

Proceedings of the U.S. Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting November 9-10, 2012 Cincinnati, OH – King’s Island

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.

Open Session 1

At 1pm Central time President Ruth Haring called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Board members, Gary Walters, Jim Berry, Allen Priest, Mike Nietman, Michael Atkins, and Bill Goichberg were in attendance. Bill Hall, Pat Smith and Phil Smith were also present. Robert McClellan and Daniel Lucas attended by conference call. After a slight adjustment to the agenda, Haring began the meeting.

Officer and Management Reports

A complete review of key USCF operations elements was President Haring’s stated goal for the meeting. She noted the USCF is at a transition point in its history. It is moving from a reactionary to a proactive organization where identifying and nurturing successful programs is as important as prioritizing new projects or offering fresh vision to old programs. Haring asked that all reports include the following: 3 objectives for 2012; progress against objectives since January 1, 2012; budgetary expenditures; issues of note; plans for the future with due dates or status with ongoing discussion.

Vice President of Finance, Allen Priest, reported that USCF finances are in a state of transition due to changes in staff. Recent cash flow problems were a result of tournament expenses for the Olympiad and World Youth falling due and the USCF books and equipment vendor not paying according to contract. The LMA assisted in the crisis and will be repaid as soon as possible. Cash flow improved with the cyclical increase in scholastic memberships. When working with the chart of accounts Priest realized it was necessary to streamline the accounting process and structure the information so it could be better used to manage the organization. Going forward, Priest noted, the organization must generate and save cash yet needs to spend on computer infrastructure and a new phone system.

Executive Director, Bill Hall, began by saying finances were solidly on track with budget for both revenue and expenses. The three main objectives he sees are obtaining 501(c)3 status; financial stability; and branding and marketing the USCF. He introduced Dan Lucas.

Daniel Lucas, Director of Publications reported his department’s 2012 three key items were – moving *Chess Life* to full color; negotiating a new cost saving

printing contract; and restructuring *Chess Life* content. To build on this success he would like to expand the USCF's social media presence. Hopes for the future include additional production staff and someone dedicated specifically to social media.

Robert McClellan, Director of Marketing, gave account of his progress in USCF brand development and positioning. His strategies will strengthen relationships with key affiliates; increase contact and quality of contact with membership; build new relationships with educational organizations to introduce and expand chess within the nation's school systems; and support and leverage actions of others working in the area of chess. McClellan reported progress is being made, and would be increased by a more cohesive effort between publications, online, ID and marketing. "We need to focus on chess in a new way" McClellan encouraged. To grow chess awareness and direct it to an increase in USCF programs and participation is a means of growing membership and financial stability for the USCF.

IT Director, Phil Smith, outlined a three-year plan to replace the federation's technology infrastructure. Items needed are switches, phone system, router, email server, database server, tournament computers, tournament printers, in-house computer training, new website, and a new TLA database which ties into both accounting and tournament entry databases. He took numerous questions from the Board.

At this time a 10-minute recess was called.

Session 2

When the meeting reconvened, Pat Smith, Chief Operations Officer, donned her Director of National Events hat and reported on National Scholastic events of 2012. She explained how events were planned and evaluated and that system changes are needed for more detailed tournament accounting. Discussion evolved from tournament fees to suggestions for parent engaging side events at the 2013 SuperNationals.

Bill Hall advised that the Board will receive an "online chess" update the next day. He then answered questions about the membership promotion. Detailed information would be provided in closed session.

President Haring asked for an update on the K-factor testing. It was agreed to have Mike Nolan join the meeting later via conference call.

Invitational ratings and concerns over late posting of the new regulations were discussed. The Board decided to consult with John Donaldson and return to the subject tomorrow.

Committee Liaison Reports

Mike Atkins introduced a motion from the TDCC.

EB13-009 (Mike Atkins) Effective immediately; in the TD certification rules make Blitz chess TD experience equivalent to Quick chess TD experience by appropriately replacing the word Quick chess with Quick/Blitz chess. **Passed 7-0** (attachment 1)

After explanation and discussion Mike Nietman made the following motion.

EB13-010 (Mike Nietman) Move to accept the 2012 Pan Am Rules Revisions. **Passed 7-0** (attachment 2)

Mike Nietman, as Scholastic Council and Committee liaison, announced that Beatriz Marinello resigned as co-chair of the Scholastic Council and Sunil Weeramantry was elected to take her place.

Nietman also reported on changes being considered in the Denker and Barber rules. The sponsors are exploring possibility of cash prizes.

Mike Atkins brought Military Committee business to the floor.

EB13-011 (Mike Atkins) Move that Col. Mike Hoffpauir (US Army retired) be named chair of the Military Committee. **Passed 7-0**

After discussion on the procedures for offering promotional memberships according to the USCF Bylaws was completed, Bill Hall was asked to draft motions for tomorrow's consideration covering the new promotional memberships being offered.

Implementation of the new Blitz rating system is scheduled for March 1, 2013.

The meeting was recessed to reconvene in Closed Session.

Session 3 - Saturday November 10

The meeting was called to order at 4:35pm. Motions approved in Closed Session were entered into the minutes.

EB13-012 (Gary Walters) Effective immediately, the primary Book and Equipment contract and the contracting process for all national tournaments organized by the USCF will be approved by the Executive Board. **Passed 7-0**

EB13-013 (Mike Nietman) Move to add Al Lawrence and to remove Rich Rice from the College Committee. **Passed 7-0**

EB13-014 (Mike Nietman) Move to remove Shelby Lohrman from the Denker Committee. **Passed 7-0**

EB13-015 (Jim Berry) Move that Ramon Hernandez be named chair of the USCF Publications Committee replacing Jonathan Hilton. **Passed 7-0**

EB13-016 (Mike Nietman) Move to accept the revisions to the Scholastic Tournament Regulations as presented by the Scholastic Council. **Passed 7-0** (attachment 3)

EB13-017 (Mike Nietman) Move to add Sunil Weeramantry and Tom Brownscombe to the Barber Committee. **Passed 7-0**

EB13-018 (Allen Priest) The Executive Board approves the concept of the three year IT plan submitted by Phil Smith and authorizes him to develop an implementation plan with contracts to be submitted to the EB for approval. **Passed 7-0**

EB13-019 (Bill Hall) The Executive Board approves a membership promotion for the month of November for adult memberships where an adult premium membership for three years may be purchased at the two-year premium price. Alternatively a one-year premium membership may be available for the regular adult price, or the purchase of a one-year premium adult membership may result in an upgrade to premium from regular adult for the balance of a current regular adult membership. **Passed 7-0**

EB13-020 (Bill Hall) The Executive Board approves the Foreign membership as a promotional membership available for \$20 for members with a foreign address only and to be purchased through the TD/Affiliate area of the website. **Passed 7-0** [Note this is a "Regular" membership]

Mike Atkins introduced the next subject - Arbiter License Fees and the way they are being handled by FIDE. The USCF has been asked to join the protest.

EB13-021 (Mike Atkins) Moves the USCF Executive Board authorize President Ruth Haring to contact the Dutch Federation in order to join their protest of the way FIDE handled the implementation of the Arbiter's License Fee program. She will also send the letter to FIDE. **Passed 6-0 with Gary Walters absent**

President Haring advised that John Donaldson has responded regarding proposed invitational rule changes. One rule change was approved.

EB13-022 (Ruth Haring) Move to amend the USCF Invitational Requirement rules effective immediately to change the invitational rating adjustment for the

activity criteria from three invitational rating points deduction to one invitational rating point deduction. **Passed 6-0 with Gary Walters absent**

Action Item for the office: Update the web and send notification of the changes to the Invitational Requirements.

Action Item for Bill Hall: What is the status of Victory Points?

Bill Goichberg asked that the Grand Prix rules revised to include other types such as senior tournaments.

The meeting then went into Closed Session.

Session 4 – November 10

At 6:03pm the final open session was called to order. Jim Berry and Gary Walters are not present. Bill Hall and Pat Smith are in attendance.

Executive Board Secretary, Mike Nietman, announced that the next meeting will be by conference call on February 2-3, 2013. Saturday February 2 the meeting takes place from 10am – 5pm Central time. Sunday the Board will meet 11am-5pm Central time.

The meeting was adjourned.