

The Illinois Club Board Meeting Minutes, August 28, 2019

The Illinois Club Board met at 5:15 PM, Wednesday, August 28, 2019, in room 1261 iFlex at the Veterinary Medicine Basic Science Building. The meeting was called to order by Helen Valentine, President, at 5:30 PM. Attending were Sandy Camargo (Scholarship Chair), Pat Cardenas (Tours), Lori Choquette (Reservations), Carrol Finnigen-Bunick (Interest Groups), Mike Haney (Webmaster), Keith Jarosinski (VP), Marcy Joncich (Tours), Sheila Krein (Communications), Linda Lopez (Meeting Manager), Christine Lyke (Communications), Jane Myers (Meeting Manager), Judith Robinson (Membership), Kathy Valdés (Past President), and Helen Valentine (President).

Board Reports

President's Report

After the Board members introduced themselves, Helen called the Board's attention to phishing emails sent out that appeared to be from her, asking for help. These are to be ignored and marked as Spam. Helen also announced that she will be leaving UI in January to take a job at SIU in Springfield. She intends to serve out her term, but requests that Board meetings after January be held on weekends. No one on the Board expressed a problem with that, and all congratulated Helen on her new appointment.

Helen's departure also means that the Club needs to find a new Vice President as soon as possible. It should be made clear that anyone taking that job will become President on May 2020.

Other open positions are Assistant Treasurer, since Allan Penwell will not be continuing as Treasurer and needs someone to train to replace him next year. The position of Recording Secretary is also open (but after the Board meeting, Ann Long has agreed to do that job). Board members were urged to try to recruit a new Vice President and Assistant Treasurer at the Open House on September 5.

Meetings/Events

The Open House is all arranged. The space at the Alumni Center has been given to the Club at no cost. Riggs Beer will be served. There will be an open bar. Michael's is doing the catering. There will be a buffet table. There will be some tables for seating, but the purpose is to mix and mingle. Parking is free after 5 (even after 4:30, since the parking people have left by then).

Ingrid Hutchings has been distributing flyers about the Open House, and Linda Lopez has given out 90–100 TIC cards at the New Employee Expo to advertise the Open House.

The interest-group coordinators can put stuff out at 4:30, using the shared tables. There will be a microphone passed amongst the coordinators to allow them to briefly describe their interest group. The coordinators' name tags will include the name of their interest group.

Lori Choquette showed the tags that she has made for Board members, with banners indicating their Board position. She has also acquired attractive new lanyards.

Sheila Krein discussed a future tour of the Richmond Family Gallery at the Alumni Center for early November.

Treasurer's Report

Previously distributed to the Board via email; approved, though Linda Lopez would like more money earmarked for publicity.

The Foundation insists that Scholarship contributions come directly from the donor rather than from the TIC. That means that the Club has to decide how to handle duplicate membership dues payments. In the past, if a member double-paid, they would be offered three alternatives:

return the duplicate check, shred the duplicate check, or direct the money toward the Scholarship Fund, which would require the Club to write a new check with the Foundation as payee. Kathy Valdés suggested that the Board direct the duplicate payment to the general fund from whence the Board could transfer the money to the Scholarship Committee as an occasional payment if the payer opts to donate the duplicate payment.

Scholarship Report

The committee this year is Sandy Camargo (Chair), Jenny Kim (Assistant Chair), Lori Choquette, Anne Heiles, Ann Long, Matthew Macomber, Kathy Valdés, and Joyce Wright. The Scholarship Chair expressed her gratitude that these members are willing to do this important work.

The committee met on Friday, August 22. According to Advancement, this year our very generous members have given us \$29,650 (well more than usual). This is in addition to the Ikenberry Fine Arts award, which, this year, is worth \$4,600. The committee humbly asked the Board if they would be willing to give us \$350, so that our total would be \$30,000. This would allow us to give 10 scholarships, of \$3,000 each. The Board approved this request.

We will use Dropbox as storage this year, instead of BOX, since members without @illinois.edu emails have had trouble accessing BOX.

We discussed ways of advertising our scholarships to entities on campus where we have connections. Several members asked for information on our scholarships that they could share with their contacts on campus, which has been sent to them.

The application process will begin on September 3; the application deadline will be October 12. (Subsequent to the Board meeting, the Scholarships webpage has been updated [thanks to Mike Haney], and the application has been reviewed and revised and is ready to go [thanks to Jenny Kim].)

Membership

At this time, the Club has 136 members, 88 who are members of couples. Newcomers: 2 couples and 1 individual.

Newcomers

Sharon Grogan and Linda Lopez represented TIC at the New Employee Expo. The All-Employee Expo in October is judged to be not worth the Club's efforts.

Interest Groups

The annual kick-off meeting for Interest Group Coordinators was held on August 8, 2019, with eleven groups represented. Fifteen groups will continue from last year, and the new "Games" group was added, with Linda Lopez coordinating. Each coordinator was given a packet of information, and discussion was had regarding the new, more informal format for the Open House. The sign holders will be brought to the Open House, and there will still be sign-up sheets, but the coordinators will be standing in front of the sign-up tables and will be encouraged to engage the guests in conversation as they move around the room.

Tours

The next tour is an all-day excursion to Clinton, Illinois, on Friday, October 11. The group will tour the C. H. Moore Homestead; there is a \$5.00 fee for this self-tour. Lunch will be in Clinton at the LaTeaDa Tea Room. The afternoon will be a tour of an Alpaca farm (\$7 charge). The tour will be limited to 15 people; transport will be by carpooling.

A future tour of the UI Library's Oak Street Storage Facility to be held on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday during Thanksgiving week was discussed. The hour-long tour would be followed by lunch nearby. Sheila Krein noted that the Facility is kept quite cold, for preservation purposes, so the announcement of that tour will need to state that.

Communications

The newsletter is out; the e-news will be out on Sunday, August 31.

TIC needs to order new business cards. There was discussion about a redesign of the business cards to feature the Block I, but the cards are branded with the TIC crest, not with an "I." Since there aren't any urgent changes to the card's copy, Christine Lyke sees no problem with their being available for the Open House. She will order 500 copies.

Christine needs to have the original copies of all printed material so that she can edit them.

There was discussion about printing the membership forms. The conclusion was that color copies weren't necessary, so that Judith Robinson could simply make photocopies for the Open House.

Corresponding Secretary

Four bereavement cards were sent, and one thinking of you card.

Webmaster

Mike Haney said that we should not enter any donation amount in the database because of security issues.

As a result, the Board decided to do away with honorary donation levels like Golden Tablet and Dean's List.

Big Ten Report

Kathy Valdés, Lori Choquette, and Linda Lopez attended the Big Ten Conference in June, at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Some useful ideas that they brought back: using Square to take credit cards onsite; putting Club information (posters, brochures, flyers) at sites like the local Chamber of Commerce; holding interest-group meetings on evenings and weekends; having more casual social events, meeting at wine bars and beer gardens, for example. Some of the clubs with larger memberships have Club events each month; some have formal speakers, and others were fun, like trivia nights.

Future Board Meetings

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 5:15 PM, at the Veterinary Medicine Basic Science Building, Room 1261 iFlex.

Future Board meetings, currently scheduled for January 22 and March 4, 2020, location and dates/times TBD. These meetings may need to be rescheduled to accommodate Helen Valentine's new work schedule.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kathy Valdés, seconded by Linda Lopez, and approved by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Camargo, Temporary Recording Secretary