

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER, 2006, USCF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

SATURDAY SESSION

The Meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM on Saturday, November 18, 2006. Board members present were Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Executive Director Bill Hall, Beatriz Marinello, Don Schultz, and Sam Sloan. Randy Hough arrived at 9:05 AM and Robert Tanner at 9:13 AM at which time all Board members were present. Also present for at least part of the meeting were Donna Alarie, Pat Knight (Executive Assistant), Myron and Rachel Lieberman (Secretarial Assistants), Daniel Lucas (Publications Director and "Chess Life" Editor), Joe Nanna (CFO), Mike Nolan (MIS Consultant), Glenn Petersen ("Chess Life for Kids" Editor), David Quinn, Jennifer Shahade (Website Content Editor), Harold Stenzel, and Sunil Weeramantry.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President **Bill Goichberg** presented the President's report. He said that probably the most important thing that is going on at this time for USCF is the dues sale. He indicated that he has seen comments on the USCF Forum that improvement of services is more important than the dues sale. He agreed that we need to improve services as well, but he noted that the dues sale has an immediate impact but improved services take longer to be perfected. He mentioned online criticism of the website and "Chess Life". Both will be addressed. He pointed out that he agreed with the change in focus in "Chess Life" toward features rather than columns but thinks that perhaps the removal of columns went too far. He would like to see a Correspondence Chess column every month, for example, rather than an occasional feature article covering a correspondence event. He considers both the magazine and the website to be pluses and they will continue to be improved. Sam Sloan, Randy Hough, and Daniel Lucas commented. Bill Goichberg pointed out that he didn't want to take time during the report to discuss these issues as they would be discussed later in the meeting.

VP OF FINANCE REPORT

VP of Finance **Joel Channing** presented his report. He introduced new CFO **Joe Nanna**. Joe Nanna had created a spreadsheet where he included an income statement, balance sheet, and cash flow statement that were prepared from the office's accounting system and another that was prepared from the audited statement. The financial information was projected onto a screen and was visible to all in the room. He noted that cash was very important to USCF and that he was studying office procedures for handling cash and disbursements. He will be studying the details of the operation and plans to generate enough information to where he can anticipate the expected value of each item, which will enable him to notice possible irregularities quickly. Joel Channing noted that he needs to know the expenses, including staff time, that are included in the Tournaments line item. Joe Nanna pointed out that his goal was to break down the expenses for all line items. When asked how long it would take to get to that point, he said that it needs to be done quickly but if it isn't done accurately it is of no value. He can't predict the time it would take but it has priority. Joel Channing asked whether an easy to read report could be generated that would go to the Board and the Finance, LMA Management, and Audit committees on a regular basis. Joe Nanna indicated that he would design financial procedures and a reporting system that would provide more information faster and address everyone's needs.

Sam Sloan mentioned that in 1999 we had \$6.5 million in revenue and \$2 million in the LMA fund. He pointed out that he believes the biggest difference between then and now was the Book and Equipment business and that we may need to reenter the Book and Equipment business, which he believes is profitable. He also wanted to know if any improper payments were made. **Joe Nanna** pointed out that to go back and rebuild a trail from historical records would not be productive, but going forward, in the course of his evaluation, if reentry into Books and Equipment appears to be called for in the future it could be considered. **Beatriz Marinello** said that the Book and Equipment business was losing money and that by outsourcing it we at least get some money. **Joel Channing** said that he wants our records to be complete for at least seven years. He noted that our older records seem to be spotty. He mentioned that if anything questionable is found it should be looked into and he wants to be made aware of it. He also pointed out that Joe Nanna's tasks must be prioritized. He suggested that all questions about previous lists should be amalgamated and submitted on a single list, but that it should only be worked on after we get things straightened out. Joel Channing believes that we may have an outmoded business model that needs to be

addressed. **Bill Goichberg** pointed out that the Books and Equipment (B&E) outsourcing agreement is in effect until 2012 and that even if it is not renewed at that time, a different outsourcing partner might be the first option. He opposes reentry into the B&E business. Joel Channing said that he is not opposed to any reasonable idea, but we must prioritize what is done. Beatriz Marinello said that she considers return to the B&E business to be a blunder. She asked about the line of credit and mortgage. **Bill Hall** pointed out that the line of credit is applied against the principal, so there is no interest to be paid on that \$150,000. Joel Channing asked about the segregation of revenue from life memberships. Bill Hall said that over 90% is in the LMA fund, but no disbursements have been made for the last two months.

Bill Goichberg asked when reports would be available. **Joe Nanna** said that he intends to close the books on each month within ten working days of the end of the month and provide monthly reports. **Joel Channing** asked if a new chart of accounts would be created. Joe Nanna replied that no change would be made until the start of the new fiscal year. **Beatriz Marinello** asked about specific line items. Joel Channing pointed out that some changes need to be made. Consultants, for example, do not belong on the professional expenses line. The discussion on how line items are broken down continued with the initial focus being personnel expenses. Tabular documentation from the spreadsheet was projected on the screen. Joel Channing, Bill Hall, Beatriz Marinello, Joe Nanna, and Sam Sloan participated. Joel Channing said that he is a big believer in graphs and would like to see the information graphed. Joe Nanna replied that the report will include graphs of important information.

Bill Hall has obtained a quote for a \$1 million Internet insurance policy. **Joel Channing** asked him to also get a quote for a \$2 million policy. This became action item BH001 for Bill Hall.

Bill Hall provided the office action list that had been requested by **Joel Channing**. He distributed copies to the Board. Joel Channing indicated that it was just what was needed, but it needed some revision to make it more useful as a management tool. He asked Bill Hall to add a field for who is responsible for what on the action list and make it sortable by date. He pointed out that tasks should be delegated to office employees and that the Executive Director as well as the Board can use it to review what was getting done and what needed to be done. He also asked that all items be numbered and all completed items be relocated from the active area to an inactive area of the list. Bill Hall noted that he has prepared separate charts for all senior managers. Joel Channing said that was OK with him, but that he preferred all such items to be set up in separate fields of the one database. He noted that the system should allow new fields to be added whenever the need arises.

Joel Channing also noted that **Tim Redman** is working on a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for a report that may prove to be very important for the future promotion of chess and which also may prove to be very useful in the search for corporate sponsorship. He referred to the potential value of a document that includes the logos of USCF, UTD, and the NSF. Please note: There is another argument that having the NSF logo alone might carry even more weight in a scientific study that recommends chess than including the logos of any chess related organization. Either way it could lead to a breakthrough. Joel Channing also pointed out that through following up with discussions held and contacts made at the retreat (a) we now have curriculum and program endorsements with America's Foundation for Chess (AF4C) and the Berkeley School, (b)we've already reviewed and approved the Polgar Foundation's curriculum, and (c)we should be getting the Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF) curriculum soon. These agreements provide, subject to USCF review and approval, for endorsement of worthwhile curricula and programs in return for which the endorsees commit to assist in the marketing of USCF memberships.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bill Hall presented the report of the Executive Director. He noted that income from newsstand sales of "Chess Life" was \$32,000 over the last 2.5 to 3 years. Unsold magazines have not been returned to the office. Bill Hall believed that the covers are returned to the magazine's rep as evidence the magazines were not sold (but not the entire magazine and nothing is sent to the office). Bill Hall accepted action item BH002 to check into newsstand magazine sales, their results, and what happens to the unsold magazines. Dating of issues (current or future dated) was mentioned. **Randy Hough** indicated that when he was Technical Director in the office they did a study on newsstand sales and found that the dating did not make much difference. **Daniel Lucas** reported on military coverage in "Chess Life". He mentioned an articles in the September issue on the Sets for Vets program and in the December issue on the Armed Forces

Championship. He indicated that military chess will be regularly covered and he is looking for a writer for a feature on how chess is used among our troops in Iraq. Joel Channing indicated that Steve Rollins and Matt Nemmers had a problem with a TLA. Daniel Lucas replied that a military TLA was missed, however he provided the information shortly thereafter. Daniel Lucas accepted action item DL001 to e-mail Steve Rollins and Matt Nemmers with a copy to Joel Channing to be sure there is no unresolved business. **Beatriz Marinello** expressed concern about money not being returned to people who submitted TLAs that were not printed. Bill Hall said that the policy is to refund money but some have been missed. Sometimes the office is not contacted when a TLA is missed. Office staff will check all TLAs and contact the organizer when a missed TLA is discovered. **Mike Nolan** indicated that the old TLA program could drop TLAs from time to time. He is in the process of testing a new web based TLA program that would enable the organizer to submit the TLA directly, review it, and pay for it online. He expects it to be ready within a month and should eliminate that problem.

Bill Hall noted that revenue and membership numbers have increased in the last two months. He attributed this to sending more mailers and mailing to those whose membership has expired. The membership category breakdown was discussed. Beatriz Marinello and Robert Tanner participated. There seems to have been a shift in the timing of scholastic memberships, which appear to be received earlier than in previous years. It was noted that many schools have started earlier this year. Graphs were displayed which compared various membership categories for FY 2005-6 and FY2006-7 by month. They showed that adult membership was up and as of October scholastic membership appears to be far outpacing last year. Whether this is due to the time shift or represents a continuing increase remains to be seen. Multi-year memberships also increased.

Cash flow was then discussed. Donna Alarie, Joel Channing, Bill Hall, Beatriz Marinello, Joe Nanna, Sam Sloan, and Robert Tanner participated. The cash flow spreadsheet was displayed. Background was provided that the Crossville office began operations in March of 2005, Bill Hall came on board in June of 2005, the Web Store opened on September 30, 2005, and the line of credit was paid off in November of 2006.

Joel Channing asked **Bill Hall** to e-mail the action list to the Board after the changes mentioned in his VP of Finance report were made. **Beatriz Marinello** agreed.

Joel Channing mentioned that **Bill Goichberg** had asked the Rules Committee about rules for online play. After getting no response **Joel Channing** talked to **David Kuhns** of the Rules Committee. He then asked Rules Committee liaison **Robert Tanner** to follow up. Robert Tanner agreed to an action item (originally numbered RT001) that as liaison to the Rules Committee he check with the Rules Committee regarding rules for online play. Please note: Subsequent to the meeting Robert Tanner resigned from the Board and **Randy Hough** was named Rules Committee liaison. He inherited the action item, which was renumbered RH001.

Randy Hough brought up an issue with Chess Cafe, in the capacity of being USCF's Book and Equipment vendor. A member in prison complained about a USCF sales purchase where he apparently did not receive the merchandise or a refund. Randy Hough pointed out that USCF has a responsibility in such situations. **Bill Hall** said that it has been resolved, however it is unclear yet whether the resolution was to the member's satisfaction.

Bill Hall then recognized **Mike Nolan** for a presentation of membership trends. Mike Nolan handed out copies to the Board and projected them on the screen. The first graph presented the total USCF paid membership from 1952 through the present. Membership appeared to peak in 2003, then decline until this year when it leveled off and began to rise. The second graph listed several categories of membership in addition to the total paid membership from 1988 through the present. 1988 was the year in which the membership expiration audit was instituted. Scholastic memberships appeared to increase from 1988 to 2003 and decline slightly since 2004 until an upward turn in later 2006.

The third graph showed cash flow from various categories of memberships by week for 2005 and 2006. **Joe Nanna** confirmed that cash flow was on an accrual basis. The budgeted amount was included on the graph as an unchanging average (the annual budget divided by 52 weeks). Membership revenue appears to decline for all categories during the summer months. The dip took the cash flow below the budgeted

amount and the cash flow was above budget from Labor Day through Memorial Day. **Bill Goichberg** pointed out that tournament attendance is best during the summer. Mike Nolan suggested that clubs are not as well attended in the summer. Adult memberships produce the most revenue. They have been in a steady decline since 2001 until they appeared to increase significantly for the first time in the last two months. He attributed the rise in adult memberships to a mailing to those whose memberships have expired and the dues sale. The fourth graph showed the number of regular adult memberships processed, the fifth graph showed only new regular memberships (excluding renewals), the sixth broke out the on time renewals and the seventh showed renewals after a lapse of at least 1 month. He pointed out that during most of the 1990s the office processed about 6000 new members each year, while in recent years it has been about half that. Renewals after a lapse appear to be rising while on time renewals appear to be declining. It was noted that a larger than usual number of renewals of members with November or December expiration dates were processed in October, about 2/3 of which were at the dues sale rate. The next two graphs showed regular adult multi-year memberships. One showed the number of memberships and the other the percent of memberships that were multi-year. They showed a peak in 2003 before the dues increase, another in 2004 which was attributed to a mailing to lapsed members, and another in September of 2006, presumably also the result of a mailing. The next graph showed renewal rates for both new and existing members. The renewal rate for existing members started at over 60% in early 2001 and stabilized in 2003 at below 50%. They began a slow rise from 2004 to the present, where the rate is above 50%. Renewals of new members started 2001 at about 30%, rose to almost 35%, then declined, with its current value being about 25%. Please note that this graph contains no information after July 2006, so we do not know if there was a late year upturn. Next was a graph of renewal rates for existing and new senior members. Despite peaks and valleys in between, the existing member senior renewal rate started in 2001 and ended in July of 2006 at nearly the same point, just below 70%. Similarly, the renewal rate for new senior members started and ended about the same point, just below 40%. The next graph showed renewal rates for scholastic members who renew after a 3 month lapse. Existing members started 2001 at a just below 40%, rose to over 50%, then declined to its July 2006 level of about 33%. New scholastic renewals started at about 23%, rose above 35%, then declined to a low of 15% in July 2004, then rose above 25% before reaching the July 2006 level of 22%. A similar graph which showed renewal rates for a combination of Youth/Young Adult, full scholastic, and economy scholastic was also presented as were updated versions of the membership by age graphs shown in Oak Brook, and a "Heat Map" of regular adult membership renewals. Bill Goichberg asked for and was given more information on adult members. Mike Nolan agreed to action item MN001 to post the membership presentation on the web and update it monthly.

Bill Hall then mentioned efforts to locate Life Members and update USCF files. He mentioned the membership directory being developed by Harris Connect for USCF. They send a mailer to Life Members and gather full contact information, then provide the contact information to the office at no charge to USCF. This will help locate and purge those Life members that are deceased from the files. This was announced in "Chess Life", the "ENQ", and on the web. **Beatriz Marinello** asked if the names would be sold. Bill Hall replied that there is a signed contract with Harris Connect that they cannot sell the names. **Myron Lieberman** expressed concern about what Harris Connect is doing and the way they are doing it. They are in fact selling the names and all of the private contact information that they obtain through the directory that they will publish and sell. Both he and Rachel are Life Members and both received the Harris Connect postcard. Myron Lieberman called Harris Connect in response to the postcard and was concerned about several things that arose during the conversation. Among them were: (1) Harris Connect requires the e-mail address that is provided to them to be the same e-mail address that is on file with USCF. Many people do not use the same e-mail address for messages that are likely to require timely answers that they use for public mailing lists and other similar purposes that can easily attract spam and may not be checked as often. The address on file for USCF communication was not to be given to the public, (2) Harris Connect would allow only one club or organization for which the member could list as being the contact person. Many people active in the chess community, especially Life Members, volunteer for and are the contacts for more than one organization. Therefore, the information that will be published in the directory could be incomplete or inaccurate. (3) They are selling the information as part of a directory, but they will not allow those listed to see a preview of what will be published about them in order to correct any possible inaccuracies. **Glenn Petersen** noted that he was offered a USCF Life Member directory at a cost of \$100. This appears to be the same directory. Harris Connect would not provide a review copy of the member's personal information to the member by e-mail, postal mail, or any other method. This opens the possibility for Harris Connect to publish disinformation and possibly provide USCF with disinformation about

members without the knowledge of the member. The “Who's Who” series, the “American Men of Science” series, and other well established directories allow and even require those who are listed to approve their personal coverage prior to publication. (4) Their representative would not say what benefit USCF would get if someone bought the directory. Myron Lieberman pointed out that his experience talking to the Harris Connect representative left a bad impression. If he had not been as familiar with the USCF as he is, he could have been motivated to cancel his Life Membership and end any connection with USCF. He noted that there is a possibility that if they treat other members the same way, USCF could lose members.

Bill Hall mentioned efforts to purge those Life Members who are known to have died from the database. He wasn't sure how many had been purged to date. Bill Hall accepted action items BH003 to provide a status report on purging deceased Life Members from the database, and BH004 to follow up with Harris Connect regarding their procedures and policies as to content, privacy, etc.

The next issue to be discussed was the website. **Bill Hall** negotiated a settlement with Freeset and has taken the website as his flagship project. He pointed out that the website is continually evolving and asked the Board for input. He received feedback that the Board is happy with the direction the website is going, but that there are problems that need to be addressed. Discussion ensued. Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Randy Hough, Beatriz Marinello, Mike Nolan, Glenn Petersen, Don Schultz, Jenifer Shahade, Sam Sloan and Robert Tanner were among the participants. Among the issues discussed were

- (1) Login difficulties, especially through AOL, and the use of PIN numbers for login - PIN numbers can change. **Don Schultz** suggested the use of e-mail addresses for login, as is standard on many sites. They can change even more frequently. There could be quite a number of logins required, such as the Members Only login, the Forums login, the TD and Affiliate logins, etc. They currently do not use the same login name and password. Currently **Jennifer Shahade** indicates that the members only login is not active and any combination will allow access. That will need to be changed. Mike Nolan indicated that the TD and Affiliate logins cannot be merged due to USCF rules, but logins for members, such as members-only and forums could be combined.
- (2) Navigation - **Don Schultz** pointed out web navigation and overall ease of use were inadequate. He said for the record that “I consider our recognition of the web site design deficiencies as important and should be in the summary. There was also general agreement that overall Jennifer was doing a fine job and the USCF web site while a follower on various international news is the premier web site for news about American Chess.” He suggests more and better placed links prominently visible so that he doesn't need to search. Please note that while the old website did not have a good search capability, the new site has a very good search function and can find information faster than most people can. **Mike Nolan** asked that the following statement be for the record: “Bill Hall reported that Mike Nolan (when he was in the USCF office in October) led a brainstorming session to define a more complete set of website navigation entries, something that Freeset did not do and is a major deficiency of the site as it presently stands.”
- (3) Game analysis - **Randy Hough** pointed out that if someone who is on dialup Internet wants to jump from a game score to a position for analysis it cannot readily be done. That doesn't appear to be a problem for fast Internet connections.

Jennifer Shahade projected the current “Chess Life Online” content on the screen and referred to it for illustration while the discussion progressed. She pointed out that most chess websites do not have the capability to integrate the Board with the article.

Joel Channing suggested that proposed actions should be prioritized. He also suggested that the color scheme used on all pages should be the same. **Beatriz Marinello** asked for better coverage of national events including better promotion and coverage after the event. She also pointed out that the World Youth, World Jr., and World Team are important events both nationally and internationally. She stressed the need for outreach. **Jennifer Shahade** said that it is important to cover USCF sponsored events and not just for the top players. She noted that GM Joel answers questions for all players. She wants more human interest articles. **Sam Sloan** said that he does not like human interest stories with emphasis on low rated players.

Don Schultz suggested that we should have human interest articles about the top players to help promote them. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that contributor's fees for "Chess Life" total \$6,000 per month. If we want to have better articles on the website than we have in the magazine, we will need to provide better funding for contributor's fees. **Glenn Petersen** brought up the timetable for transition from the old site to the new site. Joel Channing suggested that once we get the new site current there is no need for the old site. Sam Sloan pointed out that there are 30,000 pages on the old site and that much of that information should be archived on the new site. Glenn Petersen asked about any agreements with the Chess Magnet School or anything to provide basic instruction for children. **Bill Hall** noted that we have no agreement but that we can provide a "Learn to Play" link and are planning to do that.

Bill Hall committed to action item BH005 to review the website four months from now.

Glenn Petersen asked about what we are doing for our own partners. He and **Jennifer Shahade** continued a discussion of link usage and placement. **Bill Hall** suggested a Book of the Month and a Special of the Month placed on banner ads to stimulate sales. He also mentioned an 8 page catalog in the recent "Chess Life for Kids" (CL4K). Glenn Petersen pointed to chesscafe.com as a site that has something for everyone. Jennifer Shahade agreed and also mentioned chessbase.com as another excellent site. **Joel Channing** asked how we can compete with sites like those with larger budgets. Jennifer Shahade pointed out that Chessbase, for example, provides world chess news in a timely manner so that people will go to their site every day, and they promote their own products to those people. **Bill Goichberg** asked if there were any sites that cover American chess as opposed to global chess better than our site. The global sites cover remarkably little American chess. Jennifer Shahade replied that no other site is comparable to ours for American chess. She also noted that our new site is getting a substantially greater number of hits than our old site. Bill Goichberg suggested that the US Open should be on our site for a long time. We should determine what events are most important to us and try to promote coverage of those events on the global sites as well as our own. Joel Channing asked how many hits we would need to get to sell advertising on our site. **Mike Nolan** indicated that outside advertisers become interested in a site when it has about a million hits daily. We currently are getting 300,000 to 400,000 hits but we are improving. He estimates that we are better than halfway to where we need to be. He pointed out that we can benefit from analysis but there is nobody with the time to do it. This becomes a question of priority.

Joel Channing suggested that someone needs to provide a report that suggests what should be done and asked if we should give away advertising and when we should start to sell it.

Bill Hall said that the Advertising Manager will provide feedback regarding advertising on the website. That is action item AM001.

Sam Sloan said that coverage of an event should be able to take place from someone's home. He pointed out that he has reported on major events such as an Olympiad and the World Championship in Las Vegas without ever going into the tournament hall. **Jennifer Shahade** agreed that it could be done and she has had to cover events from home on occasion. She did point out, however, that photos, games, and other event specific information are usually needed for good coverage. **Bill Hall** pointed to the old website, which was on the screen, and reminded everyone that this is what we had not so long ago. While the website is an ongoing project, it is well recognized that our current site is a tremendous improvement over the old site. **Don Schultz** noted that the team spirit was very high during the Olympiad and things like that cannot be captured from home. You have to be there. He used the win by Akobian in the last round, which guaranteed a Bronze medal for our team, as an example. **Myron Lieberman** noted and **Mike Nolan** confirmed that the "Chess Life Online" page is now available as an RSS news feed, which allows people to read the headlines and go directly to stories from their computer without the need for e-mail or the need to manually go to the site. There is no cost to the member and it is an excellent feature that many otherwise good sites do not yet have. The biggest advantages for most people are the ability to receive the feed without changing or even disclosing an e-mail address and the ability to avoid subscriptions being caught by spam filters.

Donna Alarie asked about the availability of forms on the website. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that they are on the site but they may be hard to find. He is in the middle of working on a navigation system that should have been done before the site was rebuilt, but wasn't. Donna Alarie advocates for a prominent place for the forms.

The forums and their moderation were briefly discussed.

The Board took a break at 12:10 PM and resumed in closed session at 12:20 PM. No motions arose from closed session and the Board resumed in open session at 1:12 PM.

Sam Sloan moved to obtain a 3-chip recorder for Myron Lieberman. **Myron Lieberman** turned down the offer. He pointed out that the videotapes were being made to help Myron and Rachel prepare the minutes. The tapes are not for publication or distribution of any kind. They are admittedly of insufficient quality for publication but they serve the recording function well and they have no intent to publish a public video. Sam Sloan indicated he did. All equipment and supplies Myron and Rachel use are their own and USCF is not charged for them. USCF provided Myron and Rachel with a tripod to replace one that was damaged at a Delegates' Meeting. Although USCF replaced his personal equipment, Myron Lieberman asked that USCF consider it their property and can transfer it to whomever records the meetings in the future or have it returned to the office if they have other needs. He explained that he and Rachel use the video to help identify speakers, to verify who is present, etc. They prepare audio DVDs of the entire meeting with the open and closed sessions on separate disks and provide them to Pat Knight at the office after the minutes have been prepared. The audio from the open session DVDs can be posted or otherwise made public. The audio from the closed session DVDs remains confidential and remain in the possession of the office after the minutes are approved. This cannot be done immediately since questions come up during the review of the minutes. An example is where someone remembers something being voted but can't find it in the draft of the minutes. Often this can be traced to it being discussed in closed session but no motion resulted. The only way to verify that is from notes and the open and closed session recordings. Myron Lieberman pointed out that while he has obtained two microphones, which help the sound capture and work well with his video camera, technology has improved and there is a need for better sound equipment. He recommended that an improved sound system be obtained. Sam Sloan pointed out that there are three chip recorders on the market with built-in sound systems that should work. **Don Schultz** noted that another solution is to provide eight microphones for the Board table. He moved a substitute for Sam Sloan's motion to have Myron Lieberman and Mike Nolan make a recommendation to the Board on how to get a better audio system. Discussion continued. Myron Lieberman estimated that a suitable system with multiple microphones could be obtained for less than \$2,000. He noted that he had sent Bill Hall some information on possibilities that were available after a previous meeting. Don Schultz later withdrew his motion. **Bill Goichberg** moved to refer the matter to the Executive Director, which was done. Myron Lieberman accepted action item ML001 to work with **Bill Hall** to evaluate recording equipment possibilities and costs. Please note: He indicated that he would be open to input from anyone who might have ideas on audio equipment. He also subsequently located a new piece of equipment that might be a good possibility. It is a combination of a portable digital mixer and recorder that accepts eight inputs. The information has been sent to Bill Hall, Mike Nolan, and the Board.

EB07- 028 – (Sloan) USCF will buy a 3 chip camcorder with a built-in audio system, to cost between \$1500 - \$2000, to be loaned to Myron as long as he goes to these meetings. **REFERRED** to the Executive Director 7-0 on a motion by **Bill Goichberg**.

David Quinn, who attended the session, was interested in financial information. He was given a handout and it was noted that the financial discussion would take place shortly.

Sam Sloan moved to disallow any online games for the US Championship.

EB07- 029 – (Sloan) All games in the US Championship must be played face to face and not online. **FAILED** 1-4-2 with Sam Sloan in favor, Goichberg, Hough, Schultz, and Tanner opposed, and Channing and Marinello abstaining.

Copies of the budget were handed out. **Donna Alarie** noted that the numbers seemed to be different from the numbers presented at the August meetings. **Bill Hall** pointed out that the budget prepared for the August meeting was created and approved in May based on projected results for the fiscal year, while the current budget is based on actual results for the last fiscal year, which closed at the end of May. A financial discussion then ensued. Donna Alarie, Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Beatriz Marinello, Joe

Nanna, and Robert Tanner were among those who participated. **Joel Channing** emphasized that we need to know what everything actually costs before we can make decisions. **Bill Goichberg** noted that the Executive Director should make recommendations when projections indicate a loss of cash. **Joe Nanna** reiterated his goal of having the financial reports available within ten days of the close of each month. He pointed out that he not only needs to know what the actual numbers are, but also needs to know the historical data regarding fluctuations in order to make good projections. He indicated that he is already tracking cash in and cash out and pointed out that while from a pure P&L standpoint we are losing money, **Sam Sloan** said that we have been having the same conversation for over 25 years. The people at the table are different but the words are the same.

Next to be discussed was newsstand magazine sales. **Bill Goichberg** said that we have three options. We can handle it the way we are doing it now, we can use a different distributor that would require a larger discount, which would sell more magazines but probably lose money, or we can pay someone to sell the magazine, which would sell many more magazines but it would generate a loss, not income.

Glenn Petersen said that we get about \$2.37 from our current distributors (smaller local distributors). Please note: He quoted \$1.67 from memory at the meeting and subsequently corrected that figure to \$2.37. A national distributor that handles distribution through grocery stores, etc., such as Hearst, would probably return a net of under \$1 per magazine sold. The third option would involve specific deals with companies such as Barnes and Noble, but we would probably need to pay them to stock the magazine. **Frank Niro** tried that and it cost us about \$8,000 for one issue for top shelf placement at 350 Barnes and Noble stores. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that the Barnes and Noble sales averaged less than 1 issue per store. Glenn Petersen mentioned for the sake of discussion that a fourth option also existed and that was for the office to do the research and handle its own distribution, however he wasn't advocating that option. It was noted that about 2,600 copies per month are sent to newsstands and about 30% of them sell. When we used a national distributor in the past the sales rate was about 35% of 8,000 to 9,000 issues shipped each month. Glenn Petersen noted that effective with the February, 2007, issue, "Chess Life for Kids" would be available on newsstands. A discussion of details on magazine costs evolved. Donna Alarie, Joel Channing, Bill Hall, Daniel Lucas, Beatriz Marinello, Joe Nanna, Mike Nolan, Glenn Petersen, Sam Sloan, and Robert Tanner were among the participants. **Bill Hall** noted that a significant cost of the magazine is the mailing, and bulk mailing costs much less. Glenn Petersen said that "Folio" magazine publishes information on over 2,000 magazines and the apparent break even point for newsstand sales was 25%. It was also noted that with a low volume such as we have, the fixed costs become a major component of the total cost. The economies of scale prevail. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that the printing cost of "Chess Life" appears to be about 75 cents per copy while "Sports Illustrated" in 4 colors, for example, costs about 40 cents a copy to print because they print a million and a half copies at a time. Joe Nanna said that by adding \$18,000 and \$42,000 and dividing by 67,000 you can arrive at the average cost for printing and mailing each magazine. Bill Hall agreed to Action Item BH006 to look into the costs of magazine distribution and have a report by the next meeting or earlier. **Myron Lieberman** suggested that possibly distributors of children's books might consider carrying "CL4K". He agreed to Action Item ML002 to provide Glenn Petersen with the information for some scholastic book distributors. Glenn Petersen pointed out that what magazines want is the advertising dollar. They need a large circulation to attract advertising dollars, so they are willing to lose money to circulate more copies. That works for other magazines, but until we generate advertising it may not make sense for us. **Sam Sloan** raised the issue of advertising for tobacco, liquor, and gambling. There is a Delegate motion that prevents accepting such ads (even for "CL"), however whether ads from companies that sell liquor, tobacco, or casinos that do not promote the use of those products or smoking, drinking, or gambling in general might be considered on a case by case basis remains unclear. It was noted that ads for the national Open in Las Vegas have not been refused despite Las Vegas' association with gambling. Nonetheless CL4K is for children under 13. Please note: Objection was raised in the past over a "CL" cover photo that was taken in a casino.

Next on the agenda was the US Championship, both overall and Women's. **Bill Goichberg** reviewed the status of the AF4C proposed format. He said that the format may be different than was originally proposed by AF4C but there will be knockout matches. He indicated that there may be more news soon regarding possible changes. **Don Schultz** pointed out that **Susan Polgar** was meeting with Erik Anderson in Seattle and she may have more news when she returns. **Sam Sloan** noted that AF4C's approved announcement said nothing about prize fund or schedule. He does not believe that Erik Anderson or Merrill Lynch has put up

any money yet and does not believe the tournament in Las Vegas will take place. He suggests that we wait until we have a committed sponsor before making any decision. He objected to certain tournaments being listed as qualifiers to boost attendance when it is possible that the qualification could lead to a strongly reduced if not nonexistent championship. Don Schultz pointed out that those tournaments were qualifiers before these issues developed. Bill Goichberg noted that qualifiers have been added all year long. **Sunil Weeramantry** noted that the professional players were upset by the AF4C announcement. The format, which included knockout matches and some online play, the lack of confirmation of prizes and schedule, and the uncertainty of qualifiers were among the issues. Sam Sloan noted that the contract gives AF4C the option to run the championship but does not require them to do so. Bill Goichberg noted that this is the first time that the option wasn't picked up before the deadline but he is confident that they will run the event. If they do not, he believes USCF is morally obligated to hold the US Championship, but it would have a reduced prize fund. Please note: The USCF charter requires that there be a US Championship at least every two years and the Delegates passed a motion that strongly encourages an annual championship. Don Schultz noted that the defending champion should be seeded into the US Championship. Sunil Weeramantry asked whether or not AF4C would still have an option to run the US Championship in 2008 if they do not run it in 2007. He also noted that Hikaru Nakamura does not want to play online. Cheating is too easy. **Beatriz Marinello** agreed that players do not want online play because of cheating. **Erik Anderson** told Bill Goichberg earlier this year that the cost to them to run the championship is \$400,000 and they have found sponsorship for about half of that. The remaining \$200,000 is an out of pocket expense for him personally. Sunil Weeramantry noted that the AF4C website does not even mention the US Championship. Please note: Their website covers the 2006 US Championship but their US Championship coverage has not been updated since 2006 and they say nothing about 2007. Discussion continued regarding the cheating issue with Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Randy Hough, Beatriz Marinello, David Quinn, Jennifer Shahade, Sam Sloan, Robert Tanner, and Sunil Weeramantry among the participants.

Sunil Weeramantry pointed out that AF4C's vision has changed. Originally it was to showcase the top players. Now it is scholastic because that's where the sponsorship dollars are. **Robert Tanner** suggested that their goal is probably to maximize media coverage. The changes they propose are attractive to the media. Please note: The AF4C vision statement currently on their website focuses on their "First Move" curricula, which is endorsed by USCF. **Beatriz Marinello** said that Erik Anderson is negotiating with sponsors but has not yet exercised his option, so he may be looking for a way out. Sunil Weeramantry suggested that he should commit through 2010 with at least minimal standards. Beatriz Marinello suggested that we should set a deadline for AF4C to commit. We should run a round robin our way if necessary. **Bill Goichberg** noted that he has spent all year negotiating with Erik Anderson. Originally AF4C wanted all games online, now only a few. Sunil Weeramantry wants a Board motion that no online games are allowed. **Joel Channing** said that we need to establish a deadline and that we need to work together to see how long we can wait in order for us to do what we need to do if the option hasn't been exercised. Discussion ensued regarding setting a deadline. Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Randy Hough, Beatriz Marinello, Don Schultz, Robert Tanner, and Sunil Weeramantry were among the participants. Bill Goichberg noted that one reason for the delay may have been that John Henderson, who had worked on the US Championship in the past, was away. It was noted that he is returning. Beatriz Marinello said that only one person should talk to AF4C (in an official USCF capacity). Bill Goichberg noted that Erik Anderson has reasons to talk to the three people that have been talking to him. Joel Channing suggested that the remainder of the discussion at this point should be in closed session so that we can agree on where we go from here. This was done.

Bill Goichberg noted that Erik Anderson indicated that he would put money into the US Women's Championship but does not want to run it. **Susan Polgar** met with AF4C in Seattle and both Foundations plan to contribute money to the event. There is also another proposal from Leon Muraden (sp?). Sunil Weeramantry indicated that conditions for the "Men's" (overall) Championship should be no worse than for the Women's. Sam Sloan opined that the Women's Championship being played with the overall championship has worked out well, and every year it seems like a major story emerged from the Women's Championship, which had good media coverage when they are played together. Please note that in an earlier discussion Bill Goichberg pointed out that it was the cheapest solution to have them play together. **Jennifer Shahade** prefers something other than a round robin structure rather and she mentioned that **Irina Krush** said that a knockout would probably be more interesting to the press. **Beatriz Marinello** said that she has sent e-mails to the top women and the consensus was they prefer a round robin. Bill Goichberg suggested that a Round Robin be played and that a match be held between the top two finishers at the site of the

overall US Championship.

A discussion of National Scholastics followed. **Bill Goichberg** raised the issue of too small a group of people being considered assignment as chief TD at the National Scholastics. **Sunil Weeramantry** replied that the group is being enlarged. He pointed out that the chief TD for Orlando will be Franc Guadalupe. The Scholastic Council believes very strongly that it is necessary that a TD serve as a section chief at a National Scholastic before being considered as the Chief TD of a National Scholastic. Robert Tanner asked if someone who had been a Chief TD of a National Scholastic over ten years ago would qualify. Sunil Weeramantry pointed out that he ran the 1991 National Scholastic and the conditions are very different today. The scholastic regulations in effect today were not in place at that time. He emphasized that it is most important that the candidate serve as a Section Chief at a relatively recent National Scholastic. **Sam Sloan** asked about the authority of the scholastic council in choosing TDs and other scholastic employees. Sunil Weeramantry and **Beatriz Marinello** reviewed their status. **Robert Tanner** pointed out that the TDs are never chosen by the Board. **Bill Hall** selects TDs with input from the Scholastic Council. **Joel Channing** asked about the difference between the Scholastic Council and other committees. **Randy Hough** noted that the scholastic council appears to have powers no other committee has, including endorsement of EB candidates.

The Board recessed at 3:38 PM and resumed in closed session at 3:50 PM. Open session resumed at 5:58 PM. **Joel Channing** read some examples of Internet postings by **Sam Sloan** that he considered to be unacceptable. The Board discussed Internet postings by Board members. **Joel Channing** moved to reprimand **Sam Sloan** for making public charges without proof and disassociate the Board from Sam Sloan's statements. At Joel Channing's suggestion, the motion was not voted in order to give Sam Sloan an opportunity to think overnight about whether or not he was willing to agree to abide by the Executive Board Code of Conduct, which he later did.

EB07- 030 – (Channing) The Board reprimands Sam Sloan for reckless conduct for making public charges without proof and further the Board states that it disassociates itself completely from his statements. As far as the Board knows he is speaking strictly for himself. NOT VOTED

The meeting then recessed until Sunday and resumed in open session at 9:06 AM on Sunday, November 19.

SUNDAY SESSION

Dues and Membership trends were discussed. **Bill Goichberg** said that he was happy with the "Chess Life" coverage of the dues sale. He suggested that we see if we offer free advertising on our website to ICC in exchange for free advertising of USCF and the dues sale on the ICC website. **Bill Hall** noted that the advertising would go on ICC's electronic newsletter. There is already a link to ICC on our site. USCF can offer to Quick rate online games on ICC. Bill Goichberg pointed out that ICC members should benefit from a reduced USCF membership cost and they would find out about the new improved "Chess Life" and website. A discussion followed regarding placement of advertising on the website. Among the participants were Joel Channing, Bill Hall, Daniel Lucas, and Sam Sloan.

Bill Goichberg wants to extend the dues sale through the end of 2007. This will be a topic for the February meeting. He prefers to extend the dues sale rather than make it permanent. Some promotional memberships were dropped. He noted that the average decrease in dues was about \$3.50. Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Randy Hough, Mike Nolan, Sam Sloan, and Robert Tanner were among those who participated in a discussion of anticipated membership revenue. Bill Goichberg predicted a loss of money at first with adult dues at \$39, but an increase in later years. He noted that while dues can only be raised by the Delegates, the Board can lower dues through promotional memberships (which are reviewed annually by the Delegates). The Dues sale is a promotional membership. Distribution of "CL4K" to affiliates and the Board was briefly discussed.

The office is experimenting with the idea of group memberships for schools. They offer group scholastic memberships for schools in categories of 100 for \$10 each (\$1000) total, 300 for \$8 each (\$2400 total), and 1000 for \$7 each (\$7000). Youth memberships are \$2 higher in each category. USCF sends the memberships and magazines to the school's address and the school distributes them. **Bill Goichberg**

suggested they consider an unlimited membership for the school but only 20 copies of the magazine would be included. **Sam Sloan** said that every student needs a magazine. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that one adult membership is provided with each 100 scholastic memberships and three adult memberships are provided with each 100 youth memberships. A discussion ensued. Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Randy Hough, Beatriz Marinello, Sam Sloan and Robert Tanner were among the participants. Sam Sloan expressed concern over a school getting 100 memberships for \$10 each and selling them to the students for \$12 each. Mike Nolan pointed out that these memberships are paid for in advance and no money is refunded if they aren't all sold, therefore whether or how much a school charges the students will not affect USCF's income from the group membership. Bill Goichberg noted that some schools may not be set up to sell memberships while an unlimited membership lets them pay once each year and have all students covered. Myron Lieberman pointed out that some parents, coaches, and administrators are opposed to students joining any external organization and suggested that an unlimited membership could be considered (and marketed) as a license for the school to offer the benefits of USCF membership and not as individual USCF memberships for the students. **Beatriz Marinello** expressed concern about revenue loss due to current members becoming part of a school's unlimited membership. Myron Lieberman suggested that it be initially tried in areas where there is substantial non-USCF scholastic play. Mike Nolan suggested that unlimited memberships be capped. He also pointed out that under this program USCF does not print individual membership cards. A pdf file is e-mailed to the school so that the school can print membership cards locally. That saves USCF about \$0.50 per member. **Bill Hall** noted that we can't be sure that the kids are getting the magazines. Bill Goichberg also wondered what would happen to the magazines in the summer.

Mike Nolan noted that there is a minimum age in the system to prevent people from using the current year when entering their birthday.

Bill Goichberg brought up the subject of the Junior Grand Prix. The proposed format would encourage players to play against stronger opposition and at a slower time control (Game 60 or slower). It also would be rated using actual rating at the time each game is played. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that it would require at least 50 hours of programming time and over 200 hours of staff monitoring time. He itemized several areas where programming and/or monitoring was required and why. He also suggested that it should be timed to coincide with a school year as opposed to a calendar year in response to a comment by **Beatriz Marinello**. Bill Goichberg noted that most scholastic sections are run at Game 30 rather than game 60. **Randy Hough** noted that using actual ratings as opposed to official ratings takes time. Bill Goichberg noted that it would get many more children playing. Mike Nolan pointed out that there are several Federal and state statutes that relate to publication of information about minors on the Internet. Myron Lieberman pointed out specifically that we need to comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). Sam Sloan and Robert Tanner participated in the discussion. Beatriz Marinello said that the Scholastic Council wants to study the proposal. Bill Goichberg wants to encourage kids who are rated as low as 1200 to play. Mike Nolan suggested that this should be referred to the Scholastic Council. Bill Goichberg agreed. Action was then deferred to the February meeting, when input from the Scholastic Council and Mike Nolan's 2002 report on youth participation in adult tournaments would be available.

Beatriz Marinello introduced **Mike Nietman's** message regarding the changes to the scholastic regulations that were accepted in August. He had three concerns. The first point was to add "established" before "rating" in the opening paragraph of the National Scholastic Tournament Regulations. The second point was to remove the Denker Tournament of High School Champions from the list of tournaments to which the regulations apply. The third point was to add the following to the 2004 Bughouse rules under Rule 15.a.1: If the checking piece is not a knight or is not in contact (on an adjacent square) with the defending King, and the defending player does not have any material to block the check, the defending player may wait until his or her partner supplies a piece, provided their time does not run out. It was the sense of the Board that the three items on Mike Nietman's list are accepted.

Mike Nolan then presented a spreadsheet that listed all of his current tasks for USCF. It was projected on the screen and consisted of over 130 items broken down into categories. The intent is to update the list on a weekly basis. Among the general categories were Cash Flow System, Correspondence Chess, FIDE, Governance, Membership issues, Office issues, Ratings, Website issues, etc. Each category included several tasks. He plans to assess how much time each task in each category is likely to take, then prioritize each as high, medium, and low priority with input from the Board and the Executive Director. Convenience and

opportunity will be considered in addition to priority. There may also be some instances where items not on the list may need to be done. An extensive Q&A session and discussion took place.

Randy Hough asked about Correspondence Chess. He had heard that no correspondence games have been rated since June. Mike Nolan said that **Alex Dunne** was now ready to enter results into the new system. Most of the correspondence issues on the chart have been completed. Mike Nolan eventually wants to include Correspondence results in the MSA.

Beatriz Marinello asked if there was anyone available to help take some of the programming load off of Mike Nolan. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that Brett (in the office) is qualified and they have been bringing him on board slowly. Brett is already involved in some of the projects and may rewrite MSA at some point in the future. Mike Nolan referred to a saying that you can ask for (low) price, quality, or time, but you can only get two. USCF usually wants price and quality, which means it will take time.

It was noted that FIDE now has implemented a new reporting system that requires far more detail than in the past and the capability to submit FIDE reports in the new format must be in place by January.

Joe Nanna, Joel Channing, and Mike Nolan discussed in depth the cash flow reporting system and how it could interface with the accounting system. Mike Nolan indicated that his goal is to give Joe Nanna what he needs (the reports generated by the accounting system and those generated by the MIS reporting system will generate the same numbers) He believes that we are within 4-6 weeks of that.

Sam Sloan raised the issue of recording meetings. **Mike Nolan** pointed to a previous problem with the separation of closed from open session information. The procedure is to use separate tapes for closed and open session. Apparently an employee may have inadvertently recorded some closed session information on an open session tape. A similar instance occurred at a later time when a court reporter did the same on a transcript. **Myron Lieberman** provided the history of what has been done in the past, described what is being done now. He pointed out that the audio DVDs sent to the office can be converted to sound files and posted. A program for editing sound files, such as Audacity (which is free) could be used if needed. Mike Nolan suggested recording on DAT. Myron Lieberman noted that the motion passed earlier should resolve any recording issues.

Bill Goichberg brought up Quick Ratings. The subject of quick rating all events was discussed. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that it would take 5 to 7 weeks to go back and rerate all events since 1991 on the Quick system to provide accurate results. A rerate of events since 2004 can be done within about two weeks. He could run the rerate on a backup server, which would not need staff time for monitoring, but it would not shorten the computer time required. He also pointed out the need for a third server, which would become the production machine. The existing production machine becomes the first backup, and the existing backup machine becomes the second backup. He will determine the details and report on this at the next meeting. That became action item MN003. A discussion ensued. Bill Goichberg, Beatriz Marinello, Mike Nolan, Sam Sloan, and Robert Tanner were among those that participated. Bill Goichberg suggested that the advantages of accepting the inaccuracy caused by not rerating those events would be greater than the disadvantages. He asked whether a new overall rating system could be adopted now. Mike Nolan said that it could, but it wouldn't solve the problem. It was pointed out that the Delegates mandated that Quick ratings be changed to include all events.

Bill Goichberg noted that the Delegates approved Life Titles in 2003. Mike Nolan indicated that Life Titles would take about 30-40 hours to implement.

E-Mail distribution of BINFOs was the next topic. Costs and charges were discussed as was the past history of BINFO distribution. Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Beatriz Marinello, Mike Nolan, Don Schultz, and Sam Sloan were among the participants. Don Schultz moved to refer the development of an e-mail BINFO system to the Executive Director. **Sam Sloan** wants copies of non-confidential contracts included. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that the document that Sam Sloan tried to e-mail was 75 MB in size. Most ISPs will not allow a file that large to be e-mailed, because it causes messages to be backed up on the server and would be very slow. **Joel Channing** indicated that BINFO is slow and wants to eliminate things, not add them. Mike Nolan suggested moving the BINFO and TD/Affiliate areas from the web server in Nebraska to a dedicated server in Tennessee. That would require a T1 line at about \$1500 monthly. **Beatriz Marinello**

opined that the BINFOS should be e-mailed for free since any cost would be insignificant to the labor involved.

EB07- 031 – (Schultz) Moved, that the Board refer to the Executive Director the development of an e-mail BINFO distribution system barring unforeseen problems. FAILED with Hough, Schultz, and Sloan in favor, Channing, Goichberg, Marinello, and Tanner opposed.

Next to be discussed was voting by e-mail. Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Randy Hough, Mike Nolan, Don Schultz, and Sam Sloan were among the participants. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that Robert's Rules apply to physical (face to face) meetings. E-mail can be replied to at different times. Someone can be offering an amendment or substitute at the same time someone else is voting, for example. There is no sequence of motions. It is OK to have more than one motion on the table during an e-mail vote. **Joel Channing** noted that it is best if the issue of which motion to vote is decided by e-mail before calling for a vote. Rachel Lieberman suggested that this can be done by an e-mail poll on which motion to vote. **Bill Goichberg** noted that if there are two motions and one passes the other is moot. **Sam Sloan** suggested voting via a Yahoo forum. **Bill Hall** moved that a subcommittee be formed to study e-mail voting. After a proposed substitute to refer to the Bylaws Committee with Don Schultz participating failed, the main motion passed. Please note: Mike Nolan indicated that if he is on the subcommittee to which this is referred it is his intent to involve the Bylaws Committee as well (He is co-chair).

EB07- 032 – (Hall) The Board refers the issue of e-mail voting to a subcommittee of Don Schultz, Bill Goichberg, and Mike Nolan. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Channing abstaining.

Vote count procedures were considered next. **Don Schultz** moved that vote count information should be fully open and made available on request during the vote count. The Board discussed various possibilities. **Randy Hough** offered a substitute that would have the results posted online as each region or state is counted. He accepted a **Bill Hall** amendment to allow the Election Committee to override the procedure. Randy Hough mentioned that in the last election there were complaints about ballots not being received. Apparently this was due (at least in part) to the ballots having been sent out by bulk mail. **Mike Nolan** noted that the cost for sending ballots bulk mail was about \$16,000 compared to \$25,000 for first class mail. He suggested that the Election Committee should take the possibilities of going back to a ballot in the magazine, using bulk mail, or using first class mail under advisement. The entire matter was referred to the Election Committee by request of Election Committee chair Mike Nolan. Please note: Mike Nolan said that he will report back to the EB (regarding the ballot and how to report the results) by February 1, 2007, which will be in time for the EB to decide how to handle the matter (See also action item MN002)

EB07- 033 – (Hough/Hall) In EB elections, the vote count shall be by Region or State and the results posted online as counted with the Election Committee having the ability to override the procedure under extreme circumstances. **REFERRED** to the Election Committee.

Bill Goichberg brought up the possibility of USCF rating all foreign tournaments. He handed out a suggested 5 point policy which is summarized as (1) Rate all US players in eight specific tournaments (The Olympiad, World Team, World Championship cycle, World Junior, World Youth, World Senior, Pan Am Junior, and Pan Am Youth). (2) Use a system provided by the Ratings Committee to convert opponents' FIDE ratings to USCF ratings and adjust them. (3) Maintain a list of FIDE tournaments that will be USCF rated on the USCF website. (4) Allow a player, upon paying a fee and promising to submit the results, to register to have a FIDE event not on the list USCF rated. (5) If a player requests USCF rating of a FIDE tournament not on the list, and the results are received, the event will be added to the list on the website for a period of one year and all US players in that event will have their games USCF rated. **Mike Nolan** described the work involved and explained that the procedure suggested by the ratings Committee only works if the players have FIDE ratings, which requires nine FIDE rated events. Extensive discussion followed. He indicated that to look up and process 400 players in each of 400 FIDE events would take between 10-20 hours of staff time quarterly. Clearly to look up fewer players from eight events would have a much lower impact on staff time. Bill Goichberg, Beatriz Marinello, Mike Nolan, and Sam Sloan were among the participants. Among the points covered included input from two different sources on the ratings Committee; the possibility that a player could ask that an event be USCF rated if it benefited that player, while other US players might want it not to be rated (but what is done for one must be done for all); labor,

etc. Mike Nolan presented graphs of players with both USCF and FIDE established ratings. They showed that there was a 93% confidence interval between the FIDE rating and the USCF rating without further adjustment. That compared to a 70% confidence interval between the players' Regular and Quick USCF Ratings. **Beatriz Marinello** suggested that only item (1) on the list be considered (Only rate the US players in the eight specific FIDE tournaments named in item (1)). Bill Goichberg offered a motion that would accomplish that. He also asked for a report on what the staff time actually is to include other events. Mike Nolan agreed to get Walter or Chuck to identify all FIDE events in the October supplement other than the eight named tournaments and see how much time was actually required. This became action item MN004. The motion to rate participants in the eight major FIDE events named in item (1) passed.

EB07-34 – (Goichberg) Moved that motion EB06-019, which was approved in October, 2005, regarding USCF rating of foreign tournaments is amended effective March 01, 2007. In its place, the system recommended by the Ratings Committee (and similar to the system that was used in the 1990s) should be used to adjust the USCF ratings of all FIDE rated US representatives in the named tournaments (See item (1) above) based on the changes in their FIDE ratings. Players who lack FIDE ratings shall not have their USCF ratings adjusted based on foreign play. **PASSED 6-1** with Sloan opposed.

It was noted that USCF rating lists will be prepared monthly effective February 2007. The December 2006 list will be valid for January 2007 events. There will be no January 2007 list.

The meeting recessed at 1:24 PM and resumed in closed session at 1:43 PM. The Board then returned to open session at 3:12 PM. **Beatriz Marinello** offered the following motion, which originated in closed session. It was discussed, voted and passed in open session. **Robert Tanner** left during the discussion but requested that his vote be counted as in favor. He did not return and voted on no subsequent motions.

EB07-035 – (Marinello) No member of the Executive Board is allowed to serve as a Director in a Senior role in any USCF National Tournament in a paid or non-paid capacity. **PASSED 6-1** with Schultz opposed. Don Schultz stated for the record that he believed that this motion violates Delegate motion(s) regarding people with current contracts.

The discussion regarding Board conflict of interest continued. Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Randy Hough, Beatriz Marinello, Mike Nolan, and Sam Sloan were among the participants.

Beatriz Marinello then offered a follow-up motion regarding Board candidates as magazine columnists.

EB07-036 – (Marinello) No member of the Executive Board will be a regular paid columnist of “Chess Life” magazine and/or “Chess Life for Kids”. If there is any existing contractual obligation, such agreement will be frozen when the member is certified to be a candidate for the Executive Board. **FAILED 3-3** with Hough, Marinello and Sloan in favor and Channing, Goichberg, and Schultz against. Please note that Don Schultz stated for the record that he believed that this motion violates Delegate motion(s) regarding people with current contracts.

The Board returned to closed session at 3:33 PM. During closed session Bill Hall agreed to Action Item BH007 item to report to the Board on fundraising.

Open session resumed at 4:20 PM. Two motions that arose from closed session were read and voted.

EB07-037 – (Board) Moved, that the Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to conclude the agreement with House of Staunton. **PASSED 6-0**.

EB07-038 – (Board) Move to suspend Rich Jackson’s membership until he pays and submits rating reports and memberships for the Connecticut State Scholastic Championship. Also his TD Certification is suspended for five years. **PASSED 6-0**.

John Donaldson informed the Executive Board via e-mail of an offer made by **Tim Tobiason** to scan “Chess Life” newspapers and magazines from 1947 through 1975 and subsequent e-mails between himself and Tim Tobiason. The Board passed a motion earlier via e-mail (EB07-026) that approved the idea in

principle. **Bill Hall** noted that if this were to be done at the office someone would be hired and a new scanner would be purchased. **Sam Sloan** pointed out that Tim Tobiason is experienced in this type of work, is an expert on copyright law, and has the proper equipment. He noted that the newspapers constitute thousands of 17 inch pages and are deteriorating. One advantage of scanning them is to preserve the archive. Sam Sloan made the following motion, which passed. He noted that the motion does not specifically name Tim Tobiason and that John Donaldson can select anyone to do the job.

EB07-039 – (Sloan) Moved, that the Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate the scanning proposal. John Donaldson is given the right to get someone to scan “Chess Life” newspapers from 1947 to 1960 and “Chess Life” magazine from 1961 to 1975. The Executive Director is authorized to work out the details with John Donaldson. **PASSED 6-0.**

Bill Goichberg moved to authorize a second \$5,000 payment from the Professional Players' health and Benefit Fund (PPHBF) for **John Grefe's** medical expenses. **Bill Hall** mentioned that receipts have been received for \$4,500 from the first payment (Motion EB07-024 authorized up to \$5,000 with an option for a second payment of up to \$5,000 if approved by the Board.). **Sam Sloan** indicated that there was uncertainty over the nature of John Grefe's illness and that we should get more information before issuing the second release of funds. Bill Goichberg pointed out that if the release is subject to approval of receipts, that shouldn't be a problem. **Mike Nolan** mentioned that at the current time cash is being removed from the PPHBF faster than it is being added.

EB07-040 – (Goichberg) The Board authorizes up to \$5,000 for John Grefe subject to approval of receipts by the Executive Director. **PASSED 6-0**

Mike Nolan brought up the USCF Privacy Policy and what information can be made available on various lists. Extensive discussion took place. Do our actual practices match our privacy policy? What about personal information such as e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc.? How do we handle members' requests to remove their information from the USCF website (including names, photos, and/or contact information)? How can someone contact an unfamiliar Tournament Director if a problem arises prior to a tournament without contact information? Shouldn't Delegates be required to be accessible by having their contact information available? **Randy Hough** asked about the old 3"x5" rating cards. Mike Nolan replied that they are on microfiche. Eventually they should be copied. Making children's age information available could violate COPPA laws. What about Top 100 lists based on age, etc.? Mike Nolan suggests a subcommittee be formed to study this. **Joel Channing** opined that this should be done by lawyers. **Beatriz Marinello** agreed to do research on scholastic member information and get legal advice. This became Action Item BM001.

Sam Sloan at this point agreed to follow the EB Standards of Conduct and motion EB07-030 was moot. **Joel Channing** mentioned that he will forget the past and noted that USCF only stands behind official actions of the Board. A Board resolution to that effect was made in motion EB07-23 earlier via e-mail.

The next meeting of the USCF Executive Board has been scheduled for February 3-4, 2007, at the Sheraton Hotel in Monrovia, CA. The may meeting has been scheduled for the first weekend in May in Florida. More details later.

Sam Sloan noted that there is a Delegate Motion that all US Grandmasters listed by FIDE are USCF members. He also noted that FIDE refers to Bobby Fischer as a US Grandmaster and displayed a page from the FIDE website to document that statement. Please note: That reference can still be found on the FIDE website. Bobby Fischer's country is listed as US and his title is, of course, Grandmaster.

Discussion ensued with Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Mike Nolan, Randy Hough, Don Schultz, and Sam Sloan among the participants. **Randy Hough** pointed out that you cannot force anyone to be a member. **Sam Sloan** said that he had asked Bobby Fischer and that Bobby Fischer didn't care. **Mike Nolan** read Delegate Action of Continuing Interest #17, which was based on motion DM37 from 1980 and DM9177, a clarification made in 1991. The original motion, sponsored by Joe Lux, was worded “Resolved, that USCF membership be awarded to International Grandmasters when it is determined by the Executive Director that the player is registering with FIDE to be an American player or is awarded the title by FIDE. IGMs and WIGMs will remain USCF members until they are no longer registered with FIDE as American.” The

clarification, sponsored by Russell Miller, was worded “The Delegates clarify Delegate Item of Continuing Interest #19 (Please note: Delegate Action of Continuing Interest #17 was #19 in 1991) by changing the title to Grandmasters and Woman Grandmasters and adding the words “including Woman Grandmasters” after “International Grandmasters” in the text.” Please note: The 1991 motion made no changes to the IGM wording. The 1980 motion is what is pertinent to this discussion. The motion failed.

EB07-041 – (Sloan) In view of the fact that Bobby Fischer is listed as a US Grandmaster by FIDE, the office will assign a USCF ID number to Bobby Fischer and list him on the website. FAILED 2-3-1 with Marinello and Sloan in favor, Channing, Goichberg, and Hough opposed, and Schultz abstaining.

Sam Sloan indicated that the motion to USCF rate the Olympiads previously failed, at least in part, because of an estimated 90 hours of staff time that would be required. He offered to find a way to get the 2004 and 2006 Olympiads USCF rated at no cost to USCF. He believes he can get all of the necessary information on all players in the 2004 and 2006 Olympiads from Casto Abundo and submit it to USCF online. **Randy Hough** moved to refer the motion to the Ratings Committee. Sam Sloan asked if the Ratings Committee would have the power to implement the motion. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that they wouldn't have access.

EB07-042 – (Sloan) I hereby move that the 2004 and 2006 Olympiads be USCF rated provided that the data for these Olympiads be submitted online with no additional cost to the Federation. REFERRED to the Ratings Committee on a vote of 5-1 with Sam Sloan opposed.

Discussion continued after the referral passed. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that USCF needs names, addresses, and birthdates to assign ID numbers and that to assign ID numbers to the large number of Olympiad participants that do not already have them will take staff time.

Sam Sloan recommended that players whose address is unknown can be added to the MSA site with two question marks, an asterisk, or some other flag to indicate the address is unknown in place of the state abbreviation. He pointed out that the original idea was proposed by **Bill Smythe** on the USCF forum. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that there are seven places that a TD might look for information and if a change is made for MSA it should also be made for the other areas where TDs might look for information. This amounts to about 14 hours of his time. He also indicated that he has no problem with the concept and he was willing to do it.

EB07-043 – (Sloan) The MSA website will, in case of any member whose address is unknown or bouncing, instead of having a two letter alphabetic state code, indicate ?? which will alert TDs that information is not available. WITHDRAWN after Mike Nolan indicated that he was willing to do it.

Sam Sloan objected to the disclaimer regarding official ratings on the website as he believed it is confusing and treats some events differently from others. He moved to eliminate the disclaimer. **Mike Nolan** indicated that the wording appeared to be clear and noted that the number of questions regarding official ratings dropped sharply after the disclaimer was added. The disclaimer appears on the crosstable of every tournament. Mike Nolan read the disclaimer, which is worded: “The ratings shown on this page are not official published ratings and may change from time to time. Using them for pairing purposes in tournaments should only be done if this has been advertised in all advance publicity and is announced to all players at the tournament.” Among those discussing the motion were Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Randy Hough, Beatriz Marinello, Don Schultz, and Sam Sloan. Randy Hough moved to refer it to the Ratings Committee, but before the motion to refer was voted it was withdrawn as was the main motion.

EB07-044 – (Sloan) Move to erase the disclaimer regarding official ratings on on the website. WITHDRAWN after discussion.

Sam Sloan expressed concern about the number of USCF Board members and employees past and present that are playing at their rating floor. He moved to abolish floors for present and former employees and Board members.

EB07-045 – (Sloan) Moved that floors for all present and former Board members and all present and former employees are hereby abolished. All present and former Board members' ratings will be recalculated

without floors to reflect current actual rating strength. FAILED 1-5 with Sloan in favor.

Joel Channing asked about the status of making our graphics available to affiliates as was discussed in August. He had heard that Daniel Lucas had put something together to do it. Bill Hall confirmed that. Joel Channing suggested that it be implemented. No motion was needed.

Joel Channing read a note by **Tim Redman** that pointed out that “Chess Life” coverage of the Denker tournament had no mention of the \$60,000 UTD scholarship given at the Denker. Tim Redman wants an article about the scholarship in the next issue. **Don Schultz** noted that when he ran the World Youth he got 12 Scholarships. **Sam Sloan** cautioned that some scholarships may not be what they seem and that we should know more about the details of a scholarship before publicizing it. **Bill Hall** indicated he would follow up and let Tim Redman know what could be done. This became Action Item BH008.

Joel Channing brought up listing and indexing old Delegate and Board motions in one place. **Myron Lieberman** has maintained a constantly updated list of Board motions for the last two years and also pointed out that the Board and Delegate motions since 2000 are online. **Mike Nolan** pointed out that motions from the 80s and 90s are in copies of the PBN or EBN from those years. **Bill Hall** accepted Action Item BH009 to look into researching the availability of old Delegate and Board motions.

At the request of Sam Sloan, **Pat Knight** accepted Action Item PK001 to research whether or not **Herbert Rodney Vaughn** was properly seated as a Delegate.

Bill Goichberg provided an update on the US Women's Championship. **Beatriz Marinello** indicated that she will check on the dates for the Women's Continental Championship. This became Action Item BM002.

Joel Channing expressed support for and confidence in **Joe Nanna** and **Bill Hall** and indicated that we can now start to do some things.

Don Schultz complimented non-Board members Rachel and Myron Lieberman, Mike Nolan, and Daniel Lucas.

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.

ACTION ITEMS

AD001 ADVERTISING MANAGER – Provide feedback for advertising on the website.

BH001 BILL HALL – Obtain a quote for a \$2 Million Internet insurance policy.

BH002 BILL HALL – Check into newsstand magazine sales, their results, and what happens to the unsold magazines.

BH003 BILL HALL – Follow up with Harris Connect regarding content, procedure, and policy issues.

BH004 BILL HALL – Prepare a status report on purging Life Members

BH005 BILL HALL – Review website four months from now.

BH006 BILL HALL – Look into magazine distribution costs and options and report back by the next Board meeting or before.

BH007 BILL HALL – Report to the Board regarding fundraising.

BH008 BILL HALL – Follow up on UTD Scholarship coverage in “Chess Life”.

BH009 BILL HALL – Look into researching the availability of old Delegate and Board motions

RH001 RANDY HOUGH – Check with Rules Committee regarding rules for online play.

PK001 PAT KNIGHT – Research whether or not Herbert Rodney Vaughn was properly seated as a Delegate.

DL001 DANIEL LUCAS - E-mail Steve Rollins and Matt Nemmers with a copy to Joel Channing to be sure there is no unresolved business.

ML001 MYRON LIEBERMAN – Work with Bill Hall to evaluate recording equipment possibilities and costs.

ML002 MYRON LIEBERMAN – Provide Glenn Petersen with information about some Scholastic specific distributors.

BM001 BEATRIZ MARINELLO – Research what information regarding scholastic members can be included in USCF publications and get legal advice.

BM002 BEATRIZ MARINELLO – Check on the dates for the Women's Continental Championship

MN001 MIKE NOLAN – Put membership presentation on the web and update monthly

MN002 MIKE NOLAN – Report back to the Board by February 1, 2007, regarding the ballot and how to report results.

MN003 MIKE NOLAN – Report on new server at the February meeting.

MN004 MIKE NOLAN – Report on time required to locate and process information on US players in FIDE events other than the named tournaments.