possibility of using some of these funds to either fund a one-year sesquicentennial scholarship or to subsidize member fees for one or more events or tours.

Some things to note:

- The line item for the Big 10 Conference is 0 for this year as it is held every other year. 2017-2018 is an off year.
- The budget for the Holiday Party is a bit less this year because it will not be held at the President's House this year and fewer are expected to attend.
- Website/GoDaddy: there is an increase this year because we will pay for the TIC domain name, an every other year expense, in addition to the Web hosting

We don't break even on events because as the cost to members goes up, the attendance goes down, so we subsidize events to encourage attendance.

Each interest group is allocated \$20 per year for such things as name badges. Many groups do not use the \$20.

We pay for our website domain name every other year and storage every year. This is the year that we incur both charges.

For newcomers, we subsidize some events at the beginning of the year. \$200 is budgeted for newcomers.

\$500 is budgeted for tours.

Changes to the budget during the meeting: reduced expected scholarship brunch revenue from \$1,000 to \$850, increased newcomers budget from \$100 to \$200.

Patty moved that the revised budget be approved, Sheila seconded, motion carried.

Scholarship, reported by Sandy Camargo

The committee—Ann Campbell, Anne Heiles, Ann Webbink, Jenny Kim (asst chair), and Sandy Camargo (chair)—met on 16 August to discuss procedures and decide on awards. Ann Long is serving on the committee while she is in England. She could not attend the meeting, but is keeping up on the committee's plans, reviewing documents, and so on.

The big news is that we now have a report on our actual funds, not just an estimate, which is historically what we had to work with, because that was what had been asked for back in the day. Our contact at Advancement said there was no trouble getting us a breakdown of our actual funds in early August, which allows us to plan efficiently.

Last year we over-awarded because the estimate we were given was too high. Fortunately, we had enough money in our scholarship account to cover the overage. Under our new system, this situation will not arise in the future.

This year, we have \$26,000 to award, which does not include \$4,200 for the Ikenberry scholarship. The committee decided to award 8 scholarships at \$3,000 each. (Last year we gave out 9 at \$2,500 each.) These 8 awards will include the Make-a-Difference awards, the Global Focus award, and Purnell awards. The committee would also like to propose a one-time award to be called the Sesquicentennial award. This one-off award would go to a student with a major or special interest in American history or the history of education. The extra \$1,000 would be a contribution from Club funds. Julia moved to approve the extra \$1,000, seconded by Marcy, motion carried. Sheila moved that the award amounts be approved, Julia seconded, motion carried.

Jenny Kim has revised the application and the webpage. She will work with Mike Haney, the Webmaster, to mount these revisions. The application and the website are now operational.

Sandy met with Anna Ivy, the undergraduate adviser in the English Department, who has agreed to help us to publicize our scholarship program, by sending the announcement to department advisers in LAS and in the wider campus. This announcement will go out after the Add/Drop period is over (around 9/11).

The deadline for scholarship applications is October 15th at 5 p.m.

Membership, reported by Patty Gropp

Renewing Individuals 65, Renewing Couples 46, New Individuals 7, New Couples 1 = 166 members.

5 new members are not associated with the university. After their names were read out, Linda moved to approve these members, Libby seconded, motion approved.

The membership database is not quite up to date. Patty will work with Judith, the Assistant Membership Chair, to ensure that member information is accurate.

Newcomers, reported by Linda Lopez

The newcomer list needs an update, including who qualifies this year as a base and those added at the Fall Expo.

At the Expo, it would be great to ask new members, "Are you new to the community?". "What do you hope to enjoy through the newcomer group...meeting people,,,sharing some of your experiences..etc?"

Linda has looked at several venues but at this time has simply added the current list to invitations for CU4Dinner and other events that are planned, such as Walk and Talk.

She has looked into:

- an ice cream evening at Red Bicycle
- a tea at Sylvia's Irish B & B in Urbana
- a lecture at the Allerton Library
- a tour of Allerton House
- a meal at Allerton the evening of the lecture and tour
- a trip to a local farm and mini-talk on the equipment used in this area for harvest

Some possible events have minimum and maximum numbers, and all have associated costs. How TIC might subsidize some of these events for newcomers beyond what was budgeted would be up to the board.

Interest Groups, reported by Julia Schmidt

There was poor attendance at the interest groups pre-meeting.

Two new interest groups were pre-approved by the board before the board meeting via email exchanges with 18 ayes and none opposed: Meet Me at the Matinee, and Superstar Reads.

The Book Exchange has been resurrected by Dorothea Smith.

Saturday Morning Tea is renamed from last year's Mentoring interest group. Linda moved to approve Saturday Morning Tea, Sandy seconded, and the motion carried.

People can attend two meetings of an interest group without becoming members of TIC, but they must join TIC before attending a third interest group meeting.

Tours, reported by Sheila Krein

The State Farm Center tour from last spring filled quickly. Fortunately, we were given an additional tour date. There were 20 people for the tour on May 24 and 18 for the tour on May 25. 22 people attended the dinner after the May 24 tour at Houlihan's on May 24.

The Illinois Club Tours 2017-18

November 4, 10 am: tour of Magic Motors, Allen and Nancy Strong's Antique Car and Clothing Museum, at 1710 N. Willow Rd., Urbana. Lunch at Silvercreek to follow.

“Urbana residents Allen and Nancy Strong enjoy sharing their collection of antique cars and clothing, and you'll love seeing the magnificent roadsters, touring cars, hats, coats, uniforms, and accessories from the first half of the 20th century. Antique furniture, and abundance of sleek and stylishly designed car parts, and American memorabilia round out this marvelous local treasury.”

Sheila will talk with Nancy after Sept. 1 to set up details and size limit. Their museum is just west of Cunningham and north of E. Country Club/E. Perkins Rd. Informal carpooling is recommended.

Winter/spring 2018, tour of the newly renovated Natural History Bldg. Steve Marshak, TIC member and the faculty representative for the remodel, will give us our tour. We might include a short tour of Harker Hall, next door.

Newsletter/Communications, reported by Libby Johnston

E-news has returned to its weekly status, after being bi-weekly for the summer. Mention was made about using the e-news to share members' news with the Club.

The quarterly mailing has gone out and the next quarterly mailing will go out in November. The directory and the reservation form for the Holiday Party will be in the November quarterly mailing.

E-mail updates have been made to Mail Chimp.

Business cards have been printed.

Interest group chairs need to copy Libby on all communications by adding communication@theillinoisclub.org to their group email list.

Libby will update the calendar on the website.

Corresponding Secretary

No report this meeting. She has sent out some cards since the last meeting.

Webmaster, reported by Mike Haney

Due to changes in the U of I Foundation software, TIC will no longer receive automated notification email when a donor uses the club's website to make a donation. It is unknown whether we will receive any notification, ever, or whether information will only be provided when we make a request.

It will also no longer be possible to automatically "tag" donations, as was done with Peri Ceperley's memorial page, so we could differentiate between general support of scholarships, and specific support in Peri's memory. Henceforth, all donations will be generic, and it is up to the donor to fill in any details that they wish, on the UIF website, to express their intent. These details may not be available to the club, unless the UIF is willing to share the information.

As a result, it will no longer be a simple process for an officer to send a "thank you" to an on-line donor, as we will not know when a donation is made.

The on-line membership database was inaccessible for 4 days in August, due to an error made by the Webmaster (M. Haney), which took 2 days to diagnose and repair. As a precaution, an "export" of the database contents, as of noon on 17 August, was posted to Dropbox.

Although the database appears to be working now, this situation is not new. The present database is poorly documented, and generally unsupported. There are annual "conflicts" with respect to the meaning of the "current year", which affects membership renewals. Fixes of "known bugs" are beyond the scope of the Webmaster.

It is recommended that an alternative membership data recording mechanism be identified, so as to meet the needs of the various officers (membership, treasurer, tours, etc.) who use the information. One example would be an Excel spreadsheet, kept in Dropbox. However, the details depend on the needs of several officers; it is beyond the scope of the webmaster to "just fix this" without considerable support from the many stakeholders.

Allen moved that the president appoint a committee to address the issue of an appropriate membership data, seconded by Sandy, motion approved.

Old Business

Kathy will combine the updates to the Sesquicentennial blurb for this History section of our Website.

New Business

There has been a proposal to make treasurer a two-year position. However, as designed, there is already a three-year commitment with a person starting as assistant treasurer (in training to be treasurer), then becoming treasurer the next year and budget chair the year after that. A person could serve two years as treasurer, but the assistant needs to be trained under any scenario. The Board noted that Chairs should be more proactive about training their Assistant Chairs.

There is an interest in using some of the Busey Bank balance in ways that will benefit the membership, as there is a fairly large surplus balance.

The next board meeting will be November 6th at 7 p.m., at the EnterpriseWorks Building.

The meeting was adjourned by the president.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Jackson, Recording Secretary