

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Executive Board Open Meeting, Tuesday, February 13, 2024

1. Purpose. This document captures the minutes of the Executive Board (EB) Open Session Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.
2. President Randy Bauer called the meeting to order at 8:06 pm Eastern time and Interim Executive Director (IED) Ranae Bartlett started the Zoom recording.
 - a. He called the roll and the following EB members were present:
 - Randy Bauer (IA), President
 - Kevin Pryor (FL), Vice President
 - Chuck Unruh (OK), Vice President (VP) for Finance
 - Mike Hoffpauir (VA), Secretary
 - David Hater (GA), Member-at-Large
 - John Fernandez (MO), Member-at-Large
 - Lakshmana (Vish) Viswanath (TX), Member-at-Large
 - Leila D'Aquin (LA), Member-at-Large
 - Ranae Bartlett, Interim Executive Director
3. President Bauer asked the members present whether they had any new conflicts of interest to disclose. There were none.
4. VP Chuck Unruh provided a very positive financial update to the Board. He began by noting that membership revenue was up 8.3% in January, which when coupled with donations, points toward a current budget surplus of nearly \$1 million. He added that upcoming expenses to upgrade the US Chess Rating System will reduce the surplus, but that this was in our forecast. Bauer observed that this is good news because it puts the organization in position to end the fiscal year with a strong surplus.
5. The Executive Board went into Closed Session at 8:14 pm.
6. The EB reconvened in Open Session at 9:26 pm Eastern Time. There were four (4) motions that emerged from the Closed Session.
 - a. **EB24-050 - BOARD:** The Executive Board moves to deny the appeal of GM Timur Gareyev, US Chess ID 13262157, which he filed in response to Executive Board motions passed on December 3, 2023 (EB24-029), to permanently ban him from US Chess membership under the authority of Article III, Section 12 of the US Chess Bylaws, and to recommend that FIDE deregister him from the USA federation. US Chess will notify GM Gareyev in writing of this denial and inform him of his right to appeal the Executive Board's decision to the Board of Delegates at the next Annual Meeting in early August 2024.
Motion Passed 8-0.
 - b. **EB24-051 – BOARD:** The Executive Board moves to update and approve the assignment of the Bank of America account ownership and related matters for the US Chess Federation

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by revising the signatories to its accounts with Bank of America as follows: 1) to remove the existing signatories Randy Bauer, Chuck Unruh, Carol Meyer, and Korey Kormick; and, 2) to replace them with Randy Bauer, Chuck Unruh, Korey Kormick, and Ranae Bartlett as new signatories.

Motion Passed 8-0.

- c. **EB24-052 – BOARD:** The Executive Board moves to update and approve the assignment of the Regions Bank account ownership and related matters for the US Chess Federation by revising the signatories to its accounts with Regions Bank as follows: 1) to remove the existing signatories Christine Green, Carol Lenhardt, and Korey Kormick; and 2) to replace them with Christine Green, Korey Kormick, and Ranae Bartlett as new signatories.

Motion Passed 8-0.

- d. **EB24-053 – BOARD:** The Executive Board moves to approve the firm of Assurance Dimensions for the next three fiscal years to provide audit and tax filing services beginning with fiscal year 2023-24. The motion is based on a recommendation from the Financial Committee that reviewed and interviewed various audit firms in response to an earlier Request for Proposal.

Motion Passed 8-0.

7. With no further business to conduct the Executive Board adjourned at 9:48 pm.

Prepared by: Mike Hoffpauir, EB Secretary