

ICELANDIC AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA (IAAMN)

Minutes from IAAMN Board Meeting held on

April 19, 2012, 7:30 p.m. at the Danish American Center in Minneapolis

PRESENT: Páll Skaftasson, Mallory Swanson, Joe Bowen, Diane Greenwood, Doug Rutford, Örn Böðvarsson, Steingrímur Steinolfson, Claire Eckley, Steve Guttormsson (via Skype), Lyle Hillmann (via Skype), Harvey Thorleifson, Katrín Sigurðardóttir

1. Claire called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the last Board meeting, held on March 15, 2012.

MSP Harvey/Lyle to approve minutes as read. Unanimous.

2. Board members were then asked if there were any requested modifications to the agenda. **None requested**

3. Doug gave the Treasurer's Report for the period beginning March 15, 2012, and ending April 19, 2012. A spreadsheet was distributed to Board members showing that we brought in \$60 in revenue from the Icelandic Family Days and paid out \$84 to INL for balance of dues. Our balance is \$1,793.69. Following Doug's presentation, Claire asked the Board to approve the report.

MSP Stony/Harvey to approve report. Unanimous.

4. **Sunshine updates:**

(a) Claire recently spoke with Pat Allred. Pat has asked we not come see her right now because she is too tired (she undergoes therapy all day long). Pat is going for dialysis 3 days a week and doctors are hoping now that she will get a stent in her heart. One artery was 70% blocked and no one ever discovered it. This week Gene went into hospital and had stents placed. Their families have been very supportive.

5. **Correspondence updates:**

(a) Stony reported that IAAMN had been written up in a North Dakota-based publication on Scandinavia-North Dakota affairs.

6. The Board then turned to discussion of **nominations for Vice President** to replace Steve Guttormsson, who recently resigned. The Executive Committee is recommending Mallory Swanson. Mallory said she'd definitely consider the opportunity and would like more information about it.

7. **501c3 plans** -- Claire reported that she went to St. Paul and talked with state authorities about the process IAAMN needs to follow to secure tax-exempt 5013c status. The steps in sequence are: (a) we file to become a non-profit corporation; (b) secure a federal tax identification number; and then (c) we file for 501c3 status. Contingent on Board approval this evening, Claire said she would start the process in a few days. The full cost of this process will be approximately \$500, including \$70 for filing the Article of Organization paperwork and \$400 for filing the 501c3 paperwork. The benefit to us of 501c3 status is

that it allows people to donate to IAAMN and offset their taxable incomes. Örn suggested that we ask for Board approval at this time to authorize the process of securing 501c3 status.

MSP Örn/Harvey to execute this plan. Unanimous.

It was noted that Örn, Harvey, and Claire will continue to work on this project.

8. Discussion of IAAMN's long term goals:

Harvey presented a draft plan for the IAAMN and the Hekla Club to promote appreciation of Iceland in the region. He noted that in recent Board discussions, we have talked about priorities, including 501c3 status and special projects such as leveraging up commemoration of the Icelandic immigrants who settled in and built up Minnesota. We had some good discussions about real objectives of the family gathering. At the last Board meeting it was decided to draft a plan and make a list of all the things we're thinking of doing and to prioritize them. The draft document says we are persons interested in things Icelandic, but a joint exercise is not necessarily being planned. The big question is: What sort of infrastructure do we need to keep these going? We have these two boards and what are all the activities we can think of that would fall under the boards' purviews? The draft document lists quite a few activities, but in subsequent Board discussion, these activities were added:

Icelandic language classes

Snorri West

Helping to facilitate Rotary exchange activities

Skype parties

Translation services

Genealogy

Advertising and publicity

Donations

Guttormsson Family Foundation

Creating an awareness of Iceland at Box Elder Bug days

Helping to support Lögberg Heimskringla

Creation of an "Icelandic Expo" (some Board members suggested this could be done through hosting an INL convention in the Twin Cities)

The Board concluded this part of the conversation by agreeing on the following Action Item: Harvey will do requested/suggested edits to the document and make the revised document available to all Board members. Steve asked that the document be made available electronically.

9. Update on Snorri West arrangements: Claire reported that three Snorri West participants will be arriving in the area on July 9 and leaving on July 26. We'll be having a picnic with the soccer players on July 18. We don't know whether there will be 3 people or 4 people and are still awaiting word from Iceland on final count and other details. Mallory noted that she had heard that she is to drop the participants off in North Dakota on July 23rd. Claire said she would check on that.

10. INL convention planning update:

So far, Steve and Claire have confirmed that they are going and Chris is thinking of going. Chris has confirmed with Claire that if he does go, he would like to be an alternate. Two other people have

offered to be alternates as well -- Lyle and Keith. Claire reminded the Board that we will have 3 votes, so we need a third voting delegate.

MSP Stony/Harvey to appoint Claire, Steve, and Lyle to be delegates and Chris and Keith to be alternates. Unanimous.

11. Update on Icelandic film "Dreamland":

Harvey reported that the Bell Museum has agreed to host the showing of the film. There is one catch: U of M might ask us to finance a cleaning charge (up to \$300). Claire has made a request that we be able to take donations at the gates and if those donations are not sufficient to pay for the cleaning charge, Claire will ask if the Guttormsson Family Foundation will complete the donation. The showing of the film will be on May 20 at 2:00 p.m. Katrín said she talked with the author of the book, Andres Snær Magnússon, and he is willing to Skype with us that evening. She will talk with him again and confirm exact dates and time. Harvey reported that the technology situation at the Bell is like that of a "smart classroom" so we should be able to Skype from there with no problem. Katrín will bring a computer and Joe will assist with publicity.

12. Update on Meet and Greet events:

We have an event coming up and we'll need everyone's help. The first one is on May 27 and that's going to be a group of 20 public school teachers from Ísafjörður. Following the Meet and Greet, the group will go to Alexandria. Then, there will be a Meet and Greet on June 8 with 34 school teachers from Grundskólin Reyðafjörður. Claire then briefed the Board on subsequent scheduled Meet & Greet events, the details of which were provided in an e-mail from Jónas Thór. Claire suggested that we contact Dr. and Mrs. Arnar and see to what extent they would be interested in participating in these various Meet and Greet events.

13. Family gathering update:

Stony reported that he made a reservation for the first Sunday in May for this event, which will be held at the Danish American Center. Katrín reported on the subsequent event, which will be held June 10, where participants will go to a farm to look at baby sheep.

14. Independence Day Picnic planning update:

Claire reported that the reservation for use of Bryant Lake Park is in. Doug is working on recycling arrangements, ordering the food. Stony and his sons will cook at the event. Katrín suggested that there be a parade so that kids can march around with flags.

15. July soccer picnic update:

Doug will save the park, order the food, and then we'll have people bring deserts, sides, etc. Last year, we brought salads and other dishes. Claire will make an announcement to other chapters at INL about this event.

16. Harvey reported that the association's website address has changed and he will e-mail the new address to Board members.

17. Samkoma update:

Diane reported that close to 70 people are signed up. April 20 is the last day for submitting names of participants and No walk-ins are allowed. People wishing to sign up can do so over the internet.

18. Stony reported that he has been appointed Associate Editor of Lögberg Heimskringla. The Board congratulates Stony!

19. Katrín inquired about the Board's plan for a membership drive. Claire reported that we have approximately 148 paid members and at our next Board meeting we are going to talk about scheduling sessions for Board members to learn about how to use the Google website to post documents and maintain our membership base. Diane reported that Hekla Club has a list of IAAMN members and it was agreed that the two clubs should work together in setting up a membership database.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next Board meeting: Thursday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Danish American Center

Notes taken and respectfully submitted by Örn Böðvarsson