

**Minutes of the 2022 Illinois Geographical Society Executive Council Meeting
Sheraton – Lisle, IL**

April 28, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 8:20 PM by President Stacey Brown-Amilian.

Members present: Judy Bock, Stacey Brown-Amilian, Dean Butzow, Mike Cornebise, Brent Crain, Nick Goodwin, Susan Holderread, John Kostelnick, Carmen Masó, Larry Resutko, Ani Smith, Jill Thomas, and Deanna Wist

Approval of minutes from previous Executive Council Meeting via Zoom:

Minutes from the Executive Council Meeting of April 30th, 2021, on Zoom were reviewed. **(Mike Cornebise motioned, Jill Thomas seconded, Passed unanimously)**

2021 Annual Meeting Report (Goodwin)

Nick Goodwin provided a handout for final numbers from the 2021 Annual Meeting held virtually via Zoom. Nick explained he visited Indiana with Len Ealey in April 2019 preparing for a 2020 meeting in Vincennes, which ultimately ended up with no meeting in 2020 and thus a virtual meeting via Zoom in 2021. The 2021 Zoom meeting was a success, as 32 people attended including 3 retirees, 18 regular members, 3 keynote speakers and 11 students. The keynote speakers included Megan Compton, Geographic Information Officer of Indiana, Philip Bernard of Frontier Geospatial out of Evansville, Indiana, and David Clark who presented on Route 66. Len wanted to mention that there was no fee for students during the 2021 meeting. Furthermore, the ability to use Zoom was not an expense IGS had to pay for the meeting. Jill Thomas mentioned that she was able to provide Nick with a flash drive containing the presentations from the 2021 meeting. Carmen stated it was on her agenda to add keynote videos to the IGS website. Jill added that she is planning to create an outline organized by session to go along with the presentations.

2022 Annual Meeting Discussion (Masó)

Carmen Masó gave insight into the Friday field trip in DuPage County, indicating 21 people were planned for the fieldtrip, down from previous years. The lower number of fieldtrip attendees provided more flexibility in terms of timing. This year's banquet included 7 student awardees and 46 total attendees. The paper and poster session had 42 people registered to attend. In terms of funding to IGS, \$500 was received from the Society of Women Geographers (SWG) and \$150 was received from the Geographic Society of Chicago (GSC). The SWG money was used for the field trip, registration for SWG members, and for the Student Poster contest. The poster awards were for \$200 for first place and \$150 for second place. Carmen suggested the idea of IGS having a poster contest every year. This year's banquet keynote address will be oriented around the Forest Preserve & Gentlemen's farms from Friday's field trip. The Saturday luncheon keynote is on Chicago's suburban history.

Future Annual Meeting Discussion (Masó)

The IGS website states that the 2023 field trip will be in Effingham. Stacey Brown-Amilian offered the idea of using Springfield and Jill Thomas offered to take a look at the IGS map to see where previous meetings have been held. Other options discussed included Effingham and Decatur. Effingham has not been an IGS meeting location before, however, Dean volunteered to help plan the trip and mentioned that Springfield could serve as a good site as it includes the Lincoln Memorial Gardens, bird banding, and the Lincoln Museum. Stacey suggested coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce and asked if Dean

would be willing plan the trip. Jill pointed out that south of Joliet to Bloomington there is a big gap in IGS field trips. Nick suggested considering a trip to Indiana in the future. Susan commented on the possibility of an energy themed trip to southeastern Illinois involving solar, wind, coal, etc. In terms of dates, Jill alluded to holding the annual meeting a week earlier to allow for more people to attend. With Saturday the 22nd of April being Earth Day, she believed that was a good weekend for bird banding. All meeting attendees agreed on the tentative plan for Springfield being the 2023 meeting location.

Illinois Geographer Report (Thomas)

Jill gave a thank you to Judy on her help with the most recent issue of the *Illinois Geographer*. Jill also reported that she is needing to look through the mailing list and check a few things. The newsletter has been emailed to everyone, and the physical letter is only going to members who do not have their email associated with IGS. Mike Sublett and Jill's goal is to have one student paper published in each issue of the *Illinois Geographer*. Stacey, Carmen, and Jill all discussed the template on the IGS website being quite helpful for authors. Older editions of the *Illinois Geographer* can be accessed through the Milner Library at ISU. Jill can also send out PDFs of any of the journals. Carmen plans to create a mailing list as well as an excel file that can be used for mailing out the *Illinois Geographer*.

Community College Student Awards:

Dean spoke about 3 community college awardees being honored at the banquet. One of which is from Lincoln Land CC, and the other two being from Marine Valley Community College. Dawn is coming to present the awards to her students and is bringing a photographer. Dawn is retiring and the geography program is being cut from Marine Valley Community College. One of Dawn's students asked for permission to livestream the ceremony, and Stacey granted the permission. Dean also offered to show a PowerPoint at the banquet to honor Dawn. The Womack Award was briefly discussed as an award given to a 2-year community college student that is going on to study geography at four-year university.

4-Year Student Awards (Cornebise)

Mike Cornebise gave a report that this year's banquet will celebrate 12 student awards, as 2 departments happened to nominate 2 excellent students. Originally, 8 students stated they were coming to attend, then 2 of them backed out, now, only 6 students will be attending. Mike and Stacey expressed concerns about video recording at the banquet, and that it could potentially reduce the significance of the event. The council agreed that at this time there will be no livestreaming of the event. Mike reported he had a PowerPoint presentation with slides for each student awardee to show at the banquet. It was also announced that all student awardees will get a one-year membership to IGS.

Treasurer Report (Holderread)

Susan Holderread gave a Treasurer's report and noted that a bank account was finally opened at the end of October. She noted that IGS received a check with all the money that came from Len in Pekin but is still waiting on all the paper materials from Len. There is roughly a \$30,000 balance in the bank, and that they took a hit from an early withdraw penalty. Current bills include funding the *Illinois Geographer* prints, mailing, etc. Susan is planning to further utilize Excel to improve tracking, budgeting, and expenses. The council gave special recognition to Larry Resutko and Len for all their service to the treasury. Susan announced IGS is in search for new auditors, ideally from the Chicago area. The auditing committee looks over the books, ensuring checking looks good, and share their insights with one another. Carmen declined to become an auditor, and the idea of Ty Liles being added to the auditing committee was raised.

IGA Report (Kostelnick)

John Kostelnick reported on a few key accomplishments from the IGA. He spoke about a summer workshop dealing with story maps, where 25 people attended consisting mostly of geography teachers. John also spoke about a conference on Geography Education in the 21st Century that was held in November. This conference was done virtually the last couple of years but was held at ISU prior to that. It is likely this conference will remain virtual for the foreseeable future. John also mentioned doing another summer workshop this year for K-12 teachers interested in ArcGIS Story Maps. IGA is also providing a giant traveling 14' x 21' map of Illinois. The question of ArcGIS and SOPA (Student Online Privacy & Protection Act) compliance came up. Judy Bock noted she was adding SOPA compliance and ArcGIS to her to do list. John also spoke on IGA not officially announcing a K-12 geography teacher stipend. In order to receive the stipend, a K-12 teacher must integrate geography that ties to geography standards. After approval by IGS, this stipend will be given to a teacher. After the teacher is done creating a lesson, it will be put on the website. Kostelnick further spoke about IGA developing virtual lessons either through story maps, field trips, or similar means. Ani Smith pushed for more 4th graders to have more capabilities to do virtual field trips across the state. Kostelnick suggested hiring ISU students to put story maps or virtual field trip types of material together for IGA. John Kostelnick mentioned that he and Norm Moline are going to have a fieldtrip in May with 12 or so attendees in Chicago.

Central Office Report (Masó)

Carmen Masó reported that there was 1 grant application for the school year, and that it is a University of Illinois Student presenting at the Saturday meeting. Jill commented that she is needing to reach out since the student needs to publish in the Illinois Geographer. Carmen announced that IGS currently has 133 members, and that the membership map needs updating, as IGS currently has 3 members from other countries, and members from 4-5 other states. She would like for the membership map to be more interactive as well. A few other considerations mentioned include bringing the cost of the Illinois Geographer from \$8 to \$10, increasing the price of the annual meeting if an attendee registers less than 2 weeks prior to the meeting, and adding additional online fees. Susan Holderread agreed with the proposed changes. **Stacey Brown-Amilian called for a motion on creating a tiered cost system based on timing of registration. Carmen motioned, and Mike Cornebise seconded (Passed Unanimously). Stacey Brown-Amilian called for a motion for adding a convenience fee for any purchases made online. Carmen motioned, Deanna seconded (Passed Unanimously).**

Other Business

Stacey Brown-Amilian offered the idea of creating a short biography of all IGS board members as well as a short biography of student award recipients. She thought the IGS website could also include fun photos of things across the State of Illinois. Mike Cornebise mentioned that Mike Sublett wanted to bring up the idea of increasing the amount of money we offer each year for research grants. He also mentioned an anonymous member wishing to award 3, (up to) \$1,000 research grants each year. Jill brought up the need to increase IGS membership numbers, and Larry Resutko requested a list of all IGS members. Carmen Masó would like to do a half day field trip event at Mapping America's Journeys (Opened in February) on a weekday at some point in June. Nick spoke about ILGISA having a regional meeting on Tuesday May 17th in Chicago. The annual conference for ILGISA is in Bloomington-Normal this October 16th-18th.

Slate of Officers

2-Year College Member ('23) – Dean Butzow

4-Year College Member ('23) – Mike Cornebise

Applied Geographer (Appointment) – Joe Kubal

Central Office Director – Carmen Masó (continuing)

Editor (Appointment) – Jill Thomas

Elementary Rep (Appointment) – Ani Smith

Elementary Rep – Secondary Member (Appointment) – Deanna Wiist

ILGISA Rep (Appointment) – Judy Bock

Secretary ('24) – Brent Crain

President ('23) – Stacey Brown-Amilian

Treasurer ('25) – Susan Holderread

Retired Geographer ('23) – Larry Resutko

Vice President ('23) – Nick Goodwin

Motion to approve the slate of officers called by Stacey Brown-Amilian. Mike motioned; Judy seconded.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Stacey Brown-Amilian. Meeting adjourned at 10:31 PM.