

ICELANDIC AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA (IAAMN)

Minutes from IAAMN Board Meeting held on September 20, 2012, 7:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus in Bloomington, MN

PRESENT: Claire Eckley, Honorary Consul General Dr. and Mrs. Örn Arnar, Steingrímur (Stony) Steinólfsson, Dr. Stefan Guttormsson, Harvey Thorleifson, Mallory Swanson and Lyle Hillman (via Skype).

1. **Claire called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.** As there is not a quorum, this meeting will be considered a committee meeting with all actions to be ratified at the October Board Meeting. She asked for approval of the minutes of the last Board meeting, held on August 16, 2012.

MSP Stony/Harvey to approve the August 16, 2012 Board meeting minutes as read. Unanimous.

2. **Claire asked if there were any requested modifications to this evening's agenda.**

1. Added to the agenda, (Item number 8) University of Minnesota Val Bjornsson signing and reception at Arnar's home

3. **Treasurer's Report since the last Board meeting:** Discussed deposits, dues and the transfer of \$500 dollars that was transferred into the Snorri account and will be returned to the IAAMN account. Current balance is \$2563.22 and the Snorri West balance is \$1,750.98. Balance of Snorri West is to be discussed.

Claire officially reminds the board that if you want to be reimbursed for something you must scan receipts and send them to Doug, or make a copy and send to Doug at his home. Reimbursement depends on this.

At this point in the discussion, Claire asked for approval of the Treasurer's report.

MSP Stony/Harvey to approve Treasurer's report. Unanimous.

Additional information: Claire will be refunded membership of the Danish American Center. More information needs to be gathered from the Center about whether or not the IAAMN should have a membership or if we can use private IAAMN member's memberships.

4. **Sunshine:**

- Stony is expecting a new granddaughter any day now.
- Glenna is doing well after her hip replacement and is visiting her mother.
- Petrina Cordes is doing well after her heart surgery.
- Doug is doing well after his knee surgery and is hoping to return to work in a week or so.
- Pat Allred continues to do well.

5. Correspondence:

Steve has been in correspondence with Gisli Runar Gislason about books and Gisli has been in touch with Steve's cousin Jim Anderson who owns a bookstore in Winnipeg.

6. IAAMN Review Procedures:

Discuss the importance of booking for events at the Danish American center going through Stony. Events should be checked on the DAC website to see if they are on the calendar. We need to develop the dates for the next year so that we can get our events on the calendar early.

We were not on the calendar for Sunday for the family gathering but it ended up working out fine. Danebo is getting busier and their calendar is filling up, so we need to be proactive in booking our events. They are delighted that the Icelanders have chosen to use their space and will work on us with any of our needs.

Maddie makes a motion to meet at the Knights of Columbus instead of Danebo for the board meetings. It was seconded by Stony, but consensus was not met.

Some discussion about location. *A poll of the board will be set up via email.

7. Leifur Eiriksson Dinner:

Reservations are coming in. September 30th is the deadline, but an extension could be considered. It was made clear that this is an all inclusive event and all Scandinavian groups are invited. Claire thanks Harvey for announcement of this year's dinner on Facebook and the website. Claire will ask Joe to write an article and news release the newspapers.

Dr. Arnar announces that he has an idea for next year's dinner, perhaps to be held at Interlaken. The maximum number there is 140. Dr. Guttormsson asks us to consider asking Nancy Marie Brown to present at next year's meeting. Planning for next year's (2013) event will be discussed at the next meeting of the board.

Volunteers will be needed this year to help with setup, sales, etc. Claire would like some displays to be present at the event.

Stony and Claire tried to get an inexpensive airplane ticket to Iceland to use as a fundraising event. What if every board member makes a donation and then that goes towards purchasing a ticket and we make the cost back the night of the event?

Steve proposes a Doctor's Club to cover the cost of the tickets. Dr. Arnar supports this idea.

8. University of Minnesota Val Bjornsson signing on October 15th at the U of M and reception at Arnar's home on October 14th at 4pm, invitation only. The Icelandic community and IAAMN and Hekla board members are invited to meet the University of Iceland group. Some discussion took place regarding the potential for increasing the fund to allow for a faculty exchange for this program.

9. Report IAAMN becoming 501c3 organization: Harvey reports that this is progressing. It will allow us to give tax receipts for donations to the IAAMN. We have the draft application coming together. The bylaws have been revised with a dissolution clause. We need to be legal and register the corporation.

Two motions are proposed: Go ahead with the application and look at draft articles of incorporation. There is a form which allows us to qualify at a reduced fee. Outlines regarding fundraising and expenses. We have had legal consultation from the Gislason family guiding us to form a corporation.

Stony makes a motion to proceed with the 5013c application. Steve seconds. Unanimous. There was agreement to keep on working on this project, with more to be discussed next meeting.

10. Fundraising:

a. IAAMN will work on getting a plane ticket, courtesy of the Doctor's Club for the Leif Ericsson Dinner.

b. Grant writing will eventually be done and proposals will have to be approved by the board before funds are distributed. Grant writing ideas and requests for funding will need to be submitted to the Executive Board. For example, from now on if money is coming from the Guttormsson Foundation for any project or program, a proposal will need to be made and accepted by the GFF.

11. Approval of reimbursement for Snorri West:

We had a remaining balance of \$1,750.98 in the Snorri West checking account. The remaining funds will be divided up and returned to the original funding sources of the Guttormsson Foundation (46%) and the INL (54%) by percentage of funds given.

It was discussed that the INL provided us with a set amount of money for the program, and we did not spend all of the funds. This money can now be kept for next year. There is confusion over whether the money needs to be returned or if it can be kept for next year. Also, we need to know who is in charge of funds. Where do the funds go when they are returned? Into Snorri West? Or general INL funds?

Stony makes a motion and Steve seconds – unanimous- that the secretary writes a letter of response to the INL regarding funds being returned. The board instructed that the funds will stay in the account and will be used next year for Snorri West. This cuts back on fees for exchange rates.

Stony and Steve make a motion/second- unanimous. A motion is made that a letter be written by Mallory Swanson, Minnesota Snorri West Coordinator that the Snorri West participants stay for a minimum of 12 days in Minnesota next year.

This will be discussed at October's Board Meeting.

12. Planning for upcoming international visits:

Vidar Hreinsson program: He is coming next week and he needs a place to stay. Arnars are offering their place for him. They request the dates he is coming and going, his schedule, etc. Thursday, October 27th he leaves Mountain for Minnesota where he will meet with

Icelanders for dinner and speak at the High School the next morning, October 28th. He will do his Twin Cities presentation at the Knights of Columbus on Saturday the 29th at noon. Alan Gislason is bringing him up from Minneota.

13. Update on Meets and Greet:

A good source of revenue for the clubs and a great way to connect Western Icelanders, Icelanders living in Minnesota and Icelanders traveling to North America.

14. Review proposal and dates for Icelandic family gatherings:

An opportunity for children in the Icelandic community to speak Icelandic and gain skills in Icelandic. It was also proposed that Western Icelandic children would be invited as well. A statement of purpose was received by the family gathering organizers and it is a concern of the IAAMN board members that Western Icelandic children were not included in the statement of purpose. The board suggests that there cannot be restrictions on members as a not-for-profit organization. There was a request for cameras and a projector, and funds for many additional supplies.

Consensus: Dr. Arnar will discuss with the Family Gathering organizers to reconcile the funding, considering that the The Guttormsson Foundation has agreed to provide funding for the rent for the facility each month, (\$320 for the next year).

15. Thorrablot Date & Speaker 2013:

February 9th, 2013 at the Knights of Columbus. Bjorgvin Franz is committed to be the Master of Ceremonies for the event. We are still looking for suggestions for a speaker. Claire requests that people email suggestions to Stony for the Executive Board to consider and propose to the Board at the next meeting.

16. Other business:

1. Steve Self has agreed to do the Icelandic Choir. Katrin S. and Sigga will be asked to help Maddie select music. Practices may be held at Grace Lutheran Church. Bjorgvin will be asked to work with Steve on developing the choir.
2. A note has been sent to Dan Simundson to make sure everything is being prepared for the Icelandic Christmas Service, December 16th.
3. Does Vopnafjordur want to receive English books again this year (to be collected at Jolabarnaball)? Steve Guttormsson will check into this.
4. A date has been set for the 2012 Annual Meeting. It will be held on Friday November 16th, 2012 at the Knights of Columbus in Bloomington, MN. Sunna Pam Furstenau, will be invited to present her pictures.

17. There being no further business for the Board, Claire adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Notes taken and respectfully submitted by Mallory Swanson.