

US Chess Federation Executive Board Open Session  
August 6, 2009  
Indianapolis, IN

USCF President, Bill Goichberg called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. He acknowledged the presence of our two recently elected board members, Ruth Haring and Mike Atkins. Other board members in attendance were Jim Berry, Randy Bauer, and Randy Hough. Bill Hall and Joe Nanna were also present.

Bill Goichberg suggested we vote on the motion which was discussed in closed session, but first Bill Hall said he needed to read in its entirety the Resolution of the USCF Executive Board dated August 6, 2009. (see attachment 1)

Discussion took place on the meaning and purpose of this resolution. Bill Hall clarified that the action was necessary to cure any possible perceived defects in the actions taken by the Board. **Jim Berry moved to adopt the Resolution which passed 4 to 0, with 2 board members absent.**

### **Budget**

Bill Hall said that roughly \$200,000 is budgeted for legal fees and another \$63,900 for accountants and patent lawyers. Originally we had planned on budgeting \$150,000 for legal fees, but with making some personnel changes and some printing expense changes with Quebecore, we were able to reach \$200,000. Specifically with Quebecor, we recognized the reduction in the number of magazines and we negotiated a price decrease from Quebecor that estimates the effect of the contract we will sign. Once that contract is signed, they will provide us with a rebate that goes back to the date that the original contract was supposed to be signed.

Jim Berry pointed out that the new proposed fiscal budget for 2010, even with \$200,000 for legal fees budgeted, ends up with a net profit of just under \$5,000.

Bill Hall pointed out that we saw an impact in the adult memberships and the revenue associated with adult memberships. He felt that the availability of the \$29 internet membership worked for many people who would otherwise have let their membership expire.

Bill also explained that the memberships have been done on a cash basis and then we have a below the line adjustment with explanation. In previous years, the actual figures were on an accrual basis that had the deferreds in there, so there's a number below that to net that out. Then you can compare the actual last year cash with the cash this year. Everything else is on a cash basis with this budget, so we had to make a little adjustment to make the actual figures make sense compared to a cash budget.

Bill Goichberg asked why the postage budget is \$17,000 less? Bill Hall explained that he is in charge of getting sponsorships to pay for membership cards. Membership cards

have two components, the cost of the cards and the general postage. If Bill H. can't get advertising sponsorships to pay for the price or at least most of the price, then members will only be able to receive their cards online. We only have enough cards to last us for about two more months, so a decision will have to be made by then. Bill H. said we might go ahead and send a membership card along with a couple of other things to first-time new members since the initial contact is important. Also we feel it is valuable to get a catalogue in the hands of new members as soon as possible.

Randy Bauer asked what is happening in terms of the letter to the Life members? Bill Hall said that they have been implementing the Board's plan that Life members be contacted about once every three years and have to re-confirm that they want to receive Chess Life. First a letter is sent to the life members asking them to log on to the website, send us a card back, or call the office. Secondly, a postcard is sent to those who have not responded. This went out last week. Thirdly, the September issue will have a cover wrap to everyone who still has not responded. And fourth, if we haven't heard from them by the time the October issue gets mailed, they will not receive a magazine but they will get the TLA Newsletter which is every other month. Much discussion took place on this subject.

**With no further discussion on the budget, Randy Bauer moved that the Board recommend the budget to the Delegates. The motion passed 4-0 with two absent.**

Randy Hough introduced for the College Chess Committee Chairman the following motion to clarify some rules on eligibility for the Pan Am's:

Rule 1: For college and university teams, titled players (International Masters, International Grandmasters, International Woman Masters, and International Woman Grandmasters) are eligible to participate only if they satisfy at least one of the following conditions:

1. Are less than 26 years old as undergraduate students or under 30 years old as graduate students, as of September 1 of the academic year in which the tournament takes place, or
2. Satisfy each of the following three conditions:
  - (a) Are full-time, degree-seeking students (e.g., at least 12 semester credit hours—{the previous rule was 6}) and
  - (b) Have a grade-point average of at least B (e.g., at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale – {previously it was 2.0}), and
  - (c) Have satisfied conditions 1 and 2 for at least one full semester at their team's college or university prior to the event.

Rule 1 applies to all college events-individual or team. There are no age restrictions on "untitled players" for college and university teams.

These rules are aimed at clearing up some abuses which have occurred. They did generate an amusing story in the "Wall Street Journal", that it wasn't really fair to

legitimate college students in some cases to face this sort of competition. So, this recommendation was passed almost unanimously by the committee – 11 to 1.

Discussion took place regarding the necessity for the clarification to avoid manipulation of the previous rules resulting in “Super Teams” composed of titled players that aren’t really students at the school, and abuses the spirit of college competition. Executive Director, Bill Hall, explained that this is part of a process that takes place to get to something that is a good policy.

Bill Goichberg suggested that if there are no other motions, then perhaps the new Board Members would like to offer some ideas or suggestions to programs or new things that we should be doing. The discussion with audience participation that followed covered a wide variety of topics including requests for low cost/no cost tournaments, Chess Life highlighting casual play as well as tournament play, fundraising ideas, the need to reach out to those who learned/played chess while in the Armed Forces, outreach suggestions to start/increase chess activity in a community, committees – the function of a Board Liaison and how to get people more involved as committee members, and searching topics on the USCF website.

The meeting was adjourned.