

The Illinois Club Board Meeting Minutes, August 18, 2020

ZOOM – 5:00 pm

The meeting was convened at 5:00 pm by President, Linda Lopez.

Members Present: VP: Donna Offenbecher, Newcomers: Christina Meyers, Interest Groups: Ann Long & Barbara Schleicher, Recording Sec: Julia Schmidt, Treasurer: Allan Penwell, Meeting Manager: Jane Myers, Membership: Judith Robinson, Communications: Christine Lyke & Sheila Krein, Scholarship: Sandy Camargo & Joyce Wright, Historian: Mary Hodson, Reservations: Lori Choquette, Webmaster: Mike Haney & Ann Campbell

REPORTS

President: After welcoming the group, she expressed a desire to keep meetings to an hour.

Vice President: No report.

Treasurer: Allan had emailed the full report to Board members. He explained that last year at this time, we had 20,000.00 and now we have 18,000.00. Since we are down in dues by 2,000.00 largely due to Covid, we are about in the same place and will most likely make that up after things open again. Since we are not doing activities, he has not seen a reason to do a budget at this time. **Audit:** Sheila mentioned that we need to have the results of the FY20 audit approved. Treasurer, Allan Penwell, was on the audit committee this year because we had no budget chair. The other two members were Nancy Uchtmann and Carol Rebeiz. The audit had been completed and there were no exceptions. Linda had received a copy of the audit and it will be sent to all other board members. Since there were no objections, the audit was approved.

Corresponding Secretary: Linda thanked Alice Taylor for doing a great job with notes to members and explained that members should feel free to call Alice directly if they have any news – happy or sad – so that an appropriate card can be sent. Linda discovered that the daughter of Marty Halvorsen had died and she will let Joyce know.

Meeting Managers: Jane Myers deferred to the tech people since there is no ‘in-person’ Expo this year. Christine Lyke explained that the opening party is set for September 14. Jenny Kim is taking care of the technology for the online meeting. There will be some small group discussions set up and all of the Interest Group coordinators have been asked to do a short video about their group. After the videos, there will be break out rooms to allow socializing. Ann Campbell is collecting the videos and has 8 so far. An email with details of joining the meeting and a link will be sent out via our MailChimp list of over 400 people. Christine L. will send the snail mail but there will not be a link mentioned. Donna asked about a safe way to invite new people who were not currently members and Ann C said that a forward would work as long as we were sending to trusted people since we wanted to avoid ‘Zoom bombers’. There are currently about 215 members so it will be good to reach out to a larger sphere via MailChimp and some members who have moved might even join in to say hi. About 2 people

unsubscribe each week from the list (including some current members) so there will also be information to join the Zoom meeting in the newsletter.

Ann Campbell provided the following summary of Expo planning:

Report of planning for Virtual EXPO zoom meeting/webcast on September 14 at 5 PM.

- Christine Lyke and Jenny Kim will manage the moderation of the event. This will include an opportunity to go into break-out rooms and have social time.
- The president will make a few remarks. Then Interest Group coordinators will present their group in 30 second video clips.
- I have received 8 x 30 second video clips from interest group coordinators. I plan to nudge the remaining coordinators. The end product will be roughly 10 minutes to be shown at the EXPO zoom meeting/webcast on September 14 at 5 PM.

Newcomers: Christina Meyers will welcome the one new member couple once she receives their contact information since she had not gotten the emails so far through the alias. Judith, Ann C. and Christine will all check again to make sure the emails are working. Linda knows the couple that joined and has already welcomed them.

Interest Groups: Ann Long reported that the annual kick-off meeting for Interest Group Coordinators was cancelled this year and all correspondence will be done via email. There are 16 groups, but Wine Lovers has no Coordinator. I am hoping there will be a volunteer as this is a very popular group. It was suggested that Wine Lovers could be done through Zoom and members might enjoy socializing without having to cook. Linda suggested a catchy announcement in the monthly e-news to seek a new coordinator. Ann C also noted that since there is no Wine Lovers coordinator, that Ann Long should be the default for correspondence for that group. Ann L noted that she had not had a response from the Antiques group. Ann C has not received a response regarding a video, but had heard that coordinator, Rita Weisiger was changing the name. Sheila needs the name change asap for the upcoming newsletter.

The Fall Expo is going to be a different event this year. Instead of the normal gathering, we are planning a Zoom Webinar to welcome returning members and introduce the Club to potential members. Linda Lopez will make a few remarks. After that, we plan to have each Interest Group Coordinator record a 30 second video to "pitch" their groups to new members. Ann Campbell is organizing this.

I will send out the list of responsibilities of Interest Group Coordinators by email this week.

Both Ann L and Barbara S need access to the entire membership list so they can check that IG members have paid their dues. It would also be nice if the various IG coordinators could welcome any new members even before the new member decides to join a group.

Membership: Judith reported the following stats for membership:

13 renewed couples = 26

1 new couple = 2

10 renewed indivs = 10 **total of 38 members****

Judith fears that people have not considered that we are entering a new membership year since there have been so few renewals, including many board members.

The mailing list that we sent out on 8/13/20 listed 215 addresses, so we may well receive numerous responses once the snail mail reaches everyone. It included those who have already renewed, the balance of 2019 members plus a select few from 2018, and took into account the following changes as far as we were aware of them:

Deceased in 2019-20 (could be more?) :

Sandra Batzli
Marlys Clark
Yolanda Deal
Mary M. Heaton ?
Selma Richardson
Annette Schoenberg

Moved (could be more):

Cinda & Jim Pettigrew
Zonia Soto
Helen Valentine & Keith Jarosinski

Communications: Sheila Krein and Christine Lyke submitted the following report

The E News was distributed monthly over the summer. We recommend the continuation of this schedule with the possibility of mid-month announcements when applicable.

The August Newsletter mailing is almost ready to send and should be in mailboxes the first week of September. It will announce the Opening Party and will contain a mail-in membership form, list of Interest Groups with current Zoom meeting schedules, a page featuring our various scholarships (since there is a free page since there is no Tour) and a list of the new Board members. We anticipate that it will arrive in members mailboxes the first week in September. The next mailed newsletter is scheduled for November. Under the current COVID-19 circumstances it may not be necessary.

It was suggested to include the monetary amount that was given for scholarships last spring and to indicate that there could be more than one recipient per category. Another suggestion for the mid-month 'announcement' email was to feature an Interest Group. Christine L emphasized that she needs the copy for the mid-month e-news written out exactly as you want it to appear. She is willing to format and add images – but not do the writing.

Christine L asked Alan to be sure to send enough money to the TIC account to make sure she has enough to pay for the published newsletter. She has checked and although many buildings are totally shut down, the print shop is still operating.

Scholarship: Sandy submitted the following report: Members of the committee for 2020–2021 are Sandy Camargo (Chair), Joyce Wright (Assistant Chair), Lori Choquette, Anne Heiles, Ann Long, Matthew Macomber, Donna Offenbacher (joining us for the first time), and Kathy Valdés.

We are awaiting notification from Advancement about how much money will be available for next year's winners. Once we have that information, the committee will meet to organize our 2020–2021 campaign (advertising, revision of the application process [as needed], and review of our vetting and evaluation procedures).

The committee's plan to revise the focus of our scholarship awards (Humanities & Social Sciences, Engineering and Science, Global Focus, Purnell Education, and Ikenberry Fine Arts) was approved at the March Board meeting. There will no longer be any "Make a Difference" scholarships because it's an amorphous category. The applications will be released after Labor Day and the deadline will be the Saturday closest to October 15. Before Thanksgiving break the committee will announce the interview times which should be in January. She will also consider doing a profile of one of last year's recipients to put in the mid-month newsletter along with an appeal for scholarship contributions.

Tours: No tours are scheduled due to Covid. Suggestions were offered to have Zoom Tours. Either provide a local tour live (or recorded) and invite people to Zoom in for the tour, or find on line tours from anywhere in the world that have already been recorded (probably on YouTube) and invite people to do a Zoom meeting where you all watch together and have discussion or provide a link of an interesting tour that people could watch on their own time.

Webmaster: Mike will provide membership list access to the Interest Group chair and vice-chair.

OLD BUSINESS

May minutes: Linda asked for approval of the minutes from May 7, 2020. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

Using PDFs: Linda requested that members send attachments as a PDF so that everyone can open them.

NEW BUSINESS

Linda asked if Historian, Mary Hodson; Reservation Manager, Lori Choquette; or Secretary, Julia Schmidt had any comments. They did not.

Linda complimented Lori on her handling of the Knit & Things Interest Group.

Barbara thanked Sandy for continuing the cinema group for the summer. Sandy was happy it was successful and she will do Zoom meetings for Campus Lunch in the fall.

Linda is going through the files and updating TIC history.

Ann Campbell just received a text to let her know about the arrival of her new grandson who arrived 3 days early. Congratulations to Ann and her family.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Schmidt, secretary

NEXT MEETING: TBA

