

Proceedings of the U.S. Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting August 1, 2013 Middleton, WI

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 10:00 a.m. USCF President, Ruth Haring, brought the meeting to order and called the roll. Board members Gary Walters, Mike Nietman, Mike Atkins, Allen Priest, Bill Goichberg, Jim Berry and Executive Director Francisco Guadalupe were present creating a quorum. Mike Nolan, Dan Lucas, Tim Just, Myron Lieberman, Rusty Harwood and others were in attendance.

Officer and Management Reports

President Haring welcomed everyone and noted that the USCF was experiencing an increase in membership and a positive financial outlook for the future. She added that the USCF now has 11% female membership. Her goal is to have 50% female membership which will change the organization and double the revenue from memberships.

Vice President of Finance, Allen Priest, reported next. He has been working for several months to close the books on a momentous year of staff changes and interesting circumstance; a budget that came out on target; higher than expected FIDE expenses; and fantastic results in memberships and membership revenue. He noted that additional work on computing deferred revenue is needed. Priest advised that the audited financials will be ready by the 4 month from close of the fiscal year deadline. He also reported that the documents creating the LMA Grantor Trust were complete and being signed.

Executive Director, Francisco Guadalupe, reported he is working on several projects—online play; online testing for Local and Senior TD applications; and the improved appearance of the USCF website; a recently approved promotional membership offer and approval of a Plycount scorekeeping device. Guadalupe referred to a chart representing the increase in memberships stating he was pleased that the numbers were going in the right direction. He advised that bids for the 2014 US Masters Championship, 2013 Pan Am Intercollegiate; 2014 US Class Championship, 2014 US Amateur Team South, and 2014 US Amateur Team North have been approved and bids for other events were being considered.

EB13-060 (Francisco Guadalupe) Moved that the USCF allow a promotional premium membership for \$33 to be made available to all current USCF affiliates. The promotional membership will last for 64 days from the announcement date and will only be available to former USCF members whose USCF membership expired over two years prior to the announcement of this promotional membership. This promotional membership may be used with other affiliate incentives. **PASSED 6-1** with Gary Walters opposed.

Publications Director, Dan Lucas asked for a slight delay in hearing his report.

The IT Director was not present so his report was delayed.

The Marketing Director's report was moved to Session 2.

Committee liaison reports were then heard. Ruth Haring started with a big thanks to Dewain Barber and Jon Haskell from the Women's Committee for helping ensure that the 1st National Girls' Invitational Tournament was such a great success. The Women's Committee also recommended that to avoid scheduling conflicts the US Women's Open be moved to a date before the National Open.

Mike Nietman then reported for the Denker Tournament of High School Champions and Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions Committees thanking Dewain Barber, Jon Haskell and their teams for the great planning and execution. Both events had excellent turnouts.

As their liaison, Mike Nietman offered a motion from the Scholastic Counsel regarding coaching selection for world youth events.

EB13-061 (Mike Nietman) Moved that per the "SELECTION POLICY FOR US COACHING STAFF AT INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EVENTS" document approved at the last EB meeting, Michael Khodarkovsky and Aviv Friedman be named as Head of Delegation for four years for the World Youth and Pan Am International Youth events.

PASSED 7-0

Mike Atkins reported that the TDCC met the day before and the chairmanship had moved from Tim Just to Jeff Weiwel. Just will now serve as Vice-Chair. The Board expressed appreciation to Tim Just for all of the work he has done on the TDCC.

Due to obligations as the US Open Pairing Chief, the IT Director's report was moved to Session 2.

Director of Publications, Dan Lucas, then began his report saying last year's innovations of a full-color *Chess Life*, and the new *Faces Across the Board*, *Knights Tour*, and *My Best Move* columns have received very positive responses. Looking to the future, Lucas said it is most important to continue and improve interaction with our members through social media. A strategic plan and integrated format are essential. Lucas advised he was investigating the development of Apps that would make USCF publications available on various cross platform devices. He asked for questions or comments. Myron Lieberman thanked Dan Lucas and the Publications Staff for the improvements which make our publications much more effective tools in outreach. Gary Walters added the Board's appreciation of Dan Lucas saying he would be with USCF for several more years.

Open Session 1

President Haring advised that due to the late start the agenda would be adjusted with many items being moved to Open Session 2. She said that "Review of national events

awarded and still open” had already been covered. “National Invitational Requirements” had not been discussed so would be covered later. Before the “Review of procedures for international matches” can proceed, clarification of the new FIDE rules is needed, so the item was deferred.

Mike Nietman then asked for a progress report on the Senior Grand Prix. After a brief discussion it was agreed that more work was needed in finding a sponsor for the event.

Gary Walters advised he had been working with Harold Winston, Chairman and other members of the U.S. Chess Trust to clarify their relationship with the USCF going forward since the USCF is seeking 501(c)3 status. Harold Winston said he believed that working together to promote American chess has done very well in the past. After consultations with the USCF Executive Board and the U.S. Chess Trust Board, Winston had prepared a two-year agreement by which the Trust agreed to donate certain minimum amounts to various events. The USCF would in return, continue to grant the U.S. Chess Trust the promotional opportunities it now enjoys. This agreement will be reviewed and revised as needed in the future.

Bill Goichberg asked about the memberships for needy kids program. Barbara DeMaro answered for the Trust saying the program is still in place, but they are not receiving many requests. Francisco Guadalupe offered to work with DeMaro and write an article for Chess Life.

EB13-062 (Gary Walters) Move the USCF approve in principle the memorandum of understanding regarding the ongoing relationship between the USCF and The U.S. Chess Trust for the two-year period beginning August 1, 2013. **PASSED 7-0**

Harold Winston presented a \$1000 check for the U.S. Chess Trust’s financial support of the recent National Girls Invitational Tournament.

President Haring returned to the agenda saying the Board was still working on the project of standardizing the contract process.

ED Guadalupe gave the list of attendees representing the U.S at the 2013 FIDE Congress to be held in Tallinn, Estonia from October 1-10. Official USCF Delegates are Ruth Haring, Michael Khodarkovsky, Francisco Guadalupe, Jerry Nash, Walter Brown, and Tony Rich. Beatriz Marinello, Susan Polgar and Sevan Muradian may also attend. the US has offered items for the Congress to consider including making the Women’s World Team a norm event.

Haring advised that the final agenda topic “Refinement of the rules for TD of year and TD Lifetime Achievement Award” was being delayed pending future discussion.

With the agenda complete, President Haring opened the meeting for questions and comments from the floor.

Dewain Barber said he was examining another opportunity for the Denker Invitational, Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions and National Girls Invitational Tournament

winner to be considered as a state team, with prizes given for team results. Haring commented that team camaraderie keeps scholastic members interested in chess.

Mike Nietman said he had a proposal and request from the College Chess Committee to remove the prize fund requirement from the PanAm Intercollegiate Championships. Rusty Harwood, College Chess Committee chair reported the results of a poll of the committee members was 12 yes, 1 abstention, 0 no votes to remove the prize money requirement. Harwood also said the change would not decrease attendance by titled players; make it more accessible for colleges to bid the event; and would be effective immediately.

EB13-063 (Mike Nietman) Moves that the USCF remove the prize money requirement from the PanAm Intercollegiate Championships. **PASSED** 6-0-1 with Bill Goichberg abstaining

President Haring announced that the next Executive Board meeting would be at 6pm on Sunday, August 4.

The meeting was then adjourned.