

Proceedings of the U.S. Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting May 10-13, 2013 Saint 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.

Open Session 1 – May 10

President Haring called the meeting to order announcing all Board members were present including Pat Smith.

Gary Walters brought the first item of business to the floor.

EB13-048 (Walters) Move that the EB resolves as follows:

UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE BOARD
BOARD RESOLUTION
EXPRESSION OF THANKS FOR THE SERVICES OF BILL HALL
AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE USCF
MAY 10, 2013

WHEREAS, the United States Chess Federation is the governing body of chess in the United States, and the representative organization to the world chess governing body, the Fédération Internationale Des Échecs;

WHEREAS, Bill Hall served honorably, with diligence, skill, and enthusiasm as the Executive Director of the United States Chess Federation from 2005 to 2013;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Chess Federation Executive Board extends its formal appreciation to Bill Hall for his extraordinary service and dedication as the United States Chess Federation's Executive Director.

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the United States Chess Federation, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Executive Board of the United States Chess Federation on May 10, 2013, at which a quorum was present and voted.

Michael Nietman, Secretary
United States Chess Federation

PASSED 7-0

President Haring then adjourned the meeting.

Open Session 2 - May 11

President Ruth Haring called the meeting to order and proceeded with a roll call. Allen Priest, Bill Goichberg, Mike Atkins, Gary Walters, Jim Berry, Mike Nietman, and Pat Smith were present creating a quorum.

Officer and Management Reports

President Haring welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented her report to the Board. She commented on Saint Louis being named chess capital; top U.S. players; finance and budget discussions; and plans for the future. (see attachment 1)

In his report, Vice President of Finance, Allen Priest said they were working through personnel changes in the Finance Department. Priorities include closing out previous months books using a newly devised check off list; making arrangements for the audit; annual budget preparations; response to the IRS request for more information on the pending 501(c)3 application; and working on documents for the transition of the LMA from committee to trust. Priest announced that all lines of credit have been paid off. Accounting results from SuperNationals V and our B&E vendor payments will determine if the line of credit will be needed this summer.

Pat Smith then gave her Interim Executive Directors report. SuperNationals V, equipment upgrades, health insurance, cross training employees, and feedback on the new membership card were among the topics Smith addressed. (see attachment 2)

Marketing Director, Robert McLellan, updated the Board on his continuing efforts to grow chess and recent accomplishments. Current projects include National Chess Day, designs to expand senior play and broaden USCF relevance. (see attachment 3)

Phil Smith, IT Director, submitted a written report including updates on Chess Life, CL4K, and PGN downloads, number of membership cards printed, and the infrastructure upgrade status. Allen Priest commented on the upgrade progress, training, financing of upgrades, and support contracts. There was a brief discussion about the magazine downloads numbers in which Bill Goichberg, Ruth Haring, Robert McLellan participated. (see attachment 4)

Publications Director, Dan Lucas' report was read and noted that if questions arose a call to Dan would be made. (see attachment 5)

Committee Business

Note: Written International Affairs (attachment 6) and International Reports (attachment 7) were submitted for these minutes.

President Haring advised that the chair of the Women's Committee has resigned.

Sunil Weeramantry, Co-chair of the Scholastic Council, reported on the positive results of the implementation of DM12-27 at the SuperNationals; the Council's decision not to designate an official team for the World Under 16 Olympiad; clarification on coaching for the Pan Am; codifying the duties and responsibilities of coaches at international youth events; and the use of peak post tournament ratings in selection criteria. He answered questions and fielded comments from Walters, Haring, Priest, Goichberg and Nietman.

EB13-049 (Nietman) Move to amend the World Youth and Pan Am Youth selection criteria to use peak post tournament rating. **Passed 7-0**

Weeramantry, Berry, Haring, Walters, Nietman, Goichberg and McLellan then had a brief discussion on growing membership numbers and attracting corporate sponsors.

Nietman touched on recent developments in the 2013 World Youth venue.

After a 10 minute break the Board reconvened at 10:35AM.

EB13-050 (Walters) Move to accept the resignation letter of USCF Executive Director, Bill Hall dated 7pm, May 9, 2013. **Passed 7-0**

Old Business

Bill Goichberg summarized the results of a meeting he, Ruth Haring and Phil Smith had with Mark Glickman and Mike Nolan and the resulting revision of the proposed K-factor changes that will go into effect on May 18, 2013. Haring explained the process developed to handle such changes in the future.

Pat Smith reported that the Invitational Ratings List implementation was still pending. President Haring asked that status and a due date be determined.

A review of the USCF process to handle customer complaints was made. Smith, Walters, Haring, Priest, and Nietman deliberated the best way to resolve, close and track complaints. New "Help Desk" management software will be investigated for possible application. *Action Item: Phil Smith will assess new help desk management software.*

Regulations for the invitation to the World Youth Under 16 Chess Olympiad were discussed. The Scholastic Council will be asked to create two versions - one to use if USCF designates a national team and another if the teams are grassroots.

A 2014 bid for the new US Girls Junior Closed tournament is expected. The Scholastic Council will review the US Junior rules and advise if changes are necessary for this event.

The Bookstore bid process item was moved to closed session.

Creating a Prison Chess Committee was introduced by President Haring. Discussion on the topic included Nietman and Priest.

EB13-051 (Haring) Move to create a Prison Chess committee with the chair and members to be determined and Ruth Haring as EB Liaison. **Passed 7-0**

Mike Atkins initiated discussion on the idea of a Senior Grand Prix. Goichberg, Haring, Priest, Smith, Berry, and Nietman offered ideas including Senior, Women's and Collegiate tournaments as Grand Prix events; creation of additional Top lists; and sponsorships.

EB13-052 (Atkins) Move that the USCF study and report back to the EB at the US Open the creation of a Senior Grand Prix starting in 2014. **Passed 7-0**

The meeting was adjourned for lunch and would be reconvened in Closed Session.

Open Session 3 - May 13

The meeting was called to order at 3pm. Mike Atkins, Bill Goichberg, Mike Nietman, Gary Walters, Allen Priest and Ruth Haring were present.

USCF Secretary, Mike Nietman, brought the following motions to the floor as a result of Closed Session discussion.

EB13-053 (Haring) Move to create an "Outstanding Player Achievement Award". **Passed 6-0** Jim Berry not present

EB13-054 (Board) Move that the winners of the 2013 awards presented at the Awards Luncheon at the 2013 US Open, Saturday, August 3 are:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD : Walter Brown (TN)

OUTSTANDING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Garrett Scott (IL), Luke Ludwig (WI), Mike Selig (WI), David Kuhns (MN), Curt Brasket (MN)

SPECIAL SERVICES AWARD: Bill Williams (WI)

MERITORIOUS SERVICES AWARD: Peter Webster (WI), Henry Meifert (WI) (Posthumously), Stephen Dillard (KY)

COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR: Bylaws

CITY OF THE YEAR: Chicago, IL

KOLTANOWSKI AWARDS (Gold and Silver):

Gold: Rex and Jeanne Siquefield and the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis

Gold: Garry Kasparov and the Kasparov Chess Foundation

Silver: Trophies Plus

SCHOLASTIC SERVICE AWARDS (Individual): Elizabeth Spiegel (NY)

ORGANIZER OF THE YEAR: Mike Regan (MD)

FRANK J. MARSHALL AWARD: William Martz (WI) (Posthumously)

GRANDMASTER OF THE YEAR: GM Hikaru Nakamura (MO) and WGM and IM Irina Krush (NY)

HONORARY CHESS MATES: Olga Ashurkina (TX)

CHESS CLUB OF THE YEAR: Franklin-Mercantile Chess of Philadelphia (PA)

COLLEGE OF THE YEAR: Princeton University (NJ)

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR: Wayne Clark (IL)

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Harry Sabine (TN)

OUTSTANDING PLAYER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Erik Karklins (IL), GM Alex Onischuk (TX) and GM Gata Kamsky (NY)

Passed 6-0 Jim Berry not present

EB13-055 (Priest) The Board authorizes the interim ED to proceed with the hiring of a senior accountant and not with the hiring of a CFO at this time. **Passed 6-0** Jim Berry not present

EB13-056 (Goichberg) Move that for the 2014 USCF Grand Prix, tournaments limited to seniors, juniors, women or college students shall be eligible, providing they satisfy the other Grand Prix requirements (sufficient guaranteed prizes, all rated 2200 or over are eligible, etc.) **Passed 6-0** Jim Berry not present

President Haring announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, August 1 and Sunday, August 4 in Madison, WI.

The meeting was adjourned.