

Proceedings of the U.S. Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting

August 9, 2012 Vancouver, WA

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.

At 9:00AM USCF President, Ruth Haring, called the meeting to order. Board members Gary Walters, Allen Priest, Mike Nietman, Michael Atkins, Jim Berry, Bill Goichberg and Bill Hall were in attendance and represented a quorum.

Officer Reports

Ruth Haring began her President's Report of "good news and more good news" by welcoming everyone and thanking the Executive Board members for volunteering their time to work on Federation business. She briefly outlined accomplishments such as a second year operating in the black; an Executive Board unified in its mission; strong membership revenue; and the opportunity to invest revenue in support of our mission. Haring commented on the role of Scholastic Chess in creating talented young players; the importance of trying new ideas; growing the number of women chess players; the excellence of our 59 young, 2500+ players led by GM Hikaru Nakamura who will play in the Olympiad; and upcoming FIDE meetings. An online chess platform rollout; continued membership initiatives; marketing and publicity programs; financial discipline; and upgrading technology in the office are key initiatives. She closed by saying it is up to the Delegates and Executive Board to exercise their best judgment and use their varied experiences to benefit our organization and the chess community.

Executive Director, Bill Hall, began his report with an update of Online Play and the benefits and value it brings to USCF membership. Soon to be launched, Scholastic, adult and amateur league play is part of his vision to increase the social aspect and local club spirit of chess. Hall briefly touched on the block membership program answering questions from the audience. He mentioned the excellent publicity for Spring Nationals generated by the new Marketing Director, Robert McLellan, and future promotional plans. National Chess Day plans; a new style membership card; the 501(c)3 application; a new look for renewal postcards; a new printing contract and the resulting all color Chess Life; and the rising costs of health insurance were also part of his report.

Allen Priest, Vice-President of Finance, prefaced his report with an invitation to the Finance Workshop on August 10 where finances will be discussed. He explained that the larger than expected surplus this year is the result of an increase in memberships and membership revenue plus keeping expenses under control. Next year's surplus will be smaller due to expenses connected with the Olympiad and other international tournaments. To hold the financial line, cash expenditures had previously been deferred. Now it is necessary to invest in our infrastructure, namely the office computer system. Priest advised that the legal fees will be completely paid off by the end of September. He said the 501(c)3 application has been completed and is pending review by the IRS. Priest expects the process to be completed by next year's Delegates' Meeting.

Open Session

President Haring introduced the next item of business Rating Issues. Mike Nolan explained that one set of tests had been completed with analysis ongoing and the other set of tests would begin in the fall. He

added that Mark Glickman and the Ratings committee recommended the bonus factor be changed from 6 to 8. A short discussion followed on how the rating system works.

President Haring encouraged more innovative thinking such as the Mixed Doubles prizes, to grow membership and bring more women into the game. Bill Goichberg suggested a National Mixed Doubles Championship.

Gary Walters then reported on the FIDE and the CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sports) appeal. President Haring said additional FIDE information will be available at the International Committee meeting.

Harold Winston asked that the Board be prepared to report on DM11-58 at the Delegates' Meeting as referred in 2011.

President Haring noted that the May 2012 Executive Board meeting minutes had been approved by email and need to be posted on the website.

The following motions came out of the closed meeting of the Executive Board.

EB12-052 - Hall – I move that the USCF Executive Board rescinds the 30 rated game requirement for 1st place finishers from national events to qualify for World Youth as defined in the World Youth Invitational requirements. This is effective immediately and to be in place for all players eligible for the 2012 World Youth. **Passed 5-1-1 with Mike Nietman voting no and Allen Priest abstaining**

EB12-053 – Hall – I move that the USCF Executive Board rules that under current established invitational requirements for World Youth, Kristen Sarna is eligible for qualification for the 2012 World Youth. **Passed 4-2-1 with Mike Nietman and Mike Atkins voting no and Allen Priest abstaining**

EB12-054 – Hall – I move that the USCF Executive Board rules that under current established invitational requirements for World Youth, Nicholas Checa is eligible for qualification for the 2012 World Youth. **Passed 5-1-1 with Mike Atkins voting no and Allen Priest abstaining**

EB12-055 – Walters - I move that the USCF Executive Board concurs with the decision of the Ethics Committee in the case of member Clark Smiley; however, the Executive Board revises the member's sanction to include a suspension from USCF play for a period of two years. **Passed 6-0-1 with Mike Atkins recusing himself**

After agenda items were covered, President Haring asked for questions from the floor. The subject of electronic devices was introduced with Gary Walters, Allen Priest, Jim Berry, Ken Sloan and Bill Goichberg participating in the discussion.

Mike Nietman added that the Executive Board asks the Scholastic Council to discuss improvements in the World Youth regulations regarding private events and those regarding events that achieve the rating requirements.

Meeting adjourned.