

## **The Illinois Club Board Meeting Minutes, January 22, 2020**

The Illinois Club Board met at 5:20 PM, Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at the Veterinary Medicine Basic Science Building. The meeting was called to order by Kathy Valdes, Past President, at 5:30 PM. Attending were Pat Cardenas (Tours), Sandy Camargo (Scholarships), Carrol Finnigan-Bunick (Interest Groups), Mike Haney (Webmaster), Mary Hodson, (Historian), Sheila Krein (Communications), Ann Long (Recording Secretary), Linda Lopez (Meeting Manager), Jane Myers (Meeting Manager), Donna Offenbecher (Meeting Manager), Allan Penwell (Treasurer), Judith Robinson (Membership), Julia Schmidt (Interest Groups) and Helen Valentine (President), Kathleen Weibel (Membership).

### **Board Reports**

#### **President's Report**

Kathy Valdes called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. and welcomed the Board. Helen Valentine was detained and arrived later as a result of an emergency in Vet Med.

The Minutes from Nov 13, 2019 Board Meeting were accepted.

#### **Meetings/Events**

The Holiday Party at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts Lobby was a great success. The use of a public space with no room rental worked fine. There were 70 guests and food were good. There was an issue with provision of food for vegetarians. No vegetarian dish was provided, instead vouchers were provided to get vegetarian option from Intermezzo Café.

A Social Event is to be held on January 31 at Riggs Brewery. This is open to all members and members are encouraged to invite friend to introduce them to the club.

The Scholarship Brunch will be held on Saturday March 7 at the iHotel and Conference Center  
Reservation Deadline: Friday February 21

Tickets: Members \$24, Guests \$30 each

Members had the option of paying \$30 to defray the cost of Scholar's meals

A Spring Happy Hour Gathering will be held on Thursday May 7 5:00 – 7PM at Urbana Country Club.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Previously distributed to the Board via email; approved.

The balance sheet shows about \$1,800 less cash than one year ago. The following roughly represents the reasons for this difference.

- Dues are \$650 less than last year at this time.
- The Holiday Party had a loss of (\$764) which was \$400 over budget.
- An advance deposit of \$350 was made to the iHotel for the Scholarship Brunch.
- An unbudgeted contribution of \$350 was made to the U of I Scholarship Fund.

Looking ahead to the last five months of our fiscal year, it is estimated we will have a loss of around (\$400) compared to a budgeted profit of \$938. This is a difference of around \$1,400 which more or less correlates to the \$1,800 cash difference---especially if the \$350 contribution to the U of I Scholarship Fund is included.

The club continues to have a healthy cash balance.

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.

## Bonding and Liability Insurance

Alan followed up on this with Gallagher Insurance.

It appears we would be eligible for both at a cost of around \$500 -\$600 annually. Liability would relate mainly to an accident at a club event. Our events are held at the University, the iHotel, or another local venue such as the Hyatt. All of these facilities would presumably have their own liability insurance which would cover a trip or a fall. Events are also held in members' homes, and liability coverage would be included in individual homeowner policies. It seems remote to have an incident whereby the Club would need liability coverage in these cases as other coverage is available.

Treasurer bonding is perhaps more obvious as to the need for insurance coverage than liability insurance. Coverage would include theft, but it would not necessarily cover mistakes such as inadvertently wiring funds from the TIC checking account in the event of a scam. Theft is always a possibility. History has that it is always unexpected, and the trusted person is one who is thought to be of high character.

There are a few safeguards the Club has that lessen this possibility which focus on separation of duties.

- The largest checks we write are for events where one of our members is the contact person, not the treasurer. In the event that a bill is not paid, it may be the contact person who would be notified of a delinquency, and not the treasurer.
- The event contact person is also the one who receives the event checks from members and has access to receipts through PayPal.
- Bills are also sent to our post office box to which the treasurer does not have access.
- Some billing is also done through the University of Illinois and not paid directly by the treasurer.
- Dues payments are made through PayPal or to the Club post office box. The membership committee collects the checks (made out to The Illinois Club), and the treasurer deposits them.
- Lastly, the Club has an audit committee and uses a checklist to conduct the annual audit. The committee reports to the board directly.

Bonding Insurance would cost about \$250/ year. It was agreed that there does not seem to be need for Liability Insurance, but the Treasurer should proceed with investigating the Bonding Insurance.

### **Scholarship Report**

The Scholarship committee met on 20 November to decide on the candidates who will proceed to the interview stage. We settled on 24 candidates (out of the 80 applications we received). Three of those candidates will be spending the spring term abroad, so we saw them on 7 December.

On this coming Saturday (25 January) we will interview 14 candidates; the final 7 will be interviewed on 1 February. The breakdown is 2 Ikenberry candidates, 4 Global Awards candidates, 4 Purnell candidates, 5 Humanities Awards, and 9 for Make-a-Difference Awards. Finalists will be decided on at the end of the second interview day.

Our committee has done stellar work this year. I hope that they will decide to continue serving.

### **Membership**

The total membership figures for 2019-20 are as follows:134 (67 couples), 14 (7 new couples), 93 individuals, 12 new individuals. 253 members.

The number of new members has increased but total membership has declined. The number of couples has remained the same but individuals are down by 25 members. Membership will spend time to investigate the reasons for this.

The Bridge group dropped their memberships as they did not attend any other club events.

### **Interest Groups**

Carrol Bunick presented the proposed slate for the Illinois Club Board 2020-2021.

President.	Linda Lopez
Vice President	Donna Offenbecher
Recording Secretary	Open
Corresponding Secretary	Alice Taylor
Treasurer	Alan Penwell
Assistant Treasurer	Jenny Kim
Budget Chair	Open
Communications Co-Chairs	Sheila Krein and Christine Lyke
Interest Group Chair	Ann Long
Assistant Interest Group Chair	Barbara Schleicher
Meeting Manager	Jane Myers
Membership Chair	Judith Robinson
Assistant Membership Chair	Kathleen Weibel
Scholarship Chair	Sandy Camargo
Assistant Scholarship Chair	Joyce Wright
Newcomers	Christina Myers

Past President	Kathy Valdes
Historian	Mary Hodson
Reservation manager	Lori Choquette
Tours	Pat Cardenas and Marcy Joncich
Webmaster	Mike Haney
Assistant Webmaster	Ann Campbell.

Nominating Committee  
Carrol Finnigan-Bunick  
Linda Lopez  
Kathleen Weibel  
Kathy Valdes  
Chris Lyke.

Carrol thanked the Nominating Committee for their hard work.

### **Tours**

Historic Danville in early April

Visit the **Vermilion County Museum**, the **Fithian Home** (a Lincoln site on the National Register of Historic Places), and **Lamon House**, thought to be the oldest frame residence in Danville. Lunch at **Charlotte's Coffee & Tea**. Cost \$5.

### **Communications**

The bi-weekly E News has gone out every other Saturday morning. The deadline to submit material is the Wednesday before. Separate issues have gone out for special events. To see when the last E News went out, check [http://theillinoisclub.org/e\\_news.php](http://theillinoisclub.org/e_news.php).

Christine is working on the next mailed newsletter which will advertise the Scholarship Brunch, announce any new events, present the nominating committee's slate of officers, and include the Directory addendum on a separate page. Both Communications and the Webmaster prefer receiving information in Word (or in an email) and photos in .JPG format rather than in PDF format. Deadline to submit information for the upcoming newsletter is Jan. 29 and to have it to the printer by Feb. 5.

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Cards mailed since last meeting:

- 1 sympathy card
- 1 thinking of you card after an accident

### **Webmaster**

No report.

**Future Board Meetings**

The next Board meeting will be in March, time and date TBD.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Long  
Recording Secretary