

Proceedings of the U.S. Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting May 19-20, 2012 St. Louis MO

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.

(Session 1)

At 9am Central time President Ruth Haring called the meeting to order. Board members, Gary Walters, Allen Priest, Mike Nietman, Michael Atkins, and Bill Goichberg were in attendance and represented a quorum. Bill Hall, Pat Smith, Joe Nanna, Phil Smith and Robert McLellan were also present.

Jim Berry was unable to attend due to illness.

Item "Q", ADM 11-44 by Tim Just, was added to the Open Agenda.

Officer Reports

President Haring's report touched on three topics- "Scholastic and National Events" their excellent organization and the fantastic exposure to chess afforded by the IS318 win; "The Chess Community" changing competition into cooperation and other new challenges facing the organization; and "Our Promising Future" with the chess community broadening through an appreciation of the many benefits of chess.

After, commenting on the positive outcome of a recent Strategic Planning Meeting held in Crossville with Dan Lucas, Jennifer Shahade, Glenn Petersen, Robert McLellan and others from the staff participating in discussions focused on growth, promotion, and marketing the USCF, Executive Director, Bill Hall, announced the new organizational focus is growth. Hall also thanked USCF Senior Staff Members - Pat Smith, Joe Nanna, and Phil Smith for their commitment, effort and excellent results.

Hall then addressed the following Action Items:

1. Item: Bill Hall to work with Mike Nolan on the Match Invitational List.
Action taken: Other items on the agenda should cover this item. If not it will be revisited.
2. Item: Bill Hall explore a clean up of Executive Board, Board of Delegates, Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest and Creation of a Policy Manual.
Action taken: Board motion archive being created; DACI's handled by Bylaws Committee; some manuals in place, others being updated.
3. Item: Bill Hall to implement "Most Active Lists".
Action taken: In the process of implementing and needs three weeks to complete.

Gary Walters' Action Items were covered in another portion of the agenda or scheduled for discussed in closed session.

Vice President of Finance, Allen Priest, began his account with a general explanation of the Auditor's reporting procedures. He noted that last year, which had been focused on

getting out of debt, has turned out better than projected. Although we must remain cautious, finances are improving. Priest also advised that the 501(c)3 application has now been filed with the IRS.

Committee Liaison Reports

Mike Nietman inquired about available room nights for Denker and Barber participants. Pat Smith advised that a meeting was already scheduled to resolve the situation.

Allen Priest listed the items being considered by the Bylaws Committee for the 2012 Delegates' Meeting.

Bill Goichberg advised that the Dues Structure Review Committee will probably not propose dues changes. "Special offers" will be used for promotions.

Open Meeting

Bill Goichberg commented that in reference to the Ratings Issues, he had not received the testing results.

Action Item: Mike Nolan is to forward the data being analyzed from the Quick Rating System formulae testing and the revised K-factor testing to Bill Goichberg.

Haring, Hall, Goichberg and McLellan discussed the need for numerous surveys of our members. Not only to target demographics where an increase in membership has taken place, but to create a broad survey from which additional ideas or topics may be developed and surveyed. President Haring asked that there be a 6-week follow up on this issue.

A member suggestion for establishing a Congressional Chess Caucus was then considered. Robert McLellan led the discussion with Haring, Atkins and Hall participating.

President Haring requested an update on the status of the non-profit application. Allen Priest responded.

Next President Haring asked if a Parents' Council was needed. Pat Smith asked the topic be moved to closed session.

Changing the Corporate Agent will be addressed with a motion for the Delegates in August. Action Item: Bill Hall and Gary Walters will submit an ADM from the Board to change the Corporate Agent.

Robert McLellan then presented the topics of press coverage and a marketing strategy, stating that the overall role of USCF press is directing the broad promotion of chess toward a measurable increase in participation. He also mentioned future plans for brand development and expanding the funding base.

(Session 2)

After a 15-minute break the meeting reconvened at 11:30am with Allen Priest leading the discussion on the budget. Bill Hall and Joe Nanna agreed that an updated budget draft should be ready in a week with the final version ready for a vote by June 1.

President Haring advised that two notable FIDE transfers are in process – GM Timur Gareev and GM Alexey Dreev.

Invitational Rules for the 2012 Olympiad were next on the agenda. Ruth Haring gave background information.

EB12-036 – Haring – Moved that for 2012 Olympiad Qualifications we follow the procedure used for the World Team invitations for the rating part of the calculation.
Passed 6-0 with Jim Berry not present.

Subsequently an updated version of the Invitational Rules was offered by Haring. Goichberg, Hall, Nietman, Walters, Priest, and Atkins contributed to the deliberation and amendment of the document.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm for a lunch break.

(Session 3)

President Haring called the meeting to order at 2pm and stated that everyone was present except Jim Berry.

Agenda item 3L “National Chess Day” was brought to the floor by Mike Atkins.

EB12-037 – Atkins – Moved that the USCF create an ANNUAL National Chess Day to be established on the second Saturday of October every year. The specific details for each year will be finalized at the spring meeting of the Executive Board. The date for this year would be Saturday, October 13. **Passed 6-0** with Jim Berry not present

EB12-038 – Atkins – Moved that this year’s National Chess Day, Saturday Oct 13th, be promoted in Chess Life and CL Online by a program of free TLAs for tournaments with National Chess Day in the title and free rating fees as established in a recent motion. National Chess Day 2012 will be Saturday, October 13th. In order to promote National Chess Day as a day for special activities and promotion of chess throughout the country, the following is proposed:

Any Rated Beginner Open that includes "National Chess Day" in its TLA title gets both a free TLA and free rating fees.

Any 1-day event for Oct 13, which has "National Chess Day" in its TLA title gets a free TLA

Any 2-3 day event held over a period which encompasses Oct 13, which has "National Chess Day" in its TLA title, will get free TLA and free rating fees

Organizers are encouraged to submit articles and photographs for publication in Chess Life Magazine and Chess Life Online.

The USCF will send out at least one e-mail blast to all TDs and Affiliates before June 1 to enable tournaments to make the June 1 deadline for two issues of Chess Life TLA - Aug and Sept 2012. **Passed 6-0** with Jim Berry not present.

Mike Atkins reported that a USCF/FIDE Tournament Directors web page was complete and currently available at: www.region3chess.com/fide.htm. He will forward the information to Phil Smith for display on the USCF website.

Atkins also introduced the next item – “Creation of a National Girls Invitational at the U.S. Open”. The topic was deferred to closed session.

The Board then reviewed the 2012 Delegates List noting which states had completed their Delegate selection and acknowledgments. Challenges in implementing the current bylaws were identified and discussed.

Secretary Nietman brought a query from Tim Just to the Board regarding the status of DM11-44. Bill Hall answered that no progress had been made and requested that the item be moved to closed session.

Allen Priest asked the Board to consider adopting a *Conflict of Interest Policy* as suggested and outlined by the IRS in the 501(c)3 application. Currently this information is contained in the Bylaws and Delegate Motions. A vote on Priests’ motions was deferred until the next day and the meeting was adjourned.

(Session 4)

President Haring called the meeting to order on Sunday, May 20, 2012. All Board members, except Jim Berry, were present.

Allen Priest took the floor with the Conflict of Interest Policy document.

EB12-039 – Priest – Moved, the Executive Board accept the IRS Sample Conflict of Interest Policy as distributed to apply to the Executive Board and corporate officers. **Passed 6-0** with Jim Berry not present. (Please note that the wording of the IRS Sample Conflict of Interest Policy is documented as Appendix G.)

EB12-040 – Priest – Moved, the Executive Board includes as an ADM the IRS Sample Conflict of Interest Policy to apply to USCF Delegates and Committee Members. **Passed 6-0 with** Jim Berry not present. (Please note that the wording of the IRS Sample Conflict of Interest Policy is documented as Appendix G.)

The following motions came out of Closed Session.

EB12-041 – Hall – Moved, the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director, pending final approval by the Vice President after review of the contract, to sign the five-year Grand Prix contract with Trophies Plus. **Passed 6-0**.with Jim Berry not present.

EB12-042 – Hall – Moved, upon execution of the Trophies Plus contract, Trophies Plus will be recognized as the “Official Awards Provider of the USCF” for the duration of the contract. **Passed 6-0**.with Jim Berry not present.

EB12-043 – Hall - Moved, to accept the three year printing contract with Quad Graphics. **Passed 6-0** with Jim Berry not present.

EB12-044 – Hall – Moved, that the USCF create two new national online championships named the US Under 12 Online Invitational Championship and the US Under 8 Online Invitational Championship. **Passed 6-0** with Jim Berry not present.

Bill Goichberg then introduced changes to the proposed Invitational Rules. After consideration by the Board, additional modifications were made and the motion to accept passed.

EB12-045 – Haring – Moved to accept the USCF Invitational Requirements effective January 2013. **Passed 6-0** with Jim Berry not present. (Please note: The revised Invitational Requirements are specified in Appendix H.)

EB12-046 – Board - The Board moves to recognize and congratulate our new National Champions: Hikaru Nakamura and Irina Krush. **Passed 6-0** with Jim Berry not present.

President Haring announced that the next Board meetings are August 9 and August 12, 2012 at the U. S. Open in Vancouver, WA. The fall EB meeting will take place November 9-10, 2012 at King’s Island. The meeting was then adjourned.

Action Items:

Action Item: Mike Nolan is to forward the data being analyzed from the Quick Rating System formulae testing and the revised K-factor testing to Bill Goichberg.

Action Item: Bill Hall and Gary Walters will submit an ADM from the Board for the 2012 Delegates’ Meeting to change the Corporate Agent.