

## The Illinois Club Board Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2021

### ZOOM – 5:00 pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Linda Lopez, Donna Offenbecher, Christina Myers, Jenny Kim, Ann Long, Julia Schmidt, Jane Myers, Judith Robinson, Sandy Camargo, Joyce Wright, Christine Lyke, Kathy Valdes, Lori Choquette, Pat Cardenas, Mary Hodson, Mike Haney, Ann Campbell

**President** - The meeting was opened at 5:04 pm by President Linda Lopez. She thanked everyone for pitching in to make such a great year under difficult circumstances. She also thanked Ann Campbell for organizing a wonderful virtual Souper Supper in lieu of the usual Burns Dinner and for Jane Myers for all of the years she and Wally have hosted and hoped to have them host in the future.

**Vice President** - Donna Offenbecher reported on the search for Vice President. It has not been successful so far, and she has spoken several potential candidates who have all declined. Linda asked that everyone keep considering V.P. possibilities

**Secretary** - President, Linda asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from November. Ann Campbell noted that her name was omitted from being in attendance. Sandy Camargo moved and Chris Lyke seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected.

**Treasurer** – Jenny Kim who recently assumed the treasurer responsibilities will be preparing a summary of our accounts to include with these minutes. Currently, Busey has 18,616.69, UIUC has 802.57 and there is 286.67 in PayPal for a total of 19,705.93. After some discussion about how much money to leave in PayPal, Mike noted that it's best to move money from PayPal to Busey when there is a significant amount and there is no requirement to maintain a minimum amount. She has the contract for the May meeting at Riggs and will pay the deposit with the Busey debit card. Jane Myers noted that we have less than 30 days to cancel the reservation and receive a refund, so Jenny will check the requirement in the contract.

**Corresponding secretary** – Linda noted that Alice Taylor has been keeping up on deaths and illnesses and sending cards out. She also sends notices to communications. Jane reported that Past President, Judith Baxter is in Monticello and recently suffered a stroke and also lost her husband and would appreciate cards. She will email the information to communications.

**Interest Groups** - Most groups including Chinese Mah Jongg, Cinema, Cosmopolitan, Games, Italian, Knit 'n' Things, Reads and Spanish continue to meet on Zoom. The Hiking group members now walk outside, distanced and with masks. Walk and Talk members usually meet on Mondays via Zoom and on Fridays in person for walks.

**Meeting Manager** – Jane Myers confirmed that they will work on details for the May meeting when it's closer to the time.

## Membership -

The total number of members in The Illinois Club thus far for the 2020-21 year is 179, made up as follows:

Couples	50	100
New Couples	1	2
Individuals	76	76
New Individuals	1	1
<b>Total no. of Members</b>		<b><u>179</u></b>

Four members have renewed since the 2020-21 Directory was produced and mailed, and two have changes of address, while one phone number was incorrect under the Board listing. These additions and edits will go out with the next physical mailing, having been indicated by first name and last name initial (for confidentiality) in previous e-News.

Linda has been considering how to bring our numbers back to pre-covid times and wondered if we should offer a free membership to anyone new and to the member who brought them into the club. After some discussion – the feeling was that the dues is not a significant hurdle so probably continue to collect dues from everyone. Every club seems to be having the same problem as younger folks are just not joining as many groups and priorities have changed. Linda has already reached out to the Urbana Park District to see if TIC could attach itself to some activities that are planned by the Park, thereby increasing their attendance numbers as well. Linda asked Jane Myers about the possibility of coordinating events with the University Club. Linda will also reach out to the State University Retirement System (SURS) to see if we can find recent retirees to contact.

**Newcomers** – Christina Myers has sent emails to new members and there has been 1 new couple and 1 new individual. She explained how the Interest Groups work but since they have not expressed an urge to connect with any specific group, she feels they will need to be invited to a particular event. Since new members go back for 2 years, she will get a list from Judith of those new members from 2019-20 since we had a large number of new members that year and Christine will reach out to them to get them interested for 2021-22.

**Scholarship** – Sandy Camargo - The Scholarship Committee held interviews over two days (25 January, 6 February). We saw 10 applicants each day. Once the interviews were finished on 6 February, we shared our impressions of the candidates and decided on the winners. Since we had \$28,000 at our disposal, we were able to make seven awards at \$4,000 each.

Isabelle Purnell Education Award: Alexis Martinez  
STEM Award: Jong Hwang, Justin Wang, Ishita Rao  
Humanities/Social Sciences Award: Adem Osmani  
Global Focus Award: Eddy Almonord, Sophie Luijten  
Judith Life Ikenberry Fine Arts Award: Vincent Chang

The final step will be to send the names to our contact in Advancement to arrange for the payment of the scholarships.

Linda requested that this information be shared with communications so it will help advertise the Zoom scholarship awards. It will be good to describe each recipient and also the award they receive. Sandy will prepare a report for the newsletter. Sandy also noted that they had 100 applications which is about the normal amount. She will also include a thank you to the members of the committee.

Joyce Wright will step in as the new Scholarship Chair after May and will confer with Sandy.

Sandy noted there would be a separate meeting of the committee to figure out the details for the Zoom meeting in March and 'rooms' will be developed for the event. Sandy offered great praise to her committee of Joyce, Kathy, Lori, Anne H, Ann L., Mathew, and Donna.

**Communications** - Christine Lyke reported that they have continued to send out a monthly E News and generally two or more special announcements for each special event. A newsletter was sent out in November to announce the Holiday Party and to include the membership directory. The next newsletter will likely include the proposed slate of officers and the directory addendum. Christine wondered if the printed newsletter was worth the cost of printing and mailing. After some discussion, it was decided that many people just don't open emails on their computers and there are still a few who don't use email, so it is worth printing since we have the funds. Linda did compliment the format of the Enews as being inviting with the addition of a cartoon. Christine will send 2 different emails – one for the Scholarship meeting on Zoom and a separate email with the slate. The slate is supposed to be sent out 2 weeks before the vote which will occur during the business meeting at the Scholarship Awards. To concur with the 2-week advance notification, The Enews will go out in time, but the actual print newsletter won't go out until the first week of March.

**Historian** - Mary Hodson had no report for Historian but want to express her agreement that a free membership would not be that important in attracting new members. She suggested targeting brand new retirees and would hope that we could get a list from SURS. Every group she is involved in is having trouble recruiting members. She also suggested to continue Zoom meetings for those who are elderly or home bound. She had checked all of the history information on TIC (formerly Women's Club) but the records she has only go back to the 1980's. Regarding member recruitment, Ann Long suggested to continue efforts to attract new employees. Donna O. had been reaching out for new members by having a table at Krannert with the Thursday wine tasting.

**Reservation Manager:** Lori Choquette announced that even though we may not be certain as to whether or not we can pull off the May meeting at Riggs until very late, that she will be ready for the event with name badges and list.

**Tours** - Pat Cardenas said that the tours for 2021-22 will be in person and they will include Historic Danville, the Fire Service Center, and the Seibel Center for Design. For this semester, Saturday, April 10 at 11:00 am was picked as the date for the video tour of the Research Park that Jenny Kim will record and narrate. The actual video will be about 15 minutes, but Jenny will add content and photos and will allow time at the end for questions, so the program will be advertised as lasting an hour. Christina M. noted that Krannert was currently under construction but once it's finished, that would be a great virtual tour.

**Webmaster** - Mike Haney reported that in order to maintain web security, he has removed the 'easy click' links. He added a large orange colored 'contact us' button and it is safe as well since our webmasters can see the contact information of the person making the inquiry but they cannot see our real contact information. Linda expressed great thanks for Mike Haney, Ann Campbell and Kathy Valdes for all their efforts to secure our website and prevent any further scams. Kathy noted that we still need to be aware since some clever hacker could still reconstruct emails, and Ann reminded everyone to always check the real email address to make sure it's legit.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Holiday Event** – Donna O reported that the Holiday Event on December 10 had sold 96 meals for the evening according to Michael's Catering, but since food sales were open to more than just TIC, he could not say how many meals were exclusively for TIC. Michael's had sent an invoice of \$16.73 for delivery fees, and that has been paid.

**Winter Party** - Linda noted that the Burns Party was a huge success even though it was virtual this year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominations** – Ann Long presented the slate to be approved at the March 6 Scholarship meeting.

**The proposed slate for the Illinois Club Board 2020-2021.**

	<b>21-22</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Donna Offenbecher</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>?</b>
<b>Newcomers Chair</b>	<b>Christina Myers</b>
<b>Interest Groups Chair</b>	<b>Ann Long</b>
<b>Assistant Interest Groups Chair</b>	<b>Sally and Steve Zahos</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Carl Altstetter</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Alice Taylor</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jenny Kim</b>
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	<b>Bob Davis</b>
<b>Budget Chair</b>	<b>Kathy Valdes</b>
<b>Meeting Managers</b>	<b>Jane Myers, Kristine Chalifoux</b>
<b>Membership/Directory Chair</b>	<b>Judith Robinson</b>
<b>Assistant Membership Chair</b>	<b>Kathleen Weibel</b>
<b>Communications/Newsletter Co-Chairs</b>	<b>Christine Lyke and Susan Haney</b>
<b>Scholarship Chair</b>	<b>Joyce Wright</b>
<b>Assistant Scholarship Chair</b>	<b>Matthew Macomber</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Linda Lopez</b>

<b>Appointed Positions</b>		
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Mary Hodson</b>	
<b>Reservations Manager</b>	<b>Lori Choquette</b>	
<b>Tour Directors</b>	<b>Pat Cardenas and Lynn Kelly</b>	
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Mike Haney</b>	
<b>Assistant Webmaster</b>	<b>Ann Campbell</b>	
<b>Committees</b>		
<b>Scholarship Committee</b>	<b>(pending)</b>	

**May meeting contingency plans** - Jane Myers and Linda will continue to monitor the Covid 19 situation and weather forecast to make a firm decision as soon as possible about having an in-person event at Riggs outside. Jane will have food and drink plans arranged ahead of time and Lori Choquette will have plans for dispensing the beverage tickets. If an in-person looks unreasonable, there will be a virtual alternative.

**Adjournment:** It was moved by Sandy Camargo and seconded by Kathy Valdes to adjourn at 6:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Schmidt, Recording Secretary