

Proceedings of the U.S. Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting November 11-12, 2011 at Cincinnati, OH

Friday, November 11, 2011

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.

President Ruth Haring called the meeting to order at 1:55pm on Friday, November 11, 2011. Board members Gary Walters, Mike Nietman, Jim Berry, Bill Goichberg, Michael Atkins and Bill Hall were present. Assistant Executive Director and Director of National Events, Pat Knight Smith was also in attendance. Allen Priest was delayed and joined the meeting during the President's Report.

Approval of the August meeting minutes was first on the agenda.

EB12-21 (Jim Berry seconded by Gary Walters) Move to accept the amended minutes for the August 4 and 7, 2011 board meetings. **Passed 6-0** with Allen Priest absent and not voting.

Officers Reports

President

President Haring's report was divided in three sections. First, she commented on the health of the USCF noting that finances are improving and we can finally look forward to promoting chess. Next, regarding membership trends, Haring reported we must focus on increasing memberships both through traditional means and new avenues. Finally, she summarized events she had attended on behalf of US Chess since taking office at the Delegates' Meeting in Orlando.

Executive Director

Bill Hall's report dealt mainly with finances. He discussed the "Income Statement Compared to Budget" and "Income Statement Compared to Last Year at This Time" reports. Revenues notably, rating fees, email blast fees, TLA fees and Life Memberships are up from last year.

Discussion then segued to tournament memberships and the new 3-month trial memberships. All Board members gave input in the considerations.

Hall brought the focus back to finances and commented on line items including magazine expenses; personnel expenses; and general and administrative expenses. He concluded that this year's bottom line is better than last year.

Next, Hall referred to membership graphs depicting cumulative membership revenues in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and year to date; number of memberships paid by month; and cumulative memberships. Year to date figures show an increase in all areas.

He concluded by announcing that two checks had been received for unrecovered assets and a portion of the monies had been used to pay off the unsecured line of credit.

Vice-President of Finance

Allen Priest reported that the Management Letter from the audit firm had been received and distributed to the Audit Committee. He then briefly explained the Statement of Cash Flow and Balance Sheet documents.

Committee Liaison Report

To correct an oversight, Allen Priest, liaison to the Finance Committee, presented a list of committee members for Board approval.

EB12-22 (Allen Priest seconded by Mike Nietman) Move that the Finance Committee will consist of Randy Bauer, Chair; Chuck Unruh, Jack Adamo, Jon Haskel, Tim Redman, Beatriz Marinello and Mike Swatek. **Passed 7-0** (Note: Mike Swatek had previously resigned and should not have been included in this motion.)

As liaison to the Audit Committee, Priest reported that a chairperson had not been selected by the committee. He felt it was not necessary at this time.

Ethics Committee liaison, Gary Walters noted that a complaint regarding the Illinois Chess Association had been received.

Unfinished Business

A continuation of the discussion on the policy of adjusting USCF rating based on FIDE results was led by Bill Goichberg. Haring, Hall, Atkins, Nietman, Priest and Mike Nolan contributed.

EB12-23 (Allen Priest seconded by Bill Goichberg) The USCF will rate foreign FIDE events for current USCF members identified as FIDE rated with FIDE ratings of 2200 or higher. Current USCF members with a FIDE rating under 2200 may register with the USCF office to have their foreign FIDE events rated by the USCF. There may be a fee for this service.

Passed 6-1 with Mike Atkins against

Bill Goichberg advised that there was no update on quick rating system formula testing at this time.

Revised K-factor testing was the next topic. Mike Nolan reported that some results had been derived however Mark Glickman's expertise was needed for their interpretation. Additional testing including half-K testing is still on the calendar and will be concluded and analyzed as soon as possible.

The Board agreed that the qualifications for 2012 U.S. Championship will remain the same and will not be affected by the K-factor test results.

President Haring noted that Tony Rich is working on consolidating the rules into a more readable format.

Status of the Random House Contract was the next topic for consideration. Bill Hall reported that he and Tim Just have had some conversations with Random House regarding the USCF Rulebook contract and progress is being made.

Discussion then turned to "Tournament Membership Options". Hall advised that Mike Nolan has been working on implementation of the new 3-month membership. Nolan commented that he hoped to have an open BETA test by the end of November. Hall stated that as an emergency measure the old Tournament Memberships will be available through the office only.

The next topic was "Future U.S. Open Locations." Bill Hall and Assistant Executive Director and Director of National Events, Pat Knight Smith, listed Madison, WI for the 2013 location; Saint Louis, MO for 2014; Phoenix, AZ for 2015; and Indianapolis, IN as the 2016 site. Vancouver, WA is the 2012 location as previously announced. The policy of geographic rotation and how it is applied was then discussed.

The Dues Structure Review Committee was the next item on the agenda. It was agreed that email discussions will begin shortly and a progress report will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Priest reported on progress of the Governance Task Force. A list of questions about the process of making the Executive Board the Board of Directors was formulated for presentation to the attorneys and is being circulated to the By-laws Committee for review.

The Privacy Policy Review Committee has decided to develop a plan of action. Gary Walters will chair the committee and move it forward.

Further discussion on the Grand Prix Victory Point Project then took place. It was agreed implementation will take place January 1, 2012.

Bill Goichberg introduced the next agenda item "Gold Memberships". Publicity, benefits, possible extra prizes at events and a Gold Members tournament were considered.

Saturday, November 12, 2011 Cincinnati, OH

President Ruth Haring opened the meeting. Bill Goichberg presented the topic of "Patron Memberships", a subject which had been referred to the Board by the Delegates. Basic structure and benefits were covered. Impact of the 501(c)3 status on the program was also discussed. The Board agreed to formulate a comprehensive plan and move forward once

501(c)3 status is achieved. Bill Hall will report back on developments within the next two weeks.

Benefactor Membership, the next item on the agenda, was moved to closed session for deliberation.

A plan to bringing back the "Most Active" lists was also moved to closed session.

New Business

Mike Atkins reported that he has created a "Standards for Norm and Non-norm Events" matrix with embedded links to the appropriate FIDE rules. Haring, Goichberg, Atkins and Hall took part in the discussion. It was agreed the information would be forwarded to Stewart Reuben for confirmation before being posted on the USCF website. Email blasts and other appropriate advertising for the new service will be scheduled.

Mike Atkins requested that Tournament Director Information pages from the old website be updated and linked to current website. Atkins volunteered to revise the page.

Broad discussion of updates to the committee list on the USCF website took place. Hall, Smith, Haring, Goichberg and Atkins were involved.

Mike Nolan had emailed information to the Board on USCF Match Rules prior to the meeting. It was agreed that further action on this topic will take place via email.

Regarding the Communication Policy, Mike Nietman suggested that EB agendas be formulated a month in advance and distributed to state chapters, committee chairs and also delegates. It was also decided that EB meeting minutes be distributed within 10 business days of the meeting.

Scheduling the next two Executive Board meetings was then discussed. It was agreed that the winter meeting will be a conference call, on February 18, 2012 from 11-6pm Eastern time. The spring meeting will take place May 18-20, 2012 at the U.S. Championship in Saint Louis.

Two motions came out of the closed session. A public vote was taken.

EB12-24 (Mike Atkins and seconded by Jim Berry) Move the Executive Board requests the Executive Director to incorporate a rating fee waiver system for special programs into the new TD/A changes. This should appear when the new TD/A system is introduced online. **Passed 7-0**

EB12-25 (Mike Nietman and seconded by Allen Priest) Move to affirm the current Scholastic Council practice of electing two year terms for Council membership. **Passed 7-0**

President Haring then adjourned the meeting.