

DIPLOMACY REVIEW

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It's been longer than I'd hoped for since I spoke with you last and I'm not going to give you a bunch of excuses as to the reason. Excuses mean little, action does, so here's some action. To start this thing off I'll begin with a general idea of what's going on here in the IDA-NA.

I am the most familiar with myself so that's where I'll begin. The first item that's on my agenda has been to set up the "election" procedures for the upcoming "elections". I've purposely put the word election in quotes because I don't believe that election is the correct word. Actually what it is is a selection of volunteers for different jobs and since I could find no word that fit with volunteers I'll stick with the word elections. "A rose by any other name..." What I have come up with for the elections is this: In this issue I will be asking for volunteers to sign up for each office. As for nominations, they will be accepted too. But after a person has been nominated I will be in contact with them to find out if they really wish to run for the office. It is our hope to have each office filled by a person that WANTS the JOB and not just the "title". In volume four I will be publishing the names of those who have volunteered or are nominated with their preference. Volume five will contain the "speeches" by each of the people vying for the offices. These speeches should be of reasonable length. 500 words would be ample but I'm not going to sit and count each word. Too long then you will be required to shorten it but I really would worry about it. Also in Vol 5 will be the official ballot. Volume six will have the names of the newly elected officers and possibly an acceptance speech. (something you can hold them too.)

Secondly I am attempting to come up with a re-write of the Publishers handbook. Hopefully a little more up to date than the one out now. I am, though, totally ignorant of ditto reproduction. I need some of you who are familiar with this reproduction process to write a chapter on how to do it best (hints on technique, shortcuts, general procedure, etc.) I really need your aide.

Craig Reges (Special Projects Editor) is putting together a Novice Package. This is to tie in with the handbook that Rod Walker is producing for the IDA and with the Novice zine that Andy Cook is coordinating. The package will contain a listing of commonly used abbreviations and their meanings, a letter on dealings with the publisher (finding a zine, writing orders, disputes, etc.), a listing of current game openings, an article on variants, of course a letter on the IDA-NA and some other things that my blurring little mind forgot. (Your memory is one of the second things to go when you get to be my age.) But all in all it should prove to be a nice concise package that the novice, and the "vet" as well, should find useful. Craig is shooting to have the final draft done in mid-September and available for distribution by the end of September.

Along with the census Andy Cook is working on a novice zine. As to just who will run and GM this zine, well that is still up in the air as of this writing. It is hoped that it will start in conjunction with the novice package.

Bill Young has taken over the Treasury and if you are wishing to renew your dues you should send your two dollars to him. Bill's address is: PO Box 907 Clearfield, PA 16830. Bill, enclosed with this issue you will find a listing of current members. Please keep me updated on new members.. This is important for you must be a current member to be eligible to vote in the upcoming election.

That should be a round idea of what's doing. Contrary to popular belief we are doing something.

Offices For the Upcoming Election.

President of the IDA-NA (currently Bob Hartwig) This office requires an individual with a strong back and a weak mind. Not really, I'm just giving Bob a hard time. Though there is a lot of truth there. The President has to be of strong will and able to withstand the frontal of the obuse. The newly elected officers always start off the year with grand ideas of what will be done and along about August those ideas which should be a reality are becoming nothing more than yesterdays pipedreams. It is up to the President to keep the enthusiasum at a high ebb and try to keep the council together to act as a unit. The President puts out a letter called Council Courier. It is mailed to the officers so it is no imperative that one have access to printing machines only the availibility of a xerox is needed. The weak mind comes into play because there are a lot of people that find nothing better to do than slander those in charge of the IDA. Try all you might to do the best job possible and somebody will find fault. Speak your thoughts and someone will call you a fool. As President if you say that sex is fun, someone will try to argue it. (I'd like to see that argument!) It comes with the territory and all you can do is to grin and bear it. In summation the President does the least and handle the most. It's like the ribbon on a package, its there for ornamentation but without it the package falls apart.

Ombudsman (currently Dav Bunke) The primary function of the Ombudsman is to try and figure out how you pronounce it. Actrally the Ombudsman is second in line to the President. He needs to be knowledgable of the rules to Diplomacy and willing to make judgements over player disputes with the GM. He will also handle some of the little odd jobs of the IDA-NA but primarily his main job is to act as the Supreme Court of the hobby.

Treasurer (currently Bill Young) The Treasurer of the IDA-NA is no different than any other treasurer of any other organization. He accepts the dues, sends out a reply to the new member acknowledging the receipt of his dues and transfers the names of the new members and renewals of current members to the Periodicals Editor.

Periodicals Editor (currently Jerry Jones) This requires a person that is a glutton for punishment. The Editor must publish Diplomacy Review six times a year. It is preferable but not manditory that the Periodicals Editor also be a publisher of a Diplomacy zine. This is because it will mean that he will have access to a printing medium. Anyone is eligable but be sure that you have the means to print 100+ issues at a minimum of expence. May I also suggest that the PE be a publisher that does not publish a zine with a frequency rate of three weeks or less. This has proven to be a large burden on my already over-taxed machines, (and my own personal stamina.)

US and Canadian Representatives (currently Andy Cook and Calvin White respectively) These people are the go-betweens between the council and the members of the IDA-NA. They are the ones that should be written to when you have an idea on the future of the IDA-NA. All that is needed to hold this office is a massive amount of energy and the willingness to take the bull by the horns and push to get things done. He also must live in the homeland that he is representing.

Special Projects Editor (currently Craig Reges) If you are creative and you are capable of producing something with little proding then this could be the office for you. The SPE is required to come up with one major project for the year (novice package, handbooks, whatever). This person may be just the most important member of the council. It is he that will put something tangible out that the Diplomacy community will see. The other members are not so directly involve with the players as much as the SPE. The track record for each council at the end of the year is based on what they put out for the public to see. It is that for which the SPE is primarily responsible.

That is the offices in a nutshell. It goes deeper than that though. If you feel that you would like to run for one of these posts or that you know of someone that would do an outstanding job than contact me Jerry Jones (1854 Wagner St. Pasadena, CA 91107) by Sept. 3rd.

From Bob Hartwig:

Well, here I am again. Jerry should have most of the news concerning elections, the Novice Project, the Constitution and a change in you Special Project. My additions:

Please send all dues to our new Treasurer--Bill Young. Jerry has his address elsewhere. I'm sure Bill will do an excellent job.

I will stand for reelection only if nominated by someone else. If I believe that someone else will do a better job, I will decline the nomination.

Our big news is that we have almost finalized a contract with Mr. Rod Walker of Diplomacy World. He will be producing a supplement to Avalon Hill's Guide to Diplomacy. The Guide is geared toward newcomers, the supplement will put some added emphasis on postal play, but will still be useful to everyone.

Which brings me to my next point. The IDA has never discouraged non-postal members. We welcome and encourage any Diplomacy player to become a member.

And that's the way it is, Tuesday, July 11th, 1978. This is Bob Hartwig with IDA News, Good Night.

From Craig Reges:

Just a short report on the Novice Package that I am drawing together. The project is moving along better than I expected, several parts completed already but I am still in need of quite a few things. It will be helpful if all publishers can keep me informed about what kind of game openings they have at relatively frequent intervals. This will help them all to fill their games and boost their circulation so that we can build up the hobby. And, of course, suggestion for things that we may have slipped up on and have forgotten are always welcome. Try and think back to when you were a novice. What questions did you have? The other members of the council have been very helpful, pointing out such things as a list of abbreviations, etc, but other suggestions will be more than welcome. Try and get some input from the readership, will you? ((Maybe--JHJ))

From Jerry Jones:

I wanted to write this letter and add some notes from me to you on what I am thinking about about the IDA-NA today and tomorrow.

First I wish to thank those of you who have again taken the time to comment on DR. I appreciate your comments. I hope that whomever assumes this post of PE will use my term as a starting point and build upon it. I am not totally pleased with all that DR has been. It sometimes is too formal and is a drag to do. Make it something that the people will enjoy reading and look forward to. If all of this sounds as though that I am not going to run again for PE than you are correct in your thinking. I think that new blood is important to maintain the quality that should be expected from the official journal of the IDN.

As for the future of the IDA I think that there are a few things that I would like to see get done. Hopefully some of these things could be done this year and some of these things will never get done for I may be in the minority in my thinking, but here goes.

I would like to see the CDO and the IDA come together a little closer. The CDO is an outstanding organization and it is being run extremely well and we might be able to take a few lessons from them. I don't think that it would be wise for the two of us to unite and become one but rather to be two houses with common walls. Perhaps instead of having a Canadian Representative we should have a CDO Rep and them us. I don't feel that with the work that the CDO is doing that there is an outcry of work for the Canadian Rep to do.

I would also like to see the IDA control some non-voting posts under the direction of the IDA. One would be an Orphans Project (or Disbanded Games Director, whatever). There will always be zines folding and I for one am not too happy with the "speed" that they are being assumed. There is room for a variants Director. The IDA should not overlood this field of Diplomacy for some regular Diplomacy players actively prefer to the play of variants and the IDA needs to provide for them as well as the regular players. ((I has

been brought to my attention, since I wrote this letter, that the IDA is seeking a Variant Director. If you are interested contact myself today.) A perminate Novice Project Director should be required. He would keep the Novice Package, maintain the game openings listings, oversee the Novice zine, and be able to answer any questions that may be directed towards him as the NPD. I would like to suggest that Craig Reges take this post. He is directly involved with the Package right now and it would be logical for him to maintain it.

My final idea is probably the most drastic. It will probably meet with the most objections but it is my opinion and you are entitled to yours. I would like to see the Boardman Numbers Custodian fall under the IDA-NA. Nothing would change but at least the BNC would have someplace to turn to when he is having problems and the IDA would be held accountable for his actions so that if the job isn't getting done you would have some body to voice your displeasure to and then maybe the problem might be alliviated. Also when the BNC decides to step down the IDA Council (along with the BNC) could make a selection as to his replacement. I feel that independent workers are fine but lets assume that something unforeseen happens to the BNC I am not sure that there is a provision for the numbers to be transferred automatically and just who would decide as to whom the new custodian would be?

Each of these jobs that I have proposed would be jobs unto themselves and the ultimate responsibility of the completion would lie in the individual (as it is now) but if the activity were not being performed or if the individual decided that enough is enough and he choses to "sneak" out in the night without saying goodbye at least there would be the availibility to see that these posts were re-staffed.

Actually this proposal is not as rigid as I'd like to see but we should start somewhere and I'd rather back down a little and have it at least throught through then to have it dismissed as the ramblings of a madman.

Memberships Which Lapse With This Issue:

Joe Bacon, R. Trevor Baillie, Don Bosh, Laurence Cozzie, Dave Ditter, Thomas Gould, Frank Cunliffe, CAL WHITE!! Robert Stimmel.

Total current membership: 71.

The Getting Down On Ones Knees Department:

As you have read earlier the IDA is doing something. Whether or not it is what you've hoped for it is a start and for it to continue it will require one more thing, money. The Novice project will be a money losing project. The Publisher's Handbook will be lucky to stay even due to the cost of printing it in limited quantities for the few that would require such a handbook. The census may or may not make money. All that remains is Rod Walker's Handbook and dues. I am not asking those of you that are publishers to blindly endorse the IDA-NA but I am ~~ASKING~~ pleading that you please announce that we are attempting to revive the IDA into a sound operation and that we require the support (you spell support...\$2 dues) of all Diplomacy players. Thanx.

DipCon: DipCon was held this year in Northridge, CA. It was the first time that it was held on the West Coast. It was nice to met some of the people that until now were just names on letters. Bob Hartwig, Andy Cook and myself were there to represent the Council. Also on hand were Walt Buchanan, Rod Walker, Robert Bryan Lipton, Doug Beyerlein, Dave Ditter, David Hard, Eric Verheiden and Tom Sherwood representing members of the IDA-NA. It was good to see them and I wouldn't have changed anything (except portions of the tournament, but enough is being said on that without my going into it again here). As for next yeass DipCon it will be held at (in this order): 1. Origins (if in the East) 2. MichiCon, 3. PennCon, 3. Origins (regardless of location). I have since learned that Origins will be held in conjunction with PennCon so that is where it will be this year. I am glad. I think that DipCon should always be with Origins regardless of locale. I would like to see it remain with Origins for it is the premier function. But I am in the minority, so be it.

Minutes of the last Meeting?!

The Novice Project is in the final stage of organization. The choice of whom will run the novice zine and the organization of the package is remaining.

The IDA-NA is asking for someone to run the Novice Project.

The IDA-NA is asking for someone to run the Variant Project.

((I guess I heard it somewhere before.))

The Council wants to receive a financial statement from the BNC before raising the subsidy.

Bill: 78.26 Would assign Bill Young to the Treasury. (In debate July 29, 1978)

Bill 78.24 Assigns Craig Reges as the Special Projects Editor (Passed 6-0)

Bill 78.25 To authorize awards at DipCon for outstanding zines, publishers, etc.) (Withdrawn due to limited amount of time prior to Convention)

Bill 78.22 To subsidize BNC (Still in debate awaiting statement from BNC--July 29, 1978)

Fred Davis is the official representative of the IDA-NA on the Diplomacy Variant Commission.

Ron Kelly has decided not to do a History of Postal Diplomacy. (Anyone interested?)

Bills introduced:

78.27 To authorize Ron Brown to start the IDA-NA Novice Zine.

78.28 To authorize Matt Roswurm to start the IDA-NA Novice zine.

(Both zines would be protected by the IDA-NA.

78.29 Authorizes the site of DipCon to be rotated each year through the Eastern, Central and Western regions.

Eastern Region: All Atlantic Seaboard States plus Vermont, Ohio W. Virginia,,D.C., and the Canadian Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

Central Region: Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, N. & S. Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and all states in between plus the Canadian Province of Manitoba.

Western Region: Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and all states West, plus the Canadian Provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

78.30 Requests that FTF players and PBM players be separated on the first round of future DipCon tournaments.

78.31 Authorizes the contract with Rod Walker to produce the "Guide to Postal Diplomacy".

Of course I realize that these are not Minutes in the true sense of the word but then neither are our meetings but I think that you get the idea as to what's going on.

So to finalize what's been asked:

1. Can you write something for the Publisher's Handbook on ditto?
2. Are you interested in becoming the Variants or Novice Director?
3. Can you add any ideas to the Novice Package?
4. Do you wish to run for a seat on the Council or do you wish to nominate someone?
(by Sept. 3rd)

See you the middle of September.

THANX.