

USCF Executive Board Meeting April 16-17, 2011 – Saint Louis, MO

Saturday, April 16 Open Session 1

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.

Executive Director, Bill Hall, called the meeting to order. All Board members were present.

President's Report

President Jim Berry began by announcing that the next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Orlando at the U.S. Open. He commented that the Board enjoyed attending the spectacular U.S. Championships. A financial report from CFO Joe Nanna on Friday indicated a positive trend with some tough years ahead. Berry noted that elections are underway for three seats on the Executive Board. He reported that USCF play online is progressing. Berry then turned the meeting over to Joe Nanna for some closing remarks on the Finance Workshop.

EB11-029 – Randy Bauer moved to accept the minutes of the February 2011 Executive Board Conference Call Meeting previously distributed by e-mail. **PASSED 7-0**

CFO's Report

The 2012 budget was up for discussion. CFO, Joe Nanna, reported he had worked on the Board proposed dues changes from Friday's Financial Workshop. He added some minor changes/ adjustments in other areas, which would result in a break-even year and allow for some pay down on the long-term debt.

The Board then talked about the impact of various dues changes and restructure options on the budget and membership. It was agreed they would work on through the budget and revisit dues later. Ratings fees, postage and tournament revenues were also discussed.

Executive Director's Report

Bill Hall began by thanking the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis for their hospitality and the U.S. Championship and U.S. Women's Championship players for an exciting event. He wished Gata Kamsky well in his upcoming FIDE Candidate's Match.

Hall reported that online play initiatives are progressing. The first product, an iPhone and iPad app featuring the Chess Camp puzzle and instructional book series from Mongoose Press, is almost ready for launch. This level of information meets an important need. By the first of next year league play should be online.

He then moved to the budget stating this has been a pretty good financial year. Holding the line on the budget while bringing in new products and services, which add value and perceived value to our memberships, is key.

Finance VP's Report

Randy Bauer advised that the USCF is within budget and will end the year in the black even factoring in our significant amount of accounts payable. He noted that the 2012 budget is balanced and will allow additional pay down of debts. A good strategy is in place and there are opportunities for the USCF to grow top line revenues. Bauer concluded that maintaining structural balance to the budget and growing top line revenues should be our focus. This should allow us the USCF to make targeted investments.

At this point the Board discussed getting the minutes and audio files posted on the website in a timely manner. They will speak with Bill Hall.

Liaison Reports

Ruth Haring began her Top Players Committee liaison report by saying she had enlisted seven new volunteer members through her work with the Qualifications Committee. They are interested in giving opinions on ratings and qualifications changes proposed by those committees.

Ms Haring then reported that the Qualification Committee is working on rules and regulations for qualifications for the Olympiad and the half-K proposal. The committee has been making good progress. Comprehensive, current regulations and the qualifications list need to be posted in an easy-to-find location. Bill Hall and Mike Nolan accepted this as an action item.

Unfinished Business

Ruth Haring reported that the review of qualifications for U.S. Championships and National Team selections including Wild Card players is still in progress by the Qualifications Committee.

Status of 501(c)3 status will be discussed in closed session.

Bill Hall advised he has made some progress on the contract with Random House/USCF rulebook. Berry, Hall, Goichberg, Walters, Atkins and Nietman then participated in a discussion regarding the upcoming 6th edition and FIDE rules.

President Berry moved the Governance Task Force Committee update to closed session.

Tournament membership options discussion was moved to Sunday.

“Standards for tracking and listing delegates” was moved to closed session.

U.S. Open location for 2012 is Vancouver, WA. Bill Hall informed the group that the 2013 U.S. Open location is still open. Several sites including Saint Louis, Chicago and Atlanta are being considered.

The Board then considered the U.S. Open Executive Board Reception event, which replaces the President's Reception. Purpose of the event is for GM's, Delegates, Journalists, Executive Board and Executive Director to meet and get acquainted. It was agreed that this should be a meaningful event.

Rating issues were next on the agenda. The inaccuracy of FIDE ratings at low levels, which negatively impacts USCF players, was discussed by Hall, Goichberg, Nolan, Haring, Atkins, Berry and Walters. Bill Hall and Bill Goichberg are working to determine appropriate adjustments. Goichberg will request a recommendation from the Ratings Committee.

CFO Report Continued

Joe Nanna returned with the results of the rate structure changes suggested by Bill Goichberg and line item adjustments discussed by the Board earlier. The Board considered the numbers, other possible dues changes, and their effect on the bottom line.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Saturday, April 16 – Open Session 2

Unfinished Business Continued

The meeting resumed with discussion of quick rating formulae testing. Mike Nolan will supply that information at the next Board meeting.

Bill Goichberg commented he had worked with Mark Glickman on revised K-factor testing. They were not satisfied with the result and asked for additional testing.

A process for gathering data to determine credit for titles based on pre-1992 play was revisited. Bill Hall said costs for information conversion to electronic form are still being collected. Appropriate fees for the service and procedures were then discussed.

NASA Space Match II was next on the agenda. Bill Hall and Gary Walters gave an update. It was decided that non-monetary support would be given.

The Board agreed that projects must consist of a written proposal and budget to be considered.

Bill Hall reported that Carol Jarecki is scheduled to hold a FIDE Arbiters Seminar at the US Open. Walter Brown and Franc Guadalupe will assist her. A promotional email blast was discussed.

The Board returned to the Budget and an increase in the dues. A motion resulted.

EB11-30 - Randy Bauer – The Board approves the budget presented by the CFO as amended during the Finance Workshop and Executive Board meeting including proposed changes to the dues structure will be submitted by EB ADM. **PASSED 7-0**

The Board then adjourned to reconvene in Closed Session.

Sunday, April 17 - Open Session 1

The following motions resulted from Closed Session discussions.

EB11-031 – Board - The Board moves that the winners of the 2011 awards awarded at the Award's Ceremony of the US Open, Saturday August 6 are:

1. Meritorious Service Awards: David Causey, Caesar Lawrence and Barbara Reed
2. Outstanding Career Achievement: Scott Parker, Frank Berry, Tom Martinak, Bob Smith and Mike Zacate
3. Special Services Award: Andy Ansel, Jeff Smith and Mark Herman
4. Grandmaster of the Year: Hikaru Nakamura and Gata Kamsky
5. Organizer of the Year: Ankit Gupta
6. George Koltanowski Award:
 1. Gold: Rex Sinquefield
 2. Silver: Doyle Engelen and Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.
7. Frank J. Marshall Award: Dean Ippolito
8. Honorary ChessMate: Ami Hall
9. Lifetime Tournament Director Achievement Award: Myron Lieberman
10. TD of the Year: Luis Salinas
11. Distinguished Service Award: Judy Misner and Joan DuBois
12. Chess Club of the Year: Metropolitan Chess Club of Los Angeles
13. Chess City of the Year: St. Louis, MO
14. Special Friend of the USCF: Alexandra Kosteniuk
15. Outstanding Team Performance Award: US Woman's Olympiad Team
16. Committee of the Year: Scholastic Committee
17. Scholastic Service Award: Bruce Pandolfini & NY Chess in the Schools

PASSED 7-0.

EB11-032 – Bauer - I move that the EB approve the recommendation by the PPHBF committee that FIDE Master Eric Schiller receive benefits as follows: \$1,000 initially, to be paid in connection with his discharge from his rehab facility into any form of independent and/or apartment living. Then \$500/monthly, until the Delegate-established lifetime limit of \$10,000 is reached. Any outstanding portion of the benefit is not transferable to Mr. Schiller's estate or heirs." **PASSED 7-0.**

Events at the National Junior High in Columbus precipitated a proposed rule change by the Scholastic Committee. The Board discussed a proposal of banning cell phones or other devices capable of sending or receiving signals. Ruth Haring moved to table the motion. The vote was 3-4 against tabling. The original motion was called.

EB11-033 – Nietman - Effective immediately for National Scholastic Events: No cell

phone or other devices capable of sending or receiving signals may be used by a player during tournament play without the express permission of a tournament director. The tournament director has the right to observe and monitor the communication. Any player violating this rule may be forfeited. **PASSED 4-3.** (Berry, Goichberg, Walters and Nietman in favor)

The Board then considered some rules changes proposed by Mike Atkins. He asked they be incorporated in an Advance Delegates Motion sponsored by the Board.

EB11-034 – Atkins – Moved that the Board create an ADM regarding a TD certification rule change. “Motion – Inaccurate and confusing language in Tournament Director Certification Rule 14 has led to misunderstandings and confusion in the meaning. The following bullets are corrective

- There is no concept of FIDE endorsement as they assume that a US tournament submitted for FIDE rating has already met our requirement.
- FIDE does not require IA/FA to direct a non-title FIDE rated tournament.
- FIDE does not require any level of USCF director to direct FIDE rated tournaments.
- Offsite supervision by IA for title events is no longer allowed by FIDE.
- Federation Arbiter is not a title; FIDE Arbiter is the correct title.

Therefore, the new 14 should say:

14. Category I.

A Tournament held in the United States that will be submitted to both FIDE and the USCF for rating.

- a. FIDE events that award title norms for GMs, IMs, WGMs and WIMs and will be submitted to FIDE for rating must be directed by an onsite International Arbiter (IA) or FIDE Arbiter (FA).
- b. US events that are also FIDE rated should be directed by an onsite USCF Senior TD or higher, or IA/FA that meets USCF requirements for Senior TD and for the expected size of the event.

PASSED 7-0

The final item on the agenda was tournament membership options. A plan for changing from tournament memberships to a new short-term membership was explained by Bill Hall and Bill Goichberg. An email motion will be sent to the Board next week.

August 4th is the date for the next meeting. It will take place in Orlando, FL in conjunction with the U.S. Open.

The meeting was adjourned.