

The Illinois Club Board Meeting Minutes, November 23, 2020

ZOOM – 5:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Lopez, Donna Offenbecher, Christina Meyers, Ann Long, Barbara Schleicher, Julia Schmidt, Jane Myers, Judith Robinson, Sheila Krein, Sandy Camargo, Joyce Wright, Kathy Valdes, Lori Choquette, Pat Cardenas, Mary Hodson, Mike Haney

President. The meeting was opened at 5:10 pm after welcoming members as they joined in. She verified with Mike Haney that the meeting was being recorded. Linda has received a list of new faculty, some moving now and some in May, She has reached out to invite them to TIC and specifically invited 4 of those who are here to the Halloween Party.

Vice President, Donna Offenbecher is interested in receiving a word version of the club brochure. Mike will check to see if Susan has a version saved. Donna will also check on dropbox, most likely under communications or graphics. She reported that she has been working with Michael's catering to develop a nice menu for the Holiday Party. Ordering a meal is optional for attendees but the meals will be delivered between 5-8pm. The actual meeting will start at 7pm. They have arranged with Michael's to make deliveries to the 7 out of town attendees and there are TIC Board members who have offered to help with deliveries if they become overwhelming. Donna is also recruiting people who will share Holiday memories or songs with the group. The musician is flexible and there will be opportunities for attendees to go in and out of various chat rooms.

Treasurer – Linda reported that Allan Penwell has resigned as treasurer. We are grateful for his past years of service and also grateful for Jenny Kim for stepping into the treasurer's role. There will be no formal report for this meeting.

Corresponding secretary, Alice Taylor, sent three bereavement cards in September.

Meeting Manager, Jane Myers thanked Christine Lyke, Jenny Kim and Ann Campbell for all of the technical help and organizing of the virtual Expo. There was good feedback on the Expo but no firm numbers on attendance. In hopes that a May meeting will be possible, she has put down a \$250.00 down payment at Riggs on High Cross Road.

Newcomers, Christina Meyers has reached out to all Newcomers with an email. The new members are attending some of the Interest Groups.

Interest Groups, Ann Long reported that there are 16 Interest Groups. Three groups are meeting in person outside, masked and socially distanced. These are Hiking, Supper Club (which had met at Riggs) and Walk & Talk. Nine groups are meeting on Zoom: Chinese Mah Jongg (but are just visiting and not playing), Cinema, Cosmopolitan, Games, Italian, Knit 'n Things, Reads, Spanish and sometimes – Walk & Talk. The four groups that are not meeting are: Campus Lunch, CU4 Dinner, Meet Me at the Matinee and Wine Lovers (which also currently does not have a coordinator). She has the rosters from Mah Jongg, Cinema, Games,

Italian, Knit 'n Things, Reads and Supper Club. She has contacted the coordinators with missing rosters once again and is checking the rosters with our membership list. She is grateful to all our coordinators for continuing to run their groups under these difficult circumstances.

Ann requested Linda to advertise for a Wine Lovers Coordinator and in general encourage members to participate in the Interest Groups. She has had some people request a receipt for dues payment because they cannot recall if they paid this year or not. After some discussion regarding making the website more welcoming. Mike noted that the website does make it clear that anyone is welcome to try any number of interest groups before joining the club.

There was also concern in this 'Covid-climate' not to pressure people too much about dues but to be welcoming. Sheila noted that Spanish Club coordinator did send out a due's reminder via email along with a membership form. In the past, notecards had been sent to members who had rejoined, but that is really a lot of work for a volunteer. There had also been thank-yous sent to those making donations to scholarship, but now that the donation goes directly to the UI, we no longer get the names of donors.

Membership, Judith Robinson, noted that due to the restrictions necessitated by the Coronavirus, The Illinois Club has not been able to hold those in-person events that usually generate the majority of membership renewals and serve to attract new members. Thanks however to our dynamic President and creative Board members we have been fortunate to have Zoom versions of both a September Opening Party as well as a Halloween Party (and more to come). These, together with friendly reminders in E News and Newsletters, have kept our members in touch and informed, encouraging membership renewals and inspiring us to reach out to attract new members.

Here is a breakdown of 2020-21 members to date:

		Members
Couples	50	100
New Couples	1	2
Individuals	74	74
New Individuals	1	1

Membership

Total Members

177

All 2019-20 members received a personal email regarding their membership status; most of these were sent by our President Linda Lopez. Membership reminders have also come via E News and the paper newsletter. Interest Group conveners have also been asked to submit member lists to Membership so that Membership can check to be sure all are members in good standing. These factors notwithstanding our membership numbers are down from last year: 257 paid members last year compared to 177 this year. Membership produced the annual Directory, which also serves as a Club handbook, thanks to help from many, particularly Linda Lopez, Sandy Camargo, Ann Long, and Christine Lyke. This was mailed to members in mid-November. Contact Membership if you did not get one; we have plenty as we had to have 50 some extras printed and mailed to get the bulk mailing rate. Based on past experience we do expect we will get a few more members through January when a supplement to the TIC Directory is produced and mailed to members. The supplement lists additional members,

adding changes, and correcting any errors. Membership continues to check the TIC Post Box and distribute mail to appropriate Board Members.

Communications, Sheila Krein & Christine Lyke. We continue to send the E News monthly. The December E News will be e-mailed on November 28. Also, generally mid-month, we have sent special announcements as E News, e.g., for the Opening Party, describing Scholarships, and for the Halloween Party and the Third Thursday speaker series. We will send special announcements for the Holiday Party. Typically, they try to send out the E News on the Saturday nearest to the beginning of the month. A newsletter was mailed to members in November featuring the upcoming Holiday party and with dates of upcoming events and a list of board members. This one-page, two-sided sheet wrapped around the 2020-21 Membership Directory.

The E News was formerly arranged by date but they have now organized it by Interest Group and would like feedback on the new format. Sheila also thanked those who provided contributions for the Facebook site.

Sheila gave a special thank you to Ann Campbell, Kathy Valdes and Sandy Camargo for adding information to the Facebook page. Linda thanked communications for their work since this is the main way we are keeping interest up.

Scholarship Committee, Sandy Camargo. The Scholarship Committee met on November 21, to decide on the semifinalists for our awards. We have selected 20 candidates to interview (out of 40 who had aroused committee interest): 3 Global Focus, 3 Purnell Education, 6 Humanities/Social Sciences, 5 STEM, and 3 Ikenberrys.

Interviews will be held on January 30 and February 6, 2021, via Zoom. The Committee are looking forward to meeting these exceptional students. Joyce will confer with Jenny Kim who is creating a 'doodle form' with which candidates can select time slots.

The Chair has sent notes to all these semifinalists with congratulations on reaching this stage of the process and Joyce will arrange the time slots. The Committee will also be sending out notes to candidates whose applications will not be moving forward, including those who may apply again next year.

The Chair wishes to thank the members of the Committee—Lori Choquette, Anne Heiles, Ann Long, Matt Macomber, Donna Offenbecher, Kathy Valdés, and Joyce Wright (Assistant Chair)—for their great work, patience, and good humor.

Tours, Pat Cardenas will plan an historic Danville tour (but no date planned) and will email Jenny Kim regarding a virtual tour of her workplace. There will be a UI tour on November 30 according to E-week and it was suggested that Pat looks into seeing if those tours are adaptable for TIC members.

Webmaster, Mike Haney reports that he is trying to keep up on removing items that are outdated. He discussed the current TIC calendar and how it works with a link. It works best with google accounts and he is happy to help people with non-google accounts.

Assistant Webmaster, Ann Campbell made the following report:

E News email list

This fall, we had to troubleshoot the E Mail list on Mailchimp owing to some members email addresses being “cleaned.” This cleaning process is a result of some addresses causing bounces a certain number of times. Once an address has been cleaned, the administrator cannot add that address back to our list of subscribers. In a couple of cases, the bounces were caused by typos. I was able to correct those by adding the correct email address. In a couple of cases, I had to get an alternative email address.

Security

We installed an SSL certificate this fall to reassure users that our site is secure. Unfortunately, there was some malware installed prior to adding the certificate. Mike Haney, Roy Campbell and I worked on removing the offending files and continue to monitor the Website’s security

Phishing Reminder

Please continue to be very cautious with email purporting to be coming from another board member @theillinoisclub.org. Always check the “from:” box so that you recognize the person mailing you. While each board member has an alias address@theillinoisclub.org, when you send an email to another board member, the from: box has your personal email address in there not the alias. Example from November 18:

Reservations, Lori Choquette, is also coordinator for Knit ‘n Things and commented that her group doesn’t Zoom and her members did not want to pay dues but she is keeping them involved with emails.

For the potential May meeting at Riggs, Lori will be responsible for giving all attendees one free drink ticket. Depending on the status of Covid in May, the meeting will be either inside or outside.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ann Campbell noted that the **3rd Thursday speaker series** had 23 participants but the talk was a bit long. She is hoping for feedback on the series. In regards to the **Burns Supper**, there has been some discussion about opening it up to the whole club and not have a limit and make it virtual. They would encourage dressing up. They would make it a soup supper and this would let the Myers off the hook for hosting this Covid year. It would be January 30 and they would collect favorite soup recipes or a Burns poem.

Past President, Kathy Valdes noted that the nominating committee needs to get started. Ann Long will have the first meeting in January and hopes to wrap it up mostly in one evening as was accomplished last year.

Approval of Minutes: It was moved by Kathy Valdes and seconded by Sandy Camargo to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2020 TIC Board meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm. Happy Thanksgivings were wished around the group.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Schmidt, Recording Secretary