

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUGUST 07, 2008, USCF EB MEETING

Please note: No motions or action items arose from this meeting, so the Motions list already posted on the website remains the complete motion list for the 2008 USCF Executive Board. This document is intended to convey an overview of the August 07 meeting. Details and discussion can be found on the sound files that are posted on the website.

The final meeting of the 2008 USCF Executive Board was held on Thursday, August 7, 2008, at the Westin Hotel in Dallas, TX. Present were Board members Bill Goichberg, Jim Berry, Randy Hough, Randy Bauer, Susan Polgar, Paul Truong, and Executive Director Bill Hall. Others present during at least part of the Open Session included, but were not limited to: Dewain Barber, Frank Berry, Tom Braunlich, Walter Brown, Gary Alan Fine, Brenda Goichberg, Roger Gotschall, Russell Harwood, Guy Hoffman, Trevor Jackson, Quayle Johnson, Tim Just, Pat Knight, Richard Koepcke, Myron and Rachel Lieberman, Daniel Lucas, Joe Nanna, Mike Nietman, Mike Nolan, Luis Salinas, Ernie Schlich, Robert Sturgeon, Hal Terrie, Chuck Unruh, and Harold J. Winston.

President Bill Goichberg opened the meeting at 9:08 AM in closed session. Executive Director Bill Hall received his annual review. No motions arose from closed session. The details of the Executive Director's contract are still being discussed and will be documented in an e-mail motion shortly.

Open session began at 10:14 AM. Topics discussed included the following:

**President's Report** – President Bill Goichberg stated that a loss of \$71,000 can be attributed to profit sharing fees, legal fees, and LMA investments. He noted that from May through July, 2008, membership trends were good. There was an increase of 26 adult members. This is the best result for adult membership during that seasonally weak three month period since 1996.

There are other positive factors. The USCF expects to receive a bequest of over \$300,000, possibly in this fiscal year. World Chess Live is sponsoring the Grand Prix and the Junior Grand Prix. Exciting events coming up include Gata Kamsky's match with Topalov and the Olympiad, in which we will have a very strong team headed by Kamsky and Nakamura. We have an online appeal for Olympiad support, and Bill Goichberg has donated \$500 and urges each of us to contribute.

**Vice President of Finance Report** – Vice President of Finance Randy Bauer reaffirmed a loss of \$71,000 and stated that cash flow comes in late in the fiscal year. Upheaval is hard to manage. Randy Bauer suggested a different way to write the budget. We must budget for reserves, incorporate proposed changes to the dues structure, and grow chess in America.

**Executive Director's Report** – Executive Director Bill Hall began by focusing on the SuperNationals, to be held in April, 2009 in Nashville, TN. This event is held every four years. This year \$50,000 in scholarships will be awarded for the winners. In addition, \$25,000 in scholarships for each of the three elementary Nationals scheduled to be in Nashville will be awarded.

It was noted that “Chess Life For Kids” is online now and “Chess Life” has been online for two years.

Olympiad Fund Raising - Donations for the Olympiad can be made on the website.

501 ( c ) 3 status – Bill Hall stated that some additional information is needed from the attorneys. Some changes to the corporate charter are needed. There will be more information on this later.

Letter to Life Members – Bill Goichberg drafted a letter to Life Members that was read by Bill Hall. The proposal is for Life Members to have a choice between regular and premium membership for at least the first two years, regular with an online “Chess Life” and premium a hard copy “Chess Life”. Those not replying would be assigned regular membership.

**Open Forum** - An open forum followed. Dues and publications proposals were discussed. Bill Goichberg reviewed his proposed membership and dues structure. Adult and Scholastic memberships would have regular or premium options. Some memberships would be dropped. The total number of membership categories would be less than currently exists.

It was noted that Mike Nolan needs an assistant, but that the budget has to be written with a surplus so that the USCF can afford to hire this person. Operations needs to be set up so that it is not difficult to break even.

A more expensive Life Membership was discussed, as well as a ten year membership. Bill Goichberg stated that every year

at this time we have needed to borrow, but so far that has not happened this year. An Internet Life Membership was also discussed.

A straw poll regarding Life Memberships was taken. The votes were as follows:

Charge more more for Life Memberships – 16

Do nothing - 1

Eliminate Life Memberships – 3

Sponsorship was discussed. It was noted that many sponsors respond well when children are involved. We need to make our product attractive to sponsors. The Summer Chess Academy, a sponsored chess camp for children was discussed.

The need for a professional grant writer was discussed. This person could work on commission or for a reasonable fee. It was also noted that companies may give something besides cash. USCF must have a message and a goal.

Regular rated online play – Bill Goichberg reviewed the motions on the agenda that deal with regular rated online play. There is a fear of cheating. Bill Goichberg stated that he wants affiliates to run tournaments. It was noted that some servers do not adhere to the rules of chess. There is a need for a list of acceptable servers. A fee could be charged to certify a server, which would adhere to chess rules. It was proposed that there could be between two and four players on a side and that no player's rating should change more than 50 points in a year. This would require computer programming.

The last meeting of the 2008 Executive Board was adjourned at 12:05 PM. The 2009 Executive Board will have its first meeting on Sunday, August 10, after the Delegates' Meeting.