

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Executive Board Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, October 8, 2024

1. **Purpose.** This document captures the minutes of the Executive Board (EB) Meeting held via Zoom on the subject date. All times listed are Eastern U.S.
2. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** President Kevin Pryor called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM. Executive Director Ranae Bartlett recorded the meeting using Zoom.
 - a. President Pryor called the roll and the following board members responded:
 - Kevin Pryor (FL), President
 - John Fernandez (MO), Vice President
 - Chuck Unruh (OK), Vice President (VP) for Finance
 - Mike Hoffpauir (VA), Secretary
 - Randy Bauer (IA), Member-at-Large (not present for Roll Call)
 - David Hater (GA), Member-at-Large
 - Lakshmana (Vish) Viswanath (TX), Member-at-Large
 - Leila D’Aquin (LA), Member-at-Large (missed Roll Call, but joined at 8:06 PM)
 - Ranae Bartlett, Executive Director
 - b. President Pryor asked the board members whether anyone has a new conflict of interest to disclose. There were none.
3. **Financial Update.** VP Finance Unruh reported that US Chess’s cash flow is diminished and restricted due to the large payout (about \$187,000 remains to be paid) to Rosen Shingle Creek as part of settling all Pan American Youth (PAY) debts. This is coupled with our financial obligations to LeaGo as we upgrade our IT capabilities. US Chess will meet these obligations which then puts us on the path to recovering from the impacts of the PAY and enabling us to fulfill our mission. Lessening the impact is the fact that the organization has realized about \$450,000 in savings since the start of the fiscal year due to unfilled staff positions. Donations and investments account for 27.5% of our income, with most of these monies being part of restricted funds that are available only for specific non-operational purposes. The Executive Board served US Chess well when it created the “rainy day fund” several years ago to see the organization through unanticipated difficulties like the PAY.

Looking forward, we expect membership revenue to rise as we begin the new calendar year due to the across-the-board increase in membership fees approved by the Delegates at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Norfolk. It is a sign of good news that the hotel for the K12 Grade Nationals (Dec 6-8) in National Harbor, MD, has already sold out. We also received a nice donation recently of \$201,000 which has helped us this past quarter.

Executive Director Ranae Bartlett reported that membership numbers are holding steady at about 112,000 members and we are well-positioned to complete our payments to Rosen Shingle Creek (for the PAY) and to LeaGo (the company upgrading our Ratings Server).

President Pryor asked if any EB members had questions about US Chess finances, and there were none.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Executive Board Open Meeting, October 8, 2024

4. The Executive Board went into Closed Session at 8:10 PM and reconvened in Open Session at 10 PM. There were no motions emerging from the closed meeting. President Pryor praised the US Open team (Silver Medal) and the US Women’s team (Bronze Medal) for their outstanding achievements and fighting spirit—both as a team and as individuals—in the recent Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary. He congratulated India on their “double-Gold” performance. President Pryor noted that the U.S. was represented well at the FIDE General Assembly (GA) and he was proud at how the U.S. helped defeat motions on the floor at the GA to remove the sanctions from Russia and Belarus. Former US Chess President Allen Priest was elected as Chief of FIDE’s Verification Commission (oversees FIDE financial activities) and current EB member-at-large David Hater was re-elected to FIDE’s Ethics and Disciplinary Commission (performs functions like the US Chess Ethics Committee). President Pryor also thanked our CCA Zonal President Allen Priest for his advice and assistance throughout the meeting.
5. With no further business to conduct, the Executive Board moved to adjourn at 10:03 PM.

Prepared by: Mike Hoffpauir, EB Secretary