

ICELANDIC AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA (IAAMN)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2011

held at Knights of Columbus in Bloomington

1. IAAMN President Claire Eckley welcomed all members and guests and called the business meeting to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last annual meeting, held on November 19, 2010.

MSP Stony/Chris to approve minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting; Unanimous and Minutes stand as read

2. Doug gave the Treasurer's report. Our cash balance as of the Annual Meeting date is \$1850.00.

MSP Dr. Arnar/Dan to approve the Treasurer's report. Unanimous

3. Election of Board members. The following slate of Board nominees for the 2011/12 year was presented to the membership (Nominees are in bold):

Board of Directors 2011 – 2012 (including nominees)

Board members with one year remaining	Board members with two years remaining	Nominees for 3-year terms recommended by the Board	Other Board members*
Remi Douah	Lyle Hillman	Mallory Swanson	Craig Gudmundson
Steingrimur Steinolfson	Joe Bowen	Chris Byron	Icelandic Hekla Club Seat: Non-Voting Elin Hansen
Maria Hermanson	Baldur Steingrimsson	Katrin Sigurdurdottir	IHC: Diane Greenwood
Steve Guttormsson	Harvey Thorleifson	Pall Skaftason	PP: Katrin Frimansdottir
			PP: Barbara Gislason
			Keith Stinson (Leave of Absence)
			Pat Allred, Genealogist

Members leaving the Board are Dan Simundson, Margaret Arnar, and Patricia Allred. Dan and Margaret are completing 3-year terms, whereas Patricia is stepping down from the Board one year early for health reasons. Claire thanked all three persons for their service and noted that Patricia will serve as a genealogist for IAAMN. Remy has been nominated as interim Board member to replace Patricia; that seat will be up for elections next year. Claire then asked for a motion for the membership to approve the slate of Board nominees.

MSP Stony/Maddy to approve the Board nominees for 2011/12. Unanimous.

4. Election of officers. The following slate of officer nominees was presented to the membership:

Nominees for Executive Board, 2011 - 2012

Claire Eckley	President		
Steve Guttormsson	Vice President		
Örn Bodvarsson	Secretary		
Douglas Rutford	Treasurer		
Steingrimur Steinolfson	Past President		

Claire then asked for a motion to approve this slate.

MSP Stony/Mary Bodvarsson to approve the slate of officer nominees. Unanimous.

5. Report on past and upcoming events.

- (i) The “Meet and Greet” events since the last Annual Meeting have been very well attended. There were 2 this year and there may be more than 2 this year, especially during the Summer of 2012;
- (ii) Leifur Eiriksson Dinner: Doug reported it was great success. The 2012 dinner has not yet been scheduled;
- (iii) Thorrablot: Also a success. The next one is scheduled for February 11, 2012 at Knights of Columbus in Bloomington;
- (iv) Jolabarnaball: Sadly, last year’s event had to be cancelled owing to very inclement weather. Maddy reported that the next one will be on December 4. We are expecting at least 150 people; everything is under control for that event;
- (v) Independence Day Picnic; Was held last year at Bryant Lake Park and will be held at the same place next Summer;
- (vi) Schwan's soccer tournament: Schwan's is anticipating a team from Iceland this year. Chris provided some remarks regarding this event. He pointed out that this is a huge

opportunity for our group. We have done it for 2 years now and we need to start building bridges between American and Icelandic kids at this event. It is a great opportunity to involve more people. It is important to bring our kids in to appreciate their heritage.

6. INL report (Chris (representative for MN and ND)):

- (i) Chris started out by saying that many Icelandic clubs ask: With an INL membership, what's in it for me? Some examples of the benefits of INL membership include:
 - (a) Coordination of visits by and opportunities to meet Icelanders coming to MN;
 - (b) Being able to access information readily about the volcanoes;
 - (c) Bringing in Matts Wibe Lund, who supplied farm photographs;
 - (d) Next Summer, we will have Icelandic musicians coming through;
 - (e) An INL virtual club is starting up;
 - (f) The Annual Meeting, which is being held next year in Brandon, Manitoba;
 - (g) INL is providing us several movies a year for our viewing enjoyment.

7. Update on web page: Harvey has done fantastic job. He loves to get pictures, so please send those, along with ideas, to him. Claire pointed out that our webpage is really a gift from INL; Our head webmaster is Holly Ralph, whereas Harvey is a sub web-master.

8. Honorary members update: We no longer require someone to be at least 90 to qualify to be an honorary member;

9. Fundraising update: We are supporting quite a few different funds out there and we certainly hope people will make donations. The Guttormsson family fund has been a major development. Steve, on behalf of his foundation, will give 2 scholarships to those selected for the Snorri + program. We need to do some serious fundraising, as the Bill Holm fund will be ending shortly. Dr. Arnar pointed out that University of Minnesota, who manages the Val Bjornson scholarship fund, has done a wonderful job managing that investment. IAAMN should think about helping to sustaining the Val Bjornson fund. Stony suggested that we think about \$200 to \$500 contributions to scholarships.

10. Skype project update: We are recruiting students beginning in junior high. The goal is to help Icelandic kids to learn English;

11. Snorri West update: Icelandic students will coming here, then will travel around MN, ND and Manitoba. They will begin their trip in MN shortly after July 4, then on to Fargo. There will be two weeks in MN and two weeks in Manitoba + a few days in ND. This is to be educational, not just recreational;

12. Claire announced that we will continue pursuing the option of attaining 503C (non-profit) status for IAAMN;

13. We are exploring locations to house Icelandic books that are currently located in Minnesota. Several university libraries, including SCSU, are being considered;

14. The Hekla Club has started to coordinate and sponsor Icelandic classes. They had their first session on November 16, with an impressive attendance. The hope is to have two meetings a month and the next session will be in January at 50th and France;

15. Stony updated the membership that the Nordic breakfast will be the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The reservation deadline has passed, but we can still take people. There will be an IAAMN table here.

16. Claire announced that there are plans for monthly Icelandic gatherings, which will include Icelandic lessons. These gatherings are for all families, including kids, who are interested in Iceland and want to learn about its traditions and languages. You do not need to know the Icelandic language to participate in these; come one, come all!

17. There being no further business, Claire declared the meeting over and thanked everyone for attending. On behalf of the Board, officers, and membership, Stony recognized Claire for her hard work and dedication to IAAMN and thanked her for her service as President over the preceding year.

17. The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY ÖRN BÖÐVARSSON.