

ACTIONS BETWEEN MEETINGS

The Policy Board and Executive Director Michael Cavallo met by teleconference on February 27, 1997. The meeting took place from 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. The purpose of the teleconference was to discuss legal and personnel issues.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 03/97 POLICY BOARD MEETING

The Policy Board held its winter meeting in Monrovia, California, on the weekend of March 15 and 16, 1997. The Board would like to express its thanks to the Southern California Chess Federation and the guests who visited the meeting, including Sharon Burtman, Mike Carr, Jerry Hanken, Richard Koepcke, Myron Lieberman, Paul Shannon, Joe Wagner, and Carolyn Withgitt.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1997

OPENING - PRESIDENT

President Donald Schultz opened the meeting at 8:50 AM on Saturday, March 15, 1997. His opening remarks included a welcome and a request that Board members stick to issues.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Michael Cavallo stated that at this time his major concerns are finances, legal issues, and USCF's internet presence. He stated that he is actively working on sponsorships. Saitek has withdrawn from their sponsorship of School Mates; however, Mike Cavallo stated that they may be interested in other sponsorships. He is working with Interplay, Excalibur, Novag and other sponsors.

Promotion of the Kasparov-Deep Blue match in Chess Life was discussed. A pre match issue and a post match issue are planned. A special Chess Life issue was also discussed. The idea would be to have eleven dated issues and a special issue which would not be dated.

Mike Cavallo stated that Editor Glenn Petersen has done a good job building up newsstand sales, and that there is a need for news to be timed properly. It might be to our advantage to have Chess Life issues be released on the month for which they are dated. This could start with the June issue. Deadlines would be moved two weeks earlier. The Executive Director also pointed out that Scholastic Director Beatriz Marinello has made many improvements to School Mates.

Mike Cavallo stated that he had an extremely productive meeting with Garry Kasparov. Mr. Kasparov wants to be involved with USCF, and in particular, with children. Special thanks go to Carol Jarecki for her role in arranging the meeting.

Contributions to the Patron Program are being sought.

TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments were discussed. Due to the fact that the US Junior Championship and FIDE World Junior Championship are in conflict with each other this year, the USCF will select both of its representatives to the 1997 FIDE World Junior Championship by rating formula.

The following motion was introduced:

PB 97-73 (Dorsch): Pete Nixon and the Michigan Chess Association are awarded the option for the 1998 US Amateur Championship North. PASSED 7-0
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Vice President Bill Goichberg discussed bidding deadlines. He suggested that two dates be listed. One is the final deadline and the other an earlier date past which bids could be accepted. An organization with an option still has to present an acceptable bid. This proposal was referred to the Events Committee.

INTERNET DISCUSSION

Executive Director Michael Cavallo stated that his top priorities for the website are to prepare it for the Kasparov-Deep Blue match, revamp the catalog, and establish online ordering. He has met with Interplay regarding coverage of the Kasparov-Deep Blue match. He stated that a Grandmaster would be asked to do the simulcast.

Other website concerns were discussed. For this year it is impractical to hire a separate Web Editor because the additional position would increase the deficit. Outdated TLAs will be removed from the website. The top priority remains coverage of the match. Chess content on the website helps attract new members. "Chess Life Online" has been added and has become a popular feature. It offers news and games much more quickly than can be done in print.

A break was called at 10:22 AM. The meeting resumed at 10:40 AM.

POLICY BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE REPORT

The Board accepted the recommendation of the Hall of Fame Committee to propose Kenneth Harkness for induction into the Hall of Fame. The following motion was proposed:

PB 97-74 (Lieberman): The Policy Board endorses and forwards to the US Chess Trust the recommendation of the Hall of Fame Committee to induct Kenneth Harkness into the US Chess Hall of Fame. PASSED 7-0

POLICY BOARD NOMINATIONS

Secretary Rachel Lieberman reviewed the status of nominations received to date. Please Note: At the time of the meeting, Garrett Scott (IL) was the only candidate certified to run for the Policy Board Member-At-Large position that is being vacated by Robert Ferguson. Three other candidates have filed by the deadline and have been certified. They are: John Blackstone (NV), Gary Prince (NJ), and Sam Sloan (NY).

OUTREACH STATUS REPORT

Rachel Lieberman gave an Outreach status report. The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has committed to partner with the USCF in using chess as a tool for prevention. CDC representatives plan to come for a two day visit to New York. The first day (Friday, June 6) will be spent observing chess programs in the New York City schools. The second day (Saturday, June 7) will be spent at the CHESSathon. The CDC has indicated that it will use chess in some of its prevention programs and has requested a workshop at the CHESSathon regarding how to start a chess club and run tournaments. In addition, the CDC has supplied the Secretary with the names of other foundations and organizations that might benefit from involvement with chess. Rachel Lieberman and Mike Cavallo will work together to develop those leads. Please contact the Secretary if you are interested in volunteering time at an agency in your area.

Member-At-Large Robert Ferguson discussed his outreach effort with the National Education Association (NEA). Over 3000 responses were received from the article that appeared recently in NEA Today. Special thanks go to the office staff who worked on this project. The Board discussed the possibility of a booth at the upcoming NEA convention. Last year 1200 teachers visited the USCF booth. The goal is to make USCF visible. Bob Ferguson and Mike Cavallo will work together on NEA options. They will also look at the possibility of a listing in the Internet Yellow pages.

SUPERNATIONALS

The concept of a traveling torch from New Windsor or Washington, DC to Knoxville, Tennessee, was discussed. It was felt that there was not enough time and money to properly organize this project. At present several Board members are planning to attend the Supernationals.

PUBLICATION OF LISTS

Secretary Rachel Lieberman requested that lists regularly maintained by the Secretary be given to the Secretary for review prior to being published. The office and the Secretary will work together to implement this as a procedure.

ACTION ITEMS

Rachel Lieberman presented a list that she compiled in order to assist the Board in tracking action items: Some items were resolved during the meeting.

DATE	ITEM	STATUS	TARGET
8/96	A coupon will be placed in <u>Chess Life</u> asking members if they are interested in voting. A subcommittee will oversee the results.	The Board developed OMOV motions to submit to the Delegates in lieu of placing a coupon in <u>Chess Life</u> . These motions were also sent to Woody Harris and the Blue Ribbon Committee for report back to the Board with recommendations.	Ongoing. Please Note: These motions were referred to the Bylaws Committee at the 3/97 meeting.
	An Executive Employee review subcommittee is formed	Chair was Fan Adams. Members were: Tom Dorsch & Jim Eade.	Disbanded. Refer to Committee list.
	A subcommittee will rewrite the qualifications for the World Youth Championship	Bill Goichberg & Robert Ferguson worked with Sunil Weeramantry. Garrett Scott reviewed wording.	Completed
	A financial study by profit center will be made.	Fan Adams did the study and reported to the Board.	Completed
	The Vice President will meet with the Ratings Committee and report back to the Board re the Bonus System	The Vice President presented a report that included recommendations re the bonus system. Work is still in progress.	Ongoing
	A subcommittee is formed to study the concept of a National Mixed Doubles Tournament and report back to the Board.	A report was given to the Board by the subcommittee (Bill Goichberg and Jim Eade)	Members are asked to try "Doubles" and provide input.
	The concept of making every Policy Board member a liaison to five RVPs is to be studied.	The Regions and States Committee has been given this task.	A report is forthcoming.
	<u>Chess Life</u> Magazine will publish an explanation of the rating system. Top 50 lists for girls under 16 and under 13 will be published.	The need for regular publication of a ratings explanation and top fifty lists was reconfirmed at the 3/97 meeting.	Ongoing
	The full text of the Nevada decision will be published in <u>Chess Life</u> .	See 11/96 issue	Completed
	Chess columns should be placed in magazines such as <u>Modern Maturity</u> and <u>Weekly Reader</u> .	The office is working with <u>Weekly Reader</u> . The Outreach Subcommittee will work with <u>Modern Maturity</u>	Ongoing
	Committee liaisons will notify Chairs of any specific tasks referred to their committees.		Ongoing
	A subcommittee is formed to examine the bonus schedule of the former Executive Director. Members were Jim Eade and Tom Dorsch	A report was given. Five motions arose. The subcommittee was disbanded.	Completed
	A subcommittee is formed to examine allegations made by ex-employees. Chair: Jim Eade; member: Rachel Lieberman	Jim Eade interviewed one ex-employee. John McCrary followed up.	Completed. Subcommittee was disbanded.
11/96	Fan Adams will place ads in publications re the Executive Director position.	Ads were placed. A new Executive Director was hired and is in place.	Completed.
DATE	ITEM	STATUS	TARGET
	An Online Transition task force chaired by Bill Goichberg will provide feedback to Interplay.	This task force was replaced by the Strategic Internet Task Force, which was disbanded.	The Executive Director has met with Interplay.

	The Monthly Data report form will be revised.	This task was given to the Finance Committee.	A report is forthcoming.
	Procedures for the Computer Rating Agency will be reviewed and revised as necessary.	The Treasurer examined this issue and submitted a report.	Completed
	Treasurer Tom Dorsch is to make recommendations about the Professional Players' Health and Benefit Fund.	Mike Cavallo was given authority to invest the fund and examine legal issues related to the fund.	Ongoing
	Jim Eade and Bill Goichberg will consult with staff about TLA problems	TLAs were discussed at the 3/97 meeting.	Ongoing
	A Volunteer of the Month and USCF Player of the Month will be named.	This program has been implemented.	Ongoing.
	An Outreach subcommittee is named. Chair: Rachel Lieberman; Member: Bob Ferguson	An outreach status report was given at the 3/97 meeting.	Ongoing
	An All Star University Chess Team will be named by the College Chess Committee to promote university chess.	The Committee liaison will report back to the Board.	
	The April issue of <u>Chess Life</u> could be sold on the newsstands as a kit.	Ways to increase visibility for <u>Chess Life</u> were discussed.	Ongoing
	The expenses for the US Championship and US Women's Championship will be exactly the same in 1997 as 1996. A report is forthcoming...	Eric Johnson provided information to bidders.	Completed
	Bob Ferguson will work with George Filippone re the Scholastic Director position.	The Scholastic Director has been hired.	Completed
	The Tournament Administrator program will be examined by the Computer Internet Committee.	The committee is working on this task and seeking input from programmers and developers.	A report is forthcoming
	A Staff Compensation subcommittee is created.	Chair: Jim Eade; Members: Fan Adams and Rachel Lieberman	Disbanded. Refer to committee list.
	An Events Committee is created.	Alan Benjamin is Chair; Bill Goichberg is PB liaison. Members were named.	Ongoing
	Mark Graffeo will be brought into the office as a consultant. He will make recommendations.	A report has been submitted.	Completed
	The Scholastic Committee will arrange an event for the children at Meadows School in Nevada	May target date planned. Event to take place at a bookstore.	
	A President's letter or Board letter will be sent to staff.	The President sent a letter to staff	Completed
	Tom Dorsch and Fan Adams will negotiate a termination agreement with George Filippone.	The new Executive Director is concluding arrangements.	
	Fan Adams and Harold Winston will compose a verification letter to be signed by prospective employees.	The employment application has been re-designed.	Completed
DATE	ITEM	STATUS	TARGET
	Tom Dorsch and Jim Eade will write an employment application.	The employment application has been re-designed	Completed

	The Board and Executive Director are committed to the website and to coverage of the Kasparov Deep Blue match.	Positive contacts with Garry Kasparov and the Deep Blue team have been established.	Ongoing
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MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Robert Ferguson stated that he feels membership forms should be re-designed to include phone numbers and email addresses. The office will examine this proposal. The concept of adding a box to provide the option of a donation to USCF was also discussed.

CHESS TRUST

The Chess Trust was discussed. There was a recent meeting in Florida. Some Board members felt that the Trust should do its own administrative work. Mike Cavallo and Bob Ferguson will look into issues relating to the Chess Trust.

The Board recommended Jim Oberweis (IL) to fill the vacancy created by Steve Doyle's resignation.

A break was called at 11:56 AM. The Board went into closed session at 12:15 PM.

CLOSED SESSION

The purpose of the closed session was a legal review. The following motion came out of closed session.

PB 97-75 (Board): The case of Lorenzo Fernandez is referred to the Ethics Committee for review. PASSED 7-0
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The meeting resumed in open session at 1:40 PM. Policy Board member items for discussion were continued.

COMPUTER RATING AGENCY (CRA)

The Board expressed an interest in the history of the CRA. Mike Cavallo and Rachel Lieberman will examine this and report back to the Board. The following motion was proposed:

PB 97-76 (Lieberman): The Policy Board rescinds the restructuring of the Computer Rating Agency that took place in November, and refers the matter of the CRA to the office. PASSED 7-0

SCHOLASTIC AND YOUTH DUES

Executive Director Michael Cavallo recommended that scholastic dues be raised to \$12.00 per year. He stated that scholastic members are getting increased benefits. A new Scholastic Director, Beatriz Marinello, is on board, and there have been many improvements to School Mates. Youth memberships could increase to \$18.00 per year, with discounts for multi-year memberships, but not necessarily in 1997. Youth memberships would apply to those sixteen years of age and older. Under this system School Mates would be available for those under sixteen years of age.

OFFICE MANAGEMENT REPORTS

Member-At-Large Jim Eade introduced the concept of Office Management reports. He stated that this will help the Board perform its oversight function. He asked that criteria be established.

Jim Eade also advocated for a Variance Analysis on the Monthly Data Report and a regular personnel report. Management by mutually agreed upon objectives was discussed. The Board will discuss objectives at the May meeting. In addition, Michael Cavallo and Jim Eade will develop a draft list of objectives for the Executive Director. This list will be reviewed at the May meeting.

MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes approval process was discussed. The following motion was introduced:

PB 97-77 (Eade): Board members will copy one another on all suggested substantive changes to the draft minutes. PASSED 7-0
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CHESS LIFE BUDGET

The Chess Life budget was discussed. A color printer might be purchased in a break-even year. Executive Director Michael Cavallo has considered hiring a commissioned salesperson to find ads for School Mates and Chess Life. The concept of a magazine for non-players was also discussed.

1999 US OPEN

President Donald Schultz introduced the topic of the 1999 US Open bid. The event is scheduled to take place in Reno, Nevada. The current plan is a nine day event, running from Tuesday through the following Thursday. An accelerated schedule was discussed. Member-At-Large Jim Eade will be the Board Liaison to this event and will work with Eric Johnson.

Jerry Hanken, representing the Southern California Chess Federation, pointed out that the Los Angeles bid will be available through the end of 1997, beginning of 1998 time frame.

1997 US CHAMPIONSHIP

As of this writing, the site for the 1997 US Championship is being considered by the US Championship Committee. Florida and Arizona are the two sites being considered. Treasurer Tom Dorsch stated that we need to make timely decisions in these matters, otherwise it is hard on professional players. Michael Cavallo stated that notification to players will be immediate.

Bidding deadlines will be reviewed by appropriate committees. The US Championship Committee will review US Championship bidding deadlines and the Scholastic Committee will review scholastic deadlines.

PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS' HEALTH AND BENEFIT FUND

The Professional Players' Health and Benefit Fund contains approximately \$60,000.00. The following motion was proposed:

PB 97-78 (Adams): Mike Cavallo will invest the Professional Players' Health and Benefit Fund and investigate the legal issues associated with the fund. PASSED 7-0
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Vice President Bill Goichberg introduced the concept of a Petite Prix. Tournaments would contribute fifty cents per player to the Health and Benefit fund. Bill Goichberg and Mike Cavallo will look into implementation with a January, 1998 target date. This would be a separate program from the existing Grand Prix.

A break was called at 3:26 PM. The meeting resumed at 3:42 PM.

RATING ISSUES

Vice President Bill Goichberg proposed that the Life Title system be replaced by a Life Rating system as follows:

1. Each established player has a current rating and a life rating. The current rating measures present ability; the life rating reflects lifetime achievement.
2. Each player is assigned his or her current rating, rounded up to the next highest number which ends in zero, as an initial life rating.
3. Life titles based on norms are no longer tabulated. Players who have achieved sufficient life titles obtain credit towards initial life ratings as follows: Counting norm points as 10 points each, each title is translated into an equivalent number (Life 2000 with 7 norm points equals 2070, etc.) If the equivalent number is above the current rating, the initial life rating is the average of the current rating and the equivalent number, rounded up to the next higher number ending in zero.
4. Each time a tournament of at least four games is rated, two calculations are made for each player. One is the current rating, calculated as at present. The other is the life rating calculated identically, except using the player's old life rating as the pre-tournament rating.

5. All life ratings end in zero. If the life rating calculation results in a number ending in another digit, that digit is lowered to a zero.
6. Life ratings never drop. If the life rating calculation shows a decrease, the life rating is unchanged.
7. A current rating cannot be above that player's life rating. If a current rating goes above a life rating (which could happen in an event of under four rounds), the life rating becomes the current raised to the next higher number ending in zero.
8. To avoid confusion between current and life ratings and to save space on labels and in rating supplements, the zero at the end of each life rating can be dropped, therefore a player with current 1657, Life 1820 would look like this on the rating supplement: 1657*182.

Note A: This proposal creates a series of plateaus, such as 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, etc., (or 180, 181, 182, 183). These are designed to make life points harder to earn.

Note B: Life points are not available in events of under four games for the same reason - to avoid having them too easy to earn. For instance, it would be undesirable if a player needed only to win in a one round team match to gain life points.

Note C: This proposal has a major advantage over simply using each player's highest current rating ever achieved. With the latter system, a player who is below lifetime peak strength due to advancing age has virtually no chance to achieve a new peak, but would still have a real chance to improve a life rating.

The following motions were proposed:

PB 97-79 (Goichberg): The matter of Lifetime Ratings, as proposed by Bill Goichberg, is referred to the Ratings Committee. PASSED 7-0

PB 97-80 (Goichberg): \$1,000.00 floors are limited to prizes for Under 2000 and below only. PASSED 7-0

PB 97-81 (Goichberg): The Southern California Chess Federation is awarded a three year option to organize the US Amateur Team West for the years 1998, 1999, and 2000. PASSED 7-0

PROPOSALS OF THE MASTER AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Jerry Hanken (CA/S) addressed the Board. The following motions, endorsed by the Master Affairs and Development Committee and sponsored by Bill Goichberg, were proposed and passed unanimously:

PB 97-82 (Goichberg): Life Masters who achieved or achieve their title the original way, by playing 300 games at the Master level, shall have a 2200 rating floor. PASSED 7-0

PB 97-83 (Goichberg): The title of Life Master or above shall not be awarded unless the player achieves a published Master rating. PASSED 7-0

PB 97-84 (Goichberg): All Life Masters who earned or earn their titles the original way by playing 300 games at the Master level, shall have their names published in the Chess Life yearbook. PASSED 7-0

PB 97-85 (Goichberg): Players who earned or earn their titles by playing 300 games at the Master level shall henceforth be known by the title "Original Life Master" (OLM). PASSED 7-0

PB 97-86 (Goichberg): Master Class prizes shall be awarded Grand Prix points at the same rate as qualifying Open prizes, provided such Master Class prizes do not exceed twenty-five percent of the total qualifying Grand Prix prize money. PASSED 7-0

DOUBLES

Vice President Bill Goichberg reported on the input he has received regarding Doubles. For the most part players wanted to switch more frequently than was originally proposed. He stated that he will try Doubles at the World Open and US Open, with partners switching every four moves (one side or the other switches every two moves.).

QUICK CHESS GRAND PRIX

Bill Goichberg also stated that he will examine the rules for Quick Chess Grand Prix points and discuss this item at the next meeting.

NATIONAL CHESS LEAGUE

Jim Eade and Bill Goichberg will have a proposal for the National Chess League and present it at the next meeting.

PUBLICATION OF TOP FIFTY LISTS AND RATING SYSTEM EXPLANATION

Top fifty lists for girls and an explanation of the rating system will be published in Chess Life and School Mates on a regular basis.

ONE MEMBER ONE VOTE (OMOV)

The OMOV proposal that was submitted to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Governance was referred to the Bylaws Committee for report back to the Board by the May meeting.

PERSONNEL ISSUES

The Board discussed the question of whether the Executive Director should be copied on Board criticism. President Donald Schultz encouraged Board members to deal directly with Executive Director Michael Cavallo. Most Board members felt that the Executive Director should be copied on Board criticism.

METRO COMMITTEE TASK

Vice President Bill Goichberg asked for the advice of the Board regarding his proposal for dividing the country into districts based on zip codes. He stated that the advantages would be to hold district championships and to bring chess into areas that are not currently active. Bill Goichberg will bring a proposal to the Board at the next meeting.

A break was called at 5:25 PM. The meeting resumed at 5:40 PM.

STAFF PROPOSAL ON FINANCES

Executive Director Michael Cavallo gave a report on USCF finances. He stated that he wrote off \$80,000.00 in February, and still broke even for the month. The parachute for the former Executive Director has been expensed.

The Executive Director stated that online ordering and development of sponsorships are top priorities. He has written an appeal for donations to the Patron Program of the Chess Trust. At the annual meeting he will propose raising Scholastic dues by \$2.00 per year so that we don't continue to lose money on this category. In addition, he stated that there should be a charge for scholastic ratings, even if submitted on disk.

Expenses were reviewed. Travel and administrative expenses will be cut each year. Overtime has been cut. Some temporary positions have been eliminated.

Mike Cavallo stated that \$50,000.00 has been paid off on the line of credit. He has considered asking to borrow up to \$300,000.00 for two months from the LMA, but may not need to do so. Note: An additional \$100,000.00 has been paid off on the line of credit since the meeting.

AOL CHATS AND INTERNET PHONE

The Board considered the concept of AOL chats on an experimental basis (The advantage would be an immediate transcript of the meeting), and Internet Phone (no need to be slowed down by typing). Either or both of these tools could be an economical alternative to conference calls. The matter was taken under advisement.

The meeting was recessed at 6:11 PM.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 1997

President Donald Schultz called the meeting to order at 8:57 AM on Sunday, March 16, 1997.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Tom Dorsch covered the following items:

- The USCF should stock the Saitek clock. Some Board members felt this is an office decision. Michael Cavallo stated that he will make the determination and communicate his decision to the Board.
- A copy of the Executive Director's medical exam will be sent to the Treasurer.
- Spectators should not be reimbursed their expenses.
- The Executive Director will prepare the 1997-98 budget and cash flow projections. These will be sent to the Treasurer two weeks prior to the May meeting.
- Executive Director Michael Cavallo will look into removal of the "For Sale" sign at the building.
- The Executive Director will look into implementation of a 401K plan for employees.
- The Treasurer will inspect the site of the 1998 Hawaii US Championship bid. Deadline for bids to be received for the 1998 US Championship was moved to May 15, 1997.

In addition, the following motions were introduced during the Treasurer's report:

PB 97-87 (Dorsch): The Chairman of the Grants Committee is given authority to spend up to \$5,000.00 to hire a grant writer and prepare grant proposals. PASSED 7-0

PB 97-88 (Dorsch): The Treasurer will submit a list of items he requires to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will supply those materials in a timely manner. PASSED 7-0

PB 97-89 (Dorsch): The Policy Board apologizes to Mr. Steve Doyle (NJ) for any misunderstandings surrounding his recent offers to help in the transition period and thanks him for his many hours of devotion to USCF. PASSED 7-0

PB 97-90 (Eade): The Policy Board accepts with regret Mr. Doyle's resignation from the following committees: Events, FIDE Advisory, Finance, and Hall of Fame, and thanks him for his outstanding services. PASSED 7-0

PB 97-91 (Dorsch): The Policy Board thanks Jim Pechac and his team of Leroy Dubeck and Tony Cottell for their exceptional contribution during our current fiscal crisis, and thanks them for the quantity and quality of their work. PASSED 7-0

PB 97-92 (Dorsch): Funding for the 1998 US Master's is continued at the same level of \$10,000.00. Helen and Jim Warren are thanked for their outstanding contributions to chess. PASSED 7-0

A break was called at 10:06 AM. The meeting resumed at 10:21 AM.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PLAN

Executive Director Michael Cavallo resumed the financial discussion that had been started on Saturday. He reviewed the report of Jim Pechac and his team. He recommended that inventory be built up for the Supernationals and National Open.

Other measures were discussed. Carry over on vacations will be limited. A building survey will be done. Mike Cavallo stated that he is considering a change in accountant firms. The Informant liability and professional fees have been problems that are being addressed.

The Executive Director stated that his first priority for office improvements would be to upgrade the phone system. The second priority is to upgrade the computer system. The following motion was proposed:

PB 97-93 (Dorsch): The Executive Director is authorized to take whatever steps are necessary to upgrade our phone system and computer system with all due speed and periodically report back to the Board. PASSED 7-0

Jim Eade will be Board Liaison to Mike Cavallo on this project.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Board reviewed the report presented by the Membership Growth Committee. The committee presented several ideas for membership growth, including media spots and ads in books, magazines, etc. A survey is planned. The Board expressed its thanks for the report.

PB 97-94 (Lieberman): The Policy Board accepts the report of the Membership Growth Committee and thanks them for their work. PASSED 7-0

A break was called at 11:18 AM.

QUESTION AND ANSWER FORUM

The meeting resumed at 11:55 AM with a Question and Answer forum. Spectators had the right to offer suggestions and ask questions. Topics discussed included TLAs and the Tournament Administrator program. TLAs could be received online. The Computer/Internet Committee wants to upgrade the DOS versions and create Windows and Mac versions of TA or a successor program. The committee is looking for volunteer help. It was also brought out that the office should encourage new Tournament Directors and should train staff to back each other up when needed. Training seminars were encouraged. Cross promotion of USCF with other organizations was also encouraged.

A break was called at 12:55. The meeting resumed in closed session at 1:21PM. Two motions came out of closed session.

SUSPENSIONS

PB 97-95 (Board): The Policy Board recommends suspension of the following individuals:
Duane Andress, PA; Pricilla Bratcher, AL; Rodney Christophore, MI; Neil Doherty, MA; Kyle Fong, TN; Robert Gouge, MS; Israel Garcia, MA; Travis Haslip, MO; Mark Andre Havrilla, CA; William Nolan, NJ; Jaime Pesquera, PR; Morris Price, FL; Todd Siegel, PA; Carlos Sims, TN; Karmen Sneed, GA; Christopher Wiseman, TX PASSED 7-0

RECONFIRMATION OF RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR MINORS

PB 97-96 (Board): The Policy Board reconfirms the following:
Immediately upon arrival in the United States and enrollment in school, a foreign player is eligible to play for the United States. If they subsequently play for another country, a one year residency requirement is imposed. A residency requirement longer than one year has never existed for Junior events. PASSED 7-0

The next Policy Board meeting will be held Friday, May 30 - Sunday June 1, 1997, in New Windsor, New York.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.