



ACA Board Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2015

Red Deer Lodge, Red Deer

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM by the ACA President David Miller. In attendance: Vice President Micah Hughey, Secretary Vlad Rekhson (VR), Executive Director Vladimir Pechenkin (VP), General Directors Terry Seehagen, Leah Hughey, Jim Daniluk. Jina Burn attends over Skype.

David opens the meeting by updating the Board on the status of the AGLC audit. The final decision is expected by the end of the month. In the meantime, on April 23rd the ACA received a licence for the next Casino to be held on June 8-9, 2015.

VR moves to accept the Budget Meeting minutes, Terry seconds. 5 in favor with 1 abstention.

VP presents a more detailed report on the audit. David Miller, Patrick Porter and Vladimir Pechenkin attended the AGLC interview on April 15th. The most important outcome of the interview is that the ACA had to deposit back to the casino account almost \$11,000 of what the AGLC judged to be unsupported expenditures. A major portion of this amount is due to the fact that the reimbursement policy of the ACA is not really compatible with the AGLC requirements. Also, the AGLC stated clearly that no ACA Board member could be paid off either the operating or the casino account. It is possible, however, that the AGLC will make an exception for honorariums paid to Tournament Directors. The final decision on this matter will be made after their further internal consultations.

VP then presents a new *reimbursement policy* that satisfies the AGLC requirements. The Board emphasizes that no money will be paid to travel grant holders ahead of time, that is, before the completion of the tournament that the grant is used for. The time limit for the reimbursement claim is 6 months after the completion of the event. Micah moves to accept the policy as is, Jim seconds. 5 in favor with 1 abstention.

2015 Budget Items. As of May 17, 2015, the 2014 budget has a significant surplus due to various factors. The Board, however, elects to operate within the framework of the 2015 budget approved on January 17, 2015.

32nd Trumpeter Classic prize fund support. Wade Caughlin proposed to make a \$500 contribution to the prize fund of the event provided that the ACA matches it. VR moves that *the ACA supports the 32nd Trumpeter Classic with a \$500 matching grant.* Terry seconds. Micah amends the motion by adding "*one-time*" before \$500, Leah seconds the amendment. 3 in favor with 3 abstentions so the motion is amended. The Board then votes on the amended motion: 5 in favor, 1 against so the motion passes. The money will come out of the Contingency fund.

2015 AYCC Expenses. Jim makes a motion that *the ACA reimburses Jina Burn \$344.19 for her AYCC expenses*, Micah seconds. Again, the money will be taken out of the ACA Contingency Fund. 5 in favor with 1 abstention.

DGT Boards. Terry explains the situation pointing out that the number of DGT boards currently owned by the ACA/Edmonton Chess Club is insufficient to broadcast major international tournaments in the province. Micah moves that *the ACA budgets \$2,000 to get more DGT boards. Terry Seehagen will use the funds at his discretion.* Leah seconds. VR proposes to amend the amount to \$1,000, Jim seconds. The Board votes on the amendment: 1 for, 5 against. The vote on the original motion is exactly the opposite: 5 for, 1 against. The whole amount will again be taken out of the Contingency Fund leaving there \$155.81 for the rest of the year.

Requests from ACA travel grant holders. Three provincial champions submitted their proposals for the meeting asking the Board's permission to use their travel grants differently.

2014 Alberta Closed Champion FM Alex Yam requests that his \$2,000 grant be used towards the next Canadian Closed (2016 or 2017). The Board notes that Alex was already granted a 1-year extension in 2014. Thus, the decision made in 2014 will remain unchanged.

Micah makes a motion that *the 2015 Alberta Women's Champion WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement may use her \$1,000 travel grant towards any major tournament in 2015, subject to approval by the ACA and the AGLC.* Jim seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

Micah moves that *the 2014 Alberta Junior Champion IM Richard Wang may use his \$1,000 travel grant towards any major tournament in 2015, subject to approval by the ACA and the AGLC.* Terry seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

Jim suggests that the whole travel grant policy must be revised in 2016. The problem is that the CFC stopped holding many of the tournaments for which ACA travel grants were designed for.

Coaching Committee. Currently, there is only one ACA Board member left on this committee (Ali Razzaq). The Board decides that the Junior Chess Committee will be responsible for ACA coaching applications from now on. In particular, the committee will consider Roy Yearwood's application and then will report back to the Board.

VR makes a motion that *going forward, all coaching grants are valid for 12 months.* Micah seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

Publicity and communication. The Board discusses various proposals submitted by VR. Micah makes a motion that *the Executive Director should send the Board an update on ACA related matters during the first week of every month.* Terry seconds. Unanimous.

The Board directs VP to investigate a feasibility of opening a PayPal account. The purpose of such an account would be to collect entry fees for selected ACA tournaments.

Bylaws amendment. VP informs the Board that the bylaws must be amended within a year to satisfy the requirements of the provincial government. More specifically, several new clauses and policies must be added to the existing bylaws.

Junior Program in 2016. VP points out that the Junior program must be carefully redesigned with AGLC requirements in mind. In particular, ACA coaches who are also Board members cannot be paid off the operating account. Jina invites everyone interested to submit a formal written proposal to the Junior Chess Committee.

CFC Governors. Micah emphasizes the importance of having active CFC governors to influence the CFC. He will be in charge of finding 5 people willing to become active CFC governors.

Given a recent string of cheating incidences worldwide, David proposes to introduce a new ACA tournament registration form to be signed by all participants. In particular, every player will agree to be searched by a metal detector during the event. Legal aspects must be carefully considered first, so a consultation with a lawyer is necessary. Micah makes a motion to purchase a metal detector (at a maximum cost of \$400) before the 10th Edmonton International Festival, Terry seconds. 2 for, 4 against so the motion is defeated.

VR makes a motion to adjourn, Jim seconds. Unanimous. Meeting is adjourned at 9:39 PM.

No date for a future meeting is set, since it's unclear whether such a meeting will be necessary before the next AGM in October.

ACA reimbursement rules for travel grants and other refund requests

Invoices or receipts are to be provided for all ACA approved expenditures before the ACA will issue cheques. The reimbursement claim must be made no later than six months after the completion of the event that the grant was used for. It must be stressed that no money will be paid ahead of time, that is, before the tournament is over.

The documents may be passed to the ACA in a few ways.

1. Originals or their photocopies may be handed over to the Executive Director in person.

2. Originals or their photocopies may be mailed to the following address:
Alberta Chess Association
PO Box 11839 Main, Edmonton, AB T5J 3K9

3. Electronic receipts as well as scanned originals (preferably in pdf format) may be emailed to albertachess@gmail.com.

The information on the receipts must be legible and complete. The date(s) of purchase as well as all the amounts paid must be clearly visible. Wherever applicable, the name(s) of the traveller(s) must be explicitly shown. Below is a list of eligible expenses along with the guidelines on how to collect the pertinent documents.

1. Tournament Entry Fee. For online registration and payment, save an electronic receipt. If payment is made on site, ask the organizer or the Tournament Director to issue a paper receipt.

2. Airfare. Provide a complete travel itinerary with the name(s) of the passenger(s) and the overall fare. If possible, retain boarding passes as well.

3. Hotel. Pick up the bill at the front desk of the hotel at the time of checkout. Please note that if a hotel room is booked online, an electronic confirmation of the booking *alone* will *not* be sufficient.

4. Meals. During the trip retain food receipts from restaurants, supermarkets, grocery stores etc. All purchased items must be clearly seen on the receipt. Please note that the ACA's current reimbursement limit for the meals is **\$50/day** (subject to change). Expenses on alcohol and tobacco will not be reimbursed.

5. Gasoline. Receipts must be provided for in-province or out-of-province travel by car. Please note that only direct-route transportation to the tournament venue is eligible for reimbursement.

Other expenses such as public transportation, car rental and parking may also be reimbursed once the receipts are provided. Please note that the expenses that are social or recreational in nature are not eligible.