

Proceedings of the U.S. Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting October 30-31, 2010 Crossville, TN

This document is a summary of the proceedings of the meeting. It includes motions made, action items accepted and subjects discussed. Details of discussions, etc., may be obtained from the sound files online.

Saturday, October 30, 2010 – Open Session I

President Jim Berry called the meeting to order stating a quorum was present because all seven Executive Board members (Ruth Haring, Randy Bauer, Mike Nietman, Bill Goichberg, Mike Atkins and Gary Walters) were in attendance. Also present were Pat Smith, Joe Nanna, Joan Dubois, Judy Misner, Mr. Snow, Walter Brown, and Carol Jarecki.

Officer Reports

President Berry reported that 2010 has been a busy year. The Lubbock lawsuits and CAS arbitration have ended. FIDE elections with new FIDE officers are complete. MSA area on USCF website now offers many new services. Our book and equipment vendor has produced positive financials. The U.S. Open including installation of new Executive board members was successful. Plus there are many exciting projects on the horizon.

Executive Director, Bill Hall gave his report. For the benefit of the new Board members, he reviewed the history and accomplishments of the Federation over the last 5½ years. Currently the organization is undergoing a restructure of office personnel, working on IL registration issues and the 501(c)3 application, plus transitioning and promoting the new voting and Delegate selection procedures. Cornerstone to Hall's vision of the future is technology. Online play and online links of which a beta test will take place the first of next year are on top of the list. A social media type website which is uncomplicated and user friendly; and a simplified dues structure are also in the plans. We must obtain new members, regain lost members and maintain the members we have – creating value in USCF membership is necessary to accomplish this. Locations for future U.S. Opens were discussed.

Randy Bauer, Vice President of Finance, presented his report. He noted that the first four months are tracking very close to budget. Overall revenue is slow this time of year and as expected there is a net operating income loss. CFO Joe Nanna is working with the Finance Committee to change the way the income statement is presented and separating tournament revenue. There is a dramatic improvement on cash basis but we are still experiencing challenges in running day-to-day operations. He agreed that it is necessary we grow top line revenue to be a viable organization.

Joe Nanna presented an example of the new P&L statement. He said we are trending in the way that was anticipated to provide stability to the organization.

Bill Hall then introduced the new "Pride Pack" fundraiser project and Mr. Snow the vendor. They fielded questions from the Board.

Ruth Haring presented the FIDE report. She stated that after the 2009 FIDE Congress in Greece her goal was to increase the USCF influence through more participation. She

gave the election results and noted commission and delegate assignments. Ms Haring suggested a new USCF FIDE subcommittee be formed to replace the existing Board subcommittee. She encouraged everyone to get involved in FIDE, be part of the change, and not merely complain.

EB11-007 – Board - The EB appoints a new FIDE subcommittee of Ruth Haring, Franc Guadalupe and Michael Khodarkovsky. **PASSED 7-0.**

Unfinished Business

Michael Atkins reported on National Chess Day. A goal for the future is to have the 2nd Saturday in October declared by Congress as National Chess Day.

Committee Liaison reports were then presented. Michael Atkins brought feedback from the Rules, TDCC and Military Committees. Mike Nietman conveyed comments from the K-8 Tournament of State Champions Committee and Scholastic Council including the following motion.

EB11-008 – Board (on recommendation of the Scholastic Council) - The following is forwarded from the Scholastic Council to make a change to the National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations:

The following is to replace the current regulation 12.3.1 and add 12.3.2 and 12.3.3.

12.3.1 There shall only be one year of eligibility per grade level unless one of the situations listed below applies.

12.3.2 Pre-schoolers may play as a Kindergartener and may continue to play as a Kindergartener in subsequent years until starting first grade.

12.3.3 Players who are repeating a grade in school may have a second year of eligibility in that grade if they are still age eligible for that grade. **PASSED 7-0**

Next on the agenda were the USCF qualifications for Olympiad teams and the U.S. Championship. Ruth Haring, Bill Goichberg, Gary Walters, Bill Hall, Randy Bauer, Michael Atkins, guest Carol Jarecki and Jim Berry participated in the discussions.

Progress on the 501(c)3 filing reported by Bill Hall. He advised that work had to be done on the official USCF registration in Illinois before the 501(c)3 paperwork could be filed with the IRS.

Bill Hall then briefed the Board on new technologies. An iPhone interface, E-mail restructure and a new E-mail server were mentioned.

New Business

Mike Atkin's requested a procedure or policy be devised whereby Board members can readily access tapes of EB meetings they have missed. Bill Hall, Ruth Haring, Jim Berry, Mike Atkins, Gary Walters and Carol Jarecki took part in the discussion.

USCF rulebook issues were then considered more fully. Michael Atkins, Gary Walters, Randy Bauer, Jim Berry, Bill Hall, Bill Goichberg, and Joan DuBois expressed their views.

Saturday, October 30, 2010 Open Session II

New Business Continued

Gary Walters suggested formation of a new committee with the purpose of creating a unified vision and structured, formal plan with measurable goals directed at increasing and maintaining membership. Randy Bauer, Ruth Haring, Bill Goichberg Mike Nietman, Gary Walters and Bill Hall contributed ideas.

EB11-009 – Walters - A committee be formed to address membership growth and retention. The committee will consist of all interested Executive Board members who choose to participate and selected other USCF members as appointed by the board.

PASSED 7-0

Mike Nolan then joined the meeting via speakerphone. He reported on the voter registration project.

Bill Goichberg led the next part of the discussion. He advised Mike Nolan that system time is needed for a Quick Rating system analysis and a study on increasing the K factor for players about 1800-2300. Both projects had previously been requested by the Board and need to be done. After discussion it was agreed that the Board endorses the K factor proposal in principle. Goichberg will review the study in 2 weeks and make a recommendation to the Board via e-mail.

An updated Victory Points proposal was e-mailed to Board members on 9/13/10 by Bill Goichberg (see attachment A). After a dialogue including Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Gary Walters, and Ruth Haring, it was agreed to implement the updated version.

EB11-010 – Goichberg – Victory Points will be effective with tournaments ending after 12/31/2010. **PASSED 7-0**

Next, Bill Goichberg introduced the topic of Lifetime Titles based on play in 1991 and before. Randy Bauer, Gary Walters, Ruth Haring, Mike Nietman, Jim Berry and Mike Nolan joined the deliberations. Bill Goichberg offered to prepare a policy and send it to the Board. Bill Hall will explore the cost of researching a request and propose a fee.

Bill Hall addressed the topic of \$2 Scholastic Quick Ratings. Bill Goichberg, Gary Walters, and Mike Nietman offered ideas. Hall requested implementation be delayed.

Mike Nolan gave a progress report on the Gold Memberships project. Bill Hall, Ruth Haring, Jim Berry, and Bill Goichberg joined the discussion. A brainstorming session was planned for Sunday to further explore the subject.

Bill Hall then presented his report on “New Technologies”. It included online play applications, the USCF Splash Page, and e-publications.

Then, Mike Nietman introduced the following resolution:

EB11-011 – Board - Resolved that the USCF Executive Board congratulates Steven Zierk (CA) for winning the gold medal in the Under 18 Open section of the 2010 World Youth Championships. The Executive Board also congratulates Jeffrey Xiong (TX) for tying for first in the Under 10 Open. Jeffrey took the silver medal on tiebreaks. Congratulations also to Kayden Troff (UT) for his silver medal performance in the Under 12 Open. The Executive Board congratulates and thanks all members of the 2010 World

Youth team on their outstanding performances and to our coaches for their outstanding efforts with this year's team. **PASSED 7-0**

Bill Goichberg put forward his thoughts on the use of Chess Life and the USCF website to record important matters of record in American chess and to recognize and encourage the most active players, TD's and affiliates. Bill Hall, Gary Walters, Jim Berry, Mike Nietman, Michael Atkins and Ruth Haring joined the discussions. Bill Hall accepted both topics as action items.

The FIDE Questionnaire was next on the agenda. Bill Hall advised that Walter Brown is working on the document. The Board will review the completed form before submission.

The Board completed the agenda by discussing Ruth Haring's suggestion on developing a formal communications strategy. All members contributed. Ruth Haring accepted writing the plan as an action item.

Michael Atkins suggested having a Tournament Director - Lifetime Achievement Award. The Board discussed the annual awards and presentation process in general. Atkins offered the following motion.

EB11-012 – Atkins - The EB moves that an award be created for "Tournament Director – Lifetime Achievement" to be presented at the US Open. **PASSE 6-0-1** (Bill Goichberg abstains)

The meeting was adjourned.