

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The document below describes an overview of what transpired at the 2007 USCF Delegates' Meeting in Cherry Hill, NJ. For more details please check the USCF website for the audio files of the meeting, which provide a recording of the entire meeting.

The table below lists all ADMs in the order in which they were printed. New motions that were made during the course of the meeting (NDMs) are listed when they were made and are numbered with later numbers than the last ADMs. Therefore, for example, NDMs 07-37 and 38 are listed between ADM07-05 and ADM07-06 because that's when they were presented.

The proceedings follow the table. While most Delegates who participated in discussions are listed, not everyone could be heard or seen. Therefore the lists cannot be considered complete and are so indicated. The list of Delegates present by state and the election reports are presented as appendices.

Thank you for your interest in USCF and chess.

Respectfully Submitted,

Myron and Rachel Lieberman

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ADMs THAT INTEREST YOU?

Please note: This list has all of the ADMs in order with NDMs listed when they were voted, throughout the list.

ADM	DM	Sponsor	Description	Disposition
ADM07-01	DM07-01	H. Winston	Re-elect DALs	PASSED
ADM07-02	DM07-02	H. Winston	Approval of 2006 Minutes	PASSED
ADM07-03	DM07-03	B. Goichberg	Appoint Mike Nolan parliamentary	PASSED
ADM07-04	DM07-04	R. Hough	Approve advance agenda, rules	PASSED
ADM07-05	DM07-05	R. Hough	Certify election results	PASSED
NDM07-37	DM07-06	Election Committee	Remove date and location specific Bylaw references from election regulations	PASSED
NDM07-38	DM07-07	Mike Nolan	Reappoint the Election Committee	PASSED
ADM07-06	DM07-08	H. Winston	Ratification of EB Motions	PASSED
ADM07-07	DM07-32	Board	Adoption of Budget	PASSED
NDM07-39	DM07-09	Winston	Appoint Bylaws Committee	PASSED
NDM07-40	DM07-10	Terrie	Appoint Ethics Committee	PASSED
NDM07-41	DM07-11	Hanken	Commend Hal Terrie	PASSED
NDM07-42	DM07-12	Redman	Appoint LMA Committee	PASSED
NDM07-43	DM07-15	Hatherill	US Senior Champion in World Senior	PASSED
NDM07-44	DM07-17	Goichberg	Appoint Audit Committee	PASSED
ADM07-08	DM07-18	Winston	Promotional Memberships	PASSED
ADM07-09	DM07-19	3 Sponsors	Appoint Mike Nolan a DAL (2 nd vote)	PASSED by over ¾
ADM07-10	DM07-20	Sloan	2006 motion re: headphones, etc.	FAILED
ADM07-11	Withdrawn	Vaughn	2006 motion re: Censure of EB Member	WITHDRAWN
NDM07-45	DM07-21	Immitt	Hall of Records	REFERRED to ED
NDM07-46	DM07-22	M.Lieberman	Outreach on the Website	REFERRED to ED
NDM07-47	DM07-23	Immitt	Membership to GMs only on request	PASSED
ADM07-12	DM07-24	Winston,Dubeck	Appoint Past President Beatriz Marinello a DAL	PASSED
ADM07-13	DM07-25	Nolan	Revise motion DM90-079	PASSED
ADM07-14	DM07-26	3 Sponsors	Voting age recommendation to State Chapters	PASSED
ADM07-15	DM07-27	3 Sponsors	Online Memberships	FAILED

ADM	DM	Sponsor	Description	Disposition
ADM07-16	DM07-14	4 Sponsors	Outsourcing of National Scholastic Events	PASSED (Amended)
ADM07-17	Withdrawn	3 sponsors	Appointment and Review of ED, Editor	WITHDRAWN
ADM07-18	DM07-28	Nolan	Objectionable Material Posted by EB/ Candidates	REFERRED - Bylaws
ADM07-19	DM07-29	Nolan, Winston	Disclosure of Felony Convictions in "Chess Life"	PASSED
ADM07-20	DM07-30	M/R Lieberman	Editing Complete Sound Files or Transcripts	PASSED
ADM07-21	DM07-31	4 Sponsors	Professional Players' Health / Benefit Fund	Referred-PPHBFC
ADM07-22	DM07-16	4 Sponsors	Change Audit Committee Qualifications	Substitute PASSED
NDM07-48	DM07-33	Harris	Uphold Ethics Committee Ruling re: Sam Sloan	PASSED
ADM07-23	DM07-34	6 Sponsors	Transfer of Life Member Dues to LMA Fund	PASSED (Amended)
ADM07-24	DM07-35	3 Sponsors	Recognition of past Life Member Dues Payments	PASSED (Amended)
ADM07-25	Withdrawn	3 Sponsors	Appointment of FIDE Delegate and Zonal Pres.	WITHDRAWN
ADM07-26	Withdrawn	Donna Alarie	Links to email on uschess.org for Dels, Committees	WITHDRAWN
ADM07-27	Withdrawn	Donna Alarie	Balanced Budget	WITHDRAWN
ADM07-28	DM07-36	Donna Alarie	Online Memberships	FAILED
ADM07-29	DM07-37	Donna Alarie	Affiliate Liability Insurance Committee	REFERRED to EB
ADM07-30	DM07-38	3 Sponsors	Recording a Move Before Playing it (Rules 15A, 20C)	PASSED
ADM07-31	Withdrawn	Alarie, Dubeck	Finance Committee	WITHDRAWN
ADM07-32	DM07-39	Atkins	Tournament Conflicts	Substitute PASSED
ADM07-33	DM07-40	Atkins	Blitz/Sudden Death Rules	REFERRED to RULES
ADM07-34	Moot	Immitt, Wright	Recording a Move Before Playing it (Rules 15A, 20C)	MOOT (See DM07-38)
ADM07-35	DM07-41	Immitt	Delegate Committee Voting Records	FAILED
ADM07-36	DM07-13	Immitt	Free US Open Entry to Denker players	REFERRED to ED and committees
NDM07-49	DM07-42	Terrie	Forum Oversight Committee	FAILED
NDM07-50	DM07-43	Alarie	Remove budget requirement from Daci #6	PASSED
NDM07-51	SM07-44	Winston	Motion of thanks to Steve Doyle, Bill Goichberg, Patricia Knight, Myron and Rachel Lieberman, Mike Nolan, Glenn Petersen and the NJSCF.	PASSED by Acclamation

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2007 USCF BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

Cherry Hill, NJ August 4 & 5, 2007

SATURDAY SESSION

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Goichberg at 9:10 AM on August 4, 2007. **Bill Goichberg** and **Patricia Knight** called the roll. There was some difficulty with the sound system. The roll call continued while the problem was being repaired. A quorum was present. The list of Delegates certified can be found in Appendix A to this document.

Bill Goichberg welcomed the Delegates and called for a moment of silence in memory of those of the chess community who have passed on since the last meeting. He named several and asked that additional specific names can be brought to our attention later in the meeting and they will be included in the record. Please note: The moment of silence was for anyone in the chess community who passed away since the last meeting whether or not they are specifically named. The names presented included Steven Adams (MA), Lynne Babcock (TX), Harvey Burger (MA), Doug Caughlin, Craig Deutz (PA), Larry Donovan (DE), Gilbert F. (Gus) Gosselin (MA), Clark Harmon (OR), Menno Koning (MA), John W. Loyte (MA), Max Malyuta (RI), Richard McMaster (MA), Arthur Moskowitz (PA), George O'Rourke (MA), Clinton Pearson (TN), John Penquite (IA), John Power (NJ), Anton Sildmets (NE), Jeff Williams (NY), Aleks Wojtkiewicz (MD), and other members that have passed on.

Bill Goichberg mentioned that **Beatriz Marinello** recently had a serious operation and was in better health now. Applause followed. He also recognized **Frank Berry** and thanked him for his sponsorship.

DM07-01 - ADM07-01 (Harold Winston, IL): The Delegates re-elect as Delegates-at-Large those whose terms are expiring or have expired and who are present at this meeting. **PASSED** Please note: Steve Doyle and Leroy Dubeck were re-elected.

DM07-02 - ADM07-02 (Harold Winston, IL): Moved, that the minutes of the 2006 Delegates Meeting as published in the Executive News Quarterly #2 for 2006-2007 and online be accepted. **PASSED**

DM07-03 - ADM07-03 (Bill Goichberg, NY): Moved that Mike Nolan be appointed parliamentarian. **PASSED**

Bill Goichberg and Mike Nolan then reviewed the standing rules for the meeting.

DM07-04 - ADM07-04 (Randy Hough, CA): The Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2007 Delegates Meeting and approve the Standing rules as printed in the *Delegates Call*. **PASSED**

The winners were Susan Polgar, Randy Bauer, Paul Truong, and Jim Berry. The results by Region and State can be found in Appendix B. Secretary **Randy Hough** explained that **Jim Berry**, who was elected to serve for the unexpired portion of Robert **Tanner's** term will take office immediately upon certification of the election. Others who were elected take office at the close of the meeting. He then moved certification of the election.

DM07-05 - ADM07-05 (Randy Hough, CA): Moved that the 2007 Executive Board election results be certified. One vacancy will take office immediately. The other new Executive Board Members will take office at the conclusion of this meeting. **PASSED**

Mike Nolan presented his Election Committee report and recommendations. The report and **Frank Camaratta's** election report can be found in Appendix B. Recommendation 3 from the Election Committee report was voted and passed. It was worded:

DM07-06 - NDM07-37 – (Election Committee) - Remove all language specifying dates or places for returning or counting ballots from Article V Section 5 and Article V Sections A and C and replace with:

The Election Committee shall, by January 31st of an election year, select the time and place for the counting of the ballots. The ballot instructions shall include this information plus other election regulations. For a special election, the time and place shall be determined prior to issuing the call for the special election. **PASSED**

Mike Nolan then moved to reappoint the Election Committee.

DM07-07 – NDM07-38 – (Mike Nolan, NE) – The Election Committee is reappointed for the next year with no changes for the next year. Mike Nolan is Chair, Harry Sabine Vice Chair, Roger Gotschall and Woody Harris members, and Ernie Schlich and Myron Lieberman alternates. **PASSED**

Harold Winston moved ratification of motions passed by the EB since the last Delegates' Meeting. He explained that ratification doesn't mean that we agree with the decisions, only that the EB had the authority to take those actions.

DM07-08 - ADM 07-06 (Harold Winston, IL): The Delegates ratify all actions of the Executive Board appearing in the Minutes published in the *Executive News Quarterly*, and the *Delegates Call*, since the conclusion of the 2006 Delegates Meeting. **PASSED**

President **Bill Goichberg** then presented the **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**. He noted that he was pleased with developments this year. Membership trends are more favorable than in previous years and financially we show a small surplus, but some Delegates are concerned about frequent changes. The dues sale for adult members was a factor in the membership increase. The adult Tournament Membership has been working well and the Board adopted a new Junior Tournament Membership on Thursday. Bill Goichberg reviewed membership numbers over the last ten years and noted an unexpected increase in Senior members. He suggested that one reason may be the improvements in *Chess Life*. He summarized by saying that while things are not great we had a good year. Things are turning around and we're looking forward to more impressive results in the future.

Executive Director **Bill Hall** gave the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**. He recognized the hard working staff. He commended **Patricia Knight**, who serves as both Assistant Director and Director of national Events. She received a round of applause. Bill Hall asked everyone to please take the time to thank her personally. Next he recognized **Jerry Nash**, who serves as Scholastic Director and handles FIDE matters. He was not present in the room at the time. **Mike Nolan** was then noted for leading USCF "out of the dark ages" and getting the office computerized. He received a round of applause. Director of Publications **Daniel Lucas** was introduced. Bill Hall Commented "You can always tell the pioneer. He's the one with all the arrows sticking out of his back". Bill Hall talked about the changes in *Chess Life* that "added style and artistic integrity" to the magazine. He also noted Daniel Lucas' ability to work with others. He asked that everyone take the time to thank Daniel Lucas personally. A round of applause followed. Just as **Glenn Petersen**, editor of *Chess Life For Kids*, came into the room Bill Hall introduced him. Glenn Petersen received a round of applause. **Walter Brown** was identified as the one who solves the Ratings problems. He received a round of applause as did CFO **Joe Nanna**.

Bill Hall next recognized volunteers who have worked closely with the office in their areas. These included Myron and Rachel Lieberman for documenting the meetings, Grant Perks for being willing to help with whatever was needed, Ernie Schlich for his help with FIDE issues, John

Donaldson for being a strong representative for the players, Jerry Hanken for his counsel re: US Championship events, and Donna Alarie for highlighting financial concerns. Bill Hall stated that he regretted the wording on a memo that referred to Donna Alarie. All volunteers mentioned received individual rounds of applause.

Bill Hall then presented a number of **Mike Nolan's** graphs and charts, which compared current memberships by age and category with other years. Details can be found in the sound files from the Delegates' Meetings. The graphs are also being posted online.

He noted that two major companies turned down offers of free advertising in *Chess Life* because of the negativity toward USCF and its leaders on the Internet. We need to do what it takes to present ourselves as an organization with which people would be proud to join and potential partners and sponsors would be proud to associate.

The second key point that **Bill Hall** made is that the Internet must be a major component in the future of the organization. We need to use all of our resources to promote everything we offer. The new membership card will also serve as a promotional item, capable of being a reference for not only USCF information but references to state information as well. The back cover of *Chess Life* was sold to House of Staunton (last year it promoted USCF Sales).

We need to cut expenses, increase revenue, and grow the organization. Advertising space can be sold on the new membership cards. We have to maintain our technology and infrastructure. This includes budgeting for a new server.

Bill Hall mentioned that independent counsel has been obtained to review opinions re: the Profit Sharing plan. The plan has been "a mess" since at least 1999. USCF is the Trustee. The office sends Spectrum a report regarding how many hours employees work. He noted that we will finish reconciliation with Spectrum and get out of the Profit Sharing business. He pointed out that there is too much turnover to keep such plans in house and said that the Profit Sharing plan should have been outsourced.

After asking for questions and receiving none Bill Hall concluded his report. Applause followed.

VP of Finance **Joel Channing** presented the **REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF FINANCE**.

Joel Channing noted that we are still in a recovery mode. The surplus we have is from accounting changes years ago. He pointed out that financial reporting is now automated and should be quick, accurate, and reduce paperwork. He also indicated that the planning budget included a provision to start rebuilding the LMA Fund and that other motions have been made to do the same.

Joel Channing mentioned that one of the outgrowths of the 2006 Strategic Planning retreat was mutual endorsements with America's Foundation for Chess (AF4C), the Polgar Foundation, the Berkeley Chess School, and the Kasparov Foundation. Our scholastic people reviewed and endorsed the AF4C curriculum and AF4C pledged to encourage students using the curriculum to become USCF members. He looks forward to promoting this with the new board.

Joel Channing pointed out that we have to borrow \$150,000 each year and, while it is paid back the same year, that is a terrible weakness to have. He noted that we need to keep expenses to a minimum, but we can't let that interfere with growth. He said that Personnel is the largest single budget item that still needs to be analyzed and reviewed. He then summarized the Profit Sharing Plan status. He cautioned that while we have obtained outside counsel, the advice of attorneys that have worked with the organization on a continuous basis may be more meaningful than a one-time issue for an outside attorney, since the latter would have no reason to expect a future business relationship.

Adoption of the budget was next on the agenda. The Board motion ADM07-07 was read. It was worded "The 2007-2008 budget as presented by the Vice-President of Finance is adopted." Printouts of the budget were distributed to those who did not have them. **Bill Goichberg** suggested that perhaps consideration should be postponed until the Delegates have had a chance to look at the budget. Harold Winston wanted the approval of the budget deferred to being the first order of business in the afternoon. Fred Gruenberg wanted consideration deferred until Sunday morning. Harold Winston agreed to that and a procedural Winston/Gruenberg motion to defer ADM07-07 until the first order of business on Sunday morning passed.

Daniel Lucas presented the **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS**.

He began his report with a focus on the content of the yearbook issue of *Chess Life* as an example of how people are now reading the magazine.

He praised **Glenn Petersen** and *Chess Life For Kids (CLAK)*. He stated that great progress has been made and he is getting good feedback from parents and coaches. Glenn Petersen especially wants to hear from children. The publication started with 14,000 copies and is now up to 25,000 copies. This is a four color magazine.

Daniel Lucas also praised Mike Nolan, Art Director Frankie Butler, and *Chess Life Online* Editor Jennifer Shahade for the improved *Chess Life Online*.

Daniel Lucas stated that after the redesign last summer, readers focused on the look of the magazine. Over the last few months readers finally discovered that the content of *Chess Life* had changed and improved just as dramatically as the graphics. The publication date has also changed. The magazine was shipped on the 30th or 1st of the month. It is now being shipped on or about the 24th of the month. This has assisted organizers with their TLA announcements.

Daniel Lucas noted that September 1 is the 35th anniversary of **Bobby Fischer** being World Chess Champion. He asked for feedback and stated that he is happy to have a magazine that serves the membership well. The Delegates applauded. He pointed out that the magazine is currently 80 pages. Printing and postage to go to 96 pages would cost at least \$5,000 and another staffer would be needed.

Harold Winston presented the **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE U. S. CHESS TRUST.**

Harold Winston introduced Trustees Steve Doyle, Leroy Dubeck, Joe Ippolito, Myron Lieberman, and Tim Redman. Sunil Weeramantry was introduced later in the meeting when he arrived. He thanked Dewain Barber, Aviv Friedman, Mike Nietman and Steve Shutt of the Scholastic Council.

Harold Winston noted that the Trust sent 438 sets and boards to schools throughout the country. 83 USCF memberships went to needy children. Contributions to the Trust went up by about \$11,000 to \$95,000. Additionally \$11,795.72 has been given to the Patron Program. The first annual Harold Dondis Award was given to Shane Samole. The trophy was awarded at the Trust meeting. Dewain Barber has been named the recipient of the second annual Harold Dondis Award.

The Trust continues its support of the Denker and Polgar tournaments. **Harold Winston** noted that Mitchell Denker is the primary donor for the Denker tournament and Susan Polgar for the Polgar Tournament, which will move to Lubbock, Texas. States were well represented at the Denker tournament, with all states playing except MT and WY. He believes this is an all time high in participation. He commended **Dewain Barber** for his contributions and assistance for these two events.

Harold Winston thanked **Sunil Weeramantry** and his National Scholastic Chess Foundation for the donation of \$2,500 to the Scholar Chessplayer Program. This enables \$7,500 to be awarded to five students, with each student receiving a \$1,500 scholarship for school expenses. Additional donors are being sought for this program.

The new Chess Trust website was the next topic. Steve Doyle, Leroy Dubeck, and Jim Eade constitute the Website Committee. **Beatriz Marinello** is the website designer.

Harold Winston noted that the edited papers from the Koltanowski Conference on Chess in Education are now available in book format. The conference was held at the University of Texas at Dallas. **Tim Redman** edited the book and it is available from him.

The activities of the World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney Samole Museum (HOF) were described. The museum has participated in the South Miami Art Festival for several years. There will be an international event held at the HOF, probably the first weekend in May. Details will be forthcoming. The HOF is easier to reach now. Five major signs have been added. The Museum is listed in the AAA guidebook.

Harold Winston stated that the Trust supports the World Youth, World Junior, and Pan Am. He requested donations from the Delegates.

Jerry Hanken moved to put Harold Winston's green jacket in the US Chess Hall of Fame. There was no second and the motion was not voted.

Don Schultz presented the **REPORT OF THE FIDE DELEGATE.**

FIDE Delegate **Don Schultz** mentioned changes in our FIDE team in the last year. Please note: Our FIDE team currently includes FIDE Delegate Don Schultz, FIDE Zonal President John Donaldson, and FIDE Vice President Bill Kelleher. Don Schultz thanked **Steve Doyle** who represented the United States in FIDE for ten years. He stated that Steve Doyle made 40 – 50 trips, mostly at his own expense. The Delegates gave a round of applause.

Don Schultz expressed thanks to **Bill Kelleher**, who is currently serving in the highest American position, and **Beatriz Marinello**, who served as FIDE's General Secretary of the Americas, for their contributions. Jerry Nash, Mike Nolan, John Donaldson, and Ernie Schlich were also recognized for their work with FIDE. The Delegates applauded for them.

Don Schultz stated that we are in the best chess federation in the world. Our Federation is a model that has the best rating system and the best events, including the best scholastic events.

The FIDE elections were discussed. **Kirsan Ilyumzhinov** won. He is now working with **Bessel Kok**, who plans to come to the United States to meet with the USCF and the new Board.

After a round of applause for Don Schultz, FIDE Vice President **Bill Kelleher** added to the report. He concurred that **Steve Doyle** was the most important US contact for the last ten years and that both Don Schultz and Steve Doyle were a great help to him.

Bill Kelleher noted that the 2005 World Youth which took place in France was one of the worst tournaments held in the history of FIDE. There were a number of complaints to FIDE and the FIDE Executive Board banned the organizer from organizing tournaments for five years. The organizer sued FIDE for \$150,000. Because FIDE is an affiliated member of the IOC the matter needed to be heard in an International court. The suit was settled at a total cost of \$50,000 to FIDE.

Bill Kelleher stated that this year's World Youth will be held in Turkey. He recommends going this year.

FIDE's contract with Global Chess was discussed. Kirsan Ilumzhinov and Bessel Kok formed Global Chess to manage the World Championship and market chess. Bill Kelleher is cautiously optimistic. The Delegates gave a round of applause.

During the Q and A session that followed, **Sunil Weeramantry** spoke about a tournament that was held in a disputed region claimed by Armenia and Azerbaijan and was never rated. He asked why the event had not been rated. **Bill Kelleher** replied that both sides (Armenia and Azerbaijan) have been unwilling to compromise. **Bill Kelleher** will put this item on the agenda at the next meeting of the FIDE Advisory Board.

Denis Strenzwilk, Sam Sloan, Beatriz Marinello and Susan Polgar also participated in the Q&A session. The Delegates gave Beatriz Marinello and Bill Kelleher a round of applause for their work.

ELECTION OF DELEGATE APPOINTED COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE - Election of the Audit Committee was deferred until after consideration of ADM07-22. It will be reported then.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – Co-Chair Harold Winston suggested that we add Joe Lux and George Mirijanian. The committee now consists of Jerry Hanken, Guy Hoffman, Gary Kitts, George John, Richard Koepcke, Myron Lieberman, Joe Lux, John McCrary, David Mehler, George Mirijanian, Mike Nolan, Robert Persante, Ernie Schlich, and Harold Winston. The committee met after the meeting and elected Harold Winston and Mike Nolan as co-chairs.

DM07-09 – NDM07-39 (Winston, IL) – Moved, that the Delegates appoint the Bylaws Committee as proposed by Harold Winston - **PASSED**

ELECTION COMMITTEE – This was done previously (See DM07-07)

ETHICS COMMITTEE – Chair Hal Terrie proposed seven names for the Ethics Committee. He indicated that he would not continue as chair. The committee would consist of: Richard (Buck) Buchanan, Wick Deer, James Gray, James Mennella, Kenneth Sloan, Andrew Thall, and Ken Thomas. The committee will choose its own chair.

Sam Sloan objected to one of the nominated committee members. **Hal Terrie** strongly supported and defended the person in question.

DM07-10 – NDM07-40 (Terrie, NH) - Moved, that the Delegates appoint the Ethics Committee as proposed by Hal Terrie - **PASSED**

Jerry Hanken then made the following motion:

DM07-11 – NDM07-41 - The Delegates accept with regret the resignation of Hal Terrie and commend him for his excellent work on the committee. **PASSED**

LMA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Tim Redman originally proposed a nine member committee and provided nine names. A discussion ensued regarding restrictions because of Bylaws and Delegate motions as to who is eligible to be on the committee and how large the committee can be. Joel Channing, Tim Redman, Sam Sloan were among those who participated. It was determined that the maximum number allowed under the Bylaws was eight members. It also appeared that one of the proposed names may not have been eligible, so rather than move a Bylaws revision he proposed the following eight member committee: The committee would consist of Frank Camaratta, Leroy Dubeck, Peter Dyson, Beatriz Marinello, Grant Perks, Tim Redman, Fred Townsend, and Chuck Unruh. This is the existing committee with Beatriz Marinello and Grant Perks added.

DM07-12 – NDM07-42 (Redman, TX) - Moved, that the Delegates appoint the LMA Management Committee as proposed by Tim Redman - **PASSED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to time restraints all committee reports were included in this years' "Delegates' Call" or distributed as hand outs at the meeting. Oral reports were only given by committees who had further news or workshop developments to express.

Bylaws Committee – **Harold Winston** expressed that they had a successful workshop.

Chess in Education Committee – **Tim Redman** gave the report. He noted that Jim Stallings conducted a workshop and that the next academic Chess in Education conference will be held in Scotland next year.

Correspondence Chess Committee – **Harold Stenzel** gave the report. He pointed out that Max **Zavanelli**, who had been doing most of our work with the International Correspondence Chess Federation convention (ICCF) will step down after their next meeting. . Harold Stenzel asked for volunteers to represent US correspondence chess at the International Correspondence Chess Federation convention. He noted that

Alex Dunne may be a possibility. **Bill Goichberg** said he mentioned it to Alex Dunne, who may be able to represent the US in ICCF if USCF pays his expenses.

At 12:00 noon the meeting was recessed for the Awards Banquet. The meeting resumed at 2:10 PM and Committee reports continued.

Cramer Awards Committee – Frank Brady stated that he had nothing more to add.

Denker Tournament Committee – Dewain Barber gave the report. He stated that 48 states participated and that he contacted each parent individually. Warren Harper (TX) is the Denker Champion. The Delegates gave a round of applause.

An unexpectedly good turnout of 23 individuals signed up for the Blitz tournament, so Dewain Barber found a houseman to make the number 24 and avoid byes. Nicolas Yap (NCA) was the first annual Denker Blitz Champion.

Dewain Barber stated that next year the Denker Tournament for High School Champions will be held in Dallas, Texas, with a 1-2-2-1 format. This enables the players to have a three room night schedule.

There was a problem with a player not qualifying because of state regulations for the qualifiers. This type of situation could lead to problems and guidelines are being considered.

Dewain Barber thanked the **Ursula Foster** family for their \$500 contribution to the event. He mentioned that additional sponsorship is needed.

At this time **Dewain Barber** called on **Steve Immitt** to present ADM07-36. **Sam Sloan** rose in opposition on the grounds that not enough money was available. **Mike Nolan** noted that this has not been budgeted, but said that if this motion does not pass he will pay the NE State Champion's entry fee into the US Open. **Joel Channing** said he liked the idea as long as someone could suggest what to remove from the budget to cover the costs. Among those who participated in this discussion were Dewain Barber, Buck Buchanan, Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, Guy Hoffman, Steve Immitt, David Kuhns, Mike Nolan, Tony Pabon and Sam Sloan. **Steve Immitt** amended his motion so that it that would stipulate that qualifiers who play in the Denker get free entry. **Guy Hoffman** moved to refer the motion to the US Open Committee and the Denker Committee. Dewain Barber asked that the motion also be referred to the Executive Director. **Bill Hall** accepted. The motion to refer ADM 07-36 to the US Open Committee, the Denker Committee, and the Executive Director passed. Dewain Barber thanked the Delegates for considering the motion. **Bill Goichberg** thanked Dewain Barber for his work with the Denker tournament and called for a round of applause, which was received. Mike Nolan pledged to pay the entry fee into the Denker for the NE state champion. Dewain Barber called for applause for the chief TD, who has directed the last three Denker tournaments. Applause followed. Joel Channing cautioned everyone that when something like this is proposed, which could be popular and emotionally appealing, it should be accompanied by an economic impact statement.

DM07-13 - ADM 07-36 (Steve Immitt, NY/D) - The USCF shall award free entry to the U.S. Open to each participant in the Arnold Denker Tournament of State High School Champions, which is held concurrently with the U.S. Open. **REFERRED to the Denker and US Open Committees and the Executive Director.**

Polgar Tournament Committee – **Paul Truong** gave the report. He noted that there were 49 participants. Julia Kerr (NY) and Eunice Rodriguez (FL) were co-winners. Julia Kerr came in first and Eunice Rodriguez second on tiebreaks. Julia Kerr won a full four year scholarship at Texas Tech University. Eunice Rodriguez won a partial scholarship. Louiza Livschitz (CA) came in third and also won a partial scholarship at Texas Tech University. The top 25 finishers received chess sets valued at \$200 each sponsored by Mr. Jeff Smith.

Many thanks to Texas Tech University for their generous donation of scholarships for this event.

Paul Truong stated that over \$85,000 in additional stipends, chess prizes, and scholarships have been awarded, including prizes for the puzzle solving contest and the Bughouse tournament. He thanked sponsors American Chess Equipment, Mr. Jeff Smith, the US Chess Trust, and the Ursula Foster family for their contribution.

Ethics Committee – Hal Terrie gave the report. The only appeal was the Sam Sloan appeal, which he distributed and discussed. Please note: The appeal was deferred until Sunday morning so that the Delegates could read the full text overnight.

Finance Committee – Randy Bauer gave the report. He provided the results of polls at the the Finance Workshop regarding ADMs 07-23 and 07-24. Both were supported in principle.

Hall of Fame Committee – Harold Winston indicated that there was nothing more to add..

Internet/MIS/Website Committee – Chair Phil Smith said that there was no report. The committee has subsequently been discontinued..

International Affairs – Chair Michael Khodarkovsky indicated that there was nothing more to add.

LMA Management – Nothing was added to the report in the *Delegates' Call*.

Military Committee – No oral report was given.

Outreach Committee – Myron Lieberman stated that the workshop was productive. He referred the Delegates to the report in the *Delegates' Call* and noted that a motion will be brought forward at the appropriate time that came from the Membership meeting.

Professional Players Health and Benefit Fund Committee – Chair Fred Gruenberg gave the report. He stated that the fund is not intended to be welfare. He also said that he would like for the fund to be able to be self sufficient on voluntary contributions, and he would like to establish a new name for the committee that would include the word “Assistance” rather than “Welfare” (please note: It is currently “benefit”).

At this time ADM 07-21 was brought up for discussion. This motion calls for the fund's assets to be put in the US Chess Trust. Discussion ensued. Fred Gruenberg pointed out that the makers of the motion should have contacted the committee before submitting the ADM. He raised questions and expressed opposition to the motion at this time, although he indicated that he might be amenable to it at some time in the future. Among those who participated in the discussion were Leroy Dubeck, Jerry Hanken, Beatriz Marinello, Mike Nolan, and Harold Winston. The Delegates indicated that they would prefer to consider the motion later, when it reached the floor, rather than to continue discussion of the motion now. ADM 07-21 was not voted at this time but will be considered when it comes to the floor as New Business.

Publications Committee – No oral report was given.

Ratings Committee – Kenneth Sloan indicated that there was nothing to add to the written report.

Rules Committee – Chair David Kuhns indicated that four ADMs are being offered and they will be considered as they come up.

Scholastic Council and Committee – Co-Chair Steve Shutt spoke about the need to certify coaches like we certify tournament directors. He stated that a financial cost analysis could be provided but this should be revenue neutral. He noted that they wish to work on developing a website.

ADM 07-16 was brought up at this time. Tim Just moved to remove the words “and USCF Board of Delegates”. Steve Shutt accepted the amendment. The new wording included “...prior review of the Scholastic Council and approval of the Delegates.” Among those who participated in the discussion were Larry Cohen, Tim Just, Steve Shutt, and Harold Winston. The motion passed as amended.

Steve Shutt pointed out that the Scholastic Regulations are posted in the meeting room and are on the website. He encouraged people to look at the scholastic regulations on the web.

DM07-14 – ADM07-16 (Beatriz Marinello, NY; Sunil Weeramantry, NY/D; Elizabeth Shaughnessy, N. CA, and Mike Nietman, WI) The following USCF National Scholastic events: The Scholastic K-12/Collegiate Championships, the Spring Nationals and the National Youth Action shall not be outsourced to any other organization without the prior review of the USCF Scholastic Council and approval of the USCF Board of Delegates. **PASSED**

Senior Committee – Chair Charles Hatherill proposed a motion that arose from the Senior workshop to have the winner of the US Senior Open represent the US at the World Senior. When asked who would pay for it, the response was that it would not cost USCF anything.

DM07-15 – NDM07-43 (Hatherill) - The winner of the US Senior Open will represent the US at the World Senior. **PASSED.**

States Committee – Chair Guy Hoffman presented the report and gave the workshop poll results.

Survey Committee – Chair Tony Pabon presented the report. He thanked Bill Goichberg for two excellent surveys run on the Internet. He noted that ICC was willing to put a survey on their website, and hopefully other chess organizations on the Internet will allow surveys as well. This could help non-USCF members learn about USCF.

Top Players Committee – No oral report was given.

TDCC – Tim Just mentioned that among the things that the committee is working on are the establishment of a TD certification that does not require a test and a requirement that at least one online tournament must be turned in to apply for the position of Senior TD. Tim Just noted that Swiss Sys needs revision and that at this time Win TD is the standard.

US Open Committee – Jerry Hanken noted that due to health problems he had not been able to submit a report for publication. He spoke about the US Open Certificate program, whereby anyone who has participated in five or more US Opens receives a certificate. He noted that GM Arthur Bisguier will receive a plaque for having attended 55 US Opens. A round of applause for GM Bisguier followed.

Women's Committee – There was nothing further to add to the published report.

Harold Winston addressed ADM07-22, and provided a Bylaws review regarding the Audit Committee. This motion needed to be considered before the naming of the Audit Committee for this year as part A is to be effective immediately.

Harold Winston, Leroy Dubeck, Steve Doyle, Tim Redman & the Bylaws Workshop sponsored a substitute for ADM 07-22, the final wording of which is shown in the motion below. Please note that it does not mention part B and it specifies that one of the four members is to be the VP of Finance, who is a non-voting member.

DM07-16 – ADM07-22A (Dubeck, Doyle, Redman, Bylaws Workshop) - A. Amend Article VII section 3 (1) Audit Committee to replace the current first sentence by: The Audit Committee shall consist of four persons; the Vice President for Finance as a non-voting member and

three members elected by the delegates from among the delegates and alternate delegates who are knowledgeable in accounting matters such as (but not limited to) a certified public accountant (CPA), a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) or someone who has substantial experience in the public or private sectors. No other member of the Executive Board may be a member of the Audit Committee. This change is effective with selection of the Audit Committee at the 2007 Delegates Meeting. **PASSED**

At this time, the election of the Audit Committee was considered. Steve Doyle, Grant Perks, and Jon Haskel were nominated. Donna Alarie nominated W. Allen Priest. As the Bylaws now only allow three Delegate appointed members, if a new member is added one must be removed unless there is a Bylaw change. It was decided not to further change the Bylaws. A show of hands for each candidate was conducted. Steve Doyle, Grant Perks, and Jon Haskel were elected.

DM07-17 – NDM07-44 (Goichberg) – Steve Doyle, Jon Haskel, and Grant Perks are appointed to the Audit Committee. **PASSED**

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Goichberg and Bill Hall described current promotional memberships. Harold Winston pointed out that authorizing a promotional membership does not mandate that it be offered.

DM07-18 – ADM07-08 - (Harold Winston, IL) Pursuant to Article III, Section 9 of the Bylaws, the Delegates have reviewed the promotional memberships offered by the Executive Board in 2006-2007 and authorize their continuance. **PASSED**

DM07-19 - ADM07-09 (Harold Winston, IL; Tim Just, IL; and Bill Goichberg, NY) The Delegates elect Michael Nolan a Delegate-at-Large for his many services to chess. **PASSED** (Please note: This requires a ¾ Delegates vote at 2 consecutive annual meetings of which this was the second. It passed with more than a ¾ vote, so Mike Nolan is now a DAL. Congratulations, Mike.)

Motions referred by the Delegates in 2006:

The next motion had been referred to the Rules Committee last year. David Kuhns indicated that he preferred to leave the decision to the TDs and organizers. Sam Sloan offered revised wording as a substitute. The original wording was “In all Rated games, the use of head phones, ear phones and other listening devices with the exception of medically prescribed hearing aids is prohibited.” Consideration was deferred until the sponsor could present revised wording at a later time. The substitute that was voted was:

DM 07-20 - ADM 07-10 – (DM06-44 , NDM06-46) (Sam Sloan, NY/D) The use of headphones and earphones in rated tournaments is banned except that the tournament director or organizer may in his absolute discretion waive or modify this rule in a special case or in all cases. **FAILED**

Not a DM - ADM 07-11, (DM06-47, NDM06-49) (Herbert Rodney Vaughn, OH) The delegates may vote to censure and suspend certain privileges of an elected delegate, including Executive Board members, by a 2/3 majority vote at an Annual or Special Delegates meeting. A vote to censure and suspend privileges must specify the period of the censure, which must expire no later than the next Annual Delegates Meeting. The vote to censure and suspend privileges will not remove a delegate from an office or from his committee assignments. He will lose the privilege of debating and voting in committee. If the person so censured is a member of the Executive Board, he will have the title of “national officer” suspended for the duration of the censure and will lose the privilege of voting and debating on issues before the Executive Board for that period. **WITHDRAWN**

NEW BUSINESS

The first items of new business are the motions that were passed from the Membership Meeting. There were three motions in this category.

DM07-21 – NDM07-45 – (Immitt) The membership recommends to the Delegates that the USCF establish an online area where winners of prominent events can be recognized in a USCF Hall of Records. **REFERRED TO ED**

DM07-22 – NDM07-46 (M. Lieberman): The Outreach area on the website should contain links to past Outreach Committee reports (which already exist in machine readable format online) and reciprocal links to other organizations and agencies that are deemed appropriate for outreach. **REFERRED TO ED.**

Steve Immitt's Membership Meeting motion to clarify an existing Delegate motion to require a player to request membership in order to be given membership was discussed. Ken Ballou pointed out that making someone join the Federation who does not wish to join does not benefit USCF. Joel Channing, Steve Immitt, Richard Koepcke, and George Mirijanian were among those who participated in the discussion.

DM07-23 – NDM07-47 (Immitt) The membership recommends to the Delegates that the Delegate Motion granting free USCF membership to USA Grandmasters be modified to read ‘upon request’. **PASSED**

Sam Sloan has appealed an Ethics Committee ruling. Hal Terrie explained the status of the appeal and distributed all of the pertinent correspondence to the Delegates. Among those participating in the discussion were Joel Channing, Woody Harris, Jon Haskel, Mike Nolan, Tony Pabon, Tim Redman, Sam Sloan, Hal Terrie, Herbert Rodney Vaughn, and Harold Winston. Consideration of the appeal was deferred until Sunday morning on a motion by Tim Redman.

DM07-24 - ADM07-12 (Harold Winston, IL, Leroy Dubeck, NJ) The Delegates elect former USCF President Beatriz Marinello, who completed a two year term as President, a Delegate at Large. **PASSED** – Please note: As a past President who has completed two successive

years there was no requirement for a ¾ margin (although she received much more than that) and no need for a second vote. Beatriz Marinello is now a DAL. Congratulations, Beatriz.

Mike Nolan presented ADM07-13, which passed without discussion.

DM07-25 - ADM07-13 (Mike Nolan, NE) Remove the following sentence from DM90-79 (House Players):

Any disputed memberships in a tournament report are to be reconciled at a rate of \$2 per game or the lowest available promotional membership, whichever is lower.

Replace it with: "Any disputed memberships in a tournament report are to be reconciled using procedures and rates (ie, tournament memberships) established by the Executive Director.

PASSED Please note: This motion does not affect the house player rules established in DM90-79.

Bill Goichberg introduced ADM07-14 regarding suggested voting age limits for State Chapters. Tony Pabon suggested age 14. The wording was changed, at Guy Hoffman's suggestion, to add the words "at least" before the age.

DM07-26 - ADM07-14 (Bill Goichberg, NY; Charles D. Unruh, OK; Jerry Hanken, CA/S.) - The Delegates strongly recommend that each state affiliate include in its bylaws language similar in effect to the USCF Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2, as follows: "Any current member who is at least 16 years of age or older at the time of an election is a Voting Member." **PASSED**

The question of discount rates for online memberships generated considerable discussion. Among the participants were Kenneth Ballou, Joel Channing, Larry Cohen, Bill Goichberg, Jon Haskel, and Steve Shutt. Please note: Online memberships would be treated as promotional memberships.

DM07-27 - ADM07-15 (Bill Goichberg, NY; Don Schultz, FL; Randy Hough, CA/S): Add the following to the Bylaws, Article III, Section 1, Regular Membership: If paid online at uschess.org, this membership shall be available at the following rates: 1 year \$41, 2 years \$76, 3 years \$109. **FAILED**

Not a DM - ADM07-17 (Pete Tamburro, NJ; Ken Thomas, NJ; and Joe Ippolito, NJ) APPOINTMENT AND REVIEW OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND EDITOR OF *CHESS LIFE* - Effective immediately, at the conclusion of each annual meeting of the Board of Delegates, the Past USCF Presidents who have served as President for at least 2 years and who are present, and who are not current members of the Executive Board, shall constitute a Committee which will annually review the performance of both the Executive Director and Editor of *Chess Life*. By majority vote this Committee will either reappoint the Executive Director and Editor or determine that one or both are to be replaced. If the latter, these same Past Presidents shall constitute the search Committee for a replacement(s) and shall select the new Executive Director and/or Editor and determine their salary and other contract provisions. **WITHDRAWN**

Mike Nolan presented ADM07-18, which is was intended to clarify the Bylaw wording so that it is clear that Candidates and EB members should not be able to post objectionable material to the USCF Forums (or equivalent discussion areas) if other USCF members would not be able to post that same material under the rules of those areas. Harold Winston pointed out that the Bylaws Committee and Workshop agreed in principle but not the specific wording. He asked that the matter be referred to the Bylaws Committee.

DM07-28 - ADM07-18 (Mike Nolan, NE) Modify Article VI of the USCF Bylaws as follows:

1. In Section 10, eliminate the clause ", plus reasonable and equitable space on the USCF website" from the first sentence.
2. Add the following section to Article VI:

Website Access

Executive Board members and candidates for the Executive Board are subject to the same rules, restrictions and sanctions as other USCF members with regards to information posted by them on the USCF website, such as in the USCF Forums. This includes the option of temporarily or permanently banning an EB member or candidate from posting.

The Elections Committee may, at its discretion and convenience, post all candidate statements as they appear in *Chess Life* on the USCF website. **REFERRED TO THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE.**

Harold Winston explained that the purpose of the motion was to make it clear that candidates must disclose felony convictions only once, but it shouldn't have to be the April issue of "CL" since publication schedule could change the appropriate issue. **Sam Sloan** moved to substitute a motion to eliminate the disclosure requirement altogether. The substitute motion failed and discussion continued. Ken Ballou, Tim Just, Sam Sloan, and Harold Winston were among the participants. The motion passed.

DM07-29 - ADM07-19 (Mike Nolan, NE; Harold Winston, IL) Add the following sentence after the next-to-last sentence in Article VI Section 10 of the Bylaws "The Candidate will be allowed an additional 100 words in the candidate's statement in their first statement in *Chess Life* for this purpose." **PASSED**

Myron Lieberman explained that the reason for the following motion was an outgrowth of a situation that arose this year, where an e-mail address that was unintentionally mentioned in an open EB session was removed from the session's sound file. It was handled correctly this year, but it needs to be a requirement that any time it happens in the future the reason and existence of the edit be disclosed.

DM07-30 - ADM07-20 (Myron Lieberman, AZ; Rachel Lieberman, AZ) Whenever content is intentionally edited out of a complete recording or transcript of an Executive Board meeting a note must accompany the file that explains what was removed and why. This should be an item of continuing interest. **PASSED**

Discussion resumed on ADM07-21 re: the Professional Players' health and Benefits Fund (PPHBF). **Tim Redman** officially introduced the motion and explained the value of a 501(c)(3) organization in fundraising. A spirited discussion followed. Among the participants were Steve Doyle, Fred Gruenberg, Jerry Hanken, Mike Nolan, Tim Redman, Don Schultz, Sam Sloan, Herbert Rodney Vaughn, and Harold Winston.

Fred Gruenberg noted that neither he nor the PPHBF Committee were made aware of this issue before it was released as an ADM. He believes it can be worked out in time. **Herbert Rodney Vaughn** moved to refer the issue to the PPHBF Committee. **Steve Doyle** said it is unlikely that we can wait a year. Herbert Rodney Vaughn accepted the added wording "with authority to implement" to the referral. He also accepted referring the motion to the Finance Committee as well. The sentiment of the Delegates was to refer only to the PPHBF Committee. **Tim Redman** moved that the matter be postponed until Sunday morning. **Mike Nolan** noted that there are already two issues that have been postponed until Sunday and this would make a third. The motion to postpone failed 35-45. The motion to refer passed 41-35.

DM07-31 - ADM07-21 (E. Steven Doyle, NJ, Leroy Dubeck, NJ; Jim Eade, N. CA; Tim Redman, TX) Effective immediately the Players Health and Benefits Fund shall be transferred to the Chess Trust for administration. Future USCF receipts for the Players Health and Benefits Fund shall be sent quarterly to the Chess Trust. **REFERRED to PPHBFC** with authority to implement.

The meeting was recessed at 5:24 PM.

SUNDAY SESSION

President **Bill Goichberg** called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM. The first item on the agenda was the budget. A draft copy of the audited financial statements and the FY2007-8 budget were distributed to the Delegates. CFO **Joe Nanna** mentioned that 10 months of actual data were used in preparing the report. An error was discovered in the allocation of tournament revenue and expenses. The revenue and expense totals are correct but individual tournaments need to be reviewed. He then reviewed the budget spreadsheet that was distributed and mentioned percentages of total revenue for sales and tournaments, comparing them to last year. Please refer to the sound files and financial reports online for details.

Joe **Nanna** then asked for questions. Donna Alarie, Larry Cohen, Leroy Dubeck, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Beatriz Marinello, Joe Nanna, and Sam Sloan were among those that participated in the discussion that followed.

The motion to approve the budget was then brought to the floor.

DM07-32 - ADM07-07 (Board): The 2007-2008 budget as presented by the Vice-President of Finance is adopted. **PASSED**

The Delegates had been given a very extensive document that included all of the pertinent correspondence re: Sam Sloan's Ethics Committee decision appeal. Thanks to Hal Terrie, Pat Knight, and everyone else who helped compile and distribute the material.

Hal Terrie addressed the group regarding **Sam Sloan's** appeal and thanked **Jim Gray**. Sam Sloan presented his appeal. Jerry Hanken, Woody Harris, James Mennella, Sam Sloan, Hal Terrie, and Herbert Rodney Vaughn were among those that participated in the discussion. Woody Harris then moved to uphold the action of the Ethics Committee.

DM07-33 - NDM07-48 (Harris) – Move to uphold the action of the Ethics Committee re: the Sam Sloan appeal. **PASSED**

Leroy Dubeck presented a revised version of ADM07-23. The original wording can be found in the *Delegates' Call*.

DM07-34 - ADM07-23 (Mike Carr, S. CA; Leroy Dubeck, NJ; Beatrice Marinello, NY; Tim Redman, TX; E. Steven Doyle, NJ; Donna Alarie, MA) - Transfer of Life Member dues received to the Life Member Assets Fund - Effective September 1, 2007, Operations shall transfer to the LMA Fund, on a monthly basis, all dues received (except for \$13.50 which may be used by Operations) from either a single lump sum payment or a sustaining payment for a USCF Life Membership. The LMA Fund shall thereafter transfer \$13.50 annually to operations for anyone who has become a new, fully paid up, Life Member after September 1, 2007. **PASSED**

Leroy Dubeck presented a revised version of ADM07-24. The original wording can be found in the *Delegates' Call*. Questions followed. Donna Alarie, Joel Channing, Steve Doyle, Leroy Dubeck, Bill Goichberg, John Haskel, Gerald Larson, Todd Lunna, Mike Nolan, and Sam Sloan were among those who participated in the discussion.

DM07-35 - ADM07-24 - ADM07-24 (E. Steven Doyle, NJ; Leroy Dubeck, NJ and Tim Redman, TX) – For fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09 the USCF will recognize no more than \$50,000 each fiscal year in deferred life member revenue for Life Membership dues payments received by USCF prior to September 1, 2007. **PASSED**

ADMs 07-25, 07-26, and 07-27 were withdrawn.

Not a DM - ADM07-25 (E. Steven Doyle, NJ; Leroy Dubeck, NJ; and Jim Eade, N. CA) The USCF Fide Delegate and the Zonal Vice President for the United States shall be appointed by the Board of Delegates. The term of appointments of those filling these two posts shall be initially from the day of appointment by the Delegates until the 2010 USCF Annual Meeting and shall be for 4 years thereafter. **WITHDRAWN**

Not a DM - ADM07-26 (Donna Alarie, MA) By January 1, 2008, The USCF will establish on its website group links to all committee members and all elected USCF state delegates who have provided USCF with their email addresses. The links shall be in the following sample format: FinanceCommittee@uschess.org, MADelegate@uschess.org **WITHDRAWN**

Not a DM - ADM 07-27 (Donna Alarie, MA) **Balanced Budget Amendment** Any expenditures that are authorized by the Executive Board throughout the current year, but which were not included in the budget approved by the delegates must have a funding mechanism associated with the authorized expenditure or an authorization by the Executive Board to cut the expenditures of other line items from the budget in order to keep a balanced budget intact. **WITHDRAWN**

Sam Sloan presented his revised wording for ADM07-10 re: use of headphones at this time. Ken Ballou, David Kuhns, Gerald Larson and Sam Sloan were among those adding comments. Please see DM07-20 for the details. The motion **FAILED**.

Donna Alarie presented ADM07-28 re: Online Memberships at a discount price. **Joel Channing** and **Bill Hall** provided input.

DM07-36 - ADM07-28 (Donna Alarie, MA) Effective January 1, 2008, the USCF shall offer a *Chess Life Online* Adult Membership at a rate of \$5 less than the Regular Adult Membership rate. The *Chess Life Online* Adult Membership will not include a printed *Chess Life* as a benefit of membership. (If a Regular Adult Membership dues sale rate is in effect, then the \$5 discount would be off that dues sale rate.) **FAILED**

Donna Alarie then presented ADM07-29. **Todd Lunna** mentioned his YMCA project. He noted that he hopes to have over a thousand Ys involved by 2009 and there could be as blanket policy for all. Donna Alarie, Joel Channing, Todd Lunna, and Harold Winston were among those who participated

DM07-37 - ADM07-29 (Donna Alarie, MA) The Board of Delegates shall appoint the following Ad Hoc Committee:

Affiliate Liability Insurance Committee.

The Affiliate Liability Insurance Committee will explore all facets of the feasibility of obtaining cost effective liability insurance for USCF affiliates.

The objective of the committee shall be to comprehensively explore the possibility of USCF providing a master liability insurance policy or establishing a group liability insurance policy which would allow USCF affiliates an opportunity to purchase insurance through said policy. The premium for the riders would be billed directly to the affiliate and payment of same would be the sole obligation of the affiliate.

The Affiliate Liability Insurance Committee membership shall be open to any and all delegates who express an interest in same at this year's delegates meeting. The Affiliate Liability Insurance Committee shall select its own chair.

The committee shall report its findings to the Executive Board on a quarterly basis prior to each Executive Board meeting so that the Executive Board may consider action on this issue prior to next year's delegates meeting **REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Steve Immitt presented a substitute for ADM07-30 and ADM07-34. It was presented when ADM 7-30 reached the floor, so if it passes ADM07-34 would be moot. The original wording can be found in the *Delegates' Call*. Larry Cohen, Steve Immitt, Tim Just, Dave Kuhns, Mike Nietman, Ernie Schlich, and Steve Shutt were among those that participated in the discussion. The motion passed 34-28.

DM07-38 - ADM07-30 (Donna Alarie, MA; Polly Wright, NY/D; Steve Immitt, NY/D) Change to Rule 15A:

In place of 32: Effective immediately, move to add the following Variation to Rule 15A.

15A. (Variation 1) Paper Scoresheet Variation.

The player using a paper scoresheet may first make the move, and then write it on the scoresheet, or vice versa. This variation does not need to be advertised in advance.

TD Tip: TDs may penalize a player that is in violation of 20C "Use of notes prohibited" if the player is first writing the move and repeatedly altering that move on their scoresheet before completing a move on the board.

Additionally: Effective immediately, move that the last sentence of 20C be changed to: "See also 1C2, Director Discretion; 15. The recording of games; and 21K, Use of Director's power. **PASSED**

ADM07-31 was withdrawn.

Not a DM - ADM 07-31 (Donna Alarie, MA; Leroy Dubeck, NJ) The Board of Delegates shall appoint the following Standing Committee:

Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee is responsible for creation of the annual budget based upon input provided by the USCF's Chief Financial Officer, Executive Director, and Vice President of Finance.

The Finance Committee shall consist of eight persons: seven elected by the delegates at the annual meeting for a one year term plus the Vice President of Finance in an ex-officio position. The Finance Committee shall choose its own chair. Should a vacancy arise on the committee between annual meetings, it shall be filled by a 2/3 majority vote of the remaining members of the committee AND a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board.

The Finance Committee shall review the USCF financial reports on a monthly basis within five days of receipt from management and upon its approval, the monthly reports shall be posted on the USCF's web site in the governance section along with a commentary by the Finance Committee as to its majority and minority opinions pertaining to the current state of the finances of the USCF. **WITHDRAWN**

Michael Atkins presented a substitute for ADM07-32. The original wording can be found in the *Delegates' Call*. Dewain Barber, Jon Haskel, Guy Hoffman, Steve Shutt, and Sam Sloan. **Guy Hoffman** moved to refer to the States Committee. Referral failed by a count of 29-36. There were additional amendments made prior to the final wording, which is shown below.

DM07-39 - ADM07-32 (Michael Atkins, VA) The USCF is responsible for promoting chess at all levels in the United States. It should refrain, as much as possible, from scheduling its National Events directly in conflict with a regional event in the same city/area at the same time. The potential organizer of the proposed National Event should work with the region's State Affiliates, involved organizers and Regional Tournament Clearinghouse Directors to avoid unwanted competition. The goal is for neither National Events nor regional events to hurt each other and every effort should be made to arrive at reasonable accommodations. **PASSED**

Mike Atkins presented ADM07-33, which referred to Blitz and Sudden Death rules.

DM07-40 - ADM 07-33 (Michael Atkins, VA) The current USCF Blitz rules in the most recent rulebook are an afterthought and should be changed. When the rulebook was in development, the World Blitz Chess Association was an active organization. Its rules were designed and developed by a committee of Grandmasters for Blitz Chess. The USCF are sudden death rules awkwardly slapped over blitz and do not make sense for blitz. There was no reason to change the blitz rules for the most recent USCF Rulebook because no one used them; any serious blitz event used WBCA rules.

Sudden Death (G/10 – G/60) is a different game than Blitz (G/5). Managing the clock is on an equal par with managing the board. There is no delay in pure blitz, it is simply the person who most effectively manages both clock and time. Time penalties for illegal moves in a blitz game are absurd because they increase the length of the game by 40% and make it very difficult for limited directors to manage in blitz events. Insufficient Losing Chances rules are far less important in Blitz and some tournaments, like the 2007 National Elementary Championship even went so far as to eliminate ISL claims. This went a little too far as there are some positions, as spelled out in the WBCA rules which are natural ISL draws, e.g., rook vs rook and queen vs queen with no pawns (WBCA eventually added that one side with extra material, like R + 2 pawns, should not be penalized for having more material in a draw claim).

The WBCA rules allow a director to manage many more games than the Sudden death rules allow. It is proposed that:

- 1.) The USCF Blitz rules be changed to reflect the old WBCA Blitz Rules which were designed and structured for blitz chess tournaments.
- 2.) ISL rules can say that an organizer can eliminate the claims altogether or allow them as written.
- 3.) The wording in the rulebook should reflect that these rules were developed by the grandmaster committee as named and were once the WBCA rules. **REFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE** with power to act by January 1, 2008.

ADM07-34 was moot since the substitute for ADM 07-30 also was a substitute for ADM07-34 and has already passed. **MOOT**

Steve Immitt presented ADM07-35 on publicizing individual votes of Delegate Appointed Committee members. **Harold Winston** noted that the Bylaws Committee and Workshop were opposed. **Hal Terrie** pointed out that the Ethics Committee publishes the vote totals but not the individual votes.

DM07-41 - ADM 07-35 (Steve Immitt, NY/D) USCF Delegate Committee Voting Records - The resolutions passed by the USCF Delegate-appointed committees, including a record of those Committee members voting in favor, against, or abstaining from each question, and including a list of Committee members recused from any such consideration, shall be reported to the Delegates each year in the Annual Committee Reports to the Delegates. If the subject of a complaint made to the Ethics Committee has been exonerated by the Committee, the Committee shall not be required to report the details of the complaint, or its vote on the matter. **FAILED**

Dewain Barber addressed the Delegates about the problem of Delegates receiving new motions on Sunday. He pointed out that in order to properly consider motions they should be written and distributed by Saturday.

Hal Terrie introduced NDM07-49 regarding rulings of the Forum Oversight Committee (FOC). Discussion followed. Ken Ballou, Larry Cohen, Jerry Hanken, Jon Haskel, Steve Immitt, Gerald Larson, Sam Sloan, and Hal Terrie were among those that participated. **Jon Haskel** suggested an amendment to simply remove the issues forum from the website. It was not accepted or seconded. The motion failed 26-40.

DM07-42 – NDM07-49 (Terrie, NH) - All decisions of the Forum Oversight Committee (FOC) shall be considered final. There shall be no right to appeal such decisions to the Executive Director or to the Executive Board.

Ernie Schlich submitted a motion to delete a Delegate Action of Continuing Interest (DACI) but there was some confusion over which was the intended DACI. Ernie Schlich withdrew the motion before the content was discussed, so it will not be on the motions list.

Donna Alarie presented NDM07-50, which would delete DACI #6, which reads as follows: ANNUAL US CHAMPIONSHIP – It is the intent of the Board of Delegates that a US Championship be held annually (1972) (1982) (1983 – with \$25,000 budgeted each year). Discussion followed. Donna Alarie, Joel Channing, Leroy Dubeck, Tim Just, and Harold Winston were among the participants. Tim Just moved referral to the Top Players Committee. Referral failed. **Leroy Dubeck** pointed out that the Bylaws require a US Championship every two years. If money is not budgeted the Board is in a position of violating a Bylaw or violating a DACI. He suggested that the motion be amended to delete only the \$25,000 line and leave the balance of DACI #6 in place. Donna Alarie accepted the amendment. The final motion was:

DM07-43 – NDM07-50 (Alarie, MA) – Delete the words “– with \$25,000 budgeted each year” from DACI #6. **PASSED**

DM07-44 – NDM07-51 (Winston, IL) – Resolved, that the Delegates give a vote of thanks to:

Steve Doyle for his service as Master of Ceremonies at the Awards luncheon,

Bill Goichberg for his ably chairing the Delegates' Meeting,

Patricia Knight for organizing the Delegates' Meeting and assisting the NJSCF in organizing the 2007 US Open,

Myron and Rachel Lieberman for their services recording the meeting,

Mike Nolan for serving as Parliamentarian for the Delegates' Meeting, and

Glenn Petersen and the New Jersey State Chess Federation (NJSCF) for organizing the 2007 US Open
PASSED by ACCLAMATION

Certificates of Governance were presented to the outgoing Board members. Applause followed.

Bill Goichberg called the new Executive Board Members to the platform and welcomed them.

He introduced the new Board members and noted that Jim Berry has been on the Board for over a day already. **Bill Goichberg** mentioned that the new Board will hold an open session meeting at 3 PM and a closed session meeting at 6 PM.

APPENDIX A – Delegates Present

Please note: Delegates who represent a different state than their home state are listed at the end of each delegation with their home state identified.

<u>State Represented</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Delegate(s)</u>	<u>Delegation</u>
Alabama	1	Kenneth Sloan	FULL
Alaska	1	None	-1
Arizona		Myron Lieberman DAL, Rachel Lieberman DAL	
	3	None	-3
Arkansas	1	None	-1
California, N	6	Mike Goodall, Richard Koepcke, Tony Pabon, Hal Bogner, John McCumiskey, James Gray (OK)	FULL
California, S		Randy Hough* EB, Jerome Hanken DAL	
	6	Dewain Barber, John Rinaldo, Phillip Smith (MN), Frank Berry (OK), Stephanie Pitcher (UT), Steve Ferrero (NJ)	FULL
Colorado	2	Richard Buchanan, Dean Brown	FULL
Connecticut	2	None	-2
Delaware	1	Paris Mitchell	FULL
D.C.	1	None	-1
Florida		Joel Channing* EB, Don Schultz* EB	

Florida	6	Jon Haskel, Daren Dillinger, Aaron Kiedes (NJ), Joe Lux (NJ), Mike Somers(NJ)	-1
Georgia	2	None	-2
Hawaii	1	Lawrence M. Reifurth	FULL
Idaho	1	None	-1
Illinois	6	Harold J. Winston DAL Tim Just, Fred Gruenberg, Peter Spizzirri, Larry Cohen, Sevan Muradian, Jim Egerton	FULL
Indiana	2	None	-2
Iowa	1	Randy Bauer* EB Roger Gotschall	FULL
Kansas	1	None	-1
Kentucky	3	Herbert Rodney Vaughn, Terry H. Vibbert (IN)	-1
Louisiana	1	None	-1
Maine	1	None	-1
Maryland	3	Denis Strenzwilk, Ed Westing	-1
Massachusetts	3	George M. Mirijanian, Donna Alarie, Kenneth Robert Ballou	FULL
Michigan	3	Stan Beckwith	-2
Minnesota	2	David Kuhns, Ed Conway	FULL
Mississippi	1	None	-1
Missouri	2	None	-2
Montana	1	None	-1
Nebraska	1	Mike Nolan	FULL
Nevada	1	Charles Hatherill	FULL
New Hampshire	1	Henry L. Terrie	FULL
New Jersey	5	Steve Doyle DAL, Leroy Dubeck DAL Joe Ippolito, Dean J. Ippolito, Todd W. Lunna, Peter J. Tamburro, Jr., Kenneth Thomas	FULL
New Mexico	1	None	-1
New York, Down	7	Beatriz Marinello* EB, Sam Sloan* EB, Susan Polgar EB, Gerry Dullea DAL Phyllis Benjamin, Steve Immitt, Sophia Rohde, Sunil Weeramantry, Polly Wright, Harold Stenzel, Bill Goichberg* EB	FULL
New York-Upstate	3	Brenda Goichberg, Frank Brady, Walter Buehl	FULL
North Carolina	3	None	-3
North Dakota	1	None	-1
Ohio	4	Grant S. Perks, Charles M Unruh (OK)	-2
Oklahoma	1	Jim Berry* EB Charles D. Unruh	FULL
Oregon	1	None	-1
Pennsylvania	5	Daniel E. Heisman, Steve Shutt	-3

Rhode Island	1	Frank Vogel, III	FULL
South Carolina	1	David Grimaud	FULL
South Dakota	1	None	-1
Tennessee		Harry D. Sabine DAL	
	2	Jon Hammet, Gerald A. Larson (AL)	FULL
Texas		Paul Truong * EB, Timothy Redman DAL	
		Luis Salinas, Jim Stallings, Russell S. Harwood, Bill Cohen (NJ), Michael Khodarkovsky (NJ), Harold Sprechman (NJ), Aviv Friedman (NJ), Roger Inglis (NJ)	-2
	10		
Utah	1	none	-1
Vermont	1	None	-1
Virginia		F. Woodrow Harris DAL	
	4	Ernest Schlich, Michael Atkins, Matt Grinberg	-1
Washington	2	Fred Kleist, Murlin Varner	FULL
West Virginia	1	None	-1
Wisconsin	2	Mike Nietman, Guy Hoffman	FULL
Wyoming	1	None	-1

APPENDIX B – 2007 USCF Election Results and Reports

Region 1 STATE	Polgar	Bauer	Goodall	Lux	Sloan	Jones	Truong	Berry	Schultz	Korenman
Maine	28	23	1	1	5	10	18	13	8	15
New Hampshire	20	10	2	10	2	9	13	10	7	6
Vermont	3	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	1
Connecticut	52	43	5	25	14	34	41	34	35	29
Rhode Island	7	4	3	11	6	11	4	9	14	5
Massachusetts	101	84	8	48	17	85	67	72	47	57
Region 1 Total	211	166	19	96	44	150	144	140	113	113
Region 2										
New York	222	154	35	126	74	140	137	168	141	110
New Jersey	123	80	33	97	75	90	91	70	53	67
Region 2 Total	345	234	68	223	149	230	228	238	194	177
Region 3										
Maryland	73	55	12	40	16	54	48	56	51	42
Virginia	107	90	19	48	23	60	78	73	64	54
Pennsylvania	134	103	24	87	40	102	97	97	74	68
Delaware	8	8	3	4	1	8	4	7	7	3
Washington DC	10	4	2	3	3	6	7	9	2	2
West Virginia	10	11	3	9	1	13	4	14	8	4
Region 3 Total	342	271	63	191	84	243	238	256	206	173
Region 4										
Florida	180	135	14	38	27	64	125	72	106	89
Georgia	57	46	10	20	11	33	50	35	29	31
North Carolina	58	47	6	29	19	43	45	45	44	38
South Carolina	33	30	3	9	7	20	21	25	16	20
Region 4 Total	328	258	33	96	64	160	241	177	195	178

Region 5

Michigan	82	55	10	26	20	41	52	42	39	47
Indiana	48	38	14	20	10	29	36	31	22	27
Ohio	93	89	17	41	19	67	69	71	74	53

Region 5 Total **223** **182** **41** **87** **49** **137** **157** **144** **135** **127**

Region 6

Polgar **Bauer** **Goodall** **Lux** **Sloan** **Jones** **Truong** **Berry** **Schultz** **Korenman**

North Dakota	6	3	0	1	1	0	5	2	3	4
South Dakota	15	16	3	10	1	6	6	9	9	4
Wisconsin	61	62	8	29	9	35	37	29	23	42
Minnesota	56	53	3	10	9	23	46	21	15	38

Region 6 Total **138** **134** **14** **50** **20** **64** **94** **61** **50** **88**

Region 7

Illinois	120	96	13	64	28	97	76	105	72	75
Missouri	45	39	2	15	10	29	35	38	26	28
Iowa	32	39	5	13	3	20	18	20	16	20
Nebraska	22	19	4	5	3	6	17	15	10	16

Region 7 Total **219** **193** **24** **97** **44** **152** **146** **178** **124** **139**

Region 8

Tennessee	48	46	10	25	10	35	38	35	20	28
Alabama	28	22	4	9	7	13	23	12	9	15
Mississippi	22	14	1	4	4	3	14	12	7	13
Arkansas	19	15	2	9	2	14	8	15	14	7
Kentucky	31	26	4	13	5	18	15	24	12	13
Louisiana	21	16	2	4	7	11	17	12	10	17

Region 8 Total **169** **139** **23** **64** **35** **94** **115** **110** **72** **93**

Region 9

Wyoming	5	4	0	3	1	3	4	3	5	1
Utah	22	11	3	6	3	8	16	9	10	8
Colorado	54	47	8	22	7	23	42	24	33	36
Kansas	40	24	3	6	10	14	19	28	13	30

Region 9 Total **121** **86** **14** **37** **21** **48** **81** **64** **61** **75**

Region 10

Polgar **Bauer** **Goodall** **Lux** **Sloan** **Jones** **Truong** **Berry** **Schultz** **Korenman**

Oklahoma	54	48	3	9	6	22	35	96	33	21
Texas	221	166	24	58	31	113	150	120	71	131
New Mexico	23	16	5	10	2	10	16	13	10	16

Region 10 Total **298** **230** **32** **77** **39** **145** **201** **229** **114** **168**

Region 11

Arizona	50	38	11	17	7	27	38	33	31	24
Nevada	42	31	9	12	13	22	26	19	19	26
California	371	256	105	135	75	230	243	280	205	184
Hawaii	10	5	2	2	3	1	5	4	0	5

Region 11 Total **473** **330** **127** **166** **98** **280** **312** **336** **255** **239**

Region 12

Montana	7	6	0	3	2	7	2	9	6	3
Idaho	10	8	0	3	1	2	10	8	2	10
Washington	70	54	15	25	12	41	50	49	34	40
Oregon	27	22	5	13	6	14	20	18	11	16
Alaska	8	4	2	1	4	3	5	3	3	2

Region 12 Total **122** **94** **22** **45** **25** **67** **87** **87** **56** **71**

Other **15** **8** **2** **2** **5** **4** **12** **6** **5** **7**

	Polgar	Bauer	Goodall	Lux	Sloan	Jones	Truong	Berry	Schultz	Korenman
Grand Total	3004	2325	482	1231	677	1774	2056	2026	1580	1648
Final Standing	1	2	10	8	9	5	3	4	7	6

Report of the Election Committee
By Mike Nolan, Chair

Now that the election results have been tabulated, the report of the Election Committee can be completed.

This year's election was fairly smooth and the election tabulation went much quicker than anticipated, thanks to the hard work of Chief Teller Frank Camaratta and the five temporary workers and eight USCF staff members who worked on the counting. Election Committee vice-chair Harry Sabine was also around for much of the counting process and his always sage counsel was invaluable, and the advice from the other members of the Committee, Woody Harris and Roger Gotchall, was also helpful in the months leading up to the election count.

The resignation of a Board member in November led to a unanimous recommendation from the Election Committee to have the 4th place finisher in this year's EB election complete the balance of that term. Unless the Delegates choose to designate a different method of selecting a replacement when there is a vacancy, holding a special election at the usual time of year, either in conjunction with the biennial Delegate election as in 2006 or as handled this year, remains the best option. It is my fervent hope that there are no resignations in the next two years, so that we have no need for a special Board election in 2008 or 2009.

This year we chose to use a cover wrap around *Chess Life* to distribute the ballot as opposed to an insert in the magazine or a separate mailing. There were few problems reported with this, and there were also fewer damaged ballots received this year than in either of the past two years.

This was also a fairly economical method, costing us less than \$5000 this year, including the supplemental mailing of 2134 ballots via first class mail in early June. I've been discussing with Daniel Lucas how to make a cover wrap work for the Delegate election in 2008, which is a bit more complicated because of the need to have 52 lists of candidates for the 52 states. Sending out 40,000 pieces of mail, as we did in 2006, is an expensive proposition, costing us around \$16,000 last year. (Using first class mail would have increased that to over \$20,000.)

The only flaws in the cover wrap concept were that the voter's name and the EB ballot itself were on the same side of the page, which made it necessary to cut the ballots in two before counting them to keep individual votes as secret as possible. That could be corrected with a different ballot design in 2009, though there are also advantages to removing the voter information from the ballots before counting them.

The other flaw stems from a Delegate mandate and the Board's suggestions regarding the reporting of results. The Delegates have mandated reporting results by the 12 pre-SOMOV regions, and the Board wanted results reported by state. However, it was decided that it would be too time-consuming to split California up into the two 'states' for USCF purposes by ZIP code.

For the next EB election in 2009 we should look for a way to get the region clearly printed on the ballot somewhere. However, it would be better to not to report results by states, and far simpler not to report the results by region at all. (That would have saved several hours at the beginning of the counting process.)

This year 11.5% of those sent a ballot voted. (However, if we factor out the 2.1% return rate from the 5749 voting members under 21, the return rate for those 21 or older was just over 13%.)

Some issues that bear further study:

1. Electronic voting. This still appears to be more expensive than paper ballots.
2. Whether to permit voting by fax or hand-written ballot or to require that only original ballots as provided by the USCF may be counted.
3. How to increase the percentage of those voting.
4. Should members who live outside the USA be entitled to vote for the Board or entitled to Delegate representation?
5. Is 16 an appropriate age cutoff for voting membership?
6. Should all members of a family membership plan who are 16 or older be entitled to vote?
7. Should parents of members under 16 be entitled to vote on behalf of their children?

I'd like to offer my thanks to Pat Knight, Cheryle Bruce and Daniel Lucas for the important parts they had in this year's election. It was a rare day when I didn't have to consult at least one of them.

Frank A. Camaratta, Jr.
Chief Teller
July 28, 2007

Introduction

The intent of this report is to summarize the election results, by State and Region, for the 2007 United States Chess Federation Executive Board Elections. In addition, a synopsis of the procedures used is presented, along with observations and recommendations for future election procedures.

Discussion

The 2006 Executive Election vote count took place at the Headquarters of the US Chess Federation on July 25th and 26th. Involved in the vote count were five independent workers, employed by the US Chess Federation on a temporary basis, specifically to assist with the vote count, and eight members of the USCF staff. Three of the temporary workers were totally unfamiliar with chess, while the other two had been employed to assist at other USCF-related functions in the past. None of the five seemed to have any knowledge of the candidates. Also present were the Chief Teller, Frank Camaratta, the Chairman of the Election Committee, Mike Nolan and Vice Chairman Harry Sabine.

In preparation for the vote counting, Election Committee Chairman Mike Nolan had written a special program which would allow data entry personnel to key-in the Member ID, compare it against the USCF Member database, verify whether voter was eligible to vote, flag the ballot if it were a duplicate, and enter the name into a spreadsheet which contained the names and IDs of all USCF members who cast a ballot. The database that was set up had the names of the 39,880 voting members who were sent a ballot. During the count three voters were added to that file. (These were voting members whose address was undeliverable at the time the ballots were sent out and had requested a ballot.) This database program saved a significant amount of time and greatly simplified the search for multiple ballots from a single member.

Unfortunately, due to the nature of the ballot design, it was decided that the ballot flap containing the Member information would need to be separated prior to counting to insure voter confidentiality. This complicated the vote count somewhat, since once the member information and ballot were separated, it would be impossible to locate the duplicate ballot should one be discovered during the data entry stage. Hence, a procedure was implemented to identify duplicate votes prior to separating the ballot from the member information.

Finally, before the vote count began, the question of a possible recount was discussed. The Chief Teller, with the concurrence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Elections Committee, decided that a recount would be required if two candidates were separated by 25 votes or less.

Day 1

The ballot instructions advised the voter that their ballot must be mailed so that it arrived at the USCF headquarters by July 25th. On Wednesday, July 25th, at approximately 10:00 a.m., a team consisting of Chief Teller Frank Camaratta, along with Election Committee Members Mike Nolan and Harry Sabine, physically took possession of the ballots received to date from the offices of Taylor, Bilyeau and Company. The offices are located approximately 300 yards away and across the street from the US Chess Federation headquarters in Crossville, TN. The total number of ballots collected at that point was 4513 and were contained within three large boxes. The ballots were returned to the USCF headquarters and the ballot counting procedure began.

First, ten file boxes were laid out on a table in the large conference room. The boxes were numbered from 0 to 9. The five temporary workers, along with the two Election Committee members and the Chief Teller, sorted the ballots into the numbered boxes by the first number of the zip code on the ballot. Since several ballots were received in stamped envelopes or by Priority Mail, those were opened by a Temporary worker, the ballots placed into the appropriate numbered box, and the envelopes set aside and retained. If the envelope contained no ballot or a ballot where the pre-printed member ID information had been removed, that envelope was set aside to be dealt with later.

The ballots within each box were then sorted by State, bundled together and placed back into the same box. Once that task was completed, each bundle was examined for ballots which lacked the pre-printed Member information and ID or those which were damaged in transit or had some other anomaly which required further assessment. Those were also removed and set aside. Finally, each bundle was checked for duplicate ballots.

At that point, the member information was separated from the ballot, bundled, and given to the data entry personnel for entry into the election database for verification and recording. The ballots themselves were also bundled and identified by State.

Finally, at around 3:00 p.m., the ballot count began. The procedure was to form two teams of three members each. Each team would take one bundle of ballots from the numbered boxes. And mark the name of the State represented, along with the names of the team members doing that count.

One member of the team read the names from each ballot, while the other two independently put a check next to the names read from the ballot on the pre-printed sheets provided. Each time one candidate's count reached a multiple of five, the recorders did a check count to make certain they were still in sync. Write-in votes were recorded on a separate sheet provided. When the final votes for that State were completed, they were totaled by candidate, checked, and signed by each team member.

The teams concentrated on the smaller states first. By around 7:40 p.m., approximately 40% to 50% of the ballots were counted and tallied. The personnel working on the ballot count were dismissed for the day. All the election materials were boxed by the Chief Teller and locked in a closet. The only keys to the closet were retained by the Chief Teller and the Chairman of the Elections Committee.

The results for the day were posted on-line by the Chairman of the Elections Committee. The USCF President called and was given the preliminary count and one later update.

Day 2

The ballot count resumed at around 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 26th. Although the ballot instructions advised the voter that their ballot must be mailed so that it arrived at the USCF headquarters by July 25th, the Chief Teller decided that any ballots received before the count was completed would be allowed. Hence, on Thursday, July 27th, at 11:00, an additional 62 ballots were collected at Taylor, Bilyeau and Company by Mr. Nolan and Mr. Sabine. These ballots went through the same procedures as the original ballots. Once they were compiled by State, they were added to the ballots of those States that had not yet been counted. The remainder was counted by the teams at the end using separate result sheets. The results were combined with the original State count and the totals for that State updated to reflect the added votes.

In order to expedite the process, a third team was added to assist in counting the ballots. While this process was underway, the Chief Teller met with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Elections Committee to further discuss the anomalous ballots. The agreement reached was that in those cases where the intent of the voter was clear, the ballot would be counted. In those cases where the voter could not be identified, where the voter selected more than four candidates, where the voter intent could not be determined, or where there were duplicate ballots, those ballots would not be counted, but would be retained for future reference, if necessary.

Once all the names of all USCF voting members who cast a ballot were entered into the database, the names of the members who had submitted anomalous but acceptable ballots were compared with the database of those who voted. If the member had not voted, their vote was added to the final tally for that state and their name added to the database. If the ballot was a duplicate, it was added to the group of rejected ballots.

The vote count ended by mid-afternoon and the results were posted on the USCF website, www.uschess.org.

Fortunately, there were very few ballots which could not be counted. There were four duplicate ballots, 16 ballots which were blank or had no member information. One hand-written note was received requesting to add two more names to their original ballot, which had already been processed. Adding the non-counted ballots would have had absolutely no effect on the final standings or vote spreads. In the case of the very close Truong - Berry race, the ballots broke 6-6.

Results

The results of the election were rather decisive. ***Susan Polgar*** was first with 3004 votes, followed by ***Randy Bauer*** with 2325 votes, ***Paul Truong*** with 2056 votes, ***Jim Berry*** with 2026 votes, Stephen Jones with 1774 votes, Mikhail Korenman with 1648 votes, Don Schultz with 1580 votes, Joe Lux with 1231 votes, Sam Sloan with 677 votes and Mike Goodall with 482 votes. A complete listing of the results is given in Table 1 and Table 2, attached. A list of the members who voted in the election can be obtained from the USCF office or on-line at www.uschess.org.

The only real close race was that for third and fourth place. Although both candidates were elected to the Executive Board, third place was a four-year term, while fourth place was a two-year term to complete the remaining two years of Robert Tanner's term. So, the actual vote count is important.

Technically, since the margin between third and fourth place was 30 votes, and since the trigger for a recount was decided at the outset to be 25 votes, the team decided that a recount was not necessary. However, as a courtesy, the fourth-place finisher, Mr. Berry, was contacted for his reaction. Mr. Berry decided against asking for a recount.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The ballot design needs to be carefully thought out for the next election. The ballots for this election were laid out such that the voter information (Zip Code, State, etc.) was directly above the ballot on the same side of the page. Consequently, in order to sort the ballot, the ballot had to be opened, potentially exposing the vote. Also before the ballots could be counted, the member information had to be physically removed from the remainder of the ballot. This was very inefficient and time-consuming. The member information and the ballot must be on different sides of the paper and designed such that the ballot need not be opened to obtain the member information.

Many ballots arrived with simply too much tape and glue. Some even used large amounts of duct tape and staples. The voter instructions must make it clear to the voter that only a single small piece of tape placed at the center edge of the ballot is allowed. Aside from slowing down the process, too much tape and glue caused many ballots to stick together. This raised the potential for ballots not being counted because they were stuck to other ballots.

The USCF should secure rooms off-site, not in the USCF headquarters. Ideally, two small meeting rooms and one large conference room with internet access would be ideal. This would allow each team of three to work in private and not be distracted. The larger conference room would be used to sort the ballots by Zip Code and by State, and would also serve as the work area for the third team of three once all the ballot had been separated by State and checked for duplications and anomalies.

Prior to the arrival of the team appointed to count the votes, the large conference room should be set up with 10 file boxes clearly numbered from zero to nine. An additional five file boxes should be available to the team. A large supply of recording sheets with the candidates' names and a separate sheet for write-in candidates should be prominently located in the large conference room and each of the two meeting rooms. Two computers (can be laptops), a copy machine and printer with several reams of blank paper, a flip chart with colored markers, two paper cutters, several pair of scissors, several bags of rubber-bands, paper clips and several boxes of black, blue and red ball point pens should be provided.

Somehow, a procedure needs to be established where the entry personnel can enter the names of the voters whose ballots are received - before they are separated from the ballots themselves. This way, if there are duplicate ballots or invalid voters discovered, they can be identified and dealt with much more efficiently.

There were, surprisingly, very few (almost none) requests for interim results by either the Executive Board or the Candidates. However, in the future, the Executive Board should hire/appoint one person to act as an observer, and to report results to the Board and Candidates on a non-interference basis. This should not be the responsibility of the Chief Teller, the Elections Committee representatives, or the Executive Director.

The USCF Bylaws are not the place to have the voting procedures. Most voters do not have copies of the USCF Bylaws and will rely simply on the instructions included with the ballot they receive. This year, the Bylaws were in conflict with the instructions written on the Ballot. Also, the written instructions were ambiguous in some cases. The complete voting instructions must be on the materials sent with the ballot. Change the voting procedures currently in the Bylaws to read "The Voting Procedures are as announced and provided with the ballot sent to each voting member." That makes it quite simple and eliminates those cases where the instructions given differ from what is contained in the Bylaws.

Acknowledgments

The vote count went very smoothly and efficiently. We finished a full day ahead of schedule. This was due in large part to the great team of temporary employees provided by the USCF office, as well as the tireless assistance provided by the USCF staff. Staff was extremely friendly and helpful during this entire process. Anything that was requested was provided immediately. Joan Dubois, Judy Misner, Pat Knight, Walter Brown, Traci Lee, Cheryle Bruce, Chuck Lovingood and Darryl Wyatt deserve our thanks for a job well done.

Special thanks to the Chairman of the Election Committee, Mike Nolan, and the Committee Vice Chairman, Harry Sabine. Their experience and sage advice along with Mike's database program, contributed immensely to the success of this election count.

And, finally, thanks to Bill Hall for his tireless assistance and for making the resources of the USCF available to the team.

Frank A. Camaratta, Jr.
Chief Teller

2007 Executive Board Elections