

## **USCF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, NOV. 05-06, 2005, CROSSVILLE, TN**

**SATURDAY, November 5, 2005**

The meeting was called to order in open session by President Bill Goichberg at 9:00 AM.

Present were Executive Director Bill Hall, President Bill Goichberg, Vice President Don Schultz, VP for Finance Joel Channing, and Board Members Beatriz Marinello and Greg Shahade. Secretary Robert Tanner was not present at the time. He arrived at 9:37 AM.

Also present for at least a portion of the meeting were Ron Burnett, Joan DuBois, Brana Giancristofaro, Pat Knight, Myron Lieberman, Rachel Lieberman, Dan Lucas, Judy Misner, Jerry Nash, Judy Pearson, Harry Sabine, Allen Snow, Jorge Vega, and Ray West

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Goichberg distributed membership summaries and expressed concern over memberships and tournament attendance. He suggested that we may want to think of lowering dues, although not necessarily now. That might result in a loss of money in the first year and a break even in the second year, but be beneficial over the long term.

The Task Force of Greg Shahade, Michael Khodarkovsky, and Bill Goichberg corresponded via e-mail regarding the Kasparov Chess Federation (KCF) sponsorship offer for the Olympiads, which cedes substantial control to KCF. They sent John Donaldson an e-mail when they came to an agreement so that it could be presented to the players. John Donaldson contacted Yasser Seirawan. Both were against changing the formula for qualification, which would be a part of the agreement. They particularly objected to changing the influence of FIDE ratings in the calculation. Much of the desire to change stems from Hikaru Nakamura not qualifying for the Olympiad under the current system. The issue will be discussed later in the meeting.

Brana Giancristofaro made a presentation of the Mon Roi tournament move recorder system. It can record up to 50 games at a time. All moves are entered into a database and can be retrieved by all players and the arbiter. There are separate versions for the players and the arbiter. The arbiter can receive messages to document games that should be watched or for confirmation of claim situations. The system has been certified by FIDE and endorsed by Garry Kasparov and Susan Polgar. USCF would get 2% of sales in exchange for putting a link to them on the website. The product includes a device (currently a PDA), a cover, and a USB cable. President Goichberg suggested that Mon Roi work with Bill Hall on this.

Cumberland County Mayor Brock Hill arrived and was introduced to the Board.

### **VP OF FINANCE REPORT**

VP OF FINANCE Joel Channing indicated that commercial insurance coverage has been reviewed by his agent and was found to be good. Policies that were reviewed are based on NY policies. Bill Hall has developed new policies for TN that will save substantial money. Changes will be made at the time the current policies expire.

He expressed displeasure with the Director's and Officer's (D&O) insurance, but was optimistic that when the time comes for renewal we will be pleased.

Jorge Vega arrived at 9:45 AM and Beatriz Marinello introduced him to the Board.

A detailed report of actual cash flow history for FY 2004-5 and projections for FY 2005-6 was prepared by Bill Hall and Peggy Stephens. It was distributed to the Board and will also be circulated to the Finance and LMA Committees. Joel Channing presented the information and cautioned about known inaccuracies. He noted that the first three months of the 2005-6 figures were actuals and the other 9 months were projections. This information will be prepared monthly. Bill Hall will set up a report with software that will do this automatically. Bill Goichberg pointed out that there is no cause for alarm if there is a first quarter loss. Bill Hall noted that the positive cash flow in personnel was due to a reimbursement for Workmen's

Compensation that was overpaid. Beatriz Marinello pointed out that sponsorship revenues should be recorded when they are received, and a more conservative approach should be taken to estimate revenues in general. Joel Channing pointed out that with the exception of adjustments for “book entries” to represent cash, that is exactly what we are doing. He also said that the purpose of this exercise is to get a handle on the *real* costs of running USCF. He said that “After 18 months of monitoring and comparing projections with actuals, we’ll be in a position to decide how much of a *contingency* line item we may want to add (in no event do I recommend inflating individual line items). My business has, over time, learned to operate within a 2% contingency. Furthermore, if the Board wanted to add a contingency to this study it could certainly instruct the ED to do so, but that is not my recommendation.”

### **SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Secretary Robert Tanner reported on the US Championship. There has been some uncertainty about the dates. The site will not be available on the originally scheduled dates. AF4C has been assured that it will be available one week later, which would set dates of 2/27 through 3/12, 2006. Those dates could conflict with the US Masters and possibly the World Women’s Championship. Further discussion will take place later in the meeting.

Robert Tanner provided a history of the US Championship format, which is summarized as follows:  
1936-1996 – Round Robin with 11 to 20 players.  
1997-2000 – Two separate Round Robins with 8 players each, followed by a playoff among the top two in each RR.  
2001-2005 – A 64 player 9 round Swiss with ties broken by a rapid playoff.

AF4C has the championship until 2019. They have the right to select the site, format and dates. The first contract with AF4C was signed by George DeFeis and the second by Frank Niro.

AF4C is considering changing the format for 2006 to two 32 player Swiss System groups of reasonably equal strength with a rapid playoff and possibly the winner playing against the defending champion. Bill Goichberg has polled top players, organizers, and Delegates. The result was opposition to the US Chess Champion being selected by a rapid chess final, primarily among the Delegates, but also among many top players. A system that would have both a US Chess Champion and a US Rapid Chess Champion was suggested. Robert Tanner indicated that AF4C would not favor that. Further consideration took place later in the meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Bill Hall welcomed the group to Crossville. He expressed excitement regarding the ongoing building and financial projects. He noted that the CDs in the LMA were renewed at 4%.

Among future projects were improvement of communication and financial reports. He wants more efficient cash flow and TLA tracking. Bill Hall indicated that Mike Nolan was developing software for affiliates to have online accounts, which would allow for simplified online payment for memberships, rating fees, etc.

Bill Hall then introduced two new people who were hired for revenue generation. Judy Pearson was hired for fundraising and grant writing. Ray West was hired to generate “Chess Life” advertising revenue. Both will be responsible for their own budgets.

Judy Pearson described the Buy a Brick Campaign, which is intended to raise funds toward building expenses. Bricks with black lettering, marble tiles with gold lettering, hand carved teakwood chess pieces, trees, and benches with plaques will be made available for purchase by those who wish to remember someone, commemorate an event, or be recognized as a supporter of chess

Prices for bricks and tiles range from \$100 for a 4”x8” brick with up to three lines of lettering to \$500 for an 8”x8” marble tile with up to six lines of gold lettering.

Potted evergreen trees with plaques are available for \$500 and teakwood benches with plaques for \$3,500. One complete set of chess pieces will be available with prices for pieces ranging from \$740 for a 20” Pawn to \$5,000 for a 48” King or Queen. Everything is on a first come, first served basis. A packet which

describes this program and contains photos of the items has been distributed. If anyone has any questions or would like a packet please contact Judy Pearson at [jpearson@uschess.org](mailto:jpearson@uschess.org) or by phone at (931) 787-1234 Extension 134.

Ray West, whose experience included an advertising agency and start-up publications, mentioned that there are two kinds of marketing efforts. They are horizontal marketing, which is intended to appeal to everyone, and niche marketing which is very specific. Both are important. He explained that the five levels of successful marketing are (1) Create Awareness of the product, (2) Demonstrate a difference between the product and its competition, (3) Indicate a preference for the product, (4) Salesmanship, and (5) Follow-through. He then demonstrated these principles with his marketing strategy for "Chess Life" advertising. He has initially targeted fifty companies that he believes would be good potential clients for ads in "Chess Life" Three companies that are considered to be the top prospects will be targeted for a four step approach to make them aware of "Chess Life". After the proper contact at each company is determined, that individual will receive in the mail a small box that is marked with the USCF logo and no other identification. It contains a chess piece. Two days later a small poster tube arrives in the mail which is marked with the USCF logo. It contains a diagram of a chess position and identification of the US Chess Federation. Two days after that an information packet arrives in the mail with a letter of introduction, a rate card, and a copy of "Chess Life". Two days after that, Ray West calls the company contact for a follow-up. The remaining companies will receive a letter and a follow-up by telephone to determine further needs.

Executive Director Bill Hall then described expense control measures and mentioned problems and solutions.

He developed a plan of action because of the Rating Supplement problem. Over 2500 supplements with incorrect information were mailed and recipients notified that a corrected hard copy of the supplement was available on request. Less than 100 requests were received. This led to reconsideration of hard copy supplement distribution. Four options will be available. Receive all hard copy supplements, get only June and Annual, get only Annual, or get everything online. The Rating Supplements will be just that, and other material currently in the supplements will be included in a separate newsletter.

Jerry Nash described an overview of the organization and projects for the office FIDE and Scholastic departments. Walter Brown assists Jerry Nash on FIDE issues and Alan Kantor assists him on scholastic matters. He indicated that he is working on procedures manuals so that the office can be more proactive in communication with the Scholastic community and the FIDE community. Most important is responsiveness to requests from the members and a goal is to actively increase two way communication with the membership. The Internet will play a larger role.

His aim is to provide same day response to requests by players regarding FIDE. If the answer is not already known he intends to reply with an acknowledgement that the request was received and follow through by finding the answer and replying to the player when he has the information.

Among the priorities in the scholastic area is curriculum development. The key is to get into the classroom. Not only will there be a national effort but USCF will assist states locally when requested. The office routinely gets calls regarding how people can set up scholastic programs at their schools. USCF will help them get started. It requires work by both local people and the national office to achieve success in this area. Grassroots efforts are essential and it is the intent of the office to support, not replace, those efforts. This is especially important in view of differences in state requirements as well as input from national education organizations.

Tennessee was used as an example. At the local level the Crossville Schools and the Cumberland County Chess Clubs are involved. At the state level Tennessee Tech's STEM project and the State Curriculum Project are involved. On the national level UT Dallas and the Karpov Chess School / Master Chess Teacher program are involved.

The State Curriculum Project includes a presentation by USCF to a subcommittee established by the Governor of Tennessee which is looking at establishing a curriculum that includes chess in the Tennessee school system. They are working with other organizations and the state Department of Education on this

project. Ultimately a pilot project may be established and evaluated. During this time the organizations involved work together and establish relationships and partnerships that can help their working together on other projects as well. If successful, it can become the basis for a model for other states to follow although the details would need to be adjusted for each state due to differences in law and organizational structure between states.

The potential of involvement in programs at all levels is that it increases the presence of USCF and establishes the credibility of USCF to many educators who did not know USCF exists. Additionally it generates a source of new members, which can attract new sponsors, which can increase tournament participation, increase the market for books and equipment, etc. The vision is to expand scholastic chess.

Executive Director Bill Hall then mentioned that improvement of the website is most important.

He described the Membership Information Reformation Project (MIRP). It addresses the incomplete and inaccurate database of e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and other membership information. He also mentioned the creation of a Life Member Directory, which he described as a politically correct way to verify life member information.

He is working on a master calendar which will include all deadlines throughout the organization. All senior staff members would have access to it at any time. This is especially important as more employees work from remote locations. He also mentioned a Policies and Procedures Manual for the office that will include Delegate and Board motions, an employee handbook, and policies and procedures manuals for each area. These could be used not only for reference but for training. He wants to streamline job descriptions and establish cross training. Task lists and timelines are also important.

Enhancement of services is a priority. One area is online TLAs. Progress has been made in this area, but more needs to be done. Bill Hall pointed out that there are many ways that communication of tournaments can be expedited. An online search will be provided.

He reiterated that organizers are the backbone of this organization and that we should do all we can to help organizers in a cost effective manner. We will see a return in memberships, activity, and other areas. One problem faced by organizers is that it is sometimes hard to obtain a site without insurance. USCF will look into the possibility of group liability insurance for organizers.

Bill Hall then addressed the design and content of the website and the comments that it should be designed to look like the magazine. He indicated that the website contains 44,000+ pages and that only a part of the website should be coordinated with "Chess Life". "School Mates" should also have its area in addition to many other areas. He mentioned that at one time "Chess Life" was the face of USCF, but times have changed. Now it is still the official house organ for USCF but the website necessarily will become the public face of USCF. Please note that today most printed magazines and even broadcast news stations rely on their websites to provide the bulk of the information they offer. Our lack of a presence on the Internet continues to hurt us. An Internet strategy is important.

USCF has essentially outsourced the Human Resources function and is getting legal and financial services from third party companies that are in that business. USCF is considering a Health Savings Account for employees.

As much of our printed promotional material is outdated we will rely more extensively on the website to provide much of that material. Nonetheless, some hard copy promotional material will be needed.

Bill Hall noted that membership increased by 1057 members over last month compared to about half that last year for the same months. While not a trend, it is encouraging.

Bill Hall mentioned that we have had some very special volunteer assistance. He suggested that Ernie Schlich should be recognized for his volunteer help and asked that the Board do something special for him.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Ernie Schlich and noted that volunteers need to be recognized for their efforts. After a brief discussion Don Schultz made the following motion:

**EB 06 – 009 – Schultz** – Moved, that each month we have a Volunteer of the Month recognized in “Chess Life” with an article and photo. The individuals are to be selected by the Executive Board Members in reverse alphabetical order. **PASSED 6-0.**

The Board then took a break at 11:54 AM and resumed at 12:10 PM for a working lunch. They informally discussed the use of e-mail mailing lists for communication, including opt-in and opt-out procedures, potential benefits and problems. They also discussed offering free TLAs on the web. If a TLA is submitted too late for publication in “Chess Life” it can be posted online

Next to be discussed was “School Mates”, which will be a separate magazine again rather than an insert in “Chess Life”. Bill Hall talked to printers regarding costs. He originally was considering 16 pages. Beatriz Marinello, who edited “School Mates” in the past when it contained 24 to 40 pages, indicated that the difference in cost for printing between 16 pages and 24 pages is minimal. Bill Hall noted that the cost for printing and mailing “School Mates” was included in the budget. It was noted that 13 was the best age to transition between “School Mates” and “Chess Life” and that “Chess Life” expenses would go down and offset some of the costs of “School Mates”. Beatriz Marinello offered to help with “School Mates” until we have a budget in place to pay a salary for an employee to do this work. She wants to help in the reintroduction of “School Mates” which will allow us to enhance benefits for the scholastic membership.

The open session meeting recessed at 12:24 PM and the EB went into closed session at 12:40 PM.

At 3:42 PM the Board went into open session and the following motions that arose from closed session discussions were read:

**EB 06 – 010 - Channing** - After consideration of the facts, the recent claims of blacklisting of certain authors by USCF sales is without merit. **PASSED 6-0.**

**EB 06 -011 - Goichberg** – The Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to conclude the contract with KCF based on Board discussion within the guidelines agreed to in closed session. **PASSED 5 – 1 – 0** with Don Schultz opposed.

The Board went into closed session at 4:10 PM and recessed at 10:35 PM until 9 AM Sunday.

### **SUNDAY, November 6, 2005**

The meeting resumed in closed session at 9:15 AM. All Board Members were present.

The Board went into open session at 12:18 PM. Motions that came from closed session were presented and voted.

After a motion by Robert Tanner to refer the following matter to a subcommittee of Bill Goichberg, Joel Channing, and Don Schultz to report back as the first item of business at the next EB meeting failed 2-4-0 (with Robert Tanner and Beatriz Marinello in favor), the following motion by Joel Channing was read:

**EB 06 – 012 - Channing** - It is the intent of this motion that, except under compelling circumstances, as may be determined by the USCF Executive Board (EB), the details of all EB matters shall be made open to all USCF Members (the Members).

Commencing November 7, 2005, all EB intra-board e-mails, documents, proposals, motions, votes, contracts, and the like pertaining to any individual EB matter will be stored by the Executive Director (ED). As individual matters are concluded, the ED will prepare a package containing the stored information (package) which he/she will distribute to the EB for review. EB members will have the right to instruct the ED to redact their own communications for personal and legal items, in whole or in part, as may appear in their or other EB Communications. EB members may also request that their, or other, EB members’

communications be redacted or edited, subject to majority vote in open session. All redacted or edited documents will be marked clearly to indicate the location of said changes and then the package will be posted in a members – only section of the USCF website.

The foregoing notwithstanding, the EB may decide to invoke confidentiality for and/or delay the release of, in whole or in part, any EB matter, which vote must be repeated in open session.

With regard to the matter currently known as “Chess Café” or “B&E”, the only exception to the above procedures will be that communications heretofore marked “confidential” by the sender, together with any details of Hanon Russell’s personal financial information will remain confidential. **PASSED 5 – 1 – 0 with Bill Goichberg opposed.**

**EB 06 - 013 - Schultz** - Moved, that the USCF Executive Board recognizes and thanks the AF4C for all their contributions to chess in this country. In recognition of this we respect their desire and right to modify the format of the 2006 AF4C/USCF US Championship in the interest of promoting chess. Based on what we have heard so far we respect that and wish them well. There is another proposal that we offer for their consideration which includes a 2 game classical time control match between the top two finishers. **PASSED 5-0-1, Robert Tanner abstained.**

**EB 06 -014 - Tanner** – Moved that the four coaches for the World Youth Championship in Belfort, France, each receive a \$500 bonus for their outstanding services to our team under difficult circumstances. The coaches were Michael Khodarkovsky, Aviv Friedman, Joel Benjamin, and John Fedorowicz. **PASSED 6-0.**

**EB 06 -015 - Marinello** – In recognition of our young titled players who performed with outstanding results in the World Youth and World Junior, the USCF Executive Board will be awarding gift certificates from USCF sales. Gold Medals = \$1000 gift certificate, Silver Medals = \$500, and Bronze Medals \$250, retroactive for World Youth Champion for 16 and under Alex Lenderman. **PASSED 6-0.**

**EB 06 – 16 – Board** – The Executive Board of the United States of America Chess Federation (the Corporation) hereby approves the taking of the following action and directs that this resolution be filed with the minutes of the Corporation.

WHEREAS The Executive Board of the Corporation entered into an Outstanding Agreement dated April 1, 2004, by and between the Corporation and Cybercafes, LLC d/b/a ChessCafe.com (Outstanding Agreement) pursuant to which CyberCafes, LLC will handle all retail sales of the Corporation’s chess products and publications on an exclusive basis; and

WHEREAS the Executive Board of the Corporation now desires to enter into an addendum to the Outsourcing Agreement modifying various terms of the agreement; and

WHEREAS after analysis and discussion, the Members of the Executive Board of the Corporation have determined that it would be in the best interest of the Corporation to execute and deliver the Addendum to the Outsourcing Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS:

RESOLVED, that the Executive Board has approved and consented to the Addendum to Outsourcing Agreement in the form attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Bill Hall, as Executive Director of the Corporation be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation to execute and deliver the Addendum to Outsourcing Agreement.

Date: November 6, 2005

United States of America Chess Federation

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Tanner, Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Hall, Executive Director

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Goichberg, President

**PASSED 5 – 1 - 0 with Don Schultz opposed**

**EB 06 -017 - Tanner** – Based upon the recommendation of the Ethics Committee, the USCF Membership of Vaughn Lee Bennett, ID # 12797328, be suspended for one year effective Nov. 14, 2005. **PASSED 5-1-0 with Beatriz Marinello opposed.** Beatriz Marinello said that she voted against taking the membership away from Mr. Bennett because in the report submitted to the Executive Board, there was not a statement from Mr. Bennett. Bill Hall Indicated that Pat Knight spoke with him over the phone, and he said that because of family matters he could not reply at that moment.

**EB 06 – 018 - Schultz** – Moved, that we refer issues connected with the 2005 Martinowski Memorial to the Ethics, TDCC, and the Top Players’ Committees with the request to put top priority on the matter. **PASSED 6-0.**

Break at 12:38

Resume at 1:00 PM

Joel Channing introduced the Outreach Committee requests, which were based on the need for updated promotional and outreach materials, and reaffirmation of Rachel Lieberman’s volunteer title of “Director of Prevention Programs”. Myron Lieberman, Outreach Committee Chair, pointed out necessary changes in office and home information on stationery as well as changes in contact and membership information on printed materials. The Board expressed no objection and indicated that they should work with the Office on these points.

**EB 06 -019 - Goichberg and Shahade** – Moved, that these revised qualification rules for national and international invitational events, which were proposed by the Task Force, be adopted

**USCF INVITATIONAL EVENT REQUIREMENTS - (revised November, 2005)**

The following are the general requirements for USCF national and international invitations. Contact the USCF office for more details. Whenever possible, invitations shall be issued several months prior to the scheduled beginning of the event. Eligibility for USCF invitations shall be based on several factors including rating, age (if applicable), activity, and residency. Players must be USCF members in good standing at the time of invitation. Reasonable efforts shall be made to accommodate players with expired memberships who would otherwise qualify for USCF invitations.

**RATING**

Players shall be ranked by invitational rating, calculated as follows:

**3. FIDE Olympiad and FIDE Women’s Olympiad:**

For all except one team member, the following method shall be used: Average of the 1) current published USCF rating at time of invitation; 2) current published FIDE rating at time of invitation; 3) average of peak published USCF rating and peak FIDE rating both going back 24 months from the time of the invitation.

After invitational ratings have been calculated for the highest rated players for all but one spot on the team, the following method shall be used to determine the final spot: Average of the 1) current published USCF rating at time of invitation; 2) current published FIDE rating at time of invitation. To this number shall be added the following adjustment points based on the player’s age as of January 1 of the Olympiad year: 5

points for age 25, 10 points age 24, 15 points age 23, 20 points age 22, 25 points age 21, 30 points age 20, 35 points age 19, 40 points age 18, 50 points age 17, 60 points age 16 or below.

NOTE: For the 2006 Olympiad only, instead of using published USCF ratings as part of each formula, the latest ratings at [uschess.org/msa](http://uschess.org/msa) as of March 17, 2006 shall be used. If any contending players have games played but not yet rated as of that date, they should notify the USCF office of these results by March 22, and the office will adjust the March 17 MSA ratings for invitational purposes based on these games.

#### **BOARD ORDER**

Board order for the teams shall be determined by the team captain.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS OF US CHAMPIONS**

Automatic qualification of the U.S. Champions is currently not in effect, but the issue will be reviewed after we have a decision on the date and format of the 2006 U.S. Championship.

#### **ACTIVITY REQUIREMENT**

In the 12 months prior to computation of invitational rating, players must have completed at least one FIDE-rated or USCF Grand Prix tournament of 6 or more rounds in the United States. Half point byes are permissible so long as 6 games are actually played, or are unplayed wins. Tournaments rated only by the USCF's Quick Chess rating system do not count toward the activity requirement.

For the 2006 Olympiad only, a FIDE-rated or Grand Prix tournament of 5 or more rounds is acceptable.

#### **ACTIVITY POINTS**

During the 12 month period prior to the computation of invitational rating, players should have played at least 30 games against opponents rated 2200 or above (2100 or above for the Women's Olympiad) in FIDE-rated or USCF Grand Prix events. Foreign tournaments are acceptable. For opponents with no established USCF rating, those with a FIDE rating of 2100 or above (2000 or above for the Women's Olympiad) are counted. Tournaments rated only by the USCF's Quick Chess rating system do not count. Unplayed games do not count.

Players who complete all games in the US Open without taking byes are guaranteed a minimum of 6 credits. While unplayed wins are not credited, they are adequate toward having completed the tournament.

Players who do not play sufficient games will have one invitational rating point deducted for each game by which they are short of 30 games.

For the 2006 Olympiad only, the standard shall be 20 games rather than 30. One invitational rating point shall be deducted for each game by which the player is short of 20 games. **PASSED 6-0**

When the dates are known for the US Championship the committee will have another recommendation.

The dates of the next Executive Board meeting were discussed. It was decided that the next Executive Board meeting will convene at the US Amateur Team East (USATE) in Parsippany, NJ, on February 17-19, 2006.

Next to be discussed was the possibility of a strategic planning retreat where people with vision meet to discuss medium and long term goals for the future of chess. Twenty people including potential sponsors, other chess organizations and people with various ideas in different areas would get together to develop ideas for the future of chess. The site would be in West Palm Beach or Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Everyone would pay their own way. (Please Note: Don Schultz later clarified this as meaning: Expenses to attend the meeting are the responsibility of the individuals attending and/or the organization or function they represent.). Joel Channing indicated that he would like to see it run by a dynamic leader such as the President of the Chamber of Commerce there. Bill Goichberg suggested next year. Robert Tanner indicated the best dates would be March 11 to 19. The Board will e-mail their thoughts to Joel Channing and Bill Hall and copy all Board members.



The BINFO system is not automated. BINFOs should be sent to [BINFO@uschess.org](mailto:BINFO@uschess.org) for open items and [confidential@uschess.org](mailto:confidential@uschess.org) for confidential items.

A governance forum should be established so that the Board will be available to discuss issues with members in a moderated forum rather than on unmoderated sites. Mike Nolan would be the moderator.

Bill Goichberg would like to establish a group e-mail list for state affiliates. That would expedite contact with state affiliates. Possibly committee chairs might be added as well.

Joel Channing brought a widely distributed memo from Andrew Zito to the Board's attention. An incorrect statement in the memo was addressed. The memo claimed that the frequency of "School Mates" dropped from monthly (12 per year) to 4 per year. "School Mates" has never been a monthly publication. The frequency dropped from 6 per year to 4 per year. Mr. Zito will be offered one or two magazines, which is the same offer made to anyone else that had a problem with the revised frequency. Staff is to contact Mr. Zito.

A memo from Wayne Praeder raised issues with ethical policies. Bill Goichberg suggested that a committee be formed to review ethical policies. Joel Channing suggested that we get the services of a first amendment attorney and look into curtailing certain behavior. He wants to clean up discussions. Bill Goichberg believes that posting on a moderated forum on the USCF website should help solve the problem. Bill Hall suggested that Joel Channing should come up with a list of things he wants discussed with an attorney.

The meeting went into closed session at 1:59 PM, took a break at 2:23 PM, and resumed informally at 3:00 PM. Bill Hall, Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, and Don Schultz were present. Beatriz Marinello arrived at 3:25 PM. Others included Ron Burnett, Myron and Rachel Lieberman, and Harry Sabine. Robert Tanner and Greg Shahade had to leave at 2:30 PM.

The meeting went back into closed session at 3:40 PM to discuss personnel issues and adjourned at 4:35 PM.

### **USCF Executive Board Motions voted by e-mail vote on November 21, 2005.**

**EB 05 – 020 - Goichberg:** The Board approves the addendum to the books &

equipment outsourcing agreement with ChessCafe and authorizes its signing by the Executive Director and President. **PASSED 4-2-0** with Don Schultz and Joel Channing opposed.

**EB 06 – 021 - Channing -** It is the intent of this motion that, except under compelling circumstances, as may be determined by the USCF Executive Board (EB), the details of all EB matters shall be made open to all USCF Members (the Members).

Commencing November 7, 2005, all EB documents, proposals, motions, votes, contracts, and the like pertaining to any individual EB matter will be stored by the Executive Director (ED). When said matter is concluded each EB member will review all their own e-mail and (a) delete portions of other members' e-mail, as may be contained therein and, (b) edit the remainder only for legal or personal matters, and then, (c) send it to the ED. EB members who so desire may direct the ED to edit their mail for them.

The ED will then prepare a package containing the EB members' edited email and the stored information (together, the Package), communications be edited, subject to majority vote in open session. All edited

documents will be marked clearly to indicate the location of all changes and then the Package will be posted in a members-only section of the USCF web site. and distribute same to the EB for review. **EB members may also request that other EB members'** EB members will have the right to instruct the ED to redact their own communications for personal and legal items, in whole or in part, as may appear in their or other EB Communications. EB members may also request that their, or other, EB members' communications be redacted or edited, subject to majority vote in open session. All redacted or edited documents will be marked clearly to indicate the location of said changes and then the package will be posted in a members – only section of the USCF website.

The foregoing notwithstanding, the EB may vote in open session to invoke confidentiality for and/or delay the release of, in whole or in part, any EB matter.

With regard to the matter currently known as “Chess Café” or “B&E”, the only exception to the above procedures will be that communications heretofore marked “confidential” by the sender, together with any details of Hanon Russell’s personal financial information will remain confidential. **PASSED 6 – 0 – 0.**

This motion supersedes Motion EB 06 – 012

**EB 06 – 022 - Goichberg:** The Board approves the offers from Paul Hoffman to redesign Chess Life and the USCF website, and authorizes the ED to agree to and pay a \$5000 initial expenditure for each, with the intention of a \$20,000 later expenditure for each. **PASSED 6-0-0.**