

ICELANDIC AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA (IAAMN)

Minutes from IAAMN Board Meeting held on

March 15, 2012, 7:30 p.m. at the Danish America Center in Minneapolis

Members Present: Örn Böðvarsson, Claire Eckley, Harvey Thorleifson, Chris Byron, Steve Guttormsson, Katrin Sigurðardóttir (joined via Skype during second half of meeting)

1. Claire called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. The first order of business was for the Board to approve the minutes of its last meeting, held on February 16, 2012.

MSP Harvey/Chris to approve Board minutes of February 16, 2012 as read Unanimously approved

2. Modifications to the agenda were then requested. The following requested modifications were submitted:

- (i) Identification of delegates for IAAMN representation at INL convention in Brandon, Manitoba;
- (ii) Discussion of Nordic center in Duluth;
- (iii) Discussion of Formulation of an annual IAAMN plan;
- (iv) Discussion of plan for screening of "Dreamland" film to IAAMN membership.

Without a formal vote, the Board agreed to add these items to this evening's agenda.

3. The next order of business was presentation of the Treasurer's report. Doug Rutford, IAAMN Treasurer, was not in attendance at this meeting. The Board took a cursory look at a spreadsheet report provided by Doug to the Board earlier in the day. For convenience, this report accompanies this document. Referring to the spreadsheet, Doug reports that it shows all IAAMN financial activity from January 3, 2012, through March 15, 2012. Note that we have a cash balance of \$1,817.69. Note the "Unknown" sources for some of the deposits. Doug emphasized that we need to make sure that either he gets the deposit receipts from the person making the deposit, or alternative, he is the sole depositor.

Chris emphasized that the report did have some "unknown" items on it and that it is important we have them identified. Claire clarified that they can be identified; She did e-mail information about what these deposits were to Doug. The problem has been that some checks were not deposited for 2-3 months. Claire opined that it was important for the President to also be able to make deposits. Stony said that he has been making some deposits (and noted that all Thorrablot money had been deposited), but he is fine with Doug doing all the deposits. Chris pointed out that his experience in accounting is that the more you mail checks, the longer it takes to get them deposited.

The consensus of the Board was that deposits will be handled by the Treasurer and President from here on out.

On the subject of IAAMN cash flow issues, Steve noted that he recently received \$655.00 for the Guttormsson Foundation, which has been deposited and invested. This is what we raised for Snorri

West at the Thorrablot. The foundation earmarked \$2,000 for Snorri West. That money, since it was raised in MN, is for use by the Snorri West kids, thus the \$655.00 will be part of that \$2,000.00

A related matter is that there is some confusion regarding how INL, IAAMN, and Snorri West are technically related with respect to funds administration. Orn will e-mail Gail at INL to request clarification.

4. **Sunshine:**

- (i) Claire reported that Pat Allred is back in the hospital after suffering cardiac arrest. She needed stents in her heart. Before she went into hospital, she was doing really well. She has not heard from Gene in several days;
- (ii) Stony volunteered to carry out Sunshine functions on behalf of IAAMN;
- (iii) Claire did provide a plant with the name of IAAMN at Frank Josephson's funeral.

5. **Correspondence** -- Orn will e-mail Jonas Thor to get clarification on timing of future Meets and Greetings.

6. **Update on planning for Snorri West** -- there are apparently no applications at present. One factor is cost (\$2000 for two weeks). Mallory and Claire decided that they won't do anything until there are confirmed participants.

7. **Meets and Greetings** -- The next one is in June. There will be a choir and we should try to use Grace church. Now participants will pay for their meals in advance.

8. **Icelandic family gathering** -- At this point Kata (Katrin) joined the meeting via Skype and delivered a report. The last gathering was very successful (Kata was out of town, though). There were over 40 people -- 20 adults and 20 kids. The next gathering will be on Easter Sunday in the afternoon. Kata suggested that we set up a plan for September - May (set up a whole year in advance) and that these gatherings be on the second Sunday of each month, 2-5 p.m. In May, though, since the second Sunday is Mother's Day, we'll have the gathering on May 6 instead. Admission fee is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. People sing and do a play and the emphasized language is Icelandic. Kata pointed out that when they did this type of event in Boston, they had left over money. Gatherings usually involved pizza parties with games. It was suggested that we use the yard at the Danish American Center for a gathering. If we plan to be outside, we don't have to rent space from DAC.

9. **Update on planning for Independence Day Picnic** -- will be held on June 17 at Bryant Lake Park. Hekla Club will share rental and food expenses with us equally. Stony said his sons are available to grill burgers and hot dogs. Doug has volunteered to get all the food there. People are to bring drinks and food to share. We share meat, buns, condiments, paper products. Doug brought it last year and it was very, very good food. There is the possibility that an Icelandic choir will provide entertainment.

10. **Samkoma Dinner**-- last Saturday in April. This will be held at U of M at the Campus Club. This is being done in conjunction with U of M in recognition of the Val Bjornson scholarship fund.

11. **Proposal for IAAMN participation in arrangements for Rotary Exchanges with Iceland** -- Claire reported that Mark Bloomquist and Pall Skaftason are working on it. Pall has been in touch with his brother and wants to get something started on the Iceland end. We can also set up something on this

end. The consensus of the Board is that we definitely need to get more students from Iceland. Mark and Pall are working on trying to drum up some interest.

12. **July soccer picnic** -- We need make sure that the park is reserved for a Wednesday night in July (several Board members pointed out that Doug has already done this; Claire will reconfirm).

13. **Identification of INL delegates** – the convention will be in Brandon, Manitoba during the first weekend in May.

MSP Stony/Kata that Steve, Chris, and Mallory are first delegates, with Claire serving as an alternate

14. **Duluth Nordic Center:** Steve reported that this will be on June 26 at a park in Duluth. It will be similar to Finnfest and Hjemkomst. Minnesota Power gives lots of money in grants and may be a good source of funding for this. GFF could apply for a grant of 1-2k to take our guests through the Boundary Waters. Minnesota Power employees could help put that together.

15. **Screening of “Dreamland Film”** – It is coming to the Twin Cities and Stony will plan a time and place for a screening. We'd like a ballpark as to when to schedule it. What venue would we use here? Possibilities include Bell Museum, DAC, Infinity Campus. Kata said that she knows the author of “Dreamland” and suggested that somehow we could have him participate via Skype in a conversation with IAAMN about the film during the time of the screening. The Board consensus was that the screening should take place sometime between now and June. But, we need to know what's available. We would get the film from INL, so they will mail it to us as soon as we tell them the dates. On a related subject, Steve reported that there is a film festival called "Sound Unseen", the biggest film festival in the Twin Cities. Richard Hansen, founder of the festival, recently moved to Duluth and he wants to do something in Duluth related to Scandinavia. The consensus of the Board was that we discuss this more at the next meeting.

16. **Building a yearly plan** – The consensus was that it was very sensible that we pursue this. Harvey proposed that a one-page outline be brought to the next meeting.

17. **Planning for next year's Thorrablot** -- Stony suggested that we set the date of the Thorrablot now. The room at Knights of Columbus holds up to 180 people. February 16 is open and the weekend before is open as well.

**MSP Stony/Steve to hold Thorrablot 2013 on February 9, 2013
Unanimously approved**

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

NOTES TAKEN AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY ÖRN BÖÐVARSSON