

The organizational meeting of the Executive Board was held on August 15, 1999 at the conclusion of the Delegates' meeting at which election results were certified, as required by the USCF Bylaws. The following officers were elected: President: Bob Smith; Vice-President: John McCrary; Vice-President of Finance: Jim Pechac; Secretary: Doris Barry.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD
MONDAY AUGUST 16, 1999 9:09 am
1999 DELEGATES
RENO, NEVADA

President Smith welcomed everyone attending the proceedings. After routine matters were discussed, he would call for their questions and comments.

Roll Call was taken; all members of the Executive Board and the Executive Director were present.

MOTION EB-00-01 (Warren) (T-1)
Mike Nolan is appointed parliamentarian. Passed 8-0

MOTION EB-00-02 (Scott)(T-6)
Move that Tim Just remain registered agent in the state of Illinois. Passed 8-0

Discussion followed on the use of objections procedures by e-mail or a chat room.

Motion EB-00-03 (Redman-McCrary) (T 7-15)
The board takes formal action in its meetings, through the objections procedure, or by conference call. E-mail may be used to implement the objections procedure.
(Ref: PB-85-4) Any "executive"(Amendment-McCrary) board member or the executive director may propose a motion to the rest of the board, and if there is no objection within a stated time (usually two weeks) then that motion or procedure, is deemed to be adopted. An objection could be lodged on procedural grounds (objecting to the use of this procedure on this item) indicating that more discussion is needed or on substantive grounds (objecting to what is being proposed rather than to how it is being proposed). The person making the objection can later withdraw it.
(Amendment-Redman) Passed 8-0

Motion EB-00-04 (McCrary-Redman) (T-16)
Resolved that expense reimbursements for executive board members and the executive director must be approved by the vice-president for finance. Except that expense reimbursements for the vice-president for finance must be approved by the president. All travel expenses other than board meetings or delegates meetings must be approved by the full executive board. Passed 8-0

Motion EB-00-05 (Redman-McCrary) (T18-20)
The board adopts the preexisting travel and expense reimbursement policy. (Binfos 94-357 & 357+). The procedures for expense reimbursement shall be developed by the vice-president of finance. Passed 8-0

Discussion followed on the procedure for travel arrangements. Each board member makes his\her own travel arrangements. He suggested checking airline websites for best rate.

Motion EB-00-06 (Warren) (T-29-30)
Move to accept (Binfo PB 93-273)"Executive" (Amended Redman) Board discussions shall be held in open session except that closed sessions may be held to discuss legal or personnel matters. Closed sessions may also be held to discuss other matters but only after a general statement of the subject matter and the reason for the closed discussion. All board votes shall be in open session. Passed 8-0

Executive Director Report (T-32-43)
Mike Cavallo reported on the finances, Internet, and other matters.

The financials for June, completed in August, show the net income on consolidated 48k plus compared to the same month a year ago 52k minus, a swing of 100k for the month. Operations does not show that big a difference, 7k plus compared to 50k minus. Preliminary figures from the July audit (not circulated until they became official) indicate a favorable comparison to the prior year. Cost cutting the end of the last fiscal year resulted in an advantage this year. A Olympiad was not held, resulting in a 65k plus savings.

The World Championship expected to be a boon for chess, is difficult to evaluate until the final results. Publicity was disappointing, partly because of the uncertainty of the timing and the possibility that an injunction by Grandmaster Karpov could have canceled the event. Reporter from Associated Press covered the opening ceremony; stringer did daily reports; press releases made on a daily basis. Very good Internet presence by FIDE; the USCF website had commentary by Grandmaster Michael Rohde; the ICC site allowed comments from the floor.

On-Line Chess

Advertising fell off almost 50k last year but back cover was signed up at 32k for 12months. Long term solution is generating our Internet presence. Simulcast championship games generate interest. Open tournaments played on the Internet should be considered, if resources are available. Web pages on scholastic tournaments would be of interest. A strategy for our Internet presence should be determined in terms of want to do and what can we do. USCF Internet presence should be an over-the-board chess presence, participating with all the major players. Internet business gives medium returns and large risks because of changes in technology and competition. Taking advantage of the market we offer and the value of our rating system, provides freedom to negotiate various non-exclusive deals. The "perimeter" of use of USCF ratings was sold to Interplay. The contract expires March 31st, 2000 when we have the freedom to use our rating system on the Internet.

Books and Equipment

USCF has success as an online store. Sales continue to grow, representing 10 percent of sales--about 24k per month, double last years 12k per month. USCF is still a catalog direct marketer.

Website

Jade River developed the site and has now suggested that we consider an in-house webmaster or someone better able to handle our particular demands

New Computer System

ED repeated the report given in preliminary meetings. Project was started over 20 months ago. Progress was disappointing resulting in a change of vendors. The new vendor expects to get the first stage, including membership, book and equipment business, warehousing and purchasing up and running in six weeks. The accounting package is complete but unusable until various aspects fit into it. Later stages would cover the rating system and TLA'S. We're now looking for a vendor for stage two.

Roger Johnson-OH, reported that AOL is the largest online provider with paid for play games area that the USCF doesn't get much out of. ED explained that was a result of Interplay contract signed in 1993 and amended in 1996 to cover online play. The contract was renegotiated for a non-exclusive agreement but the connection still held. Interplay gave the contract to Engage, a spin off online company. Interplay has been taken over by Titus, a French software company and royalties have been slow in coming. Engage is going bankrupt and may be sold to some past employees, meaning that they would have to pick up some past obligations to USCF. Roger Johnson remarked that it appears that the USCF is held captive by a third party, preventing direct negotiation with AOL. He questioned our relationship with Microsoft gaming area that gets the most hits in the world. What are we getting from that or how are we benefiting or utilizing that?

Mike explained that links have been exchanged but they're after a different segment of chess. USCF is very attractive to a place like ICC, the real core of serious chess players. Microsoft is attractive to us and we might find a way to be attractive to them. They're going after a very different market.

George John (TX) suggested looking at net meeting technology capability. It furnishes the advantage of a written transcript, useful if a board member is missing or to review discussion. What were the hits on the website for the FIDE Championship?

Recess at 10:09 am to 10:22am

Discussion followed on selection of liaisons to the various committees.(T-45,51-68)

Committee-Board Liaison
Bylaws-Smith
Chess in Education-Redman
Chess Journalist of America-Ippolito
Club Development-Barry
College Chess-Scott-12/31/99
Computer Rating Agency-Pechac
Correspondence-Warren
Cramer Awards-Warren
Arnold Denker CH-Ippolito
Ethics-Warren
Events-Warren
Fast Chess-Scott
Fide Advisory-McCrary
FIDE Delegate and Zonal President-Redman
Finance-Pechac
Grants-Redman
Grandmaster Affairs-Redman
Hall of Fame-McCrary
Health, Social and Prevention Organization-McCrary
Historians-McCrary
Internet-Barry
Life Membership Fund-Pechac
Master Affairs & Dev.-Warren
Organizers-Barry
Olympics Part Task Force-Ippolito
OMOV, Delegate Committee-Barry
Outreach-McCrary
Prison-Warren
Publications-Redman
Ratings-McCrary
Scholastic-Ippolito
Senior-Scott
States-Smith
TDCC-Redman
U.S. Championship-Smith
US Chess Trust-McCrary
Women's-Barry

Motion EB-00-07(Warren)(T-44-68) Move to accept the Board liaison assignments as listed. Passed 8-0

Motion EB-00-08(Redman)(T-67-72)The Board creates two subcommittees:

Internet---Barry, Ippolito, Cavallo

Strategic Planning---Cavallo, Pechac, McCrary, Redman. Passed 8-0

Board Action Items

1.Synchroniation of the website and ratings will be reviewed. No report from previous Board.
Action-McCrary will submit a report by October 1.

2. Internet partnerships will be examined. Mike Cavallo prefers non-exclusive arrangements.

Motion EB-00-09(Redman)T-76 Refer Internet Partnership to ED and remove from action list. Passed 8-0

3. Investigate possibility of Online membership.

Action-Redman and Barry will report on October 1 with details from Pechac report.

4. All members will establish AOL address's (PB-98-52.) George John offered information on Net meeting that would address our technology needs. Action-item deleted

Board Member/Office Executive Director Action Items.

A five-year plan will be developed focusing on USCF needs and goals.

Action-Referred to long range strategic planning. Delete from action items

Garrett Scott and Beatriz Marinello will examine the concept of a scholastic rule book that is simpler and easier to use Action-Resolution at scholastic meeting in the winter.

New item - Develop the fifth edition of Rules of Chess in CD or loose leaf form. Consideration to combine the scholastic and rule book projects. Action-Report by Redman in midwinter.

Methods will be developed to correct sandbagging problems caused by inaccurate ratings or extraordinary rating fluctuations. Action-McCrary will investigate and report on October 1.

Prepare and distribute updated bidding procedures. New regulations were offered unacceptable to some. Action- Ippolito and Scott will resolve within the next two meetings.

Executive Director/Office Action Items

A survey is to be prepared. Action-Redman and McCrary will give input by October 1.

The executive director will examine the format and cycle of USCF Championship.

Action-Recommendations by Cavallo, Smith and Redman October 1.

Upgrade of Office Computer System.

Action-six week deadline for implementation, October 1. Board stressed it must be done; no delays; no excuses. Computer professionals within the chess community namely George John, Richard Koepcke, and Al Losoff have volunteered their assistance.

Young Adult Membership Classes-Discussion on difficulty of retaining memberships from elementary to junior high and college. Pilot program creating a bridge and network will be initiated in Texas for four year college membership. Matches will be played in the National Internet Collegiate League. Redman suggested a reduced membership program for military team membership.

Action-Pechac suggested that Mike Nolan's data and measurement will be used to evaluate the promotion membership.

Motion EB-00-10 Scott (T109)

Move that the action items discussed be adopted by the board. Passed 8-0

Report by Chess Life Editor, Glenn Peterson: Magazine is being cut another sixteen pages. Separating the TLA processing fees from the rating fees has worked out. Splitting Chess Life into two different publications not economically feasible. Redman suggested an Internet expanded version of the magazine. McCrary suggested adding articles pertaining to International matters or printing both sides of an issue. Editor is guided by the results of a 1990 survey that indicated politics were to be kept out of the

magazine. Warren commented that the exposition of opinion is as integral a part of magazine as a tournament report or a coverage of an event. Many issues in the federation invite opinion. The inclusion of that material is a vital component of a first rate magazine.

Meeting Opened to Discussion and Questions from Audience.

Larry Evans NV discussed the possibility of using arbitration to resolve lawsuits quickly; would get us out of courts and reduce legal expenses.

Steve Shutt PA; joined the USCF in college because it had a chess organization. He expressed the need to get more people involved, providing a strong support group. Holding collegiate championship with national recognition will encourage more people to become organizers and coaches. Students will respond and sign up as members.

Beatriz Marinello NY: Bottom line here is to make chess more attractive. The scholastic program provides a support system while they are being initiated into the game. When they reach a certain level at about 1000-1400, they need other settings for play. One site is the Internet.

Steve Kamp-AZ. Asked if the NCAA has ever been contacted?

Sam Sloan NY Charged Helen Warren had a conflict of interest in postal chess and the ethics committee. She responded that APCT makes no profit. Recusal on the ethics committee was predicated on being a candidate for office; however, the committee was formed before the deadline for filing. Garrett Scott IL and Joe Ippolito NJ spoke in support of Warren's position.

George John-TX Proposed a volunteer outreach program to provide professional assistance to the office.

Ken Horne-NV 97-63 dealing with taking surveys at tournaments hasn't been followed.

Lunch Break 12:18 Reconvened 1:44p.m.

Joe Ippolito NJ suggested that call for volunteers be put in survey and Chess Life. George John TX suggested that the website would be best and that volunteers contact an executive board member directly. Mike Cavallo commented that the volunteers would have to be screened to determine their qualifications.

Al Woolum TX asked about honorary board members to assist in fund raising, share their expertise and prestige. Mike Cavallo responded that USCF fund raising tends to be from the chess community and not the general public.

Ken Horne NV ADM 99-24 Requested funding for booths at AARP convention that would provide opportunities for new memberships and volunteers. Referred as an action item to outreach. Action-November 1.

Note: Ken Horne was killed in a plane crash while returning to his home in Las Vegas. Ken was a valued and devoted volunteer. He worked unselfishly for the benefit of the USCF. He will be sorely missed.

Bob Holliman-(MO) ADM 99-57. The USCF shall develop a survey for the purpose of determining the availability and willingness of masters to assist local clubs in gaining publicity. Referred back to committee

Ken Horne NV ADM99-69 Move that the USCF have a members only section of the USCF website to include the current issue of Chess Life, School Mates and ratings data. Action-Referred to strategic planning subcommittee.

Beatriz Marinello NY: The ratings site has a great potential for promotion of the USCF.

Sunil Weeramantry NY discussed the problem of untimely rating reports and the fact that the rating is being used for qualification purposes. Rating reports submitted by disk are processed faster by about two to three weeks. Ernest Schlich, technical director, explained in detail the procedures and the problems resulting from incorrect information, misspelling, etc. in tournament results. The present system is inefficient and labor intensive. It all comes down to getting the computer system functioning and the ability to prioritize the system. Suggestion by Tim Redman TX to charge more for written submissions. Myron Lieberman AZ suggested submitting reports by e-mail. Further discussion followed on the reasons that would not solve the problems. Beatriz Marinello NY requested that she be involved with the development and implementation of the ratings system. Al Woolum TX suggested that setting up affiliate accounts would solve a lot of problems. Mike Cavallo agreed. It was important that the office notify Td's when an error is made.

Open Session Recessed at 3:45pm Open Session resumed at 4:08pm

The following motions, discussed in closed session, were approved in open session

Motion EB 00-11 The Board affirms the employment of DeConcini, McDonald, Yetwin & Lacy, Professional Corporation of Attorneys at Law, to handle the litigation of the Peterson matter. Passed 8-0

Motion EB-00-12 Resolved that all previous Board motions stating or implying term limits for committee chairmen are abolished. Passed 8-0

Motion EB-00-13 That the Board affirms the appointment of committee chairmen to be appended separately.

Rachel Lieberman AZ is awarded the title of Director of Prevention Program. Passed 8-0

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:08 PM

The following members attended the open sessions of the Board meeting.

Sunil Weeramantry, NY
George John, TX
Harry Sabine, TN
Ken Horne, NV
Myron Lieberman, AZ
Kenneth Sloan, AL
Glenn Petersen, NJ
Al Woolum, TX
Peter Nixon, MI
Ernest Schlich, NY
Denis Barry, AZ
Beatriz Marinello, NY
Steven Kamp, AZ
Hal Terrie, NH
Richard Koepcke, N. CAL
Roger Gottschall, IO
Mike Nietman, WI
Guy Hoffman, WI
Joan DuBois, NY
Jon Malev, TX
Heather Weygant, NY
Tim Just, IL
Ira Riddle, PA

Steve Shutt, PA
Rachel Lieberman, AZ
Don Schultz, FL
Larry Evans, NV
Sam Sloan, NY
Tom Fineberg, IL
Luis Salinas, TX

Submitted by Doris L. Barry