

USCF EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
PARSIPPANY, NJ, 02/17/06 – 02/19/06

The Meeting was called to order in Open Session by President Bill Goichberg at 8:59 AM on Friday, February 17, 2006. President Bill Goichberg, Vice President Don Schultz, and VP for Finance Joel Channing were present. Secretary Robert Tanner and Board Member Beatriz Marinello arrived later. Others who were present for at least part of the meeting included but were not limited to Bastien Beauchamp, Harold Bogner, Brenda Goichberg, Executive Director Bill Hall, Paul Hoffman, Steve Immitt, Executive Assistant Pat Knight, Editor Dan Lucas, Secretarial Assistants Myron and Rachel Lieberman, and Glenn Petersen.

RECORDING OF MEETINGS - The recording of meetings and the preparation of minutes was reviewed. The biggest concern in recording the meetings is getting a high enough sound level to clearly record all that is said.

The need for obtaining a microphone to properly record the meetings was considered. It can be used either with an amplifier (see note) or for direct recording onto a computer. A microphone that plugs into a laptop was obtained from the hotel, but was incompatible with the available laptop. Myron Lieberman will look into the options and requirements for recording directly onto a computer. He also provided Bill Hall with information related to possible software and hardware designed specifically for recording meetings (without making any recommendations at this time).

Bill Hall accepted an action item that he or the office would get a microphone for the meetings.

Note: There is a possibility that was not fully explored at the meeting. That is to obtain and use a small PA or sound system so that not only can the recorder's microphone pick up a stronger signal, but everyone in the room would be able to hear better as well, including Board members at the far end of a long table from anyone who is speaking.

DOCUMENTATION OF MOTIONS – The review process for drafts of the minutes was discussed. The Liebermans prepare an unofficial summary of what happened (points, action items, and motions – no discussion), to be posted as soon as possible after the meeting, usually less than a week. This document is not the minutes and is used primarily to let members know what the Board did at the meeting, with the minutes to follow with details. A draft of the minutes is then prepared and submitted to the Board for review. The Board normally has a week to review the draft and suggest any changes. If changes are requested they are either incorporated into the next draft or brought to the Board in a second draft for review. Once the Board has reviewed and approved the minutes a final version is prepared as a .pdf file for posting and other distribution. Joel Channing requested that the .pdf file is to be posted on the USCF website within three days of receipt, which was accepted as an action item for the Office.

An increasing number of motions are being made between meetings, such as in conference calls, by objections procedures, and e-mail polls. This has resulted in a problem that needed to be addressed. There has not been a procedure for getting the motions documented. Most, if not all, do get posted to the website, but often not in chronological order. Motions need to be numbered chronologically regardless of how they are made. They cannot be properly numbered and documented unless the numbers are assigned by someone who knows when each motion was made and is able to document the motions. All motions made after the August meeting are being renumbered, but it is very important to avoid this in the future. A procedure needs to be in place to distribute the motions to whomever does the documentation as they occur. The details of such a procedure have been worked out.

Myron and Rachel Lieberman, who are currently documenting the motions, have prepared a summary of all motions passed by the 2006 Board, from the August 14 meeting forward and will keep it maintained as new motions are passed. It includes a table in chronological order that identifies each motion by number, sponsor(s), subject, date, and origin. The summary also includes the wording of each motion and the vote count. The summary will be on the website and updated as new motions are passed.

VP FOR FINANCE REPORT – VP for Finance Joel Channing presented his report. He, Bill Hall and Peggy Stephens developed a system for producing detailed financial spreadsheets. They took their best guesses based on last year's information and generated an income and expense report for this year, month by month. Bill Hall made a slide presentation of that report and handed out copies to the Board. Bill and Peggy are working closely with Joel Channing to provide a reliable report on a monthly basis. Joel expects to have a reliable monthly report by the end of the next fiscal year. Bill Hall highlights changes and sends the report to Joel monthly. Joel Channing indicated that it was a good tool for identifying and segregating expenses. After a few months' work the updates can effectively be reviewed in minutes whereas it originally took hours.

The quarterly reports are submitted to the Board and the Audit, Finance, and LMA Committees. These reports will clearly make known what we can and can't afford and enable us to avoid surprises in the future.

Joel Channing's and Bill Hall's sense is that we are just about breaking even and need to be cautious regarding expenses. Joel indicated that he and Bill will look into new ways of (a) saving money, (b) finding new sources of revenue, and (c) finding new ways of doing things. Bill Hall is working on allocation of personnel and consultant expenses by activity. He will do a cost analysis of all our tournaments to see what each tournament does or doesn't earn for us. It was noted that FIDE tournament expenditures are included under Tournaments. Joel Channing indicated that he didn't want to exclude any tournament, but he can report subtotals and can separate any tournament. Don Schultz suggested that the World Youth be broken out. Joel Channing estimates that income from all sources amounts to approximately \$37 per member, with income from Memberships at \$22 per member (60% of income), and income from Tournaments at about \$7 per member (19% of income).

He acknowledged Bill Hall, Mike Nietman, and Mike Nolan for the excellent graphics that they have produced which facilitate understanding of the detailed analyses. Our biggest expenses are the magazine (27% of total expenses) and personnel (29% of total expenses).

Joel Channing indicated that a financial analysis should be made of our Internet presence (Both expenses and potential revenue). He pointed out that the Internet provides a possibility to make a small amount of money per transaction from a very large number of transactions. He indicated that Bill Goichberg has some ideas about this that will come up later in the meeting. He pointed out that Randy Bauer, Bill Hall, Dan Lucas, Mike Nolan, Grant Perks, and Glenn Petersen are working with Joel and Bill on reviewing projections and cost analyses and focusing on allocation of salaries. Bill Hall will soon buy report writing software that will significantly reduce the time required to prepare the monthly reports. He and Peggy will also begin work in the near future on creating a new, more logical chart of accounts.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – President Bill Goichberg pointed out that Chess Cafe has signed a new agreement and will sponsor the Grand Prix again. The Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF) agreement has also been signed. KCF will provide \$30,000 for Olympiad contributions and a sponsor is needed for \$20,000. Fundraising ideas for the Olympiad were discussed.

Membership trends were presented. The downward trend of adult categories leveled off and the decline in scholastic and youth memberships has turned around. Bill Goichberg noted that there are months when membership increases even in bad times. Junior membership categories have been increasing more than would be expected (even considering seasonal variation) in the last six months. He pointed out that there was a big drop off in the number of Scholastic Affiliates when “School Mates” was dropped and we look forward to the debut of “Chess Life Junior” in April.

Adult memberships haven't done quite as well. Although they have increased for several months in a row, the January numbers were slightly down. A breakdown of membership information was displayed on the screen.

President Goichberg said that we can look forward to the redesign of “Chess Life” on the website and the appearance of “Chess Life Junior”, edited by Glenn Petersen. The first “Chess Life Junior” will be published in April.

Jennifer Shahade has been hired to work on website content, which was the reason for Greg Shahade’s resignation from the Board. There was criticism that the job was not advertised. It was noted that only the top level positions are advertised. Bill Hall accepted an action item proposed by Joel Channing that a public statement should be distributed regarding the selection process used for the hire of Jennifer Shahade and Dan Lucas.

President Goichberg is optimistic about the US Olympiad team’s chances to win a medal. Players who could be added to the US team include GMs Hikaru Nakamura, Gata Kamsky, and Ildar Ibragimov. Don Schultz cautioned that draws won't win medals.

Bessel Kok is viewed as having a good chance to win the FIDE Presidency and President Goichberg is supportive of his candidacy.

EDITOR’S REPORT – “Chess Life” Editor Dan Lucas pointed out that the first issue he created met deadline despite some last minute challenges. He spent a week in New Windsor and has learned the production process and met with the staff. Dan Lucas handed out examples of the new look for “Chess Life” compared his handout with material from past issues. His emphasis was that the cover story deserves a large picture and a substantial story consistent with its importance.

Robert Tanner arrived at 9:54 AM.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Executive Director (ED) Bill Hall pointed out that the Membership Appreciation Program (MAP) has been reintroduced. It will be publicized in the April issue of “Chess Life” and on the website.

Crossville has been hit hard with the flu. The Cumberland School System was closed and the office operation was affected.

A wrapper for the magazine that would remind members that this is the last issue they will receive until they renew has been considered. Chess Café has agreed to split the cost.

The balance of the ED's report was deferred until later so that Paul Hoffman could make his scheduled presentation.

PAUL HOFFMAN PRESENTATION – Paul Hoffman addressed the Board regarding the redesign of “Chess Life” and the website. His background includes chess journalism and also the redesign of major magazines including “Sports Illustrated” and “Scientific American” and journals such as “IEEE Spectrum”. An avid chess enthusiast, he met his assistant, Bastien Beauchamp, playing chess at a coffee house. His magazine design expertise coupled with Bastien Beauchamp's web design experience enable them to coordinate the design of the magazine and the website so that each supports the other and they are compatible.

Together they presented their vision of what “Chess Life” and the website should look like and explained how each could be improved. They projected sample covers of a redesigned “Chess Life” on the screen and noted the features of the design and the content. They favor previews of future magazines. One cover that was displayed portrayed a photo of a GM in training, with the featured article “Getting in the Zone”, which would focus on preparation.. An article on Gata Kamsky or Hikaru Nakamura should be included. Another cover depicted Greg Shahade. A third cover had chessboard artwork and a feature article entitled “Blunderfest”. The magazine would have a unique look. Part of the table of contents could be on the cover to provide a clear distinct look. Short catchy items would be placed first. Obituaries would be in a different part of the magazine.

The website should catch the visitors' attention and make them want to join. The “New York Times”, “Time magazine”, and the American Contract Bridge Association sites were used as examples. Internal policies, governance, TD issues, and other items that may not hold the interest of all who may visit the site should be there but in separate areas.

There should continue to be an area open to the public at no cost and a members-only area. The public area should focus on the reasons for joining. An online version of “Chess Life” should be in the members-only area and it should be password protected. The members-only area should be desirable enough to make people want to join in order to gain access to it. A goal should be to make the members-only area a chess community. Blogs, chess problems, interviews, news, and sales can be available. USCF announcements and/or ads can scroll across the top of a page.

There should be a Top Player section which would feature photos, bios, and annotated games. Jennifer Shahade can annotate key games which the players do not annotate.

Among other areas could be online play, Correspondence Chess, the Member Services Area (possibly renamed to let people know they can get ratings and other player information there), a support area for clubs and affiliates, and updates on USCF affairs.

They also suggested a “Welcome Kit” that is sent to members when they join.

An example of the design of the online version of “Chess Life” compared to the printed version was shown.

Bill Goichberg pointed out that on previous boards when the question of putting “Chess :Life” online came up, the response was that there were technical reasons why that could not be done. Paul Hoffman indicated that it isn't a problem today. He also believes that younger people should have a high acceptance of online material.

Joel Channing pointed out that the magazine is our biggest expense and asked if our costs would go up or down. Paul Hoffman replied that there are revenue possibilities such as advertising on the website and increased newsstand sales. The magazine could sell in chain bookstores and he suggested we start with Barnes and Noble.

Joel Channing asked Paul Hoffman if he could help make a contact with Barnes and Noble for the purpose of discussing a possible strategic partnership. Paul Hoffman replied that he could, but not right now.

Joel Channing raised the point about whether online forums should be moderated. There may be liability issues whether or not a forum is moderated.

Joel Channing asked if Paul Hoffman would attend our May retreat and be part of the group that will be working on a five year plan for USCF. Paul replied that he will try to attend

The Open Session recessed at 11:27 AM and the Board resumed in closed session at 11:30 AM.

Beatriz Marinello arrived at 12:09 PM.

The meeting resumed in Open Session at 2:20 PM.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, CONTINUED – The Accounts Receivable (A/R) spreadsheet was displayed and reviewed. It was noted that Games Parlor is late in payments to the USCF. Various A/R points were discussed, including a possible TLA invoicing problem. Apparently more than one invoice was sent to some people without payment being received. The result was their appearing on A/R when they may not have received an invoice. This is being resolved. Glenn Petersen suggested that a cause may be that a different database than the main membership database was used for invoicing and it is possible that the databases contained different addresses. He suggested that the addresses on notices be cross checked against the addresses on the main database before they are sent. Once a notice is sent to the right address there shouldn't be a TLA payment problem. Most of the A/R items are one to two years old, but one has been on the books for six years. Bill Hall indicated that he would set up a collections policy as soon as he gets back to the office.

Bill Goichberg brought up bounced checks and also the fact that some invoices to schools may not get to the people at the school who know about the invoice.

Bill Hall then displayed graphically and reviewed membership trends for the last ten years for each type of membership. He noted the slight upward trend of Life Members. Bill Goichberg mentioned that we don't really know how many are still around and suggested that a 20 year membership would have been better than a Life Membership. Regular adult memberships and Senior memberships have been declining, however they have both leveled out in the last two years. Youth and Scholastic Memberships have declined in 2003 and 2004, however they have reversed that trend and have been rising in the past year. Economy Scholastic was included with Scholastic. Economy Scholastic memberships have been growing while regular Scholastic memberships have declined, which results in less membership revenue for the same number (or even more) of Scholastic members. Total paid memberships in 1996 was about 82,000. Membership reached a peak of over 95,000 members and dropped back to about 83,000 in February, 2006. The percentage of adult categories of total paid memberships (paid members, not dollars) was about 57% in 1996 with scholastic categories being about 43%. They crossed in 2000 and today the Scholastic categories comprise about 57% and the Adult categories about 43%. Membership categories were also compared between 2004 and 2005.

Joel Channing pointed out that Economy Scholastic members do not receive a magazine, which cuts down on the number of magazines distributed. A larger circulation makes the magazine more attractive to advertisers. Bill Hall displayed the number of magazines produced month to month. It was noted that the cost of an issue was about \$1.11, however the costs of paper and postage have gone up and personnel expenses are not included in that figure.

Financial spreadsheets were then displayed, reviewed and discussed in detail. We are running at about a break even level. The budget passed in Phoenix projected about a \$26000 or \$ 27000 loss but we are trying to keep expenses down so that we can at least break even.

Revenue projections were too high and we were running behind on revenues, but January revenues were up. \$174,000 of the line of credit was paid off, which resulted in a decline of about \$130,000 in available cash.

A membership data comparison was displayed between December and January of the current fiscal year and the previous December and January. There was a major increase in Economy Scholastic memberships and a significant decline in High School affiliates. Bill Goichberg indicated that High School affiliations have dropped sharply since 2003.

Bill Hall indicated that we should become a one stop shopping option for affiliates and organizers. We could offer TLAs, online searches by ZIP code, printing options, magazines, etc. The concept of a Thank You card to be included with orders shipped was considered. The cost would be split with Chess Café.

Bill Goichberg asked about sending promotional e-mails to the members. Bill Hall pointed out that it can be done, but members have the choice of specifying whether they wish to be contacted on any subject, only on chess matters, or not at all.

The number of tournaments played by new members was displayed graphically by membership type. It was noted that Scholastic Members play in more tournaments than Adult and Youth Members and that more Adult Members play in zero tournaments compared to other membership categories. Bill Goichberg pointed out that many adults join in order to get the magazine, while very few children join for that purpose.

The subject of the name of “Chess Life Junior” was discussed. Note: The Board has been made aware of opposition to the title “Chess Life Junior”, primarily from advocates of Scholastic and Women's issues. It was felt by some, that the title would be considered degrading even by the children. Those concerned prefer a title such as “Chess Life for Kids”, which implies to children that it is a special magazine just for them as opposed to a weaker version of a real magazine. Bill Hall pointed out that he had only received a couple of comments. He mentioned that he is a “Junior” himself and that there are other magazines with “Junior” in the title, a Junior Miss pageant, etc., that are not viewed negatively. They didn't want to retain the “School Mates” name for a number of reasons. The biggest reason was a branding issue. “School Mates” does not have “chess” in the title and there is no association with the “Chess Life” brand. It is not the same magazine. A fresh start is needed as “School Mates” has been discontinued, and its inclusion in “Chess Life” was not well received by some members. Discussion followed. Joel Channing suggested that a title such as “Super Chess Life” would be a hit with kids. It was noted that children like getting mail addressed to them and a magazine with any title should be well received. Note: No motion was made at the meeting, but the Board subsequently passed a motion by objections procedure, after further discussion, to name the publication “Chess Life for Kids”.

The drywall is in place in the new building and the estimated date for occupancy is April 1.

Bill Hall mentioned that people who donate more than \$10 will receive a personalized thank you card.

He commented that the two new marketing people are bringing in more than their salary. Ray has been assigned to handle the Mon Roi project.

Bill Hall accepted an action item to report on fund raising at the next meeting. He also noted that he would hold off on the newsletter until after this Board meeting.

RATINGS - The rating system was then discussed with a focus on match rules, floors, life titles, documentation of computer operations, simplicity of rating calculations, and rating of chess variants.

Bill Goichberg distributed his recommended changes to the rules for rated matches. Extensive discussion followed, after which the following motion passed:

EB06-043 – Goichberg – USCF adopts the following rules regarding rated matches: PASSED 5-0.

USCF RULES REGARDING RATED MATCHES

Effective May 1, 2006

1. Both players must have an established (26 or more games) published rating and be rated within 400 points of each other.
 2. A match is defined as any of the following:
 - A) A two player event with between 2 and 20 rounds.
 - B) A two player event with one round in which the players select each other and which is not a tournament "house game." Affiliates are asked to identify such events as matches.
 - C) Match rules may also apply, at the discretion of the USCF office, to players who face each other more than twice in any event, even if that event has more than two players. Affiliates are asked to point out such players in events they submit.
 3. The bonus formula does not apply to matches, or to results that use match rules as described in 2C.
 4. The maximum ratings gain or loss in a match is 50 points, regardless of the number of games.
 5. No player can have a net change from match play of more than 100 points in 180 days or 200 points in 3 years.
 6. Rating floors are not automatically in effect in matches. Instead, if a player has a match result that would lower the rating to below that player's floor, this will be treated as a request to have that floor lowered by 100 points. If the USCF office grants this request, the rating will drop below the old floor and the new floor will be 100 points below the old floor.
 7. Match results do not count towards qualification for invitational events.
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Executive Director Bill Hall accepted an action item to work with Mike Nolan and the Ratings Committee on a proposed change to have the rating program identify players on their floors who are no longer competitive in the floored class, for the purpose of sending them letters saying their floors will be lowered if they do not object.

The Life Title Norm system, approved by the Delegates, has not yet been implemented due to other priorities for programming. Bill Hall displayed an extensive list of projects that require computer support. A few of the items mentioned (in alphabetical order) were Correspondence Chess, Online BINFO System, TD support, and the Web Store. The sense of the Board was that the norm system should be increased in priority.

Executive Director Bill Hall accepted an action item to ask Mike Nolan for a list of computer priorities. It was the sense of the Board that it should be a top priority for Mike Nolan to document how to run and

maintain programs on his system. Mr. Nolan will be asked to write a backup manual of his operations. Bill Hall accepted an action item to have a backup plan in process by the next meeting.

The complexity of the rating system and whether to survey the members on that subject was discussed. Much of the discussion revolved around whether members prefer the ratings produced by the system to be accurate or simple. It was pointed out that there is a difference between the words “accurate” and “precise”. Accuracy, precision and simplicity must all be considered in evaluating the rating system.

Please note that a number can be very accurate but very imprecise. It can also be very precise but very inaccurate. A number can be calculated to five decimal places, which is precise for most rating calculations, but if the number is inaccurate (wrong), it is useless. Example: $2.00000+2.00000 = 5.00000$. A number can be very accurate but if it is too imprecise it is just as useless. Example: My friend's rating is between 1500 and 2000 for pairing purposes.

A survey by e-mail newsletter or on the web is being considered with some thought given to also contacting former members with recently expired memberships. After extensive discussion the entire issue of a survey on rating system complexity was referred to the Executive Director, who accepted it as an action item.

The possible rating of Fischer Random, Pre-chess, Bughouse and other variants of chess was discussed. Variants could become popular. Ratings Committee Chair Mark Glickman has indicated that they should not be allowed in the Quick Rating system. Bughouse games would need to involve rating teams rather than individuals. After discussion no Board action was taken. Bill Hall will look at it as an action item.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – The employee Profit Sharing Plan was discussed. Contributions have not been made for several years. There is also the possibility of an overpayment made to an employee several years ago. Bill Hall questioned whether the plan is right for today and asked that Grant Perks audit the Profit Sharing fund and look at the entire matter of Profit Sharing, including the \$10,000 item. Bill Hall will look at 401K possibilities.

Joel Channing asked Bill Hall to provide him with a memo that lists the investments, including yield where applicable, in all of our investment accounts.

The authorized signatories for many USCF accounts were discussed. Joel Channing pointed out that the CFO (who tracks the checks) should not be a signatory on any single signature account. Signatories need to be updated. Bill Hall has several accounts that need to be turned over to the current President and VP for Finance for signature. Bill Hall accepted an action item to look into the subject of Fidelity Insurance especially with regard to whether the CFO signature is necessary. A status report was given regarding the general composition of the LMA and Pension and Profit Sharing Funds. Joel Channing wants a policy on signatories. He suggested that two people on the Board and two people on the staff other than the CFO should be signatories.

MILITARY COMMITTEE - The Executive Director and the Editor will follow up a recommendation by the Military Committee to identify Military members when they join. It was noted that getting Chess in Schools together with the Armed Forces is a good potential market. The idea is that CIS has the structure and DODDS (Department of Defense Dependents Schools) has a captive audience all over the world. It was also noted that due to delays in getting the magazine to military members overseas, the web could be very useful to communicate with them. The Military Committee had also requested that the Board consider a military discount, but it wasn't discussed.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS BY E-MAIL - The possibility of a scheduled EB meeting via e-mail over a specific time range was discussed. Please note: The Board already considers issues and votes by e-mail between meetings. The question is whether or not a specific scheduled time and date range is necessary. Bill Hall indicated that it would be a good idea but there may be Bylaw issues. The issue hinges on whether such a meeting may or may not be considered to be an "Internet conference" and whether that can be decided by the Board as "other means approved by the Executive Board. The Bylaws Committee should be asked to clarify this point and possibly suggest clarifying wording as an ADM for the next Delegates' Meeting.

Please note: Article VI Section 3 of the USCF Bylaws addresses this point as follows:

"Meetings. The Executive Board shall meet at least twice per year, the day and place to be fixed by vote of that Executive Board. Special meetings, including conference telephone calls or Internet conference meetings, may be called by the President or upon the written request of any three members of the Executive Board. Reasonable efforts to notify all Executive Board members of the meeting shall be made by mail, fax, telephone, e-mail, or other means approved by the Executive Board. The minutes of the Executive Board shall be sent to all USCF Delegates and Alternate Delegates, and posted on the USCF's Internet web site, within six weeks of each meeting. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the elected members of the Executive Board present in person or participating in a conference telephone call or Internet conference meeting. The affirmative votes of at least three different Executive Board members will be required to approve any action, as long as there are at least four members on the Executive Board."

It was noted that the intention is for it to be a regular meeting as opposed to a special meeting and the scheduled time range could be one week.

Don Schultz will call such a scheduled meeting before the next physical meeting.

Note: The Board has already made a number of motions by objections procedure and e-mail to date. These were considered to be made between meetings rather than at meetings. They were not at a scheduled time, but rather a method to quickly make a Board decision on a subject as it came up. This is expected to continue and increase in frequency, so it is important any clarification needed for the Bylaws (see above) should also add wording to enable motions made outside of meetings, which are not currently addressed.

ONLINE BINFO SYSTEM - The Online BINFO system was discussed. It was noted that not everyone uses it. Joel Channing pointed out that it needs to be faster and more user friendly for someone to obtain information. A separate Confidential BINFO system is available for personnel, contract and legal matters that need to remain confidential. Bill Goichberg suggested that they could simply be in an area on the web. It was also noted that it is necessary to get such things as motions made outside of meetings documented immediately rather than waiting for a periodic update. Bill Hall accepted an action item to report back on the BINFO system.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURES - A list of suggestions for how to protect the rights of members was submitted by Wayne Praeder. It was on the agenda to be discussed at the last meeting but had to be deferred due to time considerations. It was read and discussed. His primary concerns were (a) Lack of clear guidelines when dealing with apparent conflicts of interest and (b) Public attacks on other people by USCF representatives. Bill Goichberg agreed that the Bylaws do not include clear wording on those points and refer the matter to the Bylaws Committee. Joel Channing pointed out that the e-mail spoke in generalities and that if action of any kind is to be taken the specific examples need to be provided to the Board in writing. Joel Channing then read some of Mr. Praeder's suggestions and pointed out that we are, in fact, complying with many of them.

TOURNAMENT MEMBERSHIPS – Bill Hall indicated that we are starting to get more TMs.

USCF RATING OF FOREIGN FIDE TOURNAMENTS -. Registrations have been received for at least two foreign FIDE tournaments.

OLYMPIAD QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES – Today (February 17) is the deadline. Players have been notified. There has been little comment other than some indication of dissatisfaction on the part of Yasser Seirawan and John Donaldson.

Joel Channing and Don Schultz left at 5:22 PM. The meeting recessed at 5:24 PM.

SATURDAY, February 18

The Board resumed meeting in Open Session on Saturday, February 18, 2006, at 9:00 AM.

Board members present were Bill Goichberg, Joel Channing, and Beatriz Marinello. Robert Tanner and Don Schultz arrived later. Others present for at least part of the meeting included Hal Bogner, Frank Brady, Brenda Goichberg, Carol Jarecki, Myron and Rachel Lieberman, Glenn Petersen, Susan Polgar, Tim Redman, Ernie Schlich, Hal Terrie, and Paul Truong.

COLLEGE CHESS PRESENTATION – Dr. Tim Redman announced that he would step down from the chess program at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) on August 31, 2006. He recommended that his successor should be Jim Stallings. He then presented suggestions on what college chess can do for USCF and what USCF can do for college chess. One area where college chess can help USCF is to provide a convenient way for Scholastic members to convert to Adult members. A copy of his complete report is appended as Appendix A. The discussion and motion refer to that report.

Dr. Tim Redman provided a list of resources, issues and suggestions to the Board and addressed each.

He pointed out that College Chess motions should not only be passed but should be reviewed and assessed as well. Mailings need to be done constantly.

A National College Internet Chess League has formed independently from and initially without awareness of USCF. They have partnered with USCF and have scheduled National Internet individual and team championships on ICC. They have their own website and discussion forum. The league might well have formed without USCF's involvement.

Note: The site can be found at www.tatiana.net. The ICC and USCF are publicizing this competition. ICC has announced that “The USCF's College Chess Committee (CCC) is very pleased to announce the formation of a new College Chess League (CCL)” The key people in this effort are USCF College Committee chair Jim Stallings, Gregory Alexander of the University of Washington, who hosts the league's site, and the ICC's Duncan Oxley. More information can be found on the USCF site or at <http://www.chessclub.com/activities/news/1841> on the ICC site.

Among Dr. Redman's recommendations were:

1. Make the Chairs of the College Chess Committee and the Scholastic Council ex-officio members of each other's committee. Note: Beatriz Marinello accepted an action item to contact the Scholastic Council on this.

2. Use the magazine as a means of communication with college members. "Chess Life" should add a monthly column of at least one page on College Chess written by the Chair of the College Chess Committee or his or her designee. Special coverage should be added for events of interest, such as the PAN AM, the Final Four, etc. Dr. Redman noted that every editor of "Chess Life" has been receptive to covering College Chess, but to be effective it must be institutionalized and regular. This needs to be followed up with mailings to parents, etc., to try to make it as easy as possible to make the transition from High School to College. Parents of scholastic players know the value of chess to their children and will encourage the transition if it is made easy.
3. Resume special promotional college chess memberships.
4. Identify college members in the membership database. Dr. Alan Sherman has been advocating this for years.
5. Have a college chess area on the USCF website.
6. Publicize chess related college scholarships. UMBC offered a \$62,000 scholarship, the largest single prize awarded in a chess tournament and received no mention in "Chess Life". That doesn't encourage more such awards for chess. USCF has already lost a scholarship for the US Junior Open.

Note: Robert Tanner arrived at 9:15 AM. Don Schultz arrived at 9:31 AM.

Talk to parents about the possibility of chess related college scholarships. The concept is catching on as can be shown by programs at UT Brownsville, Texas Tech, and Tennessee Tech, but they don't get started on their own. Solicit Universities to start chess programs and enlist parents' help. While parents are waiting around at scholastic events, why not discuss college with them? Tim Redman drafted a policy based on the UTD program that is available for other colleges and universities to use. He mentioned his "Push – Pull" concept where schools push scholastic chess participants to colleges, and the colleges pull them into chess programs to create players.

Joel Channing indicated that he was ready to adopt the policy now with time allocation.

It was noted that all High School students who are seeking higher education want to find an appropriate college or university and all colleges and universities are looking for brilliant students. Chess can help bring them together.

Tim Redman suggested that a good approach is to contact the decision maker who knows the candidate and make your points. His goal is to have at least 30 college teams that are capable of winning the Pan Am. He asked Joel Channing to talk to Florida Atlantic University (FAU).

ED06-044 – Goichberg – Moved, to adopt Tim Redman's recommendations as policy with these three modifications: (1) Change USCF Scholastic Committee to USCF Scholastic Council (This refers to the idea presented above in item 1. See note below), (2) Change "at least 1 page" to "an average of at least one page" (This refers to the idea presented above in item 2. See note below.), and (3) Change "USCF must adopt a policy..." to "USCF policy regarding college scholarships includes..." (See note below).
PASSED 5-0.

Note: This motion refers to the policy in Tim Redman's report, which is appended as Appendix A.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH – The Volunteer of the Month program, whereby each Board member names a Volunteer of the Month who is honored in “Chess Life” each month, was discussed.

Note: Motion EB06-021, passed 6-0 at the November 2005 meeting, re-established the Volunteer of the Month program. It was worded: “EB06–021 – 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.”

Bill Hall indicated that he wanted a Volunteer Spotlight, but questioned whether “Chess Life” was the best place for it as opposed to the newsletter, the web, etc. He suggested holding off until we can establish consistent criteria and agree on the media to use. Discussion ensued as to whether or not to rescind that motion.

Beatriz Marinello expressed that we should find people who are actually doing the work and recognize them. Robert Tanner pointed out that this could be a major benefit and believes that Paul Hoffman would want it. Don Schultz reviewed the program as it had been conceived. He pointed out that the Board members take turns nominating the volunteers each month. They should provide a photo and two sentences. The Volunteer of the Month should be on the masthead. Joel Channing cautioned against micromanaging the Editor and pointed out that there could be other ways to honor volunteers. There could also be a Volunteer of the Year that could warrant major exposure. Bill Goichberg indicated that the Editor should determine how the recognition should look. Don Schultz noted that the Liaison to “Chess Life” should be involved. He indicated that Dan and Paul should look at what the requirements and potential problems for “Chess Life” would be. The Board Liaison to “Chess Life” was Greg Shahade, who has resigned so a new Liaison was needed. Don Schultz mentioned that he would like to be the Liaison to “Chess Life” and that he would rather not start the program than stop it after it started. There was a consensus to leave the motion (EB06-21) in place but not start the program until input has been received from Dan Lucas and Paul Hoffman as well as the Publications Committee.

EB06-045 – Goichberg - Don Schultz is named Board Liaison to the Publications Committee and will get a list of required items for “Chess Life” for the purpose of having a full review by the next meeting. **PASSED** 4-0-1 with Don Schultz abstaining.

ELECTION RESPONSIBILITY – Secretary Robert Tanner asked about the role of the Secretary in USCF elections. Delegate Motion DM05-30, which passed at the 2005 Delegates' Meeting, removed elections as a responsibility of the Secretary and established a Committee to handle elections. It was worded: “Effective with the conclusion of the 2005 Delegates Meeting, all duties regarding the conduct of USCF elections that are assigned to the Secretary under the Bylaws are assigned to a Delegate-appointed Election Committee. This committee shall consist of four members appointed by the Delegates, except that members of the Executive Board may not be appointed to the committee. The Delegates may name alternates who would replace any member of the committee who resigns or otherwise leaves the committee. No member of the Election Committee may be a candidate for the USCF Executive Board during his or her service on the Election Committee or may campaign on behalf of or make an endorsement for or against any candidate for the Executive Board. The committee shall choose its own Chair.” The Secretary may consult and therefore should have access to election related materials.

US JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS - The US Junior Championship and US Junior Closed were discussed. Holding the US Junior Open prior to the US Junior closed so that the winner can be seeded in the US Junior Championship the same year was considered. It was suggested that the age eligibility for the US Junior Championship be changed to conform to the requirements for the World Junior Championship and the age eligibility for the US Junior Open be reduced by one year. Bill Hall accepted an action item to find

the most recent (11/05) version of the USCF Invitational Event Requirements and meet with Bill Goichberg regarding possible changes. Beatriz Marinello accepted an action item to talk to the Scholastic Council about changing age requirements in each category to conform with FIDE's requirements.

ETHICS COMMITTEE - Hal Terrie addressed the Board regarding the Ethics Committee and how it operates. He explained that they do not conduct investigations or answer hypothetical questions. They only rule on complaints by named individuals against other named individuals. It is the responsibility of the plaintiff to provide evidence. The defendant has 30 days to respond. The Committee sends its findings to the Board. He pointed out that the Board could change that charge, but nobody from the Board attended their workshop. Joel Channing, the Board Liaison to the Ethics Committee, read the following from the Code of Ethics "A factual inquiry shall be made by the Ethics Committee, assisted as necessary by the USCF staff..." Joel Channing accepted an action item to meet with Hal Terrie to discuss the Ethics Committee. Hal said he would call Joel after the tournament.

MEMBERSHIPS - Scholastic dues and magazine costs were discussed as were Life Memberships and the possibility of simplifying membership structure. Costs of servicing various types of memberships were considered. The consensus was that a scholastic dues reduction should be announced immediately. The Economy Scholastic Membership would no longer be offered after June 1, 2006, and the Economy Scholastic members would receive the inaugural issue of the new scholastic magazine when their memberships are about to expire. The age limits for Scholastic and Youth memberships would be age 12 and under for Scholastic and age 13 and above for Youth. Action on other membership categories was not taken at this time.

EB06-046 – Goichberg - The cost of Scholastic dues is reduced by \$2 for those age 12 and under who will receive the scholastic publication. The Economy Scholastic Membership will no longer be offered as of June 1, 2006. **PASSED** 5-0.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX – Bill Hall suggested a Junior Grand Prix similar to but separate from the existing Grand Prix. The idea was well received but sponsors are needed. Bill Hall indicated that a smaller program could still be started without sponsorship.

US CHAMPIONSHIP – Bill Goichberg mentioned that the committee of Greg Shahade, Michael Khodarkovsky and himself had not yet reported on US Championship structure. Robert Tanner indicated that Eric Anderson is looking for a structure that will be attractive to the media. Every aspect of a championship match should be interesting. Various ideas were discussed including the possibility of holding the US Championship online were discussed. Joel Channing did not want to reject any possibility, such as an Internet match, solely because it was new. It was pointed out that an online US Championship would not be ratable by USCF or FIDE.

FIDE ELECTIONS – Anatoly Karpov thanked the US Chess Federation and expressed his gratitude for our endorsement of his ticket in the FIDE election. Note: He has subsequently withdrawn in favor of Bessel Kok's candidacy. Bessel Kok is viewed as having a chance to win. Beatriz Marinello is a candidate for FIDE General Secretary for the Americas, which would give her a second four years on the FIDE Board.

EB06-047 – Channing / Schultz - The Board enthusiastically and unanimously endorses Beatriz Marinello's candidacy for FIDE Americas General Secretary. **PASSED** 4-0-1 with Beatriz Marinello abstaining:

STRATEGIC RETREAT – The strategic retreat is scheduled to be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Boca Raton, FL, on May 5 and 6, 2006, followed by the next Executive Board meeting on May 7 and 8, 2006. The idea is strategic planning with key partners, sponsors, and appropriate USCF representatives. It will be run by a professional facilitator, which is essential for success. If it succeeds the plan is to hold a similar retreat every five years.

The Open Session recessed at 12:15 PM and the Board resumed in Closed Session at 12:19 PM.

The Board resumed in Open Session at 2:16 PM.

MOTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION - The following motions that arose from Closed Session were read and voted.

EB06-048 – Board - Bill Goichberg is appointed Liaison to the Top Players’ Committee and Greg Shahade is its chair. **PASSED** 5-0.

EB06-049 – Board – The Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to sign up to a three year contract for the printing of “Chess Life” magazine. **PASSED** 5-0.

EB06-050 – Board – The following updates are made to the list of Committees: **PASSED** 5-0.

Chess Variants Committee (new) – Bill Goichberg is the Board Liaison and Bill Hall is the Office Liaison. The Chair has not yet been named.

Denker Championship Committee – Beatriz Marinello is the Board Liaison.

Polgar Championship Committee – Beatriz Marinello is the Board Liaison

US Open Committee – Chair is Jerry Hanken. Members are Hal Terrie, Jim Mennella, and Walter Buehl.

Please note that the Denker and Polgar Championship Committees are now separate.

EB06-051 – Board – Change the Internet Chess/MIS/ Website Committee to the Website Committee. The Office Liaison is Jennifer Shahade. The Board Liaison and Chair TBD. Hal Bogner and Jon Haskel are added as Members. **PASSED** 5-0.

TOURNAMENT CONCESSIONS – The issue of whether bids for concessions at National Tournaments could be accepted for a year or longer or only for each individual tournament was discussed. Among issues discussed were minimum guarantees, invitations to bid, and whether the Executive Director can accept a bid without the Board. Bill Hall accepted an action item to follow up on bids and either make recommendations to the Board or accept them based on existing guidelines.

The meeting recessed at 3:37 PM

The Board resumed in Closed Session from 9:00 AM. To 9:56 AM on Sunday, February 19, 2006, after which the Board went into Open Session. All Board Members were present. Others present for at least part of the meeting included Bill Hall, Steve Immitt, Pat Knight, and Myron and Rachel Lieberman.

The following motion that came out of Closed Session was read.

EB06-052 – Board – The Board considered a complaint arising out of the 2005 American Open and after a report from an appointed committee of Grandmasters decided that the evidence was insufficient to warrant action. **PASSED 5-0.**

ROTATING TDS FOR NATIONAL SCHOLASTICS - Steve Immitt addressed the Board regarding a rotating system for selecting Tournament Directors for National Scholastic tournaments. He pointed out that there is a large demand for a small supply of National TDs for National events. Normally such conditions should generate competition among TDs, but often the same TDs are named for the same events each year. He advocated rotation of TD assignments for National events, especially scholastics. It was also pointed out that if a TD team is considered to have done a good job, the organizer might want to hire them again. There could also be other TDs who could do as good or better job but don't get a chance. Steve Immitt mentioned that there is also a problem with TDs being informed about what they need to do to become a candidate for directing a specific event. USCF should publish a list of what events are available and what each interested TD would need to do to be considered for each specific event. Robert Tanner explained that the current system for the scholastics is that Diane Reese, who works for Bill Hall, chooses the chief TD. The chief TD chooses his or her staff with Diane's approval. The possibility of a standardized system for ranking TDs for National events was explored. This could benefit TDs, players, and organizers. Each TD may have a different way of doing things and rotation among top TDs would allow each to learn ideas they may not have considered in the past and the players could be assured of a top TD at each event. Bill Hall advocated a structured feedback system where people can fill out a form or go online to evaluate each national event and TD. An official TD evaluation can be prepared with input from the feedback system. It can be available on the Internet. Robert Tanner pointed out that there will be a shortage of up and coming TDs and that a system should be put in place to encourage and train them. National Scholastic TDs should be certified separately at the top level. They need the ability to work with people and support USCF as well as enforce the rules. Steve Immitt pointed out that directing National Scholastics provides an experience that comes from a unique environment.

Joel Channing left at 10:16 AM. He was not present for the vote on the following motion but cast his vote at a later time.

QUALIFICATIONS OF US CHAMPION FOR OLYMPIAD – Qualification for the Olympiad from the US Championship was discussed extensively in view of US Championship format changes.

EB06-053 – Board – For the 2006 US Championship, the individual winners of each section or those who tie for first (men and women) will receive 10 points and the champions will receive an additional 30 points on their invitational rating. **PASSED 5-0.**

Note: The Board emphasized that this motion was passed because the new US Championship format required a change in how players should be evaluated when determining the Olympiad teams. It does not indicate any objection to the new format of the US Championship or anything but respect and appreciation for AF4C. The Board supports AF4C's effort to increase media attention via this new format, but also feels that under this system, additional credit towards Olympiad qualification is appropriate for winners of the two sections.

The Olympiad Qualification Criteria shall be revised as follows:

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:

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 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.

This year, the US Championships are being held in two separate sections followed by a rapid chess playoff between the winners of each section.

The Board has decided that the overall champion and women's champion will not be automatically seeded as they have been in recent years, but that all section winners should be rewarded as follows:

Any player who comes in first or tied for first (or best scoring woman or tied for same) in either section in the 2006 US Championship will have 10 points added to his or her Olympiad invitational rating. In addition, the overall US Champion and overall US Women's Champion will each have an additional 30 points added to his or her Olympiad invitational rating.

The Board supports AF4C's effort to increase media attention via this new format, but also feels that under this system, additional credit towards Olympiad qualification is appropriate for winners of the two sections.

The remainder of the qualification document is unchanged.

The meeting recessed at 10:44 AM.

The Board convened in an Open Forum 3:47 PM on Sunday, February 19, 2006. The intent was to start the Open Forum a bit early. The entire Board was present. Others attending for at least part of the forum included Dr. Frank Brady, Maxine Brady, Brenda Goichberg, Bill Hall, Pat Knight, Myron and Rachel Lieberman, Eric Mark, Teresa Schultz, Sam Sloan and his daughter, and Hal Terrie.

Bill Goichberg responded to Eric Mark's question about what happened at the meeting regarding rating floors (Please refer to motions EB06-42, 06-43, and Action item 6).

The Board received the following proposal from Susan Polgar:

On behalf of the Susan Polgar Foundation, I would like to propose a co-creation of a Susan Polgar All-America Girl's Team with the United States Chess Federation starting in 2007. My foundation will award each winner a special "Susan Polgar All-America Girl's Team" jacket and plaque as well as other valuable chess products.

In addition, each winner will receive an invitation to attend a very special week long intensive all-girl's training program (and / or 2-3 day special sessions at various times throughout the year) which will be

sponsored by my foundation. This would be similar to the program I created for the 2004 US Women's Olympiad team which brought unprecedented historic results.

They will be joined by other most talented young female players in this nation. They will be taught by me personally as well as some of the most experienced chess trainers in the United States. I hope that this program will help produce a number of world-class female chess players in the future, something that this country sorely needs.

Thank you for your support and cooperation with this very important project.

The proposal was also sent to Bill Hall, Jerry Nash, and the Scholastic Council.

The Forum format of the meeting was deferred so that the Board could consider this in Open Session. It was extensively discussed. Several related issues were considered, including but not limited to: the concept of special events or other consideration for female chess players, promotional value, costs, publication requirements, a lower proposed rating for qualification than exists for the traditional All America team, ownership of the name "All America Team" etc.

Don Schultz pointed out that Susan Polgar could view rejection of this offer as an insult and offered a motion to accept the concept with thanks. Joel Channing offered an amendment to add a paragraph regarding confidentiality. He agreed to make it a separate motion if it was voted first.

EB06-054 - Channing – Both parties agree to adhere to strict confidentiality until such time as a written agreement is agreed to between the parties. **PASSED** 3-2-0 with Beatriz Marinello and Don Schultz opposed.

EB06-055 – Schultz – The Board endorses the concept of Susan Polgar's request with details, including development of a written agreement that the Board will review, to be worked out by the Executive Director. The Board thanks Susan Polgar and expresses appreciation for all of her contributions to American chess now and in the past. **PASSED** 4-1-0 with Beatriz Marinello opposed.

Please note that the motion applies specifically to the concept expressed and not to any of the details such as rating requirements, funding issues, etc. Those and all other details are to be part of the agreement to be worked out by the Executive Director (ED). The Executive Board requested the ED to seek input from the Scholastic Council, the Women's Committee and other interested parties.

It was the sense of the Board that this is viewed as a temporary situation and we look forward to a time when separate status for girls in chess is no longer an issue.

The forum then resumed at 5:17 PM.

Sam Sloan addressed the Board regarding the Chess Café arrangement. Bill Goichberg and Joel Channing replied to his concerns.

Eric Mark commented on the Polgar proposal and further discussion took place.

Sam Sloan asked about Jennifer Shahade's function. Bill Hall indicated she will work on the website and help with the magazine. Sam Sloan questioned the need for her or Paul Hoffman on the website.

Dr. Frank Brady asked if there has been discussion of increased advertising on the web. Bill Hall responded that he hopes to have a new website by mid May and advertising has been discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 PM.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. Bill Hall or the Office - Obtain a microphone for recording Executive Board meetings.
2. Office - will post EB meeting minutes within three days of receipt of the approved file.
3. Circulate Harry Sabine's letter re: Crossville land to the EB and to Audit, LMA, and Finance.
4. Office – Issue a statement re: the selection process used for Jennifer Shahade and Dan Lucas.
5. Bill Hall – Report on Fund Raising at the next meeting
6. Bill Hall – Work with Mike Nolan and the Ratings Committee regarding optional lowering of floors.
7. Bill Hall – Obtain a list of computer priorities from Mike Nolan.
8. Bill Hall – Have a backup plan for computer operations in process by the next Board meeting.
9. Bill Hall – Survey regarding complexity of the rating system.
10. Bill Hall – Look at the possible rating of chess variants.
11. Grant Perks – Perform an audit of the Profit Sharing Plan.
12. Bill Hall – Provide Joel Channing with a memo that outlines investments in all investment accounts.
13. Bill Hall – Look into Fidelity Insurance, especially re: whether the CFO is required to sign.
14. Bill Hall and Dan Lucas – Follow up on Military Committee recommendations.
15. Bill Hall – Report to the Board regarding the BINFO system.
16. Beatriz Marinello – Contact the Scholastic Council re: their chair and College Chess chair.
17. Bill Hall – Meet with Bill G. to discuss possible changes in USCF Invitational Event Requirements.
18. Beatriz Marinello – Contact the Scholastic Council re: changing age requirements to conform to FIDE.
19. Joel Channing – Meet with Hal Terrie re: Ethics Committee.
20. Bill Hall - follow up on bids and either make recommendations to the Board or accept them based on existing guidelines.

APPENDIX A

USCF Executive Board Meeting, Parsippany, New Jersey. February 18,2006.

Report on College Chess by Tim Redman

Background

The Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championship is 60 years old this year. Starting in 1946 it at first alternated between an individual and a team championship before evolving into its present annual team format. During its zenith in the '60s and '70s hundreds of players would compete in the Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Team Championship run by the Intercollegiate Chess League. Under the Doyle presidency, the USCF negotiated to assume responsibility for running the Pan Am, which is always held between Christmas and New Year's Day to allow maximum attendance by teams from North, Central, and South America. The Federation agreed to provide \$1,000 each year for publicity expenses to the organizer of the PanAm as well as the usual pre-event publicity in *Chess Life*. A regular college chess business

meeting is held in conjunction with the PanAm, and a list of recommended College Chess Committee members is forwarded to the Executive Board for appointment during its first meeting of the calendar year. Bids are actively sought for the PanAm but in addition to its regular bidding procedures, the bids are sent to the members of the College Chess Committee for advice before any bid is awarded.

USCF regulations and tradition mandate that if two schools are tied in the PanAm they are recognized as co-champions. Further, the title of Pan American Champion has in the past occasionally gone to a non-U.S. team. eg: the University of Toronto has won it a number of times. Thus in Spring of 2001 a new event was started, The President's Cup, known as the Final Four of College Chess. The top four U.S. colleges from the PanAm are invited to play and their expenses paid.. The rules are set up so that a clear winner emerges. The University of Texas at Dallas sponsored the first such event; the USCF took over sponsoring it except for one year (2004) when it was sponsored by the Karpov Chess School in Lindsborg, Kansas. The approximate cost of the event is \$10,000. The Federation contributes \$8,000 and the U.S. Chess Trust \$2,000. The event has drawn enormous media attention to college chess. The four qualifiers this year are Duke University, Miami Dade Community College, The University of Maryland Baltimore County, and The University of Texas at Dallas.

Two other national events for college chess have also been started by the USCF, the National Collegiate Chess League (played over the Internet), which ran for about four years, and the National Individual College Chess Championship, which was added to the National Grade K-12 (now K-12/C) in December of 2003. The national college Internet league has been revived by Gregory Alexander with the active support of Jim Stallings and others and has just started play over the ICC. Known as the U.S.C.F. College Chess League, it has just started team competition. An individual Internet championship is scheduled for the Fall. Internet play is an ideal medium for college chess competition. Adding the College Section to the K-12/C was an excellent idea by the Federation though because it also awards a team prize it may need some fine tuning.

The Federation has long recognized that it does not retain its scholastic members and that its regular adult membership is steadily declining. Although many factors cause these problems, a renewed focus on college chess was thought to be one way of addressing them. In 1996 USCF President Don Schultz asked Tim Redman to look into these matters and during the next five years some successes were achieved, the beginning of the NCCL, the start of the Final Four, discounted college membership programs, and, at the specific request of the Schultz Board, the start of two Internet chess courses, for undergraduate or graduate credit, aimed at introducing K-12 teachers to curricular, institutional, and cultural aspects of chess. The International Koltanowski Conference on Chess and Education was also held.. Since 2001, however, USCF efforts to promote college chess have been intermittent and unfocused, for various reasons but particularly due to the financial crisis of the USCF.

The problem, however, is circular. The financial problems faced by the Federation may have caused its neglect of college chess, but the neglect of college chess in turn causes financial problems for the Federation. As USCF President Bill Goichberg and others have pointed out, the steady decline of adult members is the leading cause of current USCF financial headaches. And a robust, consistent, and focused program for college chess can increase the chances of retaining members from our undoubtedly successful Scholastic Program into adulthood.

APPENDIX B – FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

Please note: This space is reserved for the summary page of the financial spreadsheet, which will be appended to the .pdf file when the minutes are final.

The following motions were passed by the Board via objections procedure and e-mail poll since the meeting:

EB06-56 – Goichberg - I move by objections procedure that the name of our scholastic publication be Chess Life for Kids. **PASSED** without objection on March 5, 2006.

EB05-57 – Board - Make the following revised Olympiad Qualification statement:

This year, the US Championships are being held in two separate sections followed by a rapid chess playoff between the winners of each section.

The Board supports AF4C's effort to increase media attention via this new format, but also feels that under this system, additional credit towards Olympiad qualification is appropriate for winners of the two sections.

The Board has decided that the overall champion and women's champion will not be automatically seeded as they have been in recent years, but that all section winners should be rewarded as follows:

Any player who comes in first or tied for first (or best scoring woman or tied for same) in either section in the 2006 US Championship will have 10 points added to his or her Olympiad invitational rating. In addition, the overall US Champion and overall US Women's Champion will each have an additional 30 points added to his or her Olympiad invitational rating." with the following note added:

The Board emphasized that this motion was passed because the new US Championship format required a change in how players should be evaluated when determining the Olympiad teams. It does not indicate any objection to the new format of the US Championship or anything but respect and appreciation for AF4C.

PASSED without objection on March 9, 2006 by e-mail poll.
