

The Illinois Club Board Meeting Minutes, November 13, 2019

The Illinois Club Board met at 5:15 PM, Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at the Veterinary Medicine Basic Science Building. In attendance: Pat Cardenas (Tours), Lori Choquette (Reservations), Carrol Finnigen-Bunick (Interest Groups), Sharon Grogan (Newcomers), Mike Haney (Webmaster), Janice Hiland (Newcomers), Mary Hodson, (Historian), Marcy Joncich (Tours), Stephen Kolderup (Newcomers), Sheila Krein (Communications), Ann Long (Recording Secretary), Linda Lopez (Meeting Manager)), Jane Myers (Meeting Manager), Allan Penwell (Treasurer), Judith Robinson (Membership), Julia Schmidt (Interest Groups), Helen Valentine (President) and Kathleen Weibel (Membership).

Board Reports

President's Report

Helen called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and welcomed the Board. The Board still has two open positions. Keith Jarosinski will continue as Vice President until a replacement is found, but the replacement will have to become President in May 2020. The other open position is Assistant Treasurer, since Allan Penwell will not be continuing as Treasurer and needs someone to train to replace him next year. Board members were urged to try to recruit a new Vice President and Assistant Treasurer as soon as possible.

Meetings/Events

The Open House at the Alumni Center was a great success and attracted a large number of renewing and prospective members. There was a lot of very positive feedback as people were leaving - they liked the venue, the food, the drinks and the overall atmosphere of the event. The only complaint that was heard was that the sign-up tables were too close together which made it difficult to get to the clipboards to sign up.

There were 99 registered members who picked up their name tags as they came in and we had 17 new visitors that signed in when they arrived.

The Holiday Party will be at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts Lobby 500 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana Wednesday, December 11, 2019.

5 PM Cocktail Hour – Cash Bar

6 PM Dinner Buffet: Prime Rib and Chicken Buffet (Pre-paid)

Holiday and Swing Piano Music by Rick Murphy.

Reservation Deadline: Saturday, November 30

Tickets: Members \$25, Guests \$30 each

Treasurer's Report

Previously distributed to the Board via email; approved. Dues are almost \$800 under budget, but that is not too unusual compared to previous years. It is expected that this will come close to previous years. There is \$20,000 in the bank.

Scholarship Report

There were 80 scholarship applications. Each member of the committee has ranked the applicants that they were assigned, and those rankings have been shared with the full committee. The committee will meet on November 20th to decide which candidates we want to interview. Interviews will be held on January 25th and February 1st. Finalists will be named directly the interviews are completed.

Last year, we used the University's BOX system for storage. This year we have been using Dropbox as secure storage for student data, because committee members outside UI had difficulty using BOX. In October, however, Scholarship access to the TIC-owned Dropbox became problematic because Dropbox.com now sees shared folders as a business application and would no longer support free use of their site. The Scholarship Chair was able to migrate all the current files to her personal Dropbox and the committee has access to a shared folder on that platform. However, this is not an ideal solution. So, we will need to consider how to handle these files next year, perhaps returning to the University's BOX system.

The Scholarship Brunch details are the province of the meeting managers; but the Brunch will be held on March 7 at the I-Hotel. The guest speaker will be Feng Sheng Hu, the Dean of LAS.

Membership

The Directory is printed and should be in mailboxes by November 18.

At this time, the Club has 249 members, 67 couples, 90 Individual. Newcomers: 7 couples and 11 individuals.

Newcomers

Sharon reported that there had been a lack of interest in events for Newcomers although it is thought Newcomers are attending other Interest Groups. A motion was proposed that the Newcomers Group should cease to be an Interest group, and this was passed unanimously. It was agreed that the Sharon should email newcomers to make them aware of this change and she would forward their names to Interest Group Coordinators so the Coordinator would be able to make the Newcomers feel welcome to any group they attended.

[Email responses to meeting minutes: Sheila Krein commented via email that eliminating the Newcomers interest group is easy but eliminating the board position will require a change in the Constitution. Kathy Valdes commented by email that she hoped that Newcomers would continue

and that as it has been a struggle to get people to participate in newcomer events there certainly is an argument to jettison those. Kathy also suggested that it would be nice if the Newcomer Chair(s) sent a welcome email to each new member/couple and periodically sent out an email to the Newcomer group inviting them to our events, and be responsible for answering inquiries to newcomers@theillinoisclub.org so even if specific Newcomer activities are suspended, the Newcomers Chair(s) could still serve a purpose and be welcoming.

There was another comment that many areas seem to cycle, and it was hoped that Newcomers could be watched over (co-chaired) by Membership, VP, Secretary or some other comfortable spot until there is a 'swing' in needs (new people in the community vs. new retirees) joining The Illinois Club.]

Interest Groups

All interest groups are up and running.

Let's Do Lunch never found a chairperson, so they will disband, and we need to remove them from the website.

We have 16 Interest groups, plus Newcomers

The membership rosters from 12. Groups have been received. Still need Mahjong, hiking, Italian and Walk/Talk. Carrol Bunick is checking the rosters with our membership list and we will let the coordinators know who has not joined.

A freshman student, Se-Ya Kim, had contacted the Chair about the French Club, which had just disbanded this year. Vera Waisvisz, last year's coordinator, said she'd be still interested in attending a group if it was in daylight and convenient to drive. There might be one other lady from French Club who would go with her, but that would be it. After meeting with Se-Ya, it became apparent that the group would be mostly made up of students. She has recruited 2 friends to help her and they plan to have their first meeting after Thanksgiving, and we hope to announce it in the bi-weekly email. They plan to meet around 3:30 pm some place convenient on campus. The Chair explained how The Illinois Club worked and that our members pay dues. Se-Ya Kim asked that students not be charged. Judith Robinson also indicated that there was not a membership category for undergraduate students.

THEREFORE: Since the Chair hates to discourage such enthusiasm, and since this young woman and her friends desire a group with which they can attach their efforts, she is hoping that we can help this group in a modest way by advertising in our email newsletter and perhaps re-adding French Club to our list of Interest Groups. It might be advisable to wait to see how much involvement this group receives and if, when all is organized, they still want to be a part of TIC. They plan to contact a French professor as well to see if they can suggest students for a conversational group. The board supported the start of this group and it will be advertised in the biweekly newsletter and its viability will be evaluated at the end of the fiscal year in June 2020.

The Nominating Committee will be meeting in January and Carrol Bunick will be the Chair.

Tours

The Tour of the Richmond Family Welcome Gallery with curator Ryan Ross was on October 29 at 5:15 PM. There were 10 in attendance.

The all-day excursion to Clinton, Illinois was on Friday, October 11. There were 15 participants.

There will be a tour of the University Library Oak Street Facility and the John Velde Library Conservation Laboratory. Friday, November 22: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM followed by an optional, pay on your own, lunch at Baxter's American Grill. Registration deadline is Tuesday, November 19.

Communications

The bi-weekly E News has gone out every two weeks, deadline for material is the Wednesday before. The last one went out Nov. 9. To see when the last E News went out, check http://theillinoisclub.org/e_news.php.

The mailing with the registration form for the Holiday Party went to printing last week. The estimated time to hit members' mailboxes is this coming Monday, Nov. 18, maybe sooner. Communications sends information to the webmaster to update the website.

Corresponding Secretary

No report.

Webmaster

No report.

Future Board Meetings

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 5:15 PM, at the Veterinary Medicine Basic Science Building.

The future Board meeting, currently scheduled for March 4, 2020, location and time TBD. This meeting will have to be rescheduled to the weekend to accommodate Helen Valentine's new work schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Long Recording Secretary

