

Proceedings of the 2008 USCF Board of Delegates Meeting

The 2008 Delegates' Meeting took place at the Westin Park Central Hotel in Dallas, Texas, on August 09-10, 2008. Please note that this document is an overview of the meeting and includes the official documentation of motions. More detail and the discussions can be found on the sound files located on the USCF website.

Bill Goichberg announced that Mitchell Denker (who had been hospitalized shortly after his arrival at the hotel) was feeling better. A round of applause followed. Bill Goichberg also thanked the Texas Chess Association for providing snacks for the Delegates.

CALL TO ORDER BY USCF PRESIDENT AND ROLL CALL OF DELEGATES

President Bill Goichberg called the meeting to order at 9:22 AM on Saturday, August 09, 2008.

He then called for a moment of silence in memory of those of the chess community who have passed on. Names provided at the meeting included Boris Baczinskyj (PA), Reggie Boone (MA), Warren Chamandy (RI), Howard Cook (RI), Robert J. Fischer (Iceland), John Hallahan (NH), Dieter Keller (MA), George Krauss (NJ), Edward Lafferty (MA), and Albert Shulman (IA).

Thanks to Cheryle Bruce, Patricia Knight, Mike Nolan and others who helped expedite the Delegate roll call and provide credentials. A quorum was determined to be present. Delegates who were credentialed and participated in the meeting are listed in Appendix A.

DM08-01 - ADM 08-01 (Harold Winston IL): The Delegates re-elect as Delegates at Large those whose terms are expiring or have expired and who are present at the 2008 annual meeting. Myron Lieberman, John McCrary, Tim Redman, Harry Sabine. **PASSED**

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND STANDING RULES, MINUTES OF THE 2007 DELEGATES' MEETING AND APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN.

DM08-02 - ADM 08-02 (Harold Winston, IL): Moved, that the minutes of the 2007 Delegates Meeting as distributed to the Delegates be accepted. **PASSED**

DM08-03 - ADM 08-03 (Bill Goichberg, NY): Moved that Mike Nolan be appointed parliamentarian. **PASSED**

DM08-04 - ADM 08-04 (Randy Hough, CA): The Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2008 Delegates Meeting and approve the Standing rules as printed in the Delegates Call. **PASSED**

DM08-05 - NDM 08-47 (Randy Bauer, IA): Designate ADMs 08-11 through 08-14 as a special order of business to be considered at 2:00 PM. **PASSED**. Please note: The original motion referred only to ADMs 08-11 and 08-12, but the sponsor accepted a request by Paul Truong that ADMs 08-13 and 08-14, which are related to the same topic, also be considered at that time.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

DM08-06 - ADM 08-05 (Randy Hough, CA): Moved that the delegate board elections for 2009-2010 term be certified. The new delegates will take office at the conclusion of this meeting. **PASSED**. Please note: The election results have been posted on the website.

RATIFICATION

Harold Winston explained that the vote to ratify does not mean that you agree with the action but only that the Board had the right to take the action.

DM08-07 - ADM 08-06 (Harold Winston, IL) : The Delegates ratify all actions of the Executive Board made available to the Delegates in the form of either Executive Board Resolutions or Executive Board Minutes since the conclusion of the 2007 Delegates meeting. **PASSED**

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

Report of the President – President Bill Goichberg noted that this was not a good year financially. The auditors reported a loss of \$71,000. He pointed out that there were extraordinary expenses, such as substantial Profit Sharing expenses from the Spectrum audit and unexpected legal expenses due to the “Fake Sam Sloan” controversy. Also there were losses from LMA investments. Although it could have been much worse, Bill Goichberg cautioned that we shouldn't dismiss the loss as OK and changes are needed. We had a loss two years ago followed by a tiny profit last year. We were not able to do everything that we wanted to do because of financial constraints. One important example is that we were going to hire an assistant for Mike Nolan, but because finances were not doing well we didn't hire that employee. We certainly want to hire that employee in the coming year. If we keep things the way they are we are likely to be in increasing trouble. Most people would not be willing to

accept doing nothing. We tried a straight dues increase in 2003. The results were disastrous. That shouldn't be repeated. We are trying to increase the net to USCF by relating the membership class and dues to the benefits the member receives. He then outlined the planned membership categories, which will be explained in detail and voted later in the meeting. There was some good news as well. After poor membership numbers from November to January, membership appeared to stabilize from February through April. The period from May through July has improved and we actually gained adult members for the first time since 1996 in this time period, which has historically been poor for membership. Other major membership categories lost members but it was the smallest loss in this time period in the last five years. There is some reason for optimism. We have seen some promising new sponsorship. World Chess Live, owned by ICC, is sponsoring the Grand Prix and the new Junior Grand Prix. The prizes are the largest they have been in years. They have sponsored 50% of the prizes for the College Chess Tournament of Champions this year. Next year they plan to sponsor the entire \$5,000 prize fund. The tournament didn't get off to a good start this year, but it was not well publicized and it may have caught schools and players off guard. Next year it should do much better as players realize they can be playing for a \$5,000 prize fund with no entry fee. Another new sponsor is the Opryland Hotel, the site for the Super Nationals and some of the National Elementary championships. There will be substantial scholarships.

Bill Goichberg noted that it should be an exciting year. Our highest rated player, Gata Kamsky will be playing a semi-final World Championship match against Veselin Topalov. The match will start in November. The winner will play a match for the World Championship next year against the winner of the Anand-Kramnik match. The Chess Olympiad will be played before the Kamsky-Topalov match and we are pleased that Gata Kamsky has agreed to play for the US team. We should have a great US team, which will feature Gata Kamsky (2785), Alexander Onischuk (2734), Hikaru Nakamura (2732), US Champion Yury Shulman (2680), and Varuzhan Akobian (2660). Please note: The players are listed in August, 2008, rating order. Bill Goichberg emphasized that this team could well bring home a medal, possibly a gold medal, and our support could help. Contributions can be made to the US Chess Trust and earmarked for the US Olympiad team.

Report of the Executive Director – Bill Hall introduced and thanked his staff members who were present, including:

CFO Joe Nanna, who, in addition to his other projects, is working very hard to get to a point in reporting where cash items and accrual adjustments are both documented on the same report by the end of this year. This should make the reports easy to understand for people without an accounting background, while providing accrual basis information for those who want it.

Director of Publications Daniel Lucas, whose responsibilities include all written and online publications, not only “Chess Life”. Bill Hall pointed out the strong positive feedback that was received regarding the August, 2008, “Chess Life” cover.

Parliamentarian and IT consultant Mike Nolan, whose projects were described as too numerous to detail. Bill Hall pointed out that Mike Nolan seems to be doing three people's jobs, all so crucial to what we are doing.

Cheryle Bruce, who was commended for helping people to get their Delegate's packet and find the right committee meetings

FIDE and Scholastic Director Jerry Nash, who was described as an incredible resource. Bill Hall suggested that if anyone is working on getting chess into schools Jerry Nash can provide a wealth of information.

Director of national Events and Assistant Executive Director Patricia Knight. Bill Hall called her the Queen of Events and referred to her as the “little engine that could” for the Federation.

The introductions were met with applause. Bill Hall also praised the office staff at Crossville. He pointed out that those who may have had a problem with a mistake made in the office should remember that it isn't the mistake but how it is handled that makes the difference. Bill Hall welcomed everyone to Dallas and thanked the Texas Chess Association for providing coffee.

Bill Hall indicated that expenses are down and they need to be cut farther. One staff member has already been cut. There have been salary freezes for the last two years. An increase of 35% in health care costs resulted in a change in employee health benefits from an insurance policy that picked up 80% of an employee's medical expenses to a health savings account with \$2,500 deductible (for an individual). We had been expecting to need to borrow against our line of credit in early July, as we usually do, but we didn't need to do it until mid August because there has been some improvement financially in the last couple of months. Nonetheless our strategy still needs to change.

Bill Hall then called on staff members to give reports, starting with Daniel Lucas.

Report of the Director of Publications - Daniel Lucas stated that this is his third report to the Delegates and that this has been a smooth year. There have been many changes to “Chess Life”. First, the mailing date has been moved up. The magazine is now mailed on the 20th of the month, instead of the 27th. This change is designed so that the magazine can normally be received by the beginning of the new month. Eight pages have been cut from the magazine (from 80 pages to 72). Dan Lucas mentioned that 72 pages has actually proven to be more manageable for staff. Overtime has been cut. There was a color change from

cyan to rust color starting with the January, 2008 issue. This was in response to comments by primarily seniors that the light blue (cyan) was hard to see. Daniel Lucas then described the other publications for which his department is responsible, including "Chess Life for Kids" under the leadership of Glenn Petersen; online versions of both "Chess Life" (on the website for two years) and "Chess Life for Kids" (Put on the website in August) in addition to "Chess Life Online", under the leadership of Jennifer Shahade, which provides timely chess content. Also the responsibility of the Publications department are rating supplements, advertisements, promotional brochures, postcards, the "Delegates' Call", six event programs each year, the election ballot, and other publications. This is all done with a small but dedicated, engaged, and creative staff that works very hard for you.

Daniel Lucas noted that next year is the 70th anniversary for the USCF. He plans to have a USCF emblem on every issue and a USCF history page in every issue until August featuring a look at one decade of USCF history, followed by a special 70th anniversary issue in August looking at what the USCF means to specific individuals. He said that the Publications department is a healthy robust arm of the US Chess Federation and that he is glad to advance the USCF agenda through USCF publications. He welcomes comments and ideas. He is not looking for stories, he is looking for space for stories. He said that there is no shortage of solid American chess stories, A round of applause ensued.

Bill Hall then called for Scholastic and FIDE Director Jerry Nash to present his report.

Report of the Scholastic and FIDE Director – Jerry Nash said that it was a pleasure to have this opportunity to address this group. He said that for the purposes of this report he would focus on scholastic issues and pointed out that 90 to 95% of all of the scholastic programs in the U.S. are no more than one person away from extinction. If that person leaves or loses interest, the program dies. One of the challenges that we have is the need to strengthen our grassroots efforts. He said that chess is on the outside and needs to be brought in or mainstreamed. Jerry Nash pointed out that he has worked with teachers, Principals, and School Board members. He explained that it is essential to work with the business, chess, civic, educational, and political communities in order to make progress.

Jerry Nash commented on scholastic events that will be held in the near future. The National K – 12 will be held in December, 2008. The next SuperNationals will be held at the Opryland Hotel in April, 2009. The last SuperNationals, held in 2005, attracted 5,300 players. The goal for the upcoming SuperNationals is 6,000 players. We need to take advantage of every opportunity to convey a positive image for chess and make chess visible. The SuperNationals is such an opportunity.

One of the things that Jerry Nash does is provide help at schools at all levels from Elementary School through University. He pointed out that this enhances the credibility of USCF as a chess resource. He gets to know the people working on scholastic chess projects and they get to know that USCF cares and is willing to be there beside them to work alongside of them to help them achieve their goals.

Jerry Nash expressed appreciation for the support he has received and asked that each of us work to achieve what we can. He closed by saying that chess has the ability to impact American education, which will in turn benefit USCF. The Delegates responded with a round of applause.

Executive Director Bill Hall concluded his report by expressing excitement over what Jerry Nash is doing. He encouraged everyone to go to the SuperNationals and mentioned that \$50,000 in cash scholarships will be offered at the SuperNationals. He noted that the US Open next year will take place in Indianapolis.

Report of the Vice President of Finance - Vice President of Finance Randy Bauer reviewed the audited statements for 2008. Copies of the proposed budget and financial reports were provided to the Delegates. USCF suffered a loss of \$71,000. There has been significant erosion in USCF's cash position (\$400,000 at this time last year compared to \$200,000 this year). We must find ways to improve our cash situation and control expenditures. One problem is that by the time the Delegates approve the budget, we are at least two months into the new fiscal year. Also, a large share of our revenues are received at a later time. The office did a very good job of managing with the finances with which they had to work. A meeting took place in the spring to structure what USCF provides, give us more control, and allow us to formulate a realistic budget. A proposal was formulated which led to an ADM (the budget proposed at this meeting assumes the proposal will be in place). We have to get to a point where we can budget with sufficient revenue. Some things are not as critical as others but (as is the case with all budgets) we still need to look for opportunities and provide services. We need a 5% to 10% reserve in terms of what we have and what expenditures we expect. This budget has a 3% reserve. That is not sufficient but it is a start.

Randy Bauer recommended that there should be more contact with members and customers. Use of the Internet and electronic contact is one way to maintain communication. Most businesses prepare websites to significantly improve business. He recommended that the Delegates read the President's report on page 2 of the "Delegates' Call". It lays these concepts out in detail. Half of the equation is reducing costs. The other half of the equation is that some costs remain the same annually, but others (such as printing and mailing) could go up every year. The proposal, which included major changes in dues structure and membership categories, was discussed extensively at the Finance Workshop. Many questions arose in the workshop and most were resolved.

Randy Bauer noted that he wants to improve ways in which we handle financial information. We are close to closing out the old Profit Sharing issue. He thanked Joe Nanna and Bill Hall for their work on this. Payments owed to Spectrum have been made. He noted that we are now making transfers to the LMA. He emphasized that we have a duty and a responsibility to service our Life Members. They are some of our greatest assets.

A question and answer period followed in which Donna Alarie, Carl Haessler, Bill Hall, Joe Nanna, and Tony Pabon were among those who participated. Joe Nanna stated that last year by the end of June the loss was \$87,000. This year by the end of June the loss was \$37,000 and in July there was a \$10,000 profit.

Bill Hall stated that Mr. Gustafson of California passed away and left the USCF \$23,000, at least a portion of which was to be used for Correspondence Chess. This will be used to purchase a server for Correspondence Chess. The Delegates responded with a round of applause. Another individual passed away and bequeathed a portfolio of stocks and bonds currently valued at \$375,000 to USCF. Randy Bauer cautioned that these are securities and are not to be spent. This person was to remain anonymous. The Delegates expressed their appreciation to both donors for their gifts.

Please note that ADM08-07 (Adoption of the budget) was deferred until after discussion of the new membership/dues structure later in the meeting.

Report of the Chairman of the US Chess Trust - Chairman Harold Winston gave the Chess Trust report. He began by introducing those Trustees who were present, which included Treasurer Jim Eade, Secretary Myron Lieberman, Vice President for Chess in Education Tim Redman, Vice President for Scholastic Chess Sunil Weeramantry, and Managing Director Barbara DeMaro. He noted the many successes of the Chess Trust this year and also acknowledged some of the donors. The Delegates showed their appreciation to the donors with applause.

488 boards and sets were sent to schools in at least 20 states and 135 scholastic USCF memberships were provided to schools.

Trustee and sponsor Mitchell Denker helped support the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions.

\$7,500 in scholarships was given by Trustee Sunil Weeramantry's National Scholastic Chess Foundation.

Frank Berry gave \$10,000 to the Chess Trust. Frank Berry designated at least \$5,000 towards the Olympiad. This means that the Chess Trust now has \$8,000 designated for the Olympiad.

Hal Terrie gave \$100 earmarked for the Olympiad. Please note: Many more donations were received during the Delegates' Meeting. Thanks to all.

Harold Winston emphasized that the Olympiad is important. The Kasparov Chess Foundation has helped to support it but more money is needed. He stated that when a person donates to the Chess Trust they can earmark some or all of the donation for the Olympiad.

The Chess Trust is supporting the World Youth. This year the Schein-Friedman Fellowship was established for children younger than the Samford would include.

The Collegiate Final Four and collegiate chess are getting more support. These efforts are under the direction of Jim Stallings.

The Chess Trust has its own website, www.uschesstrust.org. Beatriz Marinello was acknowledged for having given a great deal of time to the Trust. This year Beatriz Marinello won the Harold Dondis Award. The Delegates gave a round of applause. Webmaster Dora Leticia and Jim Eade were acknowledged for their work on the website as well.

The next topic was the World Chess Hall of Fame. Shane Samole, President of the Chess Trust, was acknowledged for his work with the Hall of Fame. The World Chess Hall of Fame has seen many successes this year:

There were 5,000 visitors and more than 500 children who came with parents. Schools are also bringing children on field trips. A summer camp was held.

The World Chess Hall of Fame hosted the Hip Hop Chess Federation and the Chess Collector's Convention.

Three American Grandmasters were inducted into the Hall of Fame this spring. They are Joel Benjamin, Larry Christiansen, and Nick DeFirmian.

Al Lawrence is stepping down as Executive Director of the Chess Hall of Fame.

Harold Winston again stated that a portion of a donation can be designated in any way the giver wishes, including to benefit the World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney Samole Museum. He stated that more details can be found on page 8 in the "Delegate's Call".

He noted that Barbara DeMaro got exposure for the Trust (and USCF) on the Regis and Kelley show (and its website). Please note: The show featured Nicholas Nip, the youngest US Master, who did a ten board simultaneous exhibition and an interview. Those who didn't see it can see a video clip (His entire appearance combined into one 8 minute clip) on "You Tube". Simply

search for Nicholas Nip on You Tube.

Harold Winston seeks donations for the US Chess Trust. He stated that he wants to give everyone the opportunity to get their tax deduction for next year. Please note: Please give if you can. The US Chess Trust is a national effort to support chess and it needs your help. The Delegates gave Harold Winston a round of applause.

Report of the FIDE Delegate and Zonal President - Neither FIDE Delegate Don Schultz, FIDE Zonal President John Donaldson, nor FIDE Vice President Bill Kelleher, were present. President Bill Goichberg asked if anyone present had comments regarding FIDE. No report was given.

ELECTION OF DELEGATE APPOINTED COMMITTEES

DM08-08 – NDM 08-48 - Audit Committee Election: Allen Priest (KY), Grant Perks (OH), Jon Haskel (FL) **PASSED**

DM08-09 – NDM 08-49 - Bylaws Committee Election: Michael Nolan (NE) - Co-chair , Harold Winston (IL) - Co-chair , Myron Lieberman (AZ), Guy Hoffman (WI), Richard Koepcke (N.CA), Jerry Hanken (CA/S), Ernie Schlich (VA), John McCrary (SC), Robert Persante (FL), George Mirjanian (MA), David Mehler (DC), Gary Kitts (MI), Joe Lux (NJ), and Allen Priest (KY). **PASSED**

DM08-10 – NDM 08-50 - Election Committee Election: Mike Nolan (NE), Roger Gotschall, Myron Lieberman (AZ), Woody Harris (VA). Alternates: Ernie Schlich (VA), Polly Wright (NY). Please note – Harry Sabine will be chief teller in the 2009 election and chose to not be on the committee this year to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest. **PASSED**

DM08-11 – NDM 08-51 - Ethics Committee Election – Richard (Buck) Buchanan (CO), Jim Grey (OK), Al Losoff (NV), Jim Mennella, Kenneth Sloan, Andrew Thall, Ken Thomas **PASSED**

Next to be discussed was the LMA Committee. Tim Redman mentioned that the LMA had unrealized investment losses (decline in value of securities still owned). Tim Redman then proposed two motions for the committee which would have to pass before naming the committee. The first would eliminate the need for an appraisal of the property every three years. He noted that the cost of the appraisal is \$2000 and some committee members question whether that expense is needed at this time. Discussion continued. Donna Alarie, Bill Hall, Tony Pabon, Allen Priest, and Tim Redman were among those who participated.

DM08-12 – NDM 08-52 - Suspend section L of DM 86-6. (requirement to appraise property every 3 years.) PASSED

Tim Redman indicated he wanted to add some investment expertise to the committee, but to do so would require a Bylaws change to increase the maximum number of committee members to 11. The second motion he requested would do that.

DM08-13 – NDM 08-53 - Amend Bylaws to increase LMA committee maximum to 11. Article VII Section 3a PASSED by over a 2/3 majority.

DM08-14 – NDM 08-54 - LMA Committee Election: Frank Camaratta (AL), Leroy Dubeck (NJ), Peter Dyson (FL), Beatriz Marinello (NY), Grant Perks (OH), Tim Redman (TX), Fred Townsend (CT), Chuck Unruh (OK), Mike Swatek (OK), Jim Eade (CA/N), Jack Adamo (NJ). **PASSED**

ADM 08-25 was considered . It was a Board motion designed to implement the proposed new plan. Extensive discussion took place. Several suggested amendments and straw polls were offered. Among the participants in the discussion were Ken Ballou, Larry Cohen, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Dave Kuhns, Dan Lucas, Mike Nolan, Steve Shutt, Hal Terrie, and Paul Truong. Voting was postponed until Sunday morning. The motion with its final wording will be listed Sunday with the final discussion and vote. The original wording can be found in the “Delegates' Call”. Mike Nolan proposed a task force to look into this. Jerry Hanken moved that the issue be referred to a subcommittee to report back with consensus. While there was no vote there seemed to be support for this approach and a committee which consisted of Ken Ballou, Randy Bauer, Mike Nolan, and Steve Shutt was formed to consider the original motion and alternatives that had been proposed and make recommendations.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:01 PM. It was a two-hour break as many Delegates would attend the Awards Banquet.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

The meeting resumed at 2:13 PM. Per prior agreement this special order of business, which was to be considered as the first item after the lunch break, was the Board subcommittee's report on alleged Internet abuse. ADMs 08-11 through 08-14 were to be brought up at this time.

Please note: A situation had developed wherein the majority of the Board believed that they had evidence that a Board member made public posts under someone else's name during the election. The posts, in some cases, were considered obscene. This situation had been mentioned extensively in public forums and newsgroups including the USCF Forums. The accused Board member denied involvement (but not in writing) but claimed he had evidence that the people that made the allegations accessed

private e-mail accounts and database profiles without authorization. The bottom line is that both factions on the Board had reason to believe that the other Board members could not be trusted and, in fact, were outraged at each other. This, along with existing and possible future litigation became a problem for the entire Board as it made communication difficult if not impossible. The subcommittee conducted an investigation, the results of which were presented to the Delegates at this point.

Because Bill Goichberg had an active role in the Board majority position he asked that Past President Harold Winston serve as Temporary Chair for the duration of the subcommittee's presentation. This was met with a round of applause. Harold Winston asked that the Delegates be fair and maintain a sense of decorum. Harold Winston also indicated that any time allotted for comment by one side would be allowed for the other side as well. Subcommittee Chair Randy Bauer presented the Board's majority position.

Randy Bauer mentioned that a Federal lawsuit was filed against USCF and others by Sam Sloan, a former Board member that purported that certain actions taken by USCF could have cost him his re-election. The Executive Board formed a subcommittee to deal with issues relating to this and also hired an Internet attorney, Karl Kronenberger, whom he introduced. Karl Kronenberger prepared a Powerpoint presentation for the Delegates. He indicated that he had "overwhelming evidence" that Board member Paul Truong was the person who posted messages as Sam Sloan and others. These posts have cumulatively come to be known as "The Fake Sam Sloan" posts. Please refer to the sound files for the details of Karl Kronenberger's presentation and discussion.

Donna Alarie asked if the Delegates have the right to remove a Board member. Executive Director Bill Hall took the floor. He read some of the posts which were obscene in nature and made an emotional plea that for USCF to survive, these nasty attacks have to go. He mentioned three lawsuits. They are the suit by Sam Sloan referred to earlier, a suit filed by USCF in California against an unknown person or persons (John Doe) who may have been accessing confidential information without authorization and leaking it to the public. The third was a suit just filed by Susan Polgar against the USCF and others. Bill Hall suggested that USCF budget \$100,000 for legal expenses. Paul Truong presented his defense. He was asked directly whether he was the "Fake Sam Sloan". He denied that emphatically, but would not put his denial in a signed statement or cooperate with Karl Kronenberger. Donna Alarie, Dewain Barber, Randy Bauer, Fred Gruenberg, Bill Hall, Bob Holliman, Hal Karlsson, Karl Kronenberger, David Kuhns, Jessica Lauser, Rachel Lieberman, Beatriz Marinello, James Mennella, Tony Pabon, Luis Salinas, Ernie Schlich, Steve Shutt, Paul Truong, Chuck Unruh, and Harold Winston were among those who participated in the ensuing discussion. Tim Just called the question on ADM08-11.

DM08-15 - ADM 08-11 Randy Bauer, IA; Jim Berry, OK; Bill Goichberg, NY; Randy Hough, CA) - Moved, that the Delegates request the resignation of Paul Truong from the Executive Board. **FAILED 28 – 39.**

ADM08 – 12 was next to be considered. It was a similar motion that proposed a recall procedure. It was withdrawn

WD ADM 08-12 Randy Bauer, IA; Jim Berry, OK; Bill Goichberg, NY; Randy Hough, CA) - Moved, that the recall of Paul Truong as an Executive Board member is approved by the Board of Delegates and submitted to the USCF membership for a decision.

In October 2007, the USCF Executive Board received a complaint and detailed report alleging that Executive Board member Paul Truong is responsible for making a large number of defamatory internet posts under the guise of Sam Sloan and other individuals. This allegation has received widespread attention in national and local media and chess forums, and a federal lawsuit filed by former Executive Board member Sam Sloan alleged that the forged posts, some of which used his name, damaged his reputation and impacted the outcome of last year's Executive Board election.

For further information regarding these issues, see www.fakesloan.com.

Because the allegations against Paul Truong include a period of time in which he was a member of the Executive Board, it was vitally important that he affirmatively assist the USCF in defending against this lawsuit. Based on the advice of counsel, a letter was sent to Paul Truong on November 29, 2007, seeking information that counsel deemed critical to the USCF, both for defending this lawsuit and any other legal actions that may arise based on the allegations.

Specifically, the USCF asked Paul Truong to provide, by December 7, 2007, the following:

1. Formally admit or deny, in writing, whether he was involved in the "Fake Sam Sloan" postings, or had knowledge of who made such postings;
2. Provide the IP address of all his home and work Internet connections since 2005, or provide consent for the Board to obtain and cooperate in the Board obtaining, such IP addresses from ISPs and other entities;
3. Provide all information that would support his argument that he was not located at his computer(s) at the time of alleged Fake Sam Sloan postings, to include information relating to his travel.

The USCF did not receive a formal response to items 1 and 2 and incomplete information relating to item 3. As an Executive Board member, Paul Truong has violated a clear fiduciary duty to the USCF and its membership to cooperate in the USCF investigation and defense relating to the allegations. Further, the serious charges against a USCF Executive Board member without a convincing response are harmful to the reputation of the Federation. The best interests of USCF would be served by Mr. Truong's resignation, which was requested by a majority of the Executive Board in January. He has refused to resign and under our Bylaws can be removed only through a recall motion such as this one. **WITHDRAWN**

ADM08-13 was ruled moot since the similar motion ADM08-11 had failed. Again, a detailed explanation was provided in the ADM. It is included below with the understanding that it may overlap the information provided with ADM08-12. Please note that Paul Truong indicated that if he was asked to resign he would not do so.

MOOT - ADM 08-13 (Donna Alarie, MA) Request for Executive Board Member Resignation

Delegates request that Paul Truong submit his resignation as a member of the Executive Board effective immediately.

Rationale:

A POST MADE ON THE USCF ISSUES FORUM BY MR. BAUER:

<http://main.uschess.org/forums/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=6192&p=86558#p86558>

by **Randy Bauer** on Tue Jan 15, 2008 7:51 am #86558

Four members of the Committee appointed by the Executive Board to deal with issues surrounding the complaint, Randy Bauer, Bill Goichberg, Randy Hough and Jim Berry have authorized the release of the following statement:

The USCF Executive Board has received a complaint from Brian Mottershead alleging that Executive Board member Paul Truong is responsible for making a large number of defamatory internet posts under the guise of Sam Sloan and other individuals. This allegation has received widespread attention in national and local media and chess forums, and a federal lawsuit filed by former Executive Board member Sam Sloan alleges that the forged posts, some of which used his name, damaged his reputation and impacted the outcome of last year's Executive Board election.

This lawsuit names the USCF as an organization and each of the individual board members as defendants and seeks, among other things, payment for damages in the millions of dollars. As can be expected, the Executive Board takes these allegations and this lawsuit very seriously. As a result, the USCF Executive Board formed a Committee, consisting of Randy Bauer (chair), Bill Goichberg, Joel Channing, Randy Hough and Jim Berry to investigate the alleged wrongdoing. The USCF Executive Board also hired outside legal counsel with Internet law expertise, Kronenberger Burgoyne, to advise the Committee.

Because the allegations against Paul Truong include a period of time in which he was a member of the Executive Board, it is vitally important that he affirmatively assist the USCF in defending against this lawsuit. Based on the advice of counsel, a letter was sent via both email and Federal Express to Paul Truong on November 29, 2007, seeking information that counsel deems critical to the USCF, both for defending this lawsuit and any other legal actions that may arise based on the allegations.

Specifically, the USCF asked Paul Truong to provide, by December 7, 2007, the following:

1. Formally admit or deny, in writing, whether he was involved in the "Fake Sam Sloan" postings, or had knowledge of who made such postings;
2. Provide the IP address of all his home and work Internet connections since 2005, or provide consent for the Board to obtain and cooperate in the Board obtaining, such IP addresses from ISPs and other entities;
3. Provide all information that would support his argument that he was not located at his computer(s) at the time of alleged Fake Sam Sloan postings, to include information relating to his travel.

To date, the USCF has not received a formal response to items 1 and 2 and incomplete information relating to item 3.

As an Executive Board member, Paul Truong has a clear fiduciary duty to the USCF and its membership to cooperate in the USCF investigation and defense relating to the allegations. Regardless of the merits of the claims, Mr. Truong has neglected his fiduciary duties, and based on discussions between him and our attorney, there seems little likelihood this situation will change in the near future.

Given the many issues facing the USCF and the need to focus its time and attention on, among other things, its finances, organization of national events and support for US players in major international competitions, we believe that the interests of the USCF would best be served by Paul Truong voluntarily resigning from the Executive Board.

This is not and has not been our desired outcome. We each hoped that Paul Truong would cooperate with the USCF in a) formally denying the allegations, and b) expeditiously refuting the allegations that have been made, but this has not been the case. We also recognize that the original allegations against Truong were raised by Mr. Mottershead, despite a valid, written

non-disclosure agreement that Mottershead entered with USCF.

Regardless of the circumstances, the fact is that a lawsuit has been filed, and all Executive Board members have a duty to help us defend against it. Given Paul Truong's unwillingness to do so, we believe that there is no other recourse than to ask that he resign from the Executive Board of the USCF. **RULED MOOT**

Donna Alarie spoke to ADM08-14m which was a recall motion similar to the withdrawn ADM08-12. Discussion followed. Donna Alarie, Jerry Hanken, and Ernie Schlich were among those who participated.

DM08-16 - ADM 08-14 (Donna Alarie, MA) Recall Motion pertaining to Executive Board Member

At this point in time, it has become obvious that USCF's best interests are no longer being served by the presence of Mr. Paul Truong on the Executive Board. Approval of this motion will enable the USCF membership to decide the future course of their organization by allowing a recall vote to take place as soon as feasible in accordance with the bylaws of the USCF. **FAILED 26-38**

Harold Winston returned the Chair to Bill Goichberg and the meeting recessed at 5:56 PM until Sunday morning.

SUNDAY SESSION

President Bill Goichberg called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM on Sunday morning. Roger Gottschall announced that in 2007 a US player named Jason Jewett competed in the Intel online tournament which preceded the Intel Masters' Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria. He was awarded an all expense paid trip to Sofia for this year's Intel Masters' Tournament. Backstage, he was able to play and draw a rapid game against GM Veselin Topalov. Roger Gottschall asked for the Delegates to applaud this American player who drew against a World Champion. The Delegates responded with a round of applause for Jason Jewett.

The first item of business was a continuation of the discussion of ADM 08-25. Bill Goichberg noted that the Delegate subcommittee formed to make recommendations agreed on a version that all six could support. This was presented to the Delegates. Please note that amendments made or suggested during the Saturday session were considered by the subcommittee in drafting their recommendation.

Hal Terrie moved to amend the motion as follows: In Article III, Section 9 (of the Bylaws) "The online versions of "Chess Life" and "Chess Life for Kids" shall include .pdf files which contain every page of the printed versions of these magazines.". The amendment passed and became part of the motion.

Discussion continued. Richard Koepcke offered an amendment to "Add \$1 to all categories with the purpose of using that money to cover legal fees. Additional \$1.00 can be dropped after all of the legal expenses have been covered in current pending actions". Bill Goichberg did not accept and the amendment failed.

Extensive discussion continued. Among the participants were Donna Alarie, Randy Bauer, Walter Buehl, Larry Cohen, Bill Goichberg, Quayle Johnson, Korey Kormick, Andrew Rea, Tim Redman, Luis Salinas, Ernie Schlich, Elizabeth Shaughnessy, Sam Sloan, and Hal Terrie.

Luis Salinas proposed an amendment as follows: "Life Memberships will be entitled to at most 20 years of the hard cover magazine, after which they will revert to Life non-magazine memberships with the low cost publication. He explained that existing Life memberships would not be affected. The amendment failed.

DM08-17 – ADM08-25 – Board – Membership and dues categories

- 1) USCF shall originate a bimonthly bulletin so that we can offer a reduced dues option for Adult and Youth non-magazine members while maintaining regular contact with these members. This will be a low cost publication, probably with TLAs and a few annotated games and costing USCF about \$2 per year. It will be intended largely to remind members about chess and the availability of their online publication.
- 2) Likewise, USCF shall originate a bulletin published every four months for non-magazine Scholastic members, at a cost of about \$1 per year.
- 3) The Adult, Young Adult, Youth and Scholastic categories shall each offer two dues options, one with lower dues and a bulletin and online magazine, the other with higher dues and a hard copy magazine.
 - 4) Adult categories are Adult Regular (\$29 online) and Premium Adult or Premium (\$42 online). The price of each is \$7 additional if paid by mail or phone.
 - 5) 5) Young Adult categories are Young Adult (\$24) and Premium Young Adult (\$32).
 - 5a) Youth categories are Youth (\$20) and Premium Youth (\$27).
 - 6) Scholastic categories are Scholastic (\$16) and Premium Scholastic (\$23).

7) Multiyear memberships are as follows:

Adult: 2 years \$52, 3 years \$74 if paid online, each \$7 more by mail or phone.

Premium Adult: 2 years \$78, 3 years \$113 if paid online, each \$7 more by mail or phone.

Young Adult: 2 years \$43, 3 years \$61.

Premium Young Adult: 2 years \$59, 3 years \$85.

Youth: 2 years \$36, 3 years \$51

Premium Youth: 2 years \$49, 3 years \$70

Scholastic: 2 years \$28, 3 years \$39.

Premium Scholastic: 2 years \$42, 3 years \$60.

8) Senior membership with hard copy "Chess Life", if paid online, is 1 year \$36, 2 years \$65, 3 years \$93. If paid by mail or phone, each is \$7 additional.

9) Family type 1 dues are \$70 for 1 year.

10) Family type 2 dues are \$44 for 1 year.

11) Special Membership (prison and blind) dues are \$18 for 1 year.

12) An Affiliate Commission of \$3 is available for all memberships except for Adult or Senior Memberships paid online, and all Special Memberships.

13) The sale of new Sustaining-memberships is discontinued effective Dec 1, 2008.

14a) Life memberships go to \$1500, Senior Life to \$750, Blind Life to \$375.

15) Trial (6 month) membership is discontinued effective Dec 1, 2008.

16) The categories with a bulletin shall be available as soon as possible after the approval of this motion, but with no bulletin promised before December 2008.

17) The dues changes for the categories with a hard copy magazine will go into effect December 1, 2008, except for Premium Adult membership, which will go into effect January 1, 2009.

18) The USCF office shall send a letter to life members receiving the magazine, asking them to choose between Regular and Premium membership for a minimum of the next two years, with no charge for Premium. Those who do not respond will be assigned Regular membership.

19) The online versions of "Chess Life" and "Chess Life for Kids" shall include .pdf files which contain every page of the printed versions of these magazines.

20) Following are bylaws changes needed to implement this motion:

Change Article III to read as follows:

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Adult Memberships. Any person may become an Adult (also known as Regular) Member of the Federation upon payment online of \$29 for one year, \$52 for two years or \$74 for three years, or a Premium Adult (also known as Premium) Member upon payment online of \$42 for one year, \$78 for two years or \$113 for three years. If paid by mail or phone, each of these amounts is \$7 additional.

Section 2. Young Adult Memberships. Any person under 26 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Young Adult Member of the Federation upon payment of \$24 for one year, \$43 for two years or \$61 for three years, or a Premium Young Adult Member upon payment of \$32 for one year, \$59 for two years or \$85 for three years.

Section 3. Youth Memberships. Any person under 17 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Youth Member of the Federation upon payment of \$20 for one year, \$36 for two years or \$51 for three years, or a Premium Youth Member upon payment of \$27 for one year, \$49 for two years or \$70 for three years.

Section 4. Scholastic Memberships. Any person under 14 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Scholastic Member of the Federation upon

payment of \$16 for one year, \$28 for two years or \$39 for three years, or a Premium Scholastic member upon payment of \$23 for one year, \$42 for two years or \$60 for three years.

Section 5. Senior Membership. A person who has passed his or her 65th birthday may become a Senior Member of the Federation upon payment online of \$36 for one year, \$65 for two years or \$93 for three years. If paid by mail or phone, each of these amounts is \$7 additional.

Section 6. Special Membership. A blind person, or any person who is incarcerated in a penal institution in the United States, may become a Special member of the Federation for \$18 for one year.

Section 7. Family Membership Plans.

Family Plan 1: \$70, includes parents and their children under age 24 in the household living at one address. Also includes any full-time college students up to age 24.

Family Plan 2: \$44, includes all children under age 24 in the household living at one address.

The spouse of a Life or Sustaining member may be included in the Family Membership Plan, however in that case, only the Life or Sustaining member will receive "Chess Life".

Section 8. Life Memberships. Any person may become a Life Member of the Federation upon payment of \$1500 dues. Any person age 65 years or older may become a Life Member upon payment of \$750 dues. Any blind person may become a Life Member upon payment of \$375 dues. The Federation may require reasonable confirmation of eligibility from time to time as a continuation of Life membership.

Section 9. Affiliate Commissions. There shall be a \$3 affiliate commission on all Youth, Scholastic and Family Memberships. There shall be a \$3 affiliate commission on all Adult Memberships paid by mail or phone.

Section 10. Promotional Memberships. In order to facilitate the development of membership promotion, the Executive Board may authorize special promotional membership terms and rates for limited periods of time to determine their feasibility by trial; such terms and rates shall be subject to review annually by the Board of Delegates.

Section 11. Rights and Privileges. Each Premium, Premium Youth, Senior, and Special member shall be entitled to receive a monthly paper copy of "Chess Life". Each Premium Scholastic member shall be entitled to receive a bimonthly paper copy of "Chess Life for Kids". Each Regular and Youth member shall be entitled to receive a bimonthly paper bulletin, as well as (if providing an email address) a password enabling access to the online version of "Chess Life" magazine. Each Scholastic member shall be entitled to a paper bulletin issued each four months, as well as (if providing an email address) a password enabling access to the online version of "Chess Life for Kids" magazine. Each Family Membership shall provide one hard copy "Chess Life" to the household, plus one hard copy "Chess Life for Kids" if any Family Member is under 14. Each member shall be entitled to have his or her tournament play officially rated, to participate in the Annual Membership meeting, and to enjoy all other rights and privileges of membership not herein enumerated. Members and Affiliates with mailing addresses outside the United States may be charged an additional fee to cover extra costs.

Section 12. Revocation of Membership. Same as current Section 12.

Section 13. Revocation of Membership or Affiliation. Same as current Section 13.

Section 14. Annual Membership Meeting. Same as current Section 14.

Delete the current Section 15 regarding calculation of dues from percentages. **PASSED**

Another item that would affect the budget was ADM 08-31, which would discontinue printing and mailing the rating list. Those participating in the discussion included Tom Crane, Jon Haskel, Mike Nolan, Susan Polgar, Ernie Schlich, and Sam Sloan.

DM08-18 - ADM 08-31 (Bill Goichberg, NY) Effective with the 2008 Annual Ratings List, the USCF will discontinue printing and mailing the annual ratings list. The list will still be made available on the website as an important archival record. **PASSED**

ADM 08-08, an item of Old Business, was brought forward and considered at this time as it could impact the budget.

Executive Director Bill Hall addressed ADM08-08, which was originally Steve Immitt's 2007 motion to offer free entry to the US Open for participants in the Denker and Polgar tournaments. He suggested half price entry rather than free entry. Dewain Barber moved half price entry on behalf of the Denker Committee rather than free entry. Mike Nolan offered an amendment to specify half of the lowest advance entry rate, which was accepted. Discussion continued. Among those participating were Ken Ballou, Dewain Barber, Randy Bauer, Tom Brownscombe, Bill Hall, Jerry Hanlen, Dave Kuhns, Mike Nolan, Susan Polgar, Andrew Rea, Albert Rime, Sam Sloan, Jim Stallings, Paul Truong, and Harold Winston. Jim Stallings wanted to include the College Chess Tournament of Champions. Bill Hall noted that could be done as an experiment next year and could be made official by an ADM next year.

DM08-19 - ADM 08-08 (DM07-13 - ADM 07-36) (Steve Immitt, NY/D) - The USCF shall permit entries to the U.S. Open at half of the lowest advance entry rate to each participant in the Arnold Denker Tournament of State High School Champions and the Susan Polgar National Invitational Tournament for Girls. **PASSED AS AMENDED**

Discussion turned to a continuation of the budget discussion. Donna Alarie, Randy Bauer, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Mike Nolan, Sam Sloan were among those who participated. Randy Bauer suggested changing professional fees from \$65,270 to \$115,270. Bill Hall suggested adding a \$40,000 expense item for Profit Sharing. These changes were made.

DM08-20 - ADM 08-07 (Board): The 2008-2009 budget as presented by the Vice-President of Finance is adopted. **PASSED AS AMENDED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tim Redman provided an update on the Chess in Education Committee. He noted that Alexey Root made information from the workshop as well as other material available on the committee's website (www.thechessacademy.org).

Jerry Hanken reported on the US Open Committee. The committee provided no published report but progress was reported. The committee continued its efforts to revive US Open participation awards for those who played in the US Open five years, with other awards for longer periods of participation. Awards were given out on Sunday afternoon. He noted that suggestions were made at the workshop for ways to make the US Open a more profitable and successful event. Among the suggestions were to enhance Grand Prix points, and find sponsorship. Also he noted a concern about getting appropriate hotels for future events. Food availability is a major concern. The committee will explore ways to build the tournament between now and next year. The goal is for Indianapolis to be the comeback event for the US Open.

Dewain Barber reported on the Denker and Polgar tournaments. The Susan Polgar National Invitational Tournament for Girls drew 52 participants, which was a record. Courtney Jamison, age 16, of TX finished clear first and won a \$500 scholarship. Ashley Carter of Michigan and Linda Diaz of NY tied for second and also won scholarships. Linda Diaz also won the Ursula Foster prize of \$500 for the top player under age 14. Dewain Barber also congratulated Nisha Deolalikar of CA for winning the academic scholarship offered by Texas Tech University (TTU) to the top finishing player going into 12th grade.

Three players tied for first in the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions. They were Daniel Yeager of PA, Julian Landaw of CA, and Scott Low of MD. The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) offered a full scholarship to the winner, however they generously provided additional full scholarships so that all three winners would receive full scholarships. Michael Yang of MN won the Ursula Foster prize in the Denker tournament. Dewain Barber announced that the Denker Tournament would be FIDE rated in the future and received a round of applause in response.

Thanks to the Susan Polgar Foundation, TTU, UTD, The Ursula Foster Foundation, the US Chess Trust, and other individuals, organizations, and foundations that supported these events as well as to Dewain Barber for his work with both events.

David Kuhns reported on the Rules Committee. He introduced a new motion from the Rules workshop for consideration. It would establish guidelines regarding electronic device abuse.

DM08-21 - NDM08-55 (David Kuhns, MN Rules Workshop): The delegates direct the Rules Committee to establish guidelines for the purpose of standardizing policy for electronic device abuse, to implement those guidelines, and to report to the delegates at the next annual meeting. **Referred to Rules Committee**

David Kuhns then mentioned ADM08-30. He noted that in the "Delegates' Call" ADM 08-30 was truncated in the agenda but appears in full in the Rules Committee report. Delegates should consider the entire motion when it comes up.

Co-chair Mike Nietman reported on the Scholastic Council/Committee. He thanked the US Chess Trust for its annual donation to the Scholar-Chessplayer program and noted that Sunil Weeramantry's National Scholastic Chess Foundation's \$2,500 donation brought the available total to \$7,500. This allowed the awarding of five \$1500 academic scholarships on the Scholar-Chessplayer program. He mentioned the Chess Coach Certification Program and invited all to the Supernationals in Nashville on April 3-5, 2009.

Ernie Schlich reported on the Military Committee. He referred to the Military Committee report and focused attention on the military chess website and the Armed Forces tournament. He asked that retired, reserve, college ROTC, and other eligible groups be reminded of their eligibility for the tournament. He noted that if there are active duty military personnel in your club that you let them know that the USCF office is now tracking their military status.

Harold Winston noted that there were 30 participants in the Bylaws workshop and 28 voted on Bylaw issues that were presented. They proposed a change to ADM08-45 that will be brought to the floor when it comes up. He thanked all that participated.

John McCrary reported on the Professional Players Health and benefit fund Committee and offered the following motion, which he co-sponsored with Fred Gruenberg.

DM08-22 - NDM08-56 (John McCrary DAL SC; Fred Gruenberg) - The Delegates authorize the Professional Players Health and Benefit Fund committee, with Executive Board approval, to formalize guidelines for the fund that will assure that the fund remains compliant with sound legal practice and original Delegate intent for the fund. The USCF may spend up to one per cent of the fund balance for legal advice in formalizing these guidelines. **PASSED**

Polly Wright spoke for the Women's Committee. She indicated that the workshop did not suggest any motions. She thanked Texas Tech University (TTU), Paul Truong, and Susan Polgar for a marvelous girls' tournament. She also thanked Dewain Barber and referred to his report for more details.

Tim Just reported on the Tournament Direction Certification Committee (TDCC). He brought up Joe Lux's proposed rule change, which was sponsored by the TDCC.

DM08-23 - NDM08-57: (TDCC)

IV. Subcategory N1: Any national tournament that averages over 150 players The Previous five-year period plus the U. S. Championship, U. S. Woman's Championship, and U. S. Junior Championship.

Subcategory N2: Any national tournament that averages 150, or less, players. The Previous five-year period, excluding the U. S. Championship, U. S. Woman's Championship, and U. S. Junior Championship. **REFERRED TO EB with power to act.**

OLD BUSINESS - Motions referred to the Executive Board, the Executive Director or committees for report back to the Delegates (and other unfinished business from previous meetings).

Harold Winston spoke to ADM08-09. He pointed out that the Bylaws Committee voted in favor 7-1 with 3 abstentions and the Bylaws Workshop voted in favor 27-0.

DM08-24 - ADM 08-09 (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. **PASSED**

Harold Winston asked for a brief report on the promotional memberships currently in effect. Bill Hall mentioned the group memberships. The \$41 adult membership will be promotional until January when the new structure takes effect. Larry Cohen, Bill Hall, Rachel Lieberman, Mike Nolan, Elizabeth Shaughnessy, Sam Sloan and Harold Winston were among those who contributed to the discussion. Rachel Lieberman noted that this is a perfect time for the Delegates to show support for the promotions that have taken place to date and to show by a round of applause that they want this Board and ED to continue to promote chess. Applause followed. ADM08-10 then passed.

DM08-25 - ADM 08-10 (Harold Winston, IL) Pursuant to Article III, section 10 of the Bylaws, the Delegates have reviewed the promotional memberships offered by the Executive Board in 2007-2008 and authorize their continuance. PASSED

Harold Winston spoke to ADM08-15 re: removal of postings by Board candidates on the USCF Forum. The Bylaws Committee favored it 7-3-1 and the Bylaws Workshop favored it 21-2-6. Louis Blair, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Mike Nolan, Susan Polgar, Allen Priest, Sam Sloan, and Harold Winston were among those who participated in the discussion. After an attempt to refer the motion to the Board was not accepted and referral to the FOC was considered the wrong committee, it was referred to the Moderation Committee with power to implement.

DM08-26 - ADM 08-15 (Harold Winston, IL): DM 07-28 is amended to add the wording at the end of Section 10: "Removal of a posting by an Executive Board candidate must be reviewed within 72 hours or the posting will be reinstated." Referred to Moderation Committee with power to implement.

Harold Winston introduced two motions that were intended to clean up current documentation by removing obsolete references to Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs) in Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest and listing the states in each Region. He noted the Bylaws Committee voted 12-0 on both and the Bylaws Workshop was unanimously in favor of both motions.

DM08-27 - ADM 08-16 (Harold Winston, IL; Mike Nolan, NE; USCF Bylaws Committee): Modify Delegate Action of Continuing Interest 2, Tournament Coordination, by deleting the obsolete words "its Regional Vice Presidents and." PASSED

DM08-28 - ADM 08-17 (Harold Winston, IL; Mike Nolan, NE; USCF Bylaws Committee)"

Modify Delegate Action of Continuing Interest 12, USCF Regions and Regional Vice President Recommendations, by deleting the obsolete words "and Regional Vice President Recommendations" and

deleting "For the text of these recommendations, see Policy Board Newsletter #4 of 1980-1981" Replace the second group of words by listing the Regions, as follows:

- I: MA, CT, RI, NH, ME, VT
- II: NY, NJ
- III: PA, MD, VA, WVA, DE, DC
- IV: FL, GA, NC, SC
- V: OH, MI, IN, KY
- VI: MN, WI, ND, SD
- VII: IL, MO, IA, NE
- VIII: TN, AL, LA, MS, AR**
- IX: CO, UT, KS, WY,
- X: TX, OK, NM
- XI: SCA, NCA, AZ, NV, HI
- XII: WA, OR, ID, MT, AK

PASSED

Donna Alarie presented ADM08-18 and withdrew ADM 08-19. Donna Alarie, Randy Bauer, Tim Redman, and Hal Terrie were among those that participated in the discussion of ADM08-18.

DM08-29 - ADM 08-18 (Donna Alarie, MA) Delegates Actions of Continuing Interest Amendment,
To be effective with the August, 2008 financial reports.
(Italicized is replacement wording.)

53. Financial Reports on Website. Comprehensive USCF financial reports including at least a balance sheet and *profit and loss statement* will be posted on the USCF website *in the members only area by the 21st of the month following the close of each month.*

With this report shall be a statement by management indicating any Accounts Receivable or Accounts Payable item which is more than 60 days past due along with a rationale for the delay in collection or payment of same. **FAILED**

WD - ADM 08-19 (Donna Alarie, MA; Ken Ballou, MA) Required Set Aside for Multi-Year Memberships

At the beginning of each month, USCF management shall deposit 20% of the deferred portion of all Multi-Year Memberships received in the previous month in a separate savings or investment account until such time as the Deferred Multi-Year Membership Liability is fully funded. The first deposit is to occur on or about October 1, 2008.

Once the liability is fully funded, the funds may then be used to correspond with the recognition of the membership income that diminishes the liability in that account.

Control of these funds will be governed by the Life Member Assets Management Committee. Any withdrawal from these funds for emergency purposes would need approval of both the majority of Executive Board members and the majority of LMAMC members. **WITHDRAWN**

Mike Nolan addressed motions ADM08-20 and 08-21 re: recognition of revenue from multiyear memberships. He suggested that both motions be referred to the Finance and Audit Committees and the Office for report back next year. This was done.

DM08-30 - ADM 08-20 (Mike Nolan, NE; Grant Perks, OH) Beginning with the 2008-09 fiscal year, the USCF will recognize membership revenue from sustaining and life memberships on a monthly basis. An appropriate method for determining the estimated duration of a life membership will be presented to the Delegates in August. This method may treat life memberships received in the distant past differently than ones received more recently due to differences in the information we have on those memberships.

For the 2008-09 fiscal year, the USCF will report results using both the monthly recognition method and the recognition method currently in use for life and sustaining members. **REFER to office, finance and audit, to report back to Delegates in 2009**

DM08-31 - ADM 08-21 (Mike Nolan, NE; Grant Perks, OH; Chuck Unruh, OK) Beginning with the 2008-09 fiscal year, the USCF will recognize membership revenue (other than for sustaining and life memberships) distributed equally throughout the months of each membership. For the 2008-09 fiscal year, the USCF will report results using both the monthly recognition method and the annual recognition method currently in use. **REFER to finance, audit, LMA and office, to report back to Delegates in 2009.**

As Steve Immitt was not present, Polly Wright cosponsored ADM 08-22 re: foreign memberships sold online and spoke to it. Mike Nolan suggested that the motion be referred to the office for implementation. Polly Wright accepted and the motion was referred.

DM08-32 - ADM 08-22 (Steve Immitt, NY) Foreign Memberships Sold Online

The USCF Tournament Director and Affiliate website shall be enhanced to offer TDs the ability to submit USCF

memberships online for players with addresses outside the United States, Canada and Mexico, upon payment of the additional foreign address surcharge.

Explanation:

The USCF currently charges an additional \$15 for members with addresses outside of North America, regardless of the country. Yet TDs cannot submit memberships with such addresses online; they must instead first submit the member with a USCF address. Then the TD must call the Office and pay the additional \$15 foreign address surcharge over the phone with a credit card, and have the Office change the address manually. This is time-consuming and wastes staff resources. The Tournament Director website should be able to add on the required foreign surcharge and then process the membership directly in a single online transaction. **REFERRED TO OFFICE.** Implementation already under way

ADM08-23 was withdrawn

WD - ADM 08-23 (Donna Alarie, MA) Discontinue Sale of Life and Sustaining Memberships

Effective January 1, 2009, USCF will discontinue the sale of new life or sustaining memberships. Members currently enrolled in either category will remain in same as grandfathered in to those programs. **WITHDRAWN**

ADM08-24 re: multilevel Marketing was not considered as there was no sponsor to present it.

ADM08-26 and 08-27 re: Online magazines were withdrawn. ADM08-28 re: Online magazines was ruled moot. Cosponsor Sam Sloan appealed the ruling of the chair. The Delegates voted to uphold the ruling of the chair and the motion was moot.

WD – ADM08-26 (Donna Alarie, MA) Online Membership for Adults

Effective January 1, 2009, 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.)

Prior to this offering, USCF management shall take whatever means necessary to resolve the "AOL access issue" so that all members will be able to access the members only section of the website no matter which browser they currently utilize.

WITHDRAWN

WD - ADM 08-27 (Donna Alarie, MA; Ken Ballou, MA) Online Membership for Life Members

The USCF shall send out a mailing to all Life Members requesting that they select their preference as to whether they would like a printed version of Chess Life or the online version option now available and apply whichever option they so choose.

WITHDRAWN

MOOT - ADM 08-28 (Sam Sloan, NY; Mike Goodall, NC) WHEREAS the board had presented a motion to the delegates to establish Chess Life as an online publication and WHEREAS the delegates find that this is against the best interests of the members and of the federation it is hereby **RESOLVED** that the delegates direct that Chess Life not be established as an online publication for viewing on the Internet and it is **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the publication of Chess Life continue as a monthly print magazine as before and not as an online publication and that Chess Life 4 Kids also continue as a print and not as an online magazine. **MOOT**

Ken Ballou introduced ADM 08-29 re: Time control options. Ken Ballou, Tom Brownscombe, Bill Goichberg, Korey Kormick, Dave Kuhns, and Tony Pabon were among those who participated in the discussion. Tony Pabon, on behalf of the Survey Committee, offered to conduct a survey on this issue. The motion failed 26-34.

DM08-33 - ADM 08-29 (Ken Ballou, MA; Grant Perks, OH) Effective January 1, 2009 rule 5F (a) and the related TD TIP are deleted from the USCF rule book.

5F (a) states:

"a. The tournament director has the right to shorten the basic time control, up to the number of minutes equal to the time delay used in seconds. Examples: Clocks for G/60 with a 5-second time delay (t/d5) may be set starting at 55 minutes through 59 minutes instead of 60; G/30 with a 5-second time delay (t/d5) may be set starting at 25 minutes through 29 minutes and still be rated as G/30; G/10 with a 3-second time delay (t/d3) may be set starting at 7 minutes through 9 minutes.

"There is no requirement to advertise this option in advance. It may also be used for games starting later than the official starting time of any particular round even when not used otherwise.

"TD TIP: Using (a), while acceptable, is also a problematical option that does not come highly recommended due to the confusion involved in properly setting an assortment of different clocks from a variety of manufacturers, all with diverse time control setting capabilities. Whatever option the director is using should be announced at the start of round one." **FAILED 26-34.**

David Kuhns brought up ADM 08-30, to which he referred in the Rules Committee report.

DM08-34 - ADM 08-30 (David Kuhns, USCF Rules Committee) To modify the U.S. Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess as follows: (The motion **PASSED**)

5B1. Increment time controls. If the time control indicates an incremental (added) time, the abbreviation Inc is generally used, the added time is usually given in seconds of added time.

5C TD TIP: *Quick chess vs. Regular (for rating purposes)*

Regular only: Primary time control greater than G/60 OR Increment or delay greater than 15 seconds per move.

Dual: Primary time control G/30 to G/60 AND Increment or delay less than or equal to 15 seconds per move.

Quick only: Primary time control G/5 to G/29 AND Increment or delay less than or equal to 15 seconds per move.

5F1. Standard timer for increment. An increment clock (a clock with added time per move capabilities) is the standard timer.

4. The increment clock is set to add time for each move, called an increment. The standard increment is 30 seconds per move. For quick chess the standard increment is 15 seconds per move. A game with an increment time control should be set with the increment in effect from move one, even if the time control is mixed. (e.g. 40/90, SD/30, Inc/30) A game started without an increment capable clock should remain the timer for the game.

TD tip: Increment mode, added time, and Fischer modes are equivalent.

5. If an increment clock or a similar clock is not available, the increment time may be applied as a delay.

6. If an increment clock is not available, and the only delay clock available cannot be set to the equivalent delay time, then the delay clock may be set to the maximum allowable delay time (for the clock) not to exceed the increment time.

7. **Variant:** Total time may be adjusted to compensate for increment time lost.

TD tip (variant): *Suggested time adjustment is one minute for each second of increment or delay time lost.*

8. If neither an increment capable clock, not a delay capable digital clock (e.g. analog clock), then the game may be played without increment or delay, and follow the time control rules (regular or sudden death) as appropriate.

9. **Variant:** Total time may be adjusted to compensate for increment.

TD tip (variant): *Suggested adjusted time is one minute for each second of increment.*

11C TD TIP: *If using increment time control it may not be to a player's advantage to start the opponent's clock if the opponent created an illegal position or accidentally displaced pieces. In that case the player may stop or pause the clock until the correct position is reinstated.*

13C7 at the end add **See also: 15 The recording of the games.**

14G TD TIP: *An increment time control of 30 seconds or more is not considered sudden death, therefore 14G does not apply.*

14H1. Explanation. This procedure is not available for which a clock is being used with time delay or increment,

14K Claim of insufficient Losing Chances does not apply in increment games.

15B Scorekeeping in time pressure, non-sudden death time control. If either player has less than five minutes remaining in a non-sudden death time control and does not have additional time (increment) of 30 seconds or more added with each move, both ng in time pressure, players are excused from the obligation to keep score...

TD TIP: *Only players in games with increment time controls of 30 seconds or more and using properly set increment capable clocks are required to keep score at all times, even in the last five minutes of any time control period. Players using improperly set increment clocks or non-increment capable clocks, even those clocks adjusted for an increment time control, are regulated by rule 15B.*

15C. Scorekeeping in time pressure, sudden death time control. If either player has less than five minutes remaining in a sudden death time control and does not have additional time (increment) of 30 seconds or more added with each move, both players are excused from the obligation to keep score...

TD TIP: *Only players in games with increment time controls of 30 seconds or more and using properly set increments capable clocks are required to keep score at all times, even in the last five minutes of any time control period. Players using improperly set increment clocks or non-increment capable clocks, even those clocks adjusted for an increment time control, are regulated by rule 15C.*

16Bb. Delay or increment: Time delay or increment clocks should be set ...to their opponents. The time delay or increment should be set according to the director's instructions, with the time delay or increment in force starting at move one (5Fb). Clocks equipped to do so should be set for a Bronstein or a delay mode for delay control or for Fischer, added time, or increment mode for increment controls.

TD TIP: *Directors are not expected to know how to set delay or increment clocks (5F) but ...*

TD TIP: *Some players due to incapacity or due to religious reasons cannot use some types of clocks such as electric, electronic or with digital displays. After a director ...*

16T. Both players exceed time control.

TD TIP: *An increment time control of 30 seconds or more is not considered sudden death, therefore if both players should exceed time control, the clocks should be reset to the "next" time control of the time increment (e.g. 30 seconds) per move.*

42E. Increment clock preferable in increment time controls. A properly set clock with time increment capability is preferable to any other clock in a game stipulating increment time controls. Therefore, if White has such a clock available and Black does not, White's clock should be used. The only occasion where Black retains the right to use the clock or if White is late for the game and the game is started, and Black has already set up the equipment. IN any particular game, if the digital clock cannot be properly set, then the opponent of the player providing the clock may choose which legal clock is to be used. Order of standard clock preference is given in 5F1.

42E1. Recommended function of an increment clock.

(a) The display at all times should show the time available to complete a player's next move. (i.e. time added at the completion of a move.)

(b) In case of passing a time control, a sign on the display must give clear signal time has expired.

(c) In case of accumulative or delay timing systems, the clock should not add any additional time if a player passed the last time control.

TD TIP: *Some clocks add time at the beginning of the move, hence when the player is not on the move, the total time for the next move is the time displayed plus the increment. Technically this is no different than adding time at the end of a move. Either function is considered standard, and are, in fact equivalent. If unsure, ask your opponent when the time is added, and observe that function early in the game when the clock is in use. In both cases time expires when the clock reaches 0:00 at any time during your move.*

Most clocks freeze time (do not add the increment) of a player whose time has expired (always reads 0:00, but continue to run for the player who does not), and is considered standard. In this case, it is not possible for both players to run out of time. See also 16T Both players exceed time control.

*Clocks that do not freeze time (run negative time or pause at zero), continue to run and adds back the increment at the completion of a move are still considered preferable to a clock that does not have increment capability. This function should be explained to an opponent prior to the game, and claims of expired time should be made in accordance with 13C. In this case, a claim may still be made after the player whose time has expired has completed a move (time added) if the displayed time is equal to or less than the increment. Such a claim (in accordance with 13C5) must be made before the claimant has completed the next move. It is possible, with the next or subsequent moves that the displayed time is greater than the increment without a claim being made. In this case a player may have "unflagged." With this type of clock function, you lose your right to claim the win on time if you complete your next move and you opponent's clock now show positive time with his own clock running. **PASSED***

The wording below includes modifications suggested by David Kuhns and accepted by Polly Wright. David Kuhns explained his changes and Polly Wright spoke for the motion. Discussion ensued. Among the participants were Larry Cohen, Jerry Hanken, David Kuhns, Mike Nolan, Tony Pabon, Ernie Schlich, and Polly Wright. Jerry Hanken moved to refer to the office and the EB with power to act and implement. Ernie Schlich wanted "power to act..." removed. This was not accepted and discussion continued. The motion was eventually referred to the EB and ED without power to act.

DM08-35 - ADM 08-32 (Steve Immitt, NY; Polly Wright, NY) Safeguarding The Rating System For Use In Online Events

In an effort to maintain the integrity of the USCF's Rating System, to help maintain the confidence in its predictive abilities and to foster public confidence in its overall value, the Delegates hereby resolve that:

1. All USCF tournaments played online, at a time control of Game/30 or slower, must have a separate USCF Tournament Director, certified at the Local level or higher, supervising the games at each end of the online event. Each Tournament Director must assume the responsibility to ensure that all the games played at his or her end of the online transmission are played in accordance with USCF Rules, that no parties are permitted to receive any outside assistance or to engage in any unethical behavior, and must so attest to this when submitting the rating report to the USCF.
2. No player's rating may change more than 50 points in any calendar year due to results from games played online.
3. Tournament Directors may use a maximum of two online tournaments as experience credits for advancement in Tournament Director certification.

Explanation:

Online games must be supervised by USCF-certified Tournament Directors, to ensure that USCF Rules are followed and that each party does not receive any outside assistance. Without the explicit assurance that their opponents' moves are really coming from their opponents, players will quickly lose confidence in the fairness of games played online, and in the ratings produced from those games.

Inherent in the greater ease of arranging tournaments online is also the increased ease in arranging encounters where the results are also arranged in advance. Some players may not be able to resist the temptation to behave privately, even under a Tournament Director's supervision, in a manner at which they would otherwise be embarrassed or scorned publicly. To help ensure that players do not take advantage of the relative privacy inherent in playing online to manipulate their ratings, they will know that there is a limit of 50 points per year which they can lose or gain by playing online. USCF-rated matches are already subject to similar rating restrictions for similar reasons. It is also hoped that, when a player's rating has increased the maximum 50 points, an automatic email notification will be sent out by the USCF, encouraging him or her to continue to improve by

seeking out live tournaments over the board.

Tournament Directors need to gain experience in the many diverse faces of the tournament world, in order to become competent and well-rounded. They should not focus primarily on supervising online events at the relative exclusion of the vast world of OTB chess, in honing their TD skills.

Modifications accepted by maker of motion:

Paragraph one:

The Chief TD, certified local or higher, who submits....

Paragraph two:

Strike the words "It is advisable that..." and insert "local or higher" so that the sentence now reads: "A Certified TD, certified local or higher, is available and able to witness..."

2. Revise the Official Rules of Chess, Chapter 8, Ratings Section 4 by adding 4A on-line play.

10. A maximum rating change allowed as a result of single event is 50 points.

11. No player may go up or down more than 200 rating points within a three year period solely as a result of on-line play. On-line play may not be taken into account when a player is being for invitational tournament unless those results are subsequently confirmed in over-the-board play.

Revise the wording in Chapter 7

Tournament directors may not use on-line play as experience credits for advancement in tournament director certification.

Referred to the Executive Director and the Executive Board.

ADM08-33 was withdrawn.

WD - ADM 08-33 (Executive Board) Moved, that the following rules apply to USCF regular rated online play.

- A. It is limited to players over age 18 rated under 2000, and under 18 rated under 1000. The USCF office has the right to approve exceptions.
- B. There must be at least four players on each side (usually a team event but could be part of some sort of large individual tournament).
- C. A certified TD must be present at each end, who is not part of the immediate family of any player.
- D. An additional witness is also required, not part of the immediate family of any player.
- E. There should be an overall Director available by phone in case of dispute, at least a Senior TD.
- F. For over 1000 play, the event must be open to the public and be announced at least two weeks in advance in either uschess.org or Chess Life. An online TLA would be acceptable; if the event is not suitable for a TLA because it's not seeking players, there could be a special page for online events open to spectators.
- G. Additional rules shall be as submitted in the Rules Committee's online play report of 2007. **WITHDRAWN**

Polly Wright presented ADM08-34 for Steve Immitt. Tom Brownscombe, Bill Goichberg, Jerry Hanken, Jim Mennella, Mike Nietman, Tony Pabon, Luis Salinas, Ernie Schlich, Sam Sloan, Paul Truong, Harold Winston, and Polly Wright were among those who participated in the discussion. Tom Brownscombe moved to amend the motion to apply only to GMs, IMs, and Fms. He accepted Paul Truong's suggestion to add residency requirements. The final wording, shown below, passed.

DM08-36 - ADM 08-34 (Steve Immitt, NY) FIDE Title Fees For USCF International Representatives

The USCF shall pay the FIDE Title Application Fees for the players, representing the USCF in the FIDE youth and junior championships, who, by virtue of their results in that event, are thereby entitled to receive the respective FIDE title. Limited to FM WFM IM WIM GM WGM titles for those who meet residency requirements. **PASSED**.

Mike Nolan introduced ADM08-35 re: recall petitions. Harold Winston pointed out that the Bylaws Committee was in favor of this motion by 13-0 and the Bylaws Workshop favored it 31-0.

DM08-37 - ADM 08-35 (Mike Nolan, NE) Add to **Article VI, Section 11A** of the Bylaws: (Executive Board Recalls)

Each signature on a recall petition must be dated and no signature can be dated more than five months before the date that the petitions are submitted to the USCF Secretary for validation. **PASSED**

Mike Nolan introduced ADM08-36 re: Election mailing eligibility. Harold Winston pointed out that four votes were taken by the Bylaws Committee and eight in the Bylaws Workshop. Mike Nolan, who sponsored the motion, submitted wording to the Delegates that had been amended to the wording shown below. Passage would eliminate the US residence requirement. A division was called so that the residence requirement would be voted separately. Both passed.

DM08-38 - ADM 08-36 (Mike Nolan, NE) Modify the Bylaws as follows:

In **Article IV (Voting Members)** replace both paragraphs of Section 2 with the following:

Definition:

Any USCF Member who is 16 years old or older by June 30th of an election year is a Voting Member, providing that person was a current member in one of those membership categories prior to May 1st with an membership expiration date of June 30th or later.

For a Special Election, the eligibility dates for voting in that election shall be part of the call for the special election and should use cutoff dates equivalent to the above based on when the ballots are expected to be received by the voting members.

Should the USCF implement an electronic voting system as an alternative to using paper ballots, voting members who do not receive Chess Life by mail every month will only be entitled to vote using the electronic voting system unless they request a paper ballot by writing to the USCF office prior to May 1st for a regular election or the equivalent cutoff date for a special election. **PASSED** (as amended).

DM08-38a - ADM 08-36 (Mike Nolan, NE) – Delete “...living in the US” from the requirements. **PASSED**

ADMs 08-37 and 08-38 were withdrawn

WD - ADM 08-37 (Donna Alarie MA) Bylaw Amendment – Delegates - To take effect in 2009

Article V: Board of Delegates

Section 1. Responsibility

The Board of Delegates is responsible for putting forth issues for consideration by the Executive Board. They will be empowered to do so by participating in the various committees of USCF. (Current text in this section is deleted.)

WITHDRAWN

WD - ADM 08-38 (Donna Alarie, MA) Bylaw Amendment – Executive Board as Directors

Amendment (changes in italics and the text following in each section will remain intact). To take effect beginning with the annual meeting in 2009. Current Executive Board members shall be considered as already seated as part of the fourteen members during the initial transition phase.

Article VI: Executive Board

Section 1. Composition

The Executive Board shall consist of *fourteen* members elected for (eliminate staggered) terms of *two* years. *This board shall be the Board of Directors and is responsible for the management of USCF.* **WITHDRAWN**

Donna Alarie presented ADM08-39 re: Direct election of officers, and 08-41 re: committees. Those active in discussion on ADM08-39 included Donna Alarie, Guy Hoffman, John McCrary, Jim Mennella, Mike Nolan, Tony Pabon, and Harold Winston. Straw Polls were taken. The results were – Direct election of President 23-31, VP of Finance 30-25, 3 year term 45-15. Simultaneously run for office and at large position 37-14. Tony Pabon moved referral to Bylaws, which was done.

DM08-39 - ADM 08-39 (Donna Alarie, MA) Bylaw Amendment – Executive Board Officers

To take effect in 2009. Current holders of these offices will have the opportunity to run for these positions while retaining their seats as directors at large on the Executive Board until such time as the term of their current position expires.

Section 6. Election of Executive Board Officers

The President, Vice President, Vice-President for Finance, Secretary shall be elected by the Voting Members. Candidates running for one of these offices may simultaneously run for an at large position on the board. The term of each officer shall be for two years, except that upon a vote of 2/3 of its membership, the Executive Board may at any time meet in person or by teleconference and elect new officers. A vacancy in the office of President shall be immediately filled by the Vice-President. *(Delete remainder of text.)* **REFERRED to Bylaws**

Donna Alarie spoke to ADM08-40 re: Replacement of Delegates. She favored referral to Bylaws. Harold Winston suggested referral to Bylaws and States. Donna Alarie, Andrew Rea and Harold Winston were among those that participated in the discussion. The motion was referred to Bylaws.

DM08-40 - ADM 08-40 (Donna Alarie, MA) Bylaws Amendment – Replacement of Delegates

(Italicized is replacement text.) Changes to be effective with the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Section 6. Miscellaneous

A. Vacancies

If one or more Delegates from any state are not present or are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, the ordered list for that state is used to fill the Delegate vacancies for that meeting.

The delegate who is seated to fill the delegate vacancy will continue in office for the remainder of the term.

Delete the following: The state president or senior state officer present may add names to the end of the ordered list for the purpose of seating Delegates at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates. **REFERRED to Bylaws**

ADM08-41 was withdrawn.

WD - ADM 08-41 (Donna Alarie, MA) Bylaw Amendment - Committees

To take effect in 2009

Article VII: Other Officers, Appointees, and Committees

Section 2. Duties of Appointees.

Delete this section.

Section 3. Committees

At its annual meeting, the Board of Delegates shall appoint chairs of any and all committees to which it believes it would be necessary or desirable for USCF to have in operation. If a chair resigns between annual meetings, the remaining members of the committee shall elect a new chair by majority vote.

A) *These committees shall include the following Standing Committees: (Replaces current text.)*

B) *The Chairs of each Committee shall submit quarterly reports to the Executive Board for its review. Any motions arising from discussions in the committee shall also be submitted quarterly.*

C) *The Executive Board shall be required to consider said motions and to vote on each motion as presented at its quarterly meetings. WITHDRAWN*

Bill Goichberg presented ADM08-42 re: An election system that would allow voters to vote for as many candidates as there were candidates on the ballot. Sam Sloan commented against the motion after which the question was called and the motion failed.

DM08-41 - ADM 08-42 (Bill Goichberg, NY) One sentence of Article VI, Section 5 of the Bylaws is amended as follows:

Current: "Each Voting Member may vote for as many persons as there are Executive Board positions to be filled."

As amended: "Each Voting Member may vote for any number of persons, up to the number on the ballot."

Rationale:

This would allow the voter greater flexibility in expressing an opinion. Under our current system, it is difficult for a voter to vote to defeat a candidate, as to do so effectively requires knowledge of which other candidates have the best chance to be elected. This proposed change makes it possible to vote against a candidate or small group of candidates by voting in favor of all other candidates except those not desired. If the voter's main goal is to elect a candidate or small group of candidates rather than to defeat any, this would remain possible. **FAILED**

Bill Goichberg introduced ADM08-43 re: voter registration. Harold Winston indicated that the Bylaws Committee and Bylaws Workshop were split on this issue. The motion originally included 2A and 2 B, but it was changed to 2B only in the final version, which was referred to Bylaws on a motion by Harry Sabine. Ken Ballou also participated in the discussion.

DM08-42 - ADM 08-43 (Bill Goichberg, NY) Article IV: Voting Members is amended as follows.

Current Section 2:

Section 2. Definitions. Any current member residing in the USA who is 16 years of age or older as of the time of an election is a Voting Member. For a regular or special election, the member must be current through the last day of the month in which balloting is to begin and the member must have reached 16 years of age by May 31 in the year in which the election is being held.

Proposed new Section 2:

Section 2B. Registration. Members who are not already registered as Voting Members must register with the USCF office by March 31 to be eligible to vote in that year's regular election, except that all members who are elected as USCF Delegates, Alternate Delegates, or Executive Board members are automatically registered as Voting Members. Once registered, a member's status as a Voting Member continues as long as he or she is a member. When a membership lapses, Voting Member status ceases and the member must, after rejoining, again register by March 31 to be eligible to vote in that year's regular election. For a special election, the registration deadline for those not already registered shall be the same as the deadline for the submission of nominating petitions. **REFERRED TO BYLAWS**

DM08-43 - ADM 08-44 (Bill Goichberg, NY) The Bylaws are modified as follows (new text in bold):

Section 4. Nomination. Members may be nominated for Delegate from the state in which they reside by submission of either a nomination from the official State Chapter to the Election Committee postmarked on or before February 1st of an Election Year, or a petition bearing the signatures of 10 USCF members who are residents of their state postmarked on or before April 1st of an Election Year. State Chapters shall submit an ordered list of nominees and the ballots shall list the State Chapter nominees in that order. Ballots shall indicate which candidates were nominated by their state chapter and they shall appear ahead of other nominees. **Lists of State Chapter nominees shall be posted on the USCF website by March 1 of an Election Year.** A candidate petition may nominate only one candidate, who must consent to nomination by either signing the petition or by notifying the Secretary. State Chapters shall obtain the consent of all candidates they nominate.

PASSED, everything below (Section 5) struck.

Section 5. Election.

5A. If the candidates for Delegate and Alternate Delegate nominated by the State Chapter are the only candidates nominated for these offices for that state by April 1st of an Election Year, and the number of nominees is the same as

the number of positions to be filled, the State Chapter has the option until April 15 of declaring its candidates elected, with the nominees at the top of the list becoming Delegates and the remaining candidates Alternate Delegates. If this option is selected, no election shall be held for that state.

5B. Unless already determined according to 5A, Delegates and Alternate Delegates for each state shall be elected by the Voting Members of their state. At the discretion of the Executive Board, ballots for that purpose shall either be mailed directly or included in an issue of Chess Life and mailed prior to June 10. Ballots to be returned no later than July 20 of a year in which there is an election so that the ballots can be counted no later than August 1. Ballots shall be authenticated by use of official mailing labels provided with the ballots. Candidates nominated by their state chapter shall be designated as such on the ballot. Electronic voting may be used in addition to the ballot in Chess Life. Voting Members are allowed to vote for up to the designated number of Delegates for their state or voting district. An ordered list shall be created listing candidates in the order of votes received, highest first. A candidate must receive at least one vote to appear on this list. From this list, the designated number of Delegates shall be elected from the top of the list and the designated number of Alternate Delegates elected from the remaining candidates on the list.

Tim Redman presented ADM08-45 re: Availability of financial reports to Delegates.

DM08-44 - ADM 08-45 (Tim Redman, TX; Leroy Dubeck, NJ)

The Board of Delegates is the Board of Directors of the U.S. Chess Federation. Any Delegate has the right to access the official monthly financial reports. The USCF may charge Delegates for the costs incurred in accessing and copying the official monthly financial reports. **PASSED**

Sam Sloan presented ADM08-46. Hal Terrie moved that the discussion of this motion be postponed indefinitely.

DM08-45 - ADM 08-46 (Sam Sloan, NY) WHEREAS the USCF has lost money every year since 2005 and WHEREAS neither the Board nor the Executive Director have been willing to take the obvious measures needed to stop these horrific losses therefore, it is hereby **RESOLVED** that the Executive Director is dismissed effective immediately for cause and that no severance, golden parachute or other benefits are to be awarded. **POSTPONED INDEFINITELY.**

John McCrary introduced NDM08-58 re: EB Minutes. Myron Lieberman, Tim Redman, Steve Shutt, and Harold Winston were among those who contributed to the discussion. The motion was referred to Bylaws on a motion by Tim Redman.

DM08-46 - NDM 08-58 (John McCrary, Delegate-at-Large) Amend Article VI, Section 8 (“Secretary”) by deleting the second sentence, and replacing it with this sentence: “The Secretary shall post these Minutes, after Executive Board review, on the USCF website within six weeks for each meeting and shall mail the Minutes to all the Delegates and Alternate Delegates who request such mailing and pay a printing and mailing fee, set by the Executive Director, sufficient to offset the costs of printing and mailing. Printed copies of the Minutes of the Delegates’ Meeting of the previous year, and of all Special Delegates’ Meetings and Executive Board meetings held thereafter, shall be available at the Delegates’ Meetings.”

Amend Article VI, Section 3, (“Meetings”) by deleting the fourth sentence, starting “The Minutes”, and replacing it with this sentence: “The Minutes of all Executive board meetings shall be posted on the USCF website within six weeks of each meeting. Delegates and Alternate Delegates may receive printed copies of Minutes upon request and upon payment of a reasonable fee, set by the Executive Director, sufficient to offset the printing and mailing costs of such printing and mailing.”

ALTERNATIVE: Amend Article VI, Section 3 (“Meetings”) by deleting the fourth sentence and not replacing it with anything, as it would be redundant to Article VI, Section 8, as amended above. **REFER TO BYLAWS.**

Ernie Schlich moved to suspend the requirement for mailing written minutes for this year.

DM08-47 - NDM08-59 – (Ernie Schlich, VA) – Move to suspend the requirement for written minutes this year. Those Delegates who want written minutes can receive them on request. **PASSED**

DM08-48 - NDM08-60 (John McCrary SC-DAL): The Delegates amend the Standards of Conduct for the USCF Executive Board (listed as Delegate Action of Continuing Interest #27) by removing section (2) which deals with conflict of interest and renumbering section (3) as section (2). **PASSED**

DM08-49 - NDM08-61 (Mike Nolan, NE; Myron Lieberman, AZ) – The office of Secretary should not be an elected office, but rather the Executive Board should designate a person to fulfill the functions of the Secretary (such as the Executive Director). **REFERRED TO BYLAWS**

DM08-50 - NDM08-62 (Myron Lieberman DAL-AZ, Rachel Lieberman DAL-AZ)

The Delegates express confidence in the Executive Board to work together on behalf of the USCF and chess. **PASSED**

DM08-51 – NDM08-63 (Myron Lieberman DAL-AZ, Rachel Lieberman DAL-AZ):

Effective 10/01/2008

No member of the USCF Executive Board may sue the USCF without first resigning from the board. As of 10/01/2008 any existing suits against USCF will be subject to this regulation. **REFERRED TO BYLAWS**

DM08-52 - NDM08-64 (Larry Cohen, IL): Propose the formation of a committee to review, suggest, & report on the USCF dues structure, the USCF dues rates and on USCF promotional dues.

Purpose of the committee is to:

Report to the EB & Delegates on dues & commissions, as well as the overall membership structure.

To help in developing promotional ideas & concepts with an eye towards increasing overall membership.

This is to be an advisory committee with no powers to enact any changes. **REFER TO EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Donna Alarie presented NDM08-65 re: recognition of Life membership revenue. Allen Priest, Tim Redman, and Sam Sloan were among those that discussed the issue. The motion passed.

DM08-53 – NDM08-65 (Donna Alarie, MA) – Life Memberships shall be recognized according to GAAP in all internal reporting so as to match the same method as the auditors at year end. **PASSED**

DM08-54 - NDM08-66 (Harold Winston, IL) The Delegates give a vote of thanks to:

- A) Pat Knight for organizing the 2008 US Open and Cheryle Bruce for her help with the workshops and Delegates Meeting,
- B) Harry Sabine for his services as chief teller in the election,
- C) Bill Goichberg for ably chairing the USCF Delegates Meeting and Harold Winston for chairing a portion of the meeting,
- D) Mike Nolan for his services as parliamentarian,
- E) Myron and Rachel Lieberman for their work recording the meeting and preparing the minutes,
- F) Fred Gruenberg for serving as master of ceremonies at the USCF Awards Banquet. **PASSED WITH APPLAUSE**

Harold Winston was then thanked for his service as temporary chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.