



## **Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes**

January 23, 2017 @ Chicago Curling Club

Walter Burns called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Attending were Walter Burns, Peiyao Chen, Julie Denten, David Jamros, Paul Lange, Colin Rittgers, Michele, Rittgers, Mark Striblen, and Jeff Sampson. Lon Peper and Everett Wilson attended by phone.

### **Treasurer's Report by Mark Striblen**

The ICA is just beginning to collect money from member clubs. In addition to the information outlined in the financial statements sent out by Mark, the following has been invoiced: Exmoor CC (57 members), Cedar Rapids CC (25 members), Windy City CC (80 members), St. Louis CC (54 members), and Northwestern University Curling (8 members).

### **USWCA Report by Michele Rittgers**

USWCA Bonspiel is coming up on February 15-19. Also, please make sure you pay your club dues otherwise the ICA will not be able to send a team.

### **ICA Event/Club Report**

The Dar Curtis has 13 slots remain, and it is being hosted at Chicago CC from February 17-18. The Scot Tour came through the region and there was a lovely banquet at Exmoor CC. Cedar Rapids CC had a 20 person instructional league. The Cedar Spiel will be held entirely in the arena and not in the nearby restaurant; in addition, Cedar Rapids CC has a team attending arena nationals. Chicago CC has had a busy January with many bonspiels and the Scot Tour. They have equipment for playdowns and are looking for someplace to store them other than at the club. Paul Lange has a storage unit that he is willing to share, but it is unheated. It was decided that Paul Lange will take the equipment. Equipment Inventory (2 large plastic containers with 4 Dell monitors, 2 power strips, 3 large orange extension cords, 3 dell laptop computers, 4 laptop charger cables, 4 monitor power cables, 4 peripheral cables monitor to the laptop, and pens/pencils/duct tape). Des Moines CC are looking to buy two sheets of stones. The ICA could buy them and lease them, which would cost \$200 per sheet per year. Or the ICA can buy them and have a note issued that states Des Moines CC owes the ICA at a reasonable interest rate. The discussion was tabled. Exmoor CC has commenced regular season play and enjoyed hosting members from the Scots Tour. The club struggles to fill Wednesday Men's night but has the Thursday night open fully subscribed. There is open curling on Saturday mornings for Exmoor CC members. Northwestern curling has not had much ice time, but they will be sending a team to the Waltham Mixed and Dar Curtis. St Louis CC had a successful four-week fall league with 22 brand new curlers. The club has 11 new members and a 98% full league. St. Louis CC's Winter Classic is to be held at Waltham CC this week. The Arch City Spiel will open soon (Labor Day) and is hoping to draw 32 teams. They are working with banks to try to get financing for a dedicated curling facility. Waltham CC has 103 members and is checking that their ICA dues have been processed. They have a bonspiel this weekend with St. Louis CC

(20 teams, two days). Waltham CC is hosting a men's bonspiel in February with 24 teams, and it is already full. The mixed bonspiel is also full and will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of March. Waltham CC will close down on March 25. Wilmette CC have ice time this Sunday and are filling 2-3 sheets with Northwestern curling. Oak Park CC has dissolved, and a few members have been absorbed into Wilmette CC. Windy City CC championship league started a few weeks ago and filled six sheets. They are working on getting their registration going for their spiel at the end of April. Windy City CC just kicked off their fundraising for their dedicated facility.

### **Old Business**

We need more information to get a simple website up. Paul Lange to supply Michele Rittgers with information. In regards to Dar Curtis Funding, Walter Burns went through the will and found a 3-year cycle of funding. They are currently in year 1, and if the ICA wants to challenge, they can. Walter believes the ICA has a strong case to challenge and demand funds for the ICA verse USCA. Next step is to write a letter of intent to the Chicago Community Trust and get a lawyer within our community to donate their time. Should ask to see the will as Illinois is the first mentioned. Walter moves to find a lawyer, and the motion is seconded by Jeff Sampson. It was subsequently decided that Walter will draft letter to send to the fund and submit to the ICA Board within a week to 10 days for approval. The letter will then be sent to the Chicago Community Trust and wheels set in motion to find an attorney and challenge the allocation of funds to the USCA.

### **New Business**

Ice quality has been a huge challenge for arena ice, and it was asked whether the ICA should purchase a used/refurbished scraper to lend to arena clubs. The big questions were: Where would it be stored? Would it travel? In the end, it was decided that this may not be a viable solution but would be nice to have and was well received by the arena clubs. Will revisit at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM by Michele Rittgers.