

2016 DELEGATES CALL

WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

AUGUST 3-7, 2016

MARRIOTT INDIANAPOLIS EAST
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



Mission Statement

Empowering people through chess one move at a time.



PHOTO BY JIM DOYLE

Vision Statement

Our vision is to enrich the lives of all persons and communities through increasing the play, study, and appreciation of the game of chess.



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CONTENTS

ADVANCE AGENDA 4

BYLAWS 15

EXECUTIVE BOARD MOTIONS 24

DELEGATES LIST 32

US CHESS TRUST REPORT 34

FIDE ZONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT 35

US CHESS CODE OF ETHICS 36

DELEGATE ACTIONS 38

COMMITTEE REPORTS 44

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 57

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER 58

VOLUNTEER AND LEGAL EXPENSES 62

U.S. OPEN WORKSHOP 64

AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Note about 2016 Delegates Call Content:

For 2016, we have taken many of the items you have seen in recent Delegates Calls and moved them to a new publication titled 2016 US Chess Annual Report. The Annual Report, which is being printed after the Delegates Call, will include items such as the President's Report, Executive Director's Report, National Champions, Award Recipients, US Chess Donors, among other items, and will be ready in time for the Delegate's Meeting.

Advance Agenda for the 2016 US Chess Board of Delegates Meeting

Indianapolis Marriott East, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 6-7, 2016

CALL TO ORDER BY US CHESS PRESIDENT - GARY WALTERS

Moment of silence observed for those of the chess community who have passed on.

ROLL CALL OF DELEGATES

ADM 16-01 (Harold Winston, IL)

The Delegates re-elect as Delegates at Large those whose terms are expiring or have expired and are present in person at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND STANDING RULES, MINUTES OF THE 2015 DELEGATES' MEETING AND APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

ADM 16-02 (Harold Winston, DAL-IL)

Move that the minutes of the 2015 Delegates' meeting, as available to the Delegates present in Indianapolis, be accepted.

ADM 16-03 (Gary Walters, OH)

Move that Mike Nolan be appointed parliamentarian.

ADM 16-04 (Gary Walters, OH)

Move the Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2016 Delegates' meeting and approve the standing rules as printed in the *Delegates' Call*.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

ADM 16-05 (Ken Ballou, MA; Elections Committee)

The Delegates certify the Executive Board election results. The new Executive Board members will take office at the conclusion of this meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

Report of the President (Gary Walters)

Report of the Vice-President of Finance (Allen Priest)

ADM 16-06 (Executive Board)

The 2016-2017 budget as presented by the Vice President of Finance is adopted.

Report of the Executive Director (Jean Hoffman)

Report of the Director of Publications (Daniel Lucas)

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. CHESS TRUST

REPORT OF THE FIDE ZONAL PRESIDENT

ELECTION OF DELEGATE APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Audit Committee Election

Bylaws Committee Election

Election Committee Election

Ethics Committee Election

LMA Committee/Trust Election

ADM 16-07 (Tim Redman, TX; LMA Management Trust)

The US Chess Delegates elect as Trustees of the US Chess Life Member Asset Management Trust those persons recommended in the Report. The Trust elects its own officers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to time constraints all committee reports will be included in this year's *Delegates Call* or distributed as handouts at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

ADM 16-08 (Harold Winston, IL)

Pursuant to Article III, Section 10 of the Bylaws, the Delegates have reviewed the promotional memberships offered by the Executive Board in 2015-2016 and authorize their continuation.

ADM 16-09 (Harold Winston, IL)

The Delegates have reviewed the financial information about expenditures and the status of funds in the Players Health and Benefits Fund and approve the report on those items, a report required by DM 11-51.

ADM 16-10 (DM 15-27/ADM 15-26) (Michael Atkins, MD)

It is proposed that TDCC, Rules and FIDE Events decisions will be sent to the sanctioned member and all members of the Executive Board. The sanctioned member and any member of the EB has 30 days to appeal any proposed sanction. After those 30 days pass without appeal, only the Executive Director can amend or change or nullify a sanction.

RATIONALE: Decisions from the Ethics Committee can be appealed by the sanctioned member or by any member of the Executive Board. Decisions from TDCC/Rules and FIDE Events Committees are different in that decisions are sent to the sanctioned member and the

Executive Board only sees them if they are appealed by the sanctioned member. This is established by the USCF Rulebook and requires delegate approval for change. In order to make all 4 sanctioning committees follow the same process.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR STUDY

ADM 16-11 (DM 15-29/ADM 15-28) (Steve Immitt, NY)

The Delegates authorize the creation of a Special Committee for the purpose of evaluating and grading the brands and models of chess clocks which are commonly used in tournaments. This Committee shall advise the Executive Board of the merits and drawbacks which it perceives to be evident in the various brands and models of clocks used in tournaments. It shall issue a publicly available report to the Board each year. In its efforts to identify and promote “the ideal clock,” the Committee may recommend that the Executive Board commission a special “USCF Chess Clock” which would incorporate its recommendations. The Committee members shall be appointed annually by the Delegates, and shall include tournament directors knowledgeable regarding issues relating to chess clocks. Committee members shall not receive any compensation or consideration by clock manufacturers, distributors or retailers in return for their services or recommendations.

RATIONALE: The USCF membership is entitled to know the various benefits and drawbacks found in the clocks being sold on the market in order to make a more informed purchasing decision. It's also in the interest of tournament directors to have their players become familiar with operation, capabilities and limitations of their clocks.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR STUDY

ADM 16-12 (DM 15-30/ADM 15-29) (Steve Immitt, NY):

Resolved: The Delegates are in favor of the idea of leveraging the talents and promotional efforts of USCF members in each state to promote USCF-rated activity, USCF membership and USCF programs throughout their respective state. Accordingly, the Delegates authorize the reinstatement of the State Affiliate Support Program (SASP) to help meet these objectives, under the following rules:

1. Each State Chapter Affiliate in good standing may apply to the Executive Director for reimbursement of expenses for chess promotional activities in the State Chapter Affiliate's state in the previous calendar year. One such official application may be made by each State Affiliate for the preceding year, which must be received by US Chess by July 1st of the current year.

2. The amount of reimbursement each State Affiliate shall receive for the calendar year shall not be greater than the amount equivalent to two dollars for every annual adult member plus one dollar for every Life, Young Adult, Youth, Scholastic or paid Family member who is a member in good standing as of December 31st of the previous calendar year, who is also listed as a resident of that state as of that same December 31st. The Executive Board may add or remove membership categories which count toward each state's SASP reimbursement.

3. Applications for SASP reimbursement must be accompanied by a report from the State Affiliate describing the chess promotional activities the State Affiliate has done in the previous year for which reimbursement is being sought, along with a documentation of the expenses incurred.

4. In order to be eligible to receive SASP reimbursement, a state must run a USCF-rated state championship, and a US Chess-rated state scholastic (or USCF-rated state junior) championship in the previous calendar year. These events must be designated as the

official state championships and must be sanctioned as such by the State Affiliate.

5. States whose total USCF membership as of December 31st of the previous year has not increased at least one per cent from its total membership as of December 31st two years prior shall not be eligible to receive SASP reimbursement during the current year.

6. States whose total Adult or Life membership as of December 31st of the previous year has not increased at least one per cent from that total as of December 31st two years prior shall not be eligible to receive SASP reimbursement for the current year.

7. The Executive Board shall have the authority to determine if a State Affiliate's promotional activities are in accordance with the objectives of the SASP program.

RATIONALE: The USCF had previously maintained a State Affiliate Support Program which had been discontinued due to budgetary constraints. The time seems appropriate to encourage further USCF promotional activities in individual states. The State Affiliate Chapters would be entitled to be reimbursed to an extent for their promotional expenses, depending upon the number of USCF members in the state. It is in USCF's interests to increase membership and to promote states which also promote and help to increase USCF membership. SASP participation would provide incentives to states to increase USCF membership. In addition, some State Chapter Affiliates may have become largely inactive, and this would help revitalize interest in and accountability for the State Chapter's actions. Finally, it is also in USCF's interests to have an official state championship and state scholastic (or junior) championship. These requirements for SASP eligibility would provide some incentive to states lacking these events to start holding them.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR STUDY

ADM 16-13 (DM 15-33/ADM 15-33) (Michael Atkins, MD)

Proposed—The US Chess Federation strongly encourages any tournament in the U.S. that is broadcasting player games to the Internet to place a small delay of several moves or 10 minutes in order to make it harder for people to use the broadcast to cheat. At this point, this is just a strong encouragement and not a mandate.

RATIONALE: We see more and more stories about Internet broadcasts of games being used for cheating. There really is NO rational reason why someone HAS to see the live position from home or elsewhere. Live media broadcast or Internet relays can be several moves deep and no one would really care and it would help to eliminate the possibility of using live broadcast for cheating.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR STUDY

ADM 16-14 (DM 15-51/ADM 15-56) (Steve Immitt, NY)

Resolved: For the calendar year 2016, USCF membership requirements shall be waived for sections of tournaments with time controls totaling 11 to 29 minutes (quick rated), if the tournaments are submitted online within seven days of the tournament's ending date. All players in these sections must have valid USCF ID numbers in order for the sections to be rated and the tournament must have a Chief Tournament Director certified at the appropriate level of certification according to the number of players in the tournament.

RATIONALE: Players rated under non-USCF rating systems, particularly in state and national scholastic tournaments, often make running such tournaments problematic. This would provide an incentive for players to achieve USCF Quick or Blitz ratings, especially if minimum rating requirements are desired for the national scho-

lastics. The USCF Quick/Blitz ratings can be used to assign estimated ratings more accurately than some non-USCF ratings to players without regular ratings, for the purposes of pairing and prizes.

This also opens the door for some states and school districts which do not permit students to compete in activities which impose additional membership requirements in order to participate. Some of these players are likely to transition to playing in regular-rated, membership-required tournaments, especially if USCF promotes these events through e-mails and its website.

The Quick Rating System has historically been underutilized and this would help to promote Quick-rated events.

Removing membership requirements for a specific segment of USCF's services would help to underscore USCF's commitment to its mission as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ADM 16-15 (DM 15-52/ADM 15-57) (Steve Immitt, NY)

Resolved: Notices shall be placed frequently in *Chess Life*, *Chess Life Kids* and on the USCF website, reminding players of the importance of giving the Tournament Director proper notice if they intend not to appear for a game, and the reasons why losing on forfeit is improper behavior.

RATIONALE: Newcomers to tournaments may not appreciate all the ramifications, both in wasted time and frustration on the part of their opponents, as well as the possible impact on prize money, which result from forfeiting without notice. It is in USCF's interest to try and promote sportsmanlike behavior in USCF tournaments, and educating the chess-playing public is a good way to help accomplish this.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ADM 16-16 (DM 15-54/ADM 15-58) (Steve Immitt, NY)

Mixed Doubles Prizes

Resolved: Mixed Doubles Team Bonus Prizes shall count toward a tournament's Grand Prix Point allocation, subject to the following conditions:

1. Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes are prizes which are awarded to Mixed Doubles Teams.
2. Mixed Doubles Teams must be comprised of two players: one male and one female.
3. Teammates may play in different sections, but the average rating of the two players on a Mixed Doubles Team must be Under 2200.
4. Mixed Doubles Team Prizes are bonus prizes, which are awarded in addition to any other prizes the players may otherwise win.
5. If Mixed Doubles prizes should comprise more than 25% of a tournament's prize fund, no more than 25% of that tournament's Mixed Doubles prizes may count towards the tournament's Grand Prix Point allocation.
6. Only the amount of the Mixed Doubles Team prizes which is guaranteed may count towards a tournament's Grand Prix Point allocation.
7. It is not necessary to be on a Mixed Doubles Team to earn Grand Prix Points from a tournament which offers Mixed Doubles prizes.
8. This shall be effective December 31, 2015.

In 2014 the Delegates approved the concept of Mixed Doubles Prizes, in an effort to promote tournaments which offer them. Having them listed in the Grand Prix would help to feature them prominently in *Chess Life*, reflecting their added importance. Having tournaments offer additional Grand Prix Points from Mixed Doubles Prizes would

help to popularize them, as even players who are not on Mixed Doubles Teams would still be able to benefit by the additional Grand Prix Points.

The sponsor of the motion would like to run a tournament on December 31st which includes Mixed Doubles Prizes in its Grand Prix Point total.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ADM 16-17 (DM 15-55/NDM 15-06) (Myron Lieberman, AZ)

The *Delegates Call* should be split into two publications because it serves two different purposes. The *Delegates Call* is important to delegates and committee chairs that need fast information relating to the advance agenda, Bylaws, DACIS and other governance information. It can be a simple black and white document that can be obtained online or in print. The remainder of what is now the *Delegates Call* is important to provide information about the organization that can be used for documentation and outreach. It should revert to its original name "Annual Report" and maintain its excellent format, without a need for early publication.

RATIONALE: The information for delegates was at one time presented in the 4th quarterly issue of the "Policy Board Newsletter" each year. An "Annual Report" was published as a separate document later and included the governance information. The name of the publication was later changed to "*Delegates Call*".

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ADM 16-18 (DM 15-60/NDM 15-11) (Steve Immitt, NY)

The Delegates encourage the office to examine the feasibility and desirability of organizing a World Youth tournament and making a proposal to FIDE to do so.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ADM 16-19 (DM 15-61/NDM 15-12) (Steve Immitt, NY)

The Delegates direct the office to negotiate with Marshall Chess Club officials in order to bring the collection of Fischer memorabilia, which is slated to be auctioned off by Sotheby's, into the World Chess Hall of Fame instead.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ADM 16-20 (DM 15-66/NDM 15-18) (Al Losoff, NV; Jon Haskel, FL; Joe Yun, OH)

US Chess Invitational Tournaments shall be FIDE rated unless explicitly exempted by a majority of the Executive Board.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ADM 16-21 (DM 15-15/ADM 15-12/DM 14-47) (Chris Kim, MD)

Replace Rule 13C1 with the following:

13C1. Only players in the game or tournament directors may call attention to the fall of a flag. A flag is considered fallen (5G) when a tournament director observes the fact or when either player has made a valid claim to that fact.

Note: last sentence in TD Tip that follows this rule may be superfluous and could be stricken.

REFERRED AS AMENDED TO RULES COMMITTEE IN 2014

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE IN 2015 FOR COMPLETION IN 2016

ADM 16-22 (DM 15-16/ADM 15-13/DM 14-51) (Steve Immitt, NY)

Rule 29E: Color allocation.

Resolved: The following section is added to Rule 29E. Color Allocation.

“29E8. Team pairings take precedence over color equalization. In a combined Swiss individual and team tournament, the need to avoid pairing players from the same team shall take precedence over the need to equalize colors.”

REFERRED TO SCHOLASTIC COMMITTEE FOR STUDY IN 2014

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE IN 2015

ADM 16-23 (DM 15-44/ADM 15-47) (Robert Messenger, MA)

In Chapter 11, Blitz Chess, rule 8, Defining a draw, add subrules 8e, 8f and 8g:

8e. If the same position occurs three times with the same player to move each time, provided that one of the players makes a claim and it is verified by a tournament director or impartial witness.

8f. If 50 moves are played by each player without a pawn move or capture, provided that one of the players makes a claim and it is verified by a tournament director or impartial witness.

8g. If a position is reached in which there are no legal moves which could lead to one player being checkmated by the other, such as king vs. king, king vs. king with bishop or knight, or king and bishop vs. king and bishop, with both bishops on diagonals of the same color.

RATIONALE: In the current blitz rules it's not clear whether the three time repetition, 50 move, and insufficient material to continue draw claims which can be made under the regular sudden death rules can be made in blitz games. This rules change clarifies that the claims can be made as long as they can be verified.

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE

ADM 16-24 (DM 15-45/ADM 15-48) (Kenneth Ballou, MA; Bob Messenger, MA)

In rule 11D1 of the *Official Rules of Chess*, insert the text “, the time control does not include an increment of thirty seconds or more,” after “either player has fewer than five minutes in a sudden death time control”. In rule 16D, insert the text “and the time control does not include an increment of thirty seconds or more” following the words “time control”.

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE

ADM 16-25 (DM 15-47/ADM 15-52) (Kenneth Ballou, MA; Bob Messenger, MA; Thomas Langland, CA-N)

Amend the *Official Rules of Chess* by deleting the following sentence from rule 15A: “The scoresheet shall be visible to the arbiter (tournament directors) and the opponent throughout the game.” In its place, insert the following sentence: “The electronic scoresheet, scorebook, or paper scoresheet must be visible to the director and the opponent throughout the game.” Recommend to the rulebook editor to add the following: “TD TIP: The score itself needs to be available to TDs when necessary, but does not need to be visible at all times. Many scorebooks automatically close unless physically held open and many electronic scorekeeping devices show only the current position, require extra effort to go into scoresheet mode, must be taken out of scoresheet mode to record a move, and have a battery-saving measure to go dark when not in immediate use.”

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE

ADM 16-26 (DM 15-48/ADM 15-53) (Kenneth Ballou, MA; Bob Messenger, MA)

Amend rule 16B2b of the *Official Rules of Chess* by replacing the sentence “This capability is variously called “halt on end,” “claim mode,” or “freeze”” with the following two sentences: “The setting that controls this behavior is variously called “halt on end,” “claim mode,” or “freeze.” The setting must be disabled (off) to comply with this rule.”

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE

ADM 16-27 (DM 15-49/ADM 15-54) (Robert Messenger, MA)

Add rule 16P1, “Delay or increment not set.”

If a delay- or increment-capable clock is used at an event with a delay or increment time control and the delay or increment is not set, this is handled in the same fashion as an erroneously set clock. The delay or increment should be set for the remainder of the game. The director should use his or her best judgement when determining the clock settings.

RATIONALE: Under the current rule there is disagreement among tournament directors about how to handle situations where the delay or increment is not set. The new rule clarifies that normally the delay or increment should be set for the remainder of the game, giving the director flexibility in determining whether to adjust the clocks and add additional time to the players' clocks.

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE

ADM 16-28 (DM 15-50/ADM 15-55) (Kenneth Ballou, MA)

Amend the *Official Rules of Chess* by replacing the current text of rule 28L2 with the following. (Note that the underlined text indicates the proposed text to be added to rule 28L2 and is not intended as part of the formatting of the published rule. Also note that the current final sentence of rule 28L2 has been deleted in the replacement.)

28L2. Determination. In the first round, the bye is given to the player with the lowest USCF rating but not to an unrated player or a late entrant. In subsequent rounds, it is normally given to the lowest-rated player in the lowest score group but not to an unrated player. It is acceptable to give the bye to a higher rated player if doing so improves the overall color allocation for the lowest score group, subject to the limits specified in rules 29E5a and 29E5b. If there are no rated players eligible for the bye in the lowest score group, it is given to an unrated player who has played in a USCF-rated tournament too recently to obtain a published rating. If this, too, is impossible, a new player may be assigned the bye. See also 28J, The first round; 28S Reentries; 28L4, Full-point byes after half-point byes; 29E5a, The 80-point rule; and 29E5b, The 200-point rule.

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE

ADM 16-29 (DM 15-53/ADM 15-49) (Robert Messenger, MA; Kenneth Ballou, MA)

In rule 14G, “Both flags down in sudden death”, after “If a player whose flag is still up claims a win on time but does not stop the clock in time to prevent the flag from falling, the game is drawn” insert “unless the flag fall was observed by a director or independent witness.”

Replace rule 7c in Chapter 11 (Blitz Chess) with the following:

7c – who correctly points out that the opponent's flag has fallen first, at any time before the game is otherwise ended, provided the player has mating material. Mating Material consists of (at a minimum) two minor pieces, a pawn, a rook, or a queen provided it isn't a position where one could claim a draw under rule 8. If a player who claims a time forfeit states the claim with claim-

ant's flag still up, but then fails to stop the clock in time to avoid also exceeding the time limit, the claim will be void, unless the flag fall was observed by a director or independent witness.

In Blitz rule 7D, remove the words "and stops the clock."

RATIONALE: The current version of rule 14G contradicts rule 13C6, Claimant's clock: "If a player who claims a time forfeit states the claim with claimant's flag still up (5G), but then fails to stop the clock in time to avoid also exceeding the time limit, the claim will be void, unless the flag fall was observed by a director or independent witness." In both rules, adding the words "and the claim was heard" acknowledges the fact that for a time forfeit to be valid, not only must the opponent's flag be down but the player must make a claim to that effect.

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE

ADM 16-30 (DM 15-25/ADM 15-24) (Robert Messenger, MA; Michael Langer, TX)

Replace Article IX Section 16 of the US Chess Bylaws with the following:

Participation in chess shall be open to players, coaches, trainers, team captains, managers, seconds, analysts, tournament directors and organizers without discrimination, including but not limited to discrimination on the basis of race, religion or sexual orientation.

RATIONALE: The current wording of section 17 is:

Participation in chess shall be open to athletes, coaches, trainers, team captains, managers, seconds and analysts without discrimination.

This section was added to the bylaws in order to make chess eligible to be an Olympic sport, which does not appear to be a realistic possibility. The term "athletes" does not apply to chess, and has been replaced by "players." The proposed revision adds tournament directors and organizers to the list of people protected from discrimination. "Without discrimination" in the current version of section 17 is vague and has been made more specific in the proposed new version. The words "including but not limited to" clarify that the enumeration of specific forms of discrimination does not imply that all other forms of discrimination are allowed.

For the sake of simplicity the new version of section 17 doesn't cover some forms of discrimination, such as discrimination on the basis of sex. Some tournaments offer prizes to the top female player, or offer mixed doubles prizes, or are restricted to female players. Spelling out exactly when discrimination based on sex is or is not permissible would make section 17 unnecessarily complex. If it becomes a problem, this can be addressed by Executive Board or Delegate action.

REFERRED TO THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND TO OBTAIN A LEGAL OPINION

The Bylaws Committee is proposing 2 resolutions as substitutes, the first a Bylaws amendment, the second a change to the Code of Ethics as follows:

ADM 16-31 (Harold Winston; Bylaws Committee)

Revise Art IX, sec. 16 to read

"US Chess shall comply with all laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law with respect to chess tournaments sponsored by the organization."

ADM 16-32 (Harold Winston; Bylaws Committee)

Change the start of the first sentence of the Code of Ethics, Standard of Conduct, section 7 to read: "The actions and behavior of players,

tournament directors, sponsors, and other individuals participating in US Chess activities ..." That section now reads: "The actions and behavior of individuals participating in US Chess activities ..."

RATIONALE FOR BOTH: The 2015 DM was referred for a legal opinion and these resolutions are the result of that opinion.

ADM 16-33 (DM 15-56/NDM 15-07) (Richard Koepcke, CA-N)

Official Write-In Candidate

A candidate wishing to run a write-in campaign for the executive board shall notify the Executive Director of their intent and pay a filing fee of \$100 by May 1, of the election year. The Executive Director shall forward the names of such candidates to the Election Committee for certification of eligibility to serve as an Executive Board Member. Upon Certification, said candidate is designated as an Official Write-In candidate, and shall be counted if the candidate's name is written in on any ballot. Write-In votes that are not for an Official write-in candidate shall not be counted except as a general category for all such write-in votes. Official write-in candidates may purchase mailing labels as specified in Article VI, section 4 of the bylaws.

REFERRED TO THE BYLAWS AND ELECTION COMMITTEES

ADM 16-34 (Harold Winston, IL)

Add: "Only votes for current US Chess members shall be counted."

RATIONALE: This is our practice and should be in our Bylaws.

ADM 16-35 (Harold Winston, IL)

Add "Upon certification of Official Write-In Candidates, the Election Committee shall promptly notify all nominated candidates of the Official Write-In Candidates."

RATIONALE: Nominated candidates should know as soon as possible who Official Write-In Candidates are.

ADM 16-36 (DM 15-57/NDM 15-08) (Harold Winston, IL; Frank Camaratta, AL)

Amend Article VI, section 10 (*Delegates Call* page 39) by adding a 3 d paragraph:

Any nominated candidate who supports a write-in candidate in their *Chess Life* statement must submit that statement 25 days in advance of the deadline and copy all other candidates for the position the write-in is seeking.

REFERRED TO THE ELECTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEES

ADM 16-37 (DM 15-34/ADM 15-35) (Stephen Shutt, PA)

Change to Scholastic Regulations 21.12

During a game, players may not have in their possession any electronic device, whether the players are in or out of the playing hall. Such devices may be stored in a chess bag or backpack. These include cell phones, music playing devices, and electronic noise canceling headphones/ear buds. The only exceptions to this rule are chess clocks, approved electronic scorekeeping devices (see Appendix F), necessary medical devices, and any other device approved by the Section Chief.

(It is strongly urged that strong penalties be applied.) The use of any electronic device to assist a player in the analysis of the game will result in expulsion from the tournament. Players also must understand that once their game is complete, they are now considered "spectators" for the remainder of the current round (see Rule 21.13). (*Note: Rule 21.13 would become 21.15 if the two rules below are approved.*)

REFERRED TO THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL

ADM 16-38 (DM 15-35/ADM 15-36) (Stephen Shutt, PA)

Change to Scholastic Regulations 21.13

During the course of their games, players may not leave the playing hall except to travel to and from the lavatory. Exceptions include emergencies or unusual circumstances requiring the player's immediate attention that have been approved by the tournament director. Players who anticipate leaving their boards for these reasons or for an extended period of time should report to a member of the TD staff prior to leaving or in an emergency situation, alert the TD immediately upon return.

REFERRED TO THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL

ADM 16-39 (DM 15-36/ADM 15-37) (Stephen Shutt, PA)

Change to Scholastic Regulations 21.14

Except for emergencies, such as those relating to health issues, players may at no time have contact with anyone other than the TD staff, except for situations approved by the scholastic regulations.

REFERRED TO THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL

ADM 16-40 (DM 15-37/ADM 15-34) (Boyd Reed, PA; Al Losoff, NV; Ken Ballou, MA; Michael Mulford, GA)

MOTION: Delete paragraphs 12.5 and 12.6 of the *USCF Scholastic Regulations*, and insert the following language:

12.5 Any player wishing to enter an "Under" section in a USCF National Scholastic tournament must have an appropriate established USCF regular rating as of the rating supplement deadline for that tournament.

12.5.1 Any player who does not meet the requirements of paragraph 12.5 may enter only an appropriate Championship section or Provisional/Unrated section of that tournament.

12.5.2 A provisionally rated player participating in a Championship section is eligible for rating band trophies, based on his provisional rating.

12.6 Only established USCF regular ratings, or ratings from systems where the USCF Ratings Committee has published and endorsed a conversion formula to produce an equivalent US Chess regular rating, will be considered for section placement and prize eligibility, except for the provision in paragraph 12.5.2.

RATIONALE: For the second consecutive year, there was a significant controversy at the National Elementary Championships regarding the interpretation and application of SR 12.5 and 12.6. This controversy detracts from the tournament, and lessens the experience that the players receive.

1. The USCF rating system is rightfully considered standard for U.S. events. Our rating system's statistical design supports an established rating as being a stable estimate of playing strength, regardless of locale. It is therefore logical that a USCF National Scholastic tournament would exclusively use USCF established ratings.
2. By simplifying SR 12.5 and 12.6 as proposed herein, USCF sets a clear and unambiguous standard. Tournament directors and organizers can clearly implement it. Players and coaches can clearly understand it, and know what to expect for our premier scholastic events. This should greatly reduce accusations of bias and impropriety, and allow these events to run much more smoothly.
3. By establishing Provisional/Unrated sections for National Scholastic events, USCF provides an appropriate place for provisionally rated players to play in National Scholastic events. USCF

also saves an immense amount of time trying to come up with useful conversions for closed-pool regional rating systems.

4. Unrated players who compete in a Provisional/Unrated section will have more accurately informed initial ratings, because they will get to play at least some players who have USCF ratings.

NOTE: This motion is designed to work with two additional components. First, convert any Unrated section of a USCF National Scholastic event into a Provisional/Unrated section, while continuing this year's practice of offering fewer and smaller trophies in that section. Second, reach out to the scholastic community ASAP with news of this rule change, along with methods and benefits of making USCF rated play a regular part of a scholastic player's preparation.

REFERRED TO THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL

ADM 16-41 (DM 15-42/ADM 15-45) (Robert Messenger, MA)

In Chapter 8, The USCF Rating System, replace the first paragraph of section 5 with the following:

5. Rating floor. Each rated player has a rating floor. Every player has a personal absolute floor between 100 and 150. A player with an established rating may have a rating floor higher than the absolute floor. In most cases, floors are calculated by subtracting 200 points from the individual's highest rating achieved and setting the last two digits to zero. If a player's highest rating achieved is greater than or equal to 1400 but less than 1500, the individual's floor is 1200. If the highest rating achieved by a player is below 1400, then the individual's floor is the same as his or her absolute floor. No floor can be above 2100 or below 100, except that a player who achieves the Original Life Master (OLM) title is given a floor of 2200. The OLM title is earned by playing 300 games, not necessarily consecutive, with an established rating of 2200 or higher.

RATIONALE: The current first paragraph of section 5 contains inaccurate information. It reads as follows:

5. Rating floor. A player with an established rating has a rating floor. (An unrated player and a provisionally rated player do not have rating floors.) In most cases, floors are calculated by subtracting 200 points from the individual's highest rating achieved and setting the last two digits to zero. If a player's highest rating achieved is greater than 1200 but less than 1600, the individual's floor is 1200. If the highest rating achieved by a player is 1200 or below, then the individual's floor is 100. No floors above 2400 or below 100 are permitted.

REFERRED TO THE RATINGS COMMITTEE

ADM 16-42 (DM 15-58/NDM 15-09) (Steve Immitt, NY)

The Delegates commission the TDCC to develop a practical component to the NTD exam to help evaluate a candidate's skills in solving problems and resolving disputes in tournaments.

REFERRED TO THE TDCC

ADM 16-43 (DM 15-63/NDM 15-15) (Steve Immitt, NY)

The Delegates encourage the office to run a US Chess delegate blitz tournament each year. The sponsor volunteers to direct this year's event.

REFERRED TO THE U.S. OPEN COMMITTEE

NEW BUSINESS

Any motions passed at the Membership Meeting will be discussed as first order of New Business.

ADM 16-44 (Harold Winston, IL)

Amend the Bylaws by changing the words “federation” or “the federation” wherever they occur alone in the Bylaws to “US Chess.”

RATIONALE: Our office is using “US Chess” to describe us. It is also shorter than “federation” or “the federation” and is more explicit.

ADM 16-45 (John McCrary, SC; David Grimaud, SC)

Amend Article VI, Section 4 by deleting the sentence: “An executive Board member who has served nine or more consecutive years may not be nominated until at least two years have elapsed since the end of his/her term”.

SPONSOR’S RATIONALE: Times have changed, and there is no assurance that good candidates will be available to assume the high-stress, thankless job of an Executive Board member. USCF voters have proved in recent elections to be both able and willing to refuse new terms to candidates, and should be trusted to use their judgement.

ADM 16-46 (John McCrary, SC; David Grimaud, SC)

Amend Article VI, Section 7 by deleting the sentence: “No individual shall serve more than nine consecutive years on the Executive Board.”

SPONSOR’S RATIONALE: The two motions are offered separately to allow room for compromise.

ADM 16-47 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)

The Delegates amend the Bylaws by appending the following to Section 3, Committees.

Clock Standards Committee:

The Delegates authorize the creation of a Special Committee, the Clock Standards Committee, for the purpose of evaluating and grading the brands and models of chess clocks which are commonly used in tournaments. This Committee shall advise the Executive Board of the merits and drawbacks which it perceives to be evident in the various brands and models of clocks used in tournaments. It shall issue a publicly available report to the Board. In its efforts to identify and encourage ever better clock standards, the Committee may recommend that the Executive Board commission a special “US Chess Clock” which would incorporate its recommendations. However, the Committee would not be permitted to enter into any contractual relationship on behalf of US Chess, or to bind the Executive Board to any contracts or to any financial commitments. The Committee members shall be appointed by the Delegates, and shall include Tournament Directors knowledgeable regarding issues relating to chess clocks. Committee members shall not receive any compensation or consideration by clock manufacturers, distributors or retailers in return for their services or recommendations. The Committee shall consist of at least seven members, elected annually by the Delegates, and shall choose its own Chair.

RATIONALE: The US Chess membership is entitled to know the various benefits and drawbacks found in the clocks being sold on the market in order to make a more informed purchasing decision. A clock which is hard to set, hard to adjust and hard, confusing or distracting even to read can have a material impact on the game. It’s also in the interest of tournament directors to have their players become familiar with the operation, capabilities and limitations of their clocks. The sponsor believes that this same knowledge would also greatly benefit Tournament Directors as well.

The sponsors feel that the need to insulate such a committee from market and/or political pressures would be greatly enhanced by having this Committee be a Delegate-appointed committee. This committee

would not be empowered to encumber the Executive Board with any contractual obligations. As such, the sponsors believe that this Committee is permitted by the US Chess Articles of Incorporation.

ADM 16-48 (Steve Immitt, NY)

The Delegates amend the Bylaws by appending the following to Section 3, Committees.

Boards of Delegates And Directors Reconciliation Committee

The Boards of Delegates And Directors Reconciliation Committee shall consist of ten members: five members of the Executive Board, appointed by the Executive Board, and five non-Executive-Board-member Delegates, appointed by the Delegates. The Chair shall be the US Chess President. This Committee shall be for the purpose of deciding issues of disagreement between the two Boards as to the exact scope and limits of each body’s power and authority. Such decisions shall require a two-thirds majority vote.

RATIONALE: The purpose of this Committee is to try and resolve disagreements between the Delegates and Executive Board. For example, If there is a lack of consensus between the Board of Delegates and the Board of Directors as to the exact scope of a committee, then short of litigation, who would determine if something were to infringe on the Board of Directors or on the Delegates?

As an another example, it has been argued that the Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest carry no more weight than any other Executive Board motion. Yet some of these Delegate Actions pertain specifically to Tournament Rules, which is a power reserved to the Delegates. Why wouldn’t these, for example, fall under the Board of Delegates’ mandate to be “the authoritative body of US Chess to determine the policies that shall govern the US Chess in all of its activities” as per the Articles of Incorporation? If the Executive Board were to establish a policy in contravention of the Delegates Actions of Continuing Interest, how would such a conflict be resolved?

The sponsor hopes that the added imprimatur of a joint Committee would provide a very useful check to either body’s usurpation of the other’s authority.

ADM 16-49 (Ethics Committee)

The Delegates ratify the wording changes (replacing references to “USCF” and “the USCF” with “US Chess”) made by the US Chess office in the Code of Ethics and the Standards of Conduct for the US Chess Executive Board.

RATIONALE: *The US Chess office has already made these changes in published versions of the Code and the Standards but had no authority to do this, as only the Delegates may amend these documents in any way. However, the Ethics Committee considers these changes to be desirable, has reviewed them and finds that they have been made in a way which is grammatically correct and consistent, and which does not change the substance of these documents in any way. The Committee therefore recommends that the Delegates ratify the changes.*

ADM 16-50 (Ethics Committee)

In section 7 of the Code of Ethics, replace this language:

“A good-faith deposit of \$25 must be submitted by the complainant. The deposit shall be returned unless the Committee rules that the case is frivolous. The Committee may determine whether to return the deposit even before it determines jurisdictional and merit questions. The Committee may also, by a two-thirds vote, accept complaints submitted without the \$25 deposit.”

with the following:

“A good-faith deposit must be submitted by the complainant. The amount of the deposit shall be set by the US Chess Executive Director, who shall review it from time to time in consultation with the Ethics Committee. The deposit shall be returned unless the Committee rules that the case is frivolous. The Committee may determine whether to return the deposit even before it determines jurisdictional and merit questions. The Committee may also, by a two-thirds vote, accept complaints submitted without the deposit.”

RATIONALE: The current language, which dates from an amendment to the Code passed at the 2004 Delegates Meeting, is in conflict with the provisions of ADM 14-42, passed by the Delegates at the 2014 Delegates Meeting. That motion eliminated references to a specific dollar amount for good faith deposits in US Chess Rule 21L1, in favor of allowing the Executive Director to set the amount and to review it from time to time in consultation with affected committees. The above motion brings the Code into compliance with the change passed in 2014.

ADM 16-51 (Ethics Committee)

In the Code of Ethics, insert a new section 7 (b) as appears below and re-letter the following parts of section 7 as appropriate:

“(b) When issuing a decision, the Ethics Committee will provide a rationale for its decision to the parties involved and to the Executive Board.”

RATIONALE: The Delegates passed this mandate at the 2015 Delegates Meeting but did not specify that any language be added to the Code of Ethics. This leaves it as a stand-alone motion or Delegate Action of Continuing Interest. The Committee believes that it would be better for this provision to appear in the Code.

ADM 16-52 (Ethics Committee)

In the Code of Ethics, add the following sentence to the end of the current section 7 (c):

“No appeals shall be permitted in cases where the Ethics Committee has found in favor of the defendant and has recommended no sanctions.”

RATIONALE: This change makes explicit a common sense principle—that when the verdict is Not Guilty, the case is over and may not be re-tried by the Executive Board. The committee believes the current language of the Code already implies this; however, two years ago a case with a Not Guilty verdict did go to the appeal process. This recommended change to the Code would prevent any future such occurrences.

ADM 16-53 (Chris Kim, MD)

Delete Variation 10I2.

RATIONALE: In addition to the rationale below from the past, in response to Delegates that this is solution searching for a problem, since this almost never comes up—there must have been a problem with castling in the past that required this rule in previous versions of the Rule Book. Since it has been agreed that castling with the rook first has not been a problem recently, there should be no problem in deleting this variation altogether.

In response to scholastic players being unfairly punished by making castling rook first an illegal move, then having castling rook first being an illegal move is the surest way to teach a player not to do this in the future.

This rule is to mirror the FIDE Laws of Chess 4.4.b.

In US Chess Rule 8A2: castling is a move of the king and either rook, counting as a single move and executed as follows: the king is transferred from its original square two squares toward either rook on the

same rank; then that rook is transferred over the king to the square adjacent to the king on the same rank. This is also mirrored in Rule 9C (Castling)—In the case of legal castling, the move is determined with no possibility of change when the player’s hand has released the king, which has moved two squares toward a rook, and completed when that player, having legally transferred the rook to its new square, pressed the clock.

Nowhere do the rules of castling in USCF or FIDE state that castling starts with the rook move. Therefore, if a player touches the rook first, that player is only allowed to move that rook if a legal move exists.

ADM 16-54 (Steve Immitt, NY)

Modify the Rules by adding Section 9I. Opponent replying before completion of move.

“If the opponent replies to the player’s move before the move has been completed, even if the opponent’s move has been determined, the player shall nevertheless have the right to press the clock, to allow the player to complete his move. The opponent may not prevent a player from pressing the clock to complete the player’s move, but the opponent may immediately press the clock back to indicate that the opponent has already determined a move in reply.”

RATIONALE: The sponsor has observed that some players may try to seek an opportunity to penalize the opponent, by deliberately waiting to press the clock after having made their move, hoping that their opponent will reply to the player’s move before the player has pressed the clock. Other opponents may attempt to prevent the player from pressing the clock at all, by replying to the move immediately before the player has had a chance to press the clock. This proposed rule change would address the procedure to follow in these cases. The proposal does not address the issue of a specific penalty, which, if appropriate at all, would probably depend on the specific circumstances.

ADM 16-55 (Michael Atkins, MD)

There are too many Club and Local TDs who inappropriately have FA licenses from FIDE. US Chess regulations require that one be a Senior TD in order to direct FIDE rated events which applies to FA licenses per past ADMs.

Therefore, upon passage of this ADM, the following happens:

- 1.) Effective January 1, 2017, all Club TDs who have NA licenses, the license is revoked. They can reapply when they attain Senior TD;
- 2.) Effective January 1, 2017, all Local TDs who have NA licenses, the license is suspended. If they are not Senior TDs by April 1, 2017, the NA license is revoked.

Once the NA license has been revoked or suspended, the NA test has to be taken again and passed in order to be a NA. The delegates can decide whether to mandate another 20 Euro License Fee.

ADM 16-56 (Steve Immitt, NY)

Resolved: For the calendar year 2017, USCF membership requirements shall be waived for sections of tournaments which are only Quick-Chess rated (not dual-rated), if the tournaments are submitted online within seven days of the tournament’s ending date. All players in these sections must have valid USCF ID numbers in order for the sections to be rated and the tournament must have a Chief Tournament Director certified at the appropriate level of certification according to the number of players in the tournament.

RATIONALE: Players rated under non-USCF rating systems, particularly in state and national scholastic tournaments, often make

running such tournaments problematic. This would provide an incentive for players to achieve USCF Quick ratings, especially if minimum rating requirements are desired for the national scholastics. The USCF Quick ratings can be used to assign estimated ratings more accurately than some non-USCF ratings to players without regular ratings, for the purposes of pairing and prizes.

This also opens the door for some states and school districts which do not permit students to compete in activities which impose additional membership requirements in order to participate. Some of these players are likely to transition to playing in regular-rated, membership-required tournaments, especially if USCF promotes these events through e-mails and its website.

The Quick Rating System has historically been underutilized and this would help to promote Quick-rated events.

Removing membership requirements for a specific segment of USCF's services would help to underscore USCF's commitment to its mission as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

A similar motion (for time controls of Game/25 or faster) for the year 2016 was opposed at the 2015 Delegates Meeting, because it was argued that this would interfere with the Executive Board's own promotional membership program. On the USCF website, the following was posted on May 15, 2016, under the heading: Analysis of US Chess April 2016 financial statements:

"Our promotional memberships continue to be below budget and will remain there all year. The budget for these was a total guess since the program has been in flux."

In light of the above, the sponsor of this ADM believes that it might now be time to give the promotional plan in this ADM a similar opportunity to promote US Chess.

ADM 16-57 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY; Bill Goichberg, NY)

Resolved: The practice of requiring Tournament Directors at the National Scholastics to answer the question, "Is this checkmate?" with just "yes" or "no" shall be instead replaced with a policy of helping the players to determine the answer for themselves.

RATIONALE: The policy of having the Tournament Directors answer a player's question, if asked—"yes" or "no"—whether a specific position is checkmate, appears to the sponsors to deprive the players of an important component to US Chess' mission: "to enrich the lives of all persons and communities through increasing the play, study, and appreciation of the game of chess." One of our core values is: "Education. Chess is an educational tool aiding in the learning of planning, cause and effect relationships, pattern recognition, and research, all key skills for success in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)."

The purpose of the current policy is apparently to get the games over with as quickly as possible, and not to cause delays by trying to handle questions which require more than a simple yes or no answer.

To make matters worse, this policy, in one of the sponsor's personal experiences, has varied from tournament to tournament. Sometimes the question is answered yes or no, and sometimes the TDs are encouraged to have the players try and figure the answer out for themselves.

In the sponsors' opinion, and to answer the likely objection of micro-managing U.S. Chess operations, this issue is really a part of a larger and much more fundamental question. We believe that players in the National Scholastics should also be regarded as students, learning about the game, as well as competitors. When a player is told, yes or

no, that the position in question is or isn't checkmate, then very little is done to foster his or her study or appreciation of the game, and not much is done to use the opportunity as an educational tool either.

Helping the player to understand *why* the position really is or is not checkmate is, and encouraging him to answer his own question does, however, foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the game, and helps the student learn to think logically and accurately. We believe that the importance of helping the student progress as he or she learns more about the game supersedes the desire to terminate the game as soon as possible. Nevertheless, in the sponsors' opinion, this process does not cause the rounds to be delayed either.

If a student in a geometry class were to ask, when referring to a picture of a circle, if the circumference is the same as the diameter, one would be technically correct to answer "No!" and move on to the next question. But the students' understanding of the abstract ideas of distances and lines and circles, and his interest in learning more about the subject, comes from the teacher who explains the difference.

When the Tournament Director gives an *incorrect* yes or no answer to the question "Is this position checkmate?" not only are the players hindered in their general understanding of the game, they are also harmed in the specific game in question as well. This may result in further appeals and delays in addressing the various ramifications of the incorrect answer given by the TD, one of which would most certainly be that one of the players received material assistance in the game.

The sponsors are aware that this motion may be referred to the Scholastic Council. It is their hope that if this were to be the case, the referral would be accompanied by a desire expressed by the Delegates to emphasize the educational opportunity which these events should also provide to the players, especially young, novice players who look to adults for guidance as well as authority.

ADM 16-58 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)

Resolved: Under Rule 21L. Appeal to USCF, the following language shall replace Section 21L1. Procedure.

21L1. Procedure. Appeals in writing must be postmarked within seven days of the end of the tournament to the USCF office. Appeals submitted after the seven-day deadline may be considered at the discretion of the committee hearing the appeal, provided that an explanation for the late submission of the appeal accompanies the appeal. Appeals may be submitted via e-mail, but the business office or the committee(s) hearing the appeal may require a signed statement. The office will refer an appeal to the appropriate committee(s) but may immediately reject obviously groundless appeals. Most appeals will be referred to the Rules Committee, but some appeals may be more appropriate for the Tournament Director Certification Committee or the Ethics Committee or the FIDE Events Committee.

Once an appeal has been accepted by the USCF office, it must be followed by a \$250 administrative surcharge, before it is referred to the appropriate committee(s). The surcharge may be returned, in full or in part, at the discretion of the ruling authority, which shall make its determination based on the soundness, completeness, timeliness and accuracy of the appeal and the facts cited therein, regardless of the outcome of the appeal. However, in cases of unsuccessful appeals, the ruling authority may decide to forward all or part of the administrative surcharge to the successful party or parties in the appeal instead. Upon a satisfactory determination of financial hardship, the Executive Director may authorize a lower surcharge.

The USCF reserves the right to make final decisions concerning the rules and procedures that govern its competitions. See also 24A, Rules Committee; and 24B, Appeals to US Chess.

RATIONALE: In the sponsors' opinion, there currently exists little disincentive against filing a groundless appeal to a Tournament Director's decision; the USCF Office can sometimes be seen to be a national process server for complaints against TDs. The same holds true if the appeal contains some incidental merit, but is nevertheless substantially flawed or factually incorrect.

While the appeal is being considered, the Tournament Director remains under a cloud of suspected wrongdoing, based solely on an allegation which may be unproven or inaccurate. Due to the lengthy nature of the appeals process itself, this cloud of suspicion may continue for months, causing harm to the Tournament Director's reputation and his ability to be hired as such. This is often exacerbated by the very nature of the appeals process, *where the burden of proof is usually on the Tournament Director to prove he is innocent of wrongdoing*, instead of on the claimant to prove, instead of merely to allege, that the TD acted wrongly.

In order to complete a thorough and comprehensive response to an appeal, sometimes many witnesses must be contacted (and sometimes re-contacted), along with other Tournament Directors as well. It can take many hours to write up the details of a complicated dispute and decision correctly, especially if a general allegation has been made that the TD "violated the rules" and the TD must then explain in detail how the various rules were actually followed correctly.

In the real world, when one is unsuccessful in an attempt at litigation, the court costs are usually awarded to the winner. This is an incentive, it is hoped, for a litigant to proceed with more than just an allegation of wrongdoing, absent compelling evidence. In light of the amount of time and effort usually required to defend an appeal successfully, this same principle, reflective of the costs in the 21st century, should apply to the US Chess as well—especially if it does not always result in "winner take all," but instead "winner is entitled to some compensation."

ADM 16-59 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)

Resolved: Organizers which have their events rated by the USCF as well as by another rating service, are required to disclose to the players all other such rating services.

RATIONALE: A player in a USCF-rated event has the right to know if the event is going to be rated by any additional rating services providers.

In a recent USCF National Scholastic, one of the players had played in a USCF-rated tournament which, unbeknownst to the player, was also rated by Chess Express as well. The player wound up with a higher Chess Express rating, which was used in the USCF National Scholastic, due to the requirement to use the player's highest rating.

Regardless of the basis for the use of the alternate ratings in any specific case such as this, in the interests of full disclosure, USCF members are entitled to know if a USCF event in which they participate is to be forwarded by the organizer to any additional rating services.

ADM 16-60 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY; Bill Goichberg, NY)

The Delegates request that alternative locations be selected after our contractual obligations with the Gaylord Opryland have been exhausted.

RATIONALE: While the Gaylord Opryland is one of a select number of places capable of hosting our annual large scholastics, it is certainly not the only one. The costs involved to go there can be very prohibitive—it can cost a family of four over \$2,000 depending on the airfare, for example. The airlines have apparently become attuned to a particular spike in a demand which is more noticeable in a smaller market

the size of Nashville (as opposed to a market with a larger airport), and they respond with corresponding price increases. The lines are also very long for most of the food concessions, and the prices are very expensive. Even the sales tax in Nashville is over 9%!

While Gaylord Opryland may be one of the very few locations capable of hosting the SuperNationals, the sponsors believe that there are other suitable sites available for the National Scholastics in the other three years in between the SuperNationals.

Although the USCF was fortunate to enjoy a large turnout this year, that doesn't mean that other locations with more inexpensive access by plane would necessarily have drawn worse. Indeed, the high costs associated with Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, and the decreasing enthusiasm for re-experiencing the same details, might have resulted in an even larger turnout in an environment more cost-friendly, particularly to larger groups and families.

The sponsors understand that the USCF must honor its contractual obligations through 2021. What is less understandable is what appears to the practice of extending this arrangement even further. If the rationale for continuing to schedule annual scholastics at Gaylord Opryland is because otherwise the room rates at future SuperNationals every four years would be even higher than they are currently, the Delegates feel that this is a sufficient reason to reduce the frequency of SuperNationals at Opryland in the future or even to stop holding them there completely.

The interests of the members and parents who continue to pay these costs would be better served by locations where the costs and air transportation limitations are less prohibitive. The interests of the members and parents who live near other large metropolitan areas with access to good air transportation are also better served with having the National Elementary Championship made more accessible to them as well.

ADM 16-61 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)

The Delegates are in favor of the idea of instructional Tournament Directing seminars, especially for those interested in directing National Scholastics.

RATIONALE: Much of the knowledge needed to be a successful TD at the Nationals is very specialized and uniquely acquired through practical experience. It is not something one can assimilate in a general orientation session the night before a major event with over 1,000 children. Hands-on personal experience is essential and also of great practical and lasting value.

The sponsors believe that US Chess members will benefit by having a more experienced and confident cadre of TDs, particularly at our flagship events. Events and activities which help to achieve this should be encouraged and actively promoted. This is especially important in light of the importance of the mandate brought forth at the 2015 Membership Meeting: to pass down the acquired wisdom of the current and previous generations of US Chess Tournament Directors to succeeding ones.

ADM 16-62 (Steve Immitt, NY; Bill Goichberg, NY)

Resolved: The official name of our rating system shall be the "USCF Rating System." This designation shall also apply to the "USCF Quick Rating System" and the "USCF Blitz Rating System" as well. In all USCF publications, TLAs, advertisements, and articles which are submitted including "USCF" in reference to ratings, "USCF" shall not be changed to "US Chess" or any other name.

RATIONALE: 1) "USCF rating" is a brand name that is a major asset to the USCF, well known to hundreds of thousands of USCF members

Bylaws of the U.S. Chess Federation

Includes all changes passed at the 2015 Annual meeting.

Article I: Name

The name of the corporation shall be the United States Chess Federation (USCF) also known as the United States of America Chess Federation, commonly known as US Chess.

Article II: Purposes

SECTION 1.

The purpose of the Federation shall be educational and instructional, to broaden and develop chess as art and recreation, as a significant element of culture in America. The Federation shall cooperate with schools, colleges, hospitals, military bases, community centers, recreation departments, and other groups and institutions, in teaching chess, conducting tournaments, and other activities. The Federation shall disseminate information through its publications and representatives, and the Federation shall select the official USA representatives in all international chess affairs. The Federation shall encourage and support chess programs for handicapped individuals and the participation of handicapped in chess activity, including, where feasible, the expansion of opportunities for meaningful participation by handicapped individuals in all chess competition.

SECTION 2.

The Federation is pledged:

- A. To operate exclusively for educational, recreational, and social welfare purposes;
- B. That no part of its contributions, dues, or net income shall inure to the benefit of any individual, except that trophies or prizes awarded in the course of its educational and promotional program shall not be so construed;
- C. That the Federation is not operated for profit and that neither principal nor income of any of its funds may be used in any attempt to influence legislation;
- D. To promote the study and knowledge of the scientific game of chess;
- E. To foster the development of players and to help those who seek to become masters;
- F. To encourage the formation of chess groups, clubs, and associations;
- G. To hold a tournament no less often than once every two years for the Chess Championship of the United States and to confer upon the winner of such tournament the title "United States Chess Champion"; and
- H. To hold an open tournament every summer in the United States.

Article III: Membership

SECTION 1. ADULT MEMBERSHIPS.

Any person may become an Adult (also known as Regular) Member of the Federation upon payment of \$40 for one year, or \$75 for two years, or a Premium Adult (also known as Premium) Member upon payment of \$49 for one year, or \$95 for two years.

SECTION 2. YOUNG ADULT MEMBERSHIPS.

Any person under 26 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Young Adult Member of the Federation upon payment of \$26 for one year, or \$48 for two years, or a Premium Young Adult Member upon payment of \$35 for one year, or \$65 for two years.

SECTION 3. YOUTH MEMBERSHIPS.

Any person under 17 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Youth Member of the Federation upon payment of \$22 for one year, or \$40 for two years, or a Premium Youth Member upon payment of \$30 for one year, or \$55 for two years.

SECTION 4. SCHOLASTIC MEMBERSHIPS.

Any person under 14 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Scholastic Member of the Federation upon payment of \$17 for one year, or \$30 for two years, or a Premium Scholastic member upon payment of \$25 for one year, or \$45 for two years.

SECTION 5. SENIOR MEMBERSHIP.

A person who has passed his or her 65th birthday may become a Senior Member of the Federation upon payment of \$40 for one year, or \$75 for two years.

SECTION 6. SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP.

A blind person, or any person who is incarcerated in a penal institution in the United States, may become a Special member of the Federation for \$18 for one year.

SECTION 7. FAMILY MEMBERSHIP PLANS.

Family Plan 1: \$80, includes parents and their children under age 24 in the household living at one address. Also includes any full-time college students up to age 24.

Family Plan 2: \$50, includes all children under age 24 in the household living at one address.

The spouse of a Life or Sustaining member may be included in the Family Membership Plan, however in that case, only the Life or Sustaining member will receive *Chess Life*.

SECTION 8. LIFE MEMBERSHIPS.

Any person may become a Life Member of the Federation upon payment of \$1500 dues. Any person age 65 years or older may become a Life Member upon payment of \$750 dues. Any blind person may become a Life Member upon payment of \$375 dues. The Federation may require reasonable confirmation of eligibility from time to time as a continuation of Life membership.

SECTION 9. AFFILIATE COMMISSIONS.

There shall be a \$3 affiliate commission on all Adult, Senior, Youth, Scholastic, Young Adult, Family, and Life Memberships.

SECTION 10. PROMOTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS.

In order to facilitate the development of membership promotion, the Executive Board may authorize special promotional membership terms and rates for limited periods of time to determine their feasibility by trial; such terms and rates shall be subject to review annually by the Board of Delegates.

SECTION 11. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

Each Life, Premium, Premium Young Adult, Senior, and Special member shall be entitled to receive a monthly paper copy of *Chess Life*. Each Premium Youth membership shall be entitled to receive a paper copy of *Chess Life* every other month. Each Premium Scholastic member shall be entitled to receive a bimonthly paper copy of *Chess Life for Kids*. Each Regular, Young Adult and Youth member shall be entitled to receive a bimonthly paper bulletin, as well as (if providing an e-mail address) a password enabling access to the online version of *Chess Life* magazine. Each Scholastic member shall be entitled to a paper bulletin issued each four months, as well as (if providing an e-mail address) a password enabling access to the online version of *Chess Life for Kids* magazine. Each Family Membership shall provide one paper copy *Chess Life* to the household, plus one paper copy *Chess Life for Kids* if any Family Member is under 14. Each member shall be entitled to have his or her tournament play officially rated, to participate in the Annual Membership meeting, and to enjoy all other rights and privileges of membership not herein enumerated. Members and Affiliates with mailing addresses outside the United States may be charged an additional fee to cover extra costs.

SECTION 12. REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

The Executive Board, subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 13, may revoke or suspend the membership of any member for good cause. The USCF Ethics Committee may recommend suspending or revoking the membership of any person by applying the procedures established by the Board of Delegates in the USCF Code of Ethics.

SECTION 13. REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION.

In the event that the Executive Board shall revoke or suspend the membership of an individual or affiliate pursuant to Article III, Section 12, or Article VIII, Section 5, it shall, prior to taking such action, give to the individual or affiliate 30 days written notice of the proposed action. Within said time said individual or affiliate may submit in writing to the Executive Board reasons why such actions should not be taken. The Executive Board may thereafter, if it sees fit, act upon the written suggestion or set a date for a hearing to be held at or prior to the next Annual Meeting of the Federation, but before the meeting of the Board of Delegates. Any person or affiliate aggrieved by any action of the Executive Board may appeal to the Board of Delegates at the said Annual Meeting if the action is taken at the said meeting, or at the next meeting of the Board of Delegates. The Board shall affirm, reverse, or modify the action of the Executive Board. Only Delegates present in person may vote on any such appeal. If the Ethics Committee recommends the suspension or revocation of a member through application of the USCF Code of Ethics, the appeals procedure established

in the Code of Ethics shall be applicable, and the remaining provisions of this section shall not be applicable to that case.

SECTION 14. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

The President shall call and preside at an annual meeting of the membership, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open tournament, for the purpose of hearing reports and making suggestions to the Board of Delegates. Twenty-five members present in person shall constitute a quorum. The Secretary shall publish in *Chess Life* advance notice of the meeting. Participation and voting by members at the Annual Membership Meeting shall be limited to those members physically present. Participation through the use of conference telephone or other communications equipment shall not be permitted.

Article IV: Voting Members

SECTION 1. RESPONSIBILITY.

The Voting Members are responsible for electing the Executive Board. Information regarding nominees and voting instructions shall appear in an appropriate issue of *Chess Life* and on the USCF website.

SECTION 2. DEFINITION.

Members with memberships of less than one year duration at their start are not eligible to become voting members. All other USCF members are entitled to register as a voting member provided that any voting member must be age 16 or older as of June 30 of the election year. All Delegates and Alternate Delegates are voting members.

SECTION 3. REGISTRATION.

Eligible members who are not already registered as Voting Members must register with the USCF office by May 1 to be eligible to vote in that year's regular election, except that all members who are selected as USCF Delegates, Alternate Delegates or Executive Board members are automatically registered as Voting Members. There is no registration fee. Once registered, a member's status as a Voting Member continues as long as he or she is a member. When a membership lapses, Voting Member status ceases and the member must, after rejoining, again register by May 1 to be eligible to vote in that year's regular election.

SECTION 4. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT.

In order to vote in a regular election, registered Voting Members must be USCF members on May 5th of the election year, for the entire day Central Time.

SECTION 5. SPECIAL ELECTIONS.

1. The eligibility dates for voting in the election shall be part of the call for the special election and should use cutoff dates equivalent to the above based on when the ballots are expected to be received by the voting members.
2. The registration deadline for those not already registered shall be the same as the deadline for the submission of nominating petitions.

SECTION 6. ELECTRONIC VOTING:

Should the USCF implement an electronic voting system as an alternate to using paper ballots, voting members who do not receive *Chess Life* by mail every month will only be entitled to vote using the electronic voting system unless they request a paper ballot by writing to the USCF office prior to May 1st for a regular election or the equivalent cutoff date for a special election.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION:

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the approval of the Voting Members is required to amend the Articles of Incorporation.

The Board of Directors must present any such amendment for discussion at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Delegates before submitting such amendment to the Voting Members. Amendments will be approved if supported by a 2/3 majority of the Voting Members who cast a vote on the amendment in an election that is called in accordance with the election provisions in the bylaws of the USCF.

Article V: Board of Delegates

SECTION 1. RESPONSIBILITY

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Delegates shall be the legislative body of the USCF. The Board of Delegates shall be the authoritative body of the Federation to determine the policies that shall govern the USCF in all of its activities. Among other things, it shall have the authority to amend the Bylaws and the USCF *Official Rules of Chess*, approve the annual budget, approve the sale of real estate owned by the USCF, approve any borrowing secured by real estate owned by the USCF, establish, amend or revoke one or more trusts for the management of Life Member assets and appoint or remove one or more Trustees for the purpose of administering said trusts, and supervise the ethics compliance process of the Federation.

SECTION 2. NUMBER.

The Board of Delegates shall be composed of the Executive Board members, the Delegates at Large, and 125 Delegates, apportioned among the states in proportion to their resident USCF membership as of May 31 of the year prior to Delegate elections, except that each state with thirty or more members must have at least one Delegate. Each state with 1000 or more USCF members must have at least two Delegates. In addition, any Executive Board member-elect who is not already a Delegate becomes a Delegate immediately upon certification of the election result.

SECTION 3. ALTERNATE DELEGATES.

There shall be 125 Alternate Delegates, with each state having one Alternate Delegate for each Elected Delegate. All Life Voting Members under previous editions of these Bylaws shall automatically become Additional Alternate Delegates if they are not elected as Delegates.

SECTION 4. SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES.

State Chapters shall designate the initial Delegates and Alternate Delegates for their states, as provided for in Article V, Sections 2 and 3, submitting the Delegates and Alternate Delegates in ordered lists. State Chapters must designate their initial Delegates and Alternate Delegates after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, by November 1 of that year, or as soon thereafter as feasible. The term of each Delegate shall commence on January 1 for the year for which selected and continue for one year and thereafter until a successor is selected and qualified.

SECTION 5. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Vacancies.** If one or more Delegates and higher-ranked Alternate Delegates from any state are not present or are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, they can be replaced by Alternate Delegates only if the Delegates and higher-ranked Alternate Delegates resign in writing, except that for each state, if Alternate Delegates are available to attend the Annual Board of Delegates Meeting, those Delegates who have not picked up their credentials by 9:30 a.m. of the first day of the Delegates' meeting will be deemed to have resigned as Delegates and the available Alternate Delegates will become Delegates per the ordered list. If a Delegate or Alternate Delegate gives advance notice of a delay in arrival by signed fax or e-mail or telephone

call to the USCF President or Secretary, such a Delegate or Alternate is not deemed to have resigned unless their credentials are not picked up by 2 p.m. on the first day of the Delegates' meeting. The Delegates deemed to have resigned will only be those equal in number to the available Alternate Delegates and will start with the lowest ranked Delegate on the ordered list per Article V, Section 4.

- B. Additions to Ordered List.** The state president or senior state officer present may add names to the end of the ordered list for that state for the purpose of seating Delegates at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates, providing the persons added at that time reside in the state being represented or in a state adjacent to it.

If a Delegate dies or resigns during the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled for the duration of the term of office in accordance with the ordered list. If a Delegate or Alternate Delegate moves from the state of residence, that person shall be deemed to have resigned as Delegate unless the State Chapter indicates otherwise.

Vacancies in the position of Delegate or Alternate Delegate for any state chapter, including those resulting from the promotion of an Alternate Delegate to Delegate, may be filled by the state chapter for the remainder of the term, provided that such appointments are placed at the end of the ordered list for that state chapter.

If no Delegates or Alternate Delegates are elected by a state, vacancies exist which can be filled by the State Chapter.

- C. Executive Board Members as Delegates.** Any Executive Board member who completes his or her term without re-election to the Executive Board, remains a Delegate until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates in the year following the completion of the Board term, except that if he has Delegate status for that period under another provision of these Bylaws, this provision shall not apply. Any former Executive Board member receiving Delegate status by the provisions of the preceding sentence shall not be a Delegate on the ordered list of any state, and shall not be replaced if he dies or resigns the position.
- D. USCF Membership requirement.** Delegates and Alternate Delegates must be members in good standing throughout their terms of office with a grace period of 28 days for renewing a lapsed membership. Notwithstanding, the Delegate must be a member in good standing throughout the Delegates Meeting. A member in good standing is a member whose dues are paid and is not suspended.
- E. Current USCF employees may not serve as Delegates.** USCF employees are accorded the right to speak at the annual Delegates' Meeting.

SECTION 6. ANNUAL MEETING.

The President shall call and preside at an annual meeting of the Board of Delegates, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open tournament, for the purposes of hearing annual reports, installing officers, and considering other USCF business. A quorum shall consist of one third of the whole Board of Delegates present in person. The Secretary shall publish in *Chess Life* advance notice of the meeting and shall mail to each Delegate, between thirty and forty days before the Annual Meeting, a notice of the meeting and an agenda. Only those certified as Delegates, including any Alternates who have been elevated to Delegate through the death or resignation of a Delegate, may submit motions for the advance agenda. Motions not having a Delegate present as a sponsor or co-sponsor when reached in the meeting shall be deferred to the end of the meeting. Chairs of Delegate or Executive

Board appointed committees may submit motions on behalf of their committees. Sponsors are encouraged to add their rationale to Advance Delegate Motions. Participation via the use of conference telephone or other communications equipment shall not be permitted.

SECTION 7. SPECIAL DELEGATES MEETING.

Special Delegates meetings can be called by the President or by more than half the members of the Executive Board. Notice of a meeting and its purposes and an agenda must be sent by mail to all delegates and alternate delegates at least 30 days before the meeting. Additional notification may be provided by e-mail or fax. The notice and agenda shall also be placed on the USCF website at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. The special Delegates meeting has authority to act upon advance agenda items but does not have the authority to take action unrelated to the advance agenda items.

All Executive Board members shall have at least 7 days advance notice before the notice of the meeting is sent. Items can only be placed on the advance agenda by the President or any two Executive Board members.

A quorum shall consist of one third of all Delegates and Delegates will be certified in the same manner as at the Annual Delegates Meeting.

If the meeting notice so provides, the meeting can take place by teleconference at advance designated sites announced in the call of the meeting. Delegates must be present in person at a meeting site.

SECTION 8. DELEGATES AT LARGE.

Delegates at Large shall consist of the following:

- A. All USCF Presidents who have served at least two consecutive years, upon completion of their term and are so elected by a majority vote of the Board of Delegates.
- B. Those individuals who have rendered distinguished service to chess and who are elected by at least a 3/4 vote of the Board of Delegates at two consecutive Annual Meetings by a motion on the advance agenda for both meetings. The number of individuals in this category shall not exceed twenty.

The term of the Delegates at Large shall commence at the Annual Meeting at which they achieve Delegate at Large status and continue for three more Annual Meetings. A Delegate at Large whose term is expiring or has expired may be elected to a new term.

SECTION 9. ADDITIONAL DELEGATES.

The USCF Membership Meeting may elect up to 5 Additional Delegates for a term that expires on June 1 of the following year at the start of the Membership Meeting from persons who are present and have previously served as Delegates in at least one of the last five years.

Article VI: Executive Board

SECTION 1. COMPOSITION.

The Executive Board shall consist of seven members elected for staggered terms of three years. The Executive Director serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Board, with the right to debate and make motions, but without the right to vote. All Executive Board members are national officers of the USCF. No Executive Board member may be a full time or part time salaried or hourly USCF employee except for the USCF Executive Director serving as a non-voting member. All serving Executive Board members must have a current USCF membership and be at least 18 years of age.

SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITY.

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the Executive Board shall be the Board of Directors which is the administrative and

managing body of the USCF and is vested with full power to conduct all business of the Federation, subject to the laws of the State of Illinois, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws and the mandates of the Board of Delegates. The Executive Board's direction to the staff shall generally be given by the USCF President.

SECTION 3. MEETINGS.

The Executive Board shall meet at least twice per year, the day and place to be fixed by vote of that Executive Board. Special meetings, including conference telephone calls or Internet conference meetings, may be called by the President or upon the written request of any three members of the Executive Board. Reasonable efforts to notify all Executive Board members of the meeting shall be made by mail, fax, telephone, e-mail, or other means approved by the Executive Board. The Minutes of all Executive Board meetings shall be posted on the USCF website within six weeks of each meeting. Delegates and Alternate Delegates may receive printed copies of Minutes upon request and upon payment of a reasonable fee, set by the Executive Director, sufficient to offset the printing and mailing costs of such printing and mailing. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the elected members of the Executive Board present in person or participating in a conference telephone call or Internet conference meeting. The affirmative votes of at least three different Executive Board members will be required to approve any action, as long as there are at least four members on the Executive Board.

All open meetings of the Executive Board, including conference calls, shall be recorded in their entirety with a clear record by a means determined by the Executive Board and preserved for six years. All Executive Board members shall receive copies of any recordings of meetings within two weeks of those meetings. Any person wishing to obtain copies of recordings may do so at cost. The public portion of the permanent record will be available on the website within a month of the meeting record.

Executive Board votes may be taken by e-mail provided at least five days are allowed for discussion. As soon as all Executive Board members vote, or the five days have passed, the Board vote is official.

SECTION 4. NOMINATION.

Any USCF member not a current employee of the USCF is nominated for election to the Executive Board upon submission to the Election Committee of the following by December 31 of the year before an election year:

1. A valid nominating petition containing the signatures of fifty (50) or more members who meet the requirements specified in Article IV Section 2 to be eligible to register to vote, of whom, at least fifteen (15) shall be Delegates at the time of signing the petition. The fifteen (15) Delegates must represent at least five (5) different states. A nominating petition listing more than one candidate is not valid.
2. A filing fee of \$100 made payable to the USCF.
3. A signed statement that they are running for the Executive Board and that they will serve if elected.

An employee of the USCF may not be nominated for election to the Executive Board. Currently paid contractors/consultants working as *Chess Life* Editor, Events Coordinator, or Computer Consultant may not be a candidate for the USCF Executive Board. An Executive Board member who has served nine or more consecutive years may not be nominated until at least two years have elapsed since the end of his/her term.

The Election Committee shall have advertised a call for nominations in the issue of *Chess Life* published no later than November 20 of the

year prior to an election year and shall publish a list of all duly-submitted nominations in the issue published not later than April 10 of an election year.

Once a candidate is certified, the candidate may purchase labels of Voting Members at the same rate as affiliates. These labels may only be used for campaign purposes.

SECTION 5. ELECTIONS

A. Regular Elections. Executive Board members shall be elected by the Voting Members. At the discretion of the Executive Board, ballots for that purpose shall either be mailed directly or included in an issue of *Chess Life*, and mailed prior to June 10. The Election Committee shall, by January 31st of an election year, select the time and place for the counting of the ballots. The ballot instructions shall include this information plus other election regulations. For a special election, the time and place shall be determined prior to issuing the call for the special election. Electronic voting may be used in addition to mailed ballots or ballots in *Chess Life*. The ballot shall list all duly submitted nominations. Each voting member may vote for as many persons as there are Executive Board positions to be filled. The persons receiving the largest vote totals shall be elected to the available Executive Board positions. The ballots shall be returned by mail to an independent agency, and counted by an independent agency, or by the Election Committee, or by tellers appointed by the Election Committee prior to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates. Ties, if any, shall be broken by a secret ballot vote of the Delegates present in person at that year's Delegates meeting, taken at the time that election results are certified.

B. Special Elections. The Election Committee will decide the schedule for a Special Election for the Executive Board, using the deadlines and dates for a regular election as a guide for scheduling reasonable intervals for announcing the special election and calling for nominations, the date for candidate petition filings and the date for mailing the ballots via *Chess Life* or direct mail. The requirement for candidate statements and election supplements may be reduced to having this information in a single issue of *Chess Life*. The Executive Board may choose to waive any filing fees for a Special Election.

C. Ballots shall be authenticated by use of voting member information to be provided with or printed on the ballots. All properly authenticated ballots that have been received by the date designated for counting the ballots shall be counted. The Election Committee shall designate an address for the return of ballots at the time the date of counting ballots is set.

SECTION 6. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS.

At an organizational meeting immediately following the conclusion of the Delegates' Meeting at which regularly scheduled Executive Board election results are certified, the Executive Board shall elect among itself the following officers: President, Vice President, and Vice President for Finance. The term of each officer shall be for one year, except that upon a vote of 2/3 of its membership, the Executive Board may at any time meet in person or by teleconference and elect new officers. A vacancy in the office of President shall be immediately filled by the Vice President. A vacancy in another office elected by the Executive Board shall be filled by majority vote either temporarily until the Executive Board meeting following the next Delegates' Meeting or for the full unexpired portion of the office's term as the Executive Board shall choose. The office of Secretary should not be an elected office, but rather the Executive Board should designate a person to fulfill the functions of the Secretary.

SECTION 7. TERMS OF OFFICE.

The terms of office of the Executive Board members shall commence at their first meeting, which shall immediately follow the Annual Meeting, and effective with those elected in the 2011 regular election shall continue for three years, except as provided in Section 9 of this article and in the implementation schedule in this article. The terms of the Executive Board officers shall commence at their first meeting, which shall immediately follow the Annual Meeting, and shall continue for two years, except that the term of an officer who leaves the Board after one year would expire. No individual shall serve more than nine consecutive years on the Executive Board. No person shall serve as USCF President more than four consecutive years.

For the purpose of implementation of the terms of this Section, the following will apply to those elected in the 2011 regular Executive Board election and thereafter. The terms of those elected prior to the adoption of this implementation schedule will be observed as they were defined by the Bylaws at the time of their election.

2011: Three Executive Board members will be elected to three-year terms.

2013: Four Executive Board members will be elected, with the top two to receive three-year terms, and the next two to two-year terms.

2014, 2017, etc. Three Executive Board members are elected to three-year terms.

2015, 2018, etc. Two Executive Board members will be elected to three-year terms.

2016, 2019, etc. Two Executive Board members are elected to three-year terms.

SECTION 8. DUTIES.

President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership, Board of Delegates, and Executive Board; carry out all requirements of these Bylaws, represent the Federation officially on occasion, and report annually to the Board of Delegates.

Vice President. The Vice President shall execute the duties of the President when the President is unable to serve and perform such other duties as are assigned by the Executive Board or the President on its behalf.

Vice President for Finance. The Vice President for Finance shall obtain records of the financial affairs of the Federation, report to the Board of Delegates, and counsel and assist the Executive Board on financial affairs. The Vice President for Finance shall review and have the right to comment on all financial reports, including all financial information presented in interim and annual reports, prior to publication and release.

Members at Large. Members-at-Large of the Executive Board shall have such other duties as are assigned by the Executive Board or by the President on behalf of the Executive Board or as prescribed by these Bylaws.

SECTION 9. VACANCIES.

If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board, the Executive Board may decide to fill the vacancy by a Special Election in accordance with Art. VI, Section 5B. If two or more vacancies occur, the Executive Board will instruct the Election Committee to hold a Special Election in accordance with Section 5B.

SECTION 10. CANDIDATE STATEMENTS AND ADVERTISING.

Each duly nominated candidate who has met the requirements established in Section 4 is entitled to a 150 word statement plus photo in the issue of *Chess Life* published no later than April 10 of the election year. Election supplements shall accompany or be inserted in issues of *Chess Life* published no later than May 10 and June 10 of the election

year. Each duly nominated candidate who has met the requirements established in Section 4 is entitled to one-half page of space in each election supplement. The purchase of additional campaign space in the election supplements or other USCF publications is prohibited. Any candidate for the USCF Executive Board who has been convicted of an adult felony in the U.S. must disclose that fact in their *Chess Life* statement. The Candidate will be allowed an additional 100 words in the candidate's statement in their first statement in *Chess Life* for this purpose. Failure to disclose a felony (conviction) would be grounds for immediate recall.

Any candidate for the USCF Executive Board who is currently a party against the USCF in a lawsuit must disclose that fact in their *Chess Life* statement. Failure to disclose such a lawsuit would be grounds for immediate recall. The candidate will be allowed an additional 50 words in the candidate's statement in their first candidate's statement in *Chess Life* for this purpose.

SECTION 11. RECALLS.

A.) The Delegates may initiate a recall of an elected Executive Board member by a 2/3 majority vote of a motion on the advance agenda of an Annual or Special Delegates Meeting, by a 3/4 majority vote of a motion not on the advance agenda of an Annual Delegates Meeting, or by petitions signed by 2/3 of the Delegates in lieu of a meeting of the Board of Delegates. Each signature on a recall petition must be dated and no signature can be dated more than five months before the date that the petitions are submitted to the USCF Secretary for validation.

B.) Recall of an elected Executive Board member may be initiated by petitions signed by 10% of the registered voters based on the number of registered voters at the end of the most recent fiscal year, i.e., May 31. The USCF Secretary shall have one week from the date the petition is received by the USCF Office to determine if a recall petition is valid. A recall may not be initiated on a Board member during the last six months of that member's term of office. Once a recall motion has been passed or a recall petition certified as valid, a recalled Executive Board member shall be given 15 days to decide whether to resign or to be the subject of a recall election. If the recalled Executive Board member resigns, the recall motion or petition becomes moot upon the resignation of the Board member.

C.) The recall motion must give the reasons for recall in a total, motion plus reason, of no more than 500 words. The motion and reasons, together with an optional statement of no more than 500 words by the Board member being recalled, shall be mailed by USCF to all registered voters along with the recall ballot.

D.) To be affirmed, the recall shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the registered voters participating in a recall election, such election to be held under conditions similar to those for regular or special Executive Board elections. Only voters who vote for or against the recall are considered to be participating. At least 500 Voting Members must participate in the recall election in order for the results to be valid. If the Board member being recalled is serving as the USCF Secretary, the Executive Board shall appoint another Board member to serve as the Secretary for the purposes of conducting the recall election.

E.) If the motion or petition recalling the Board member does not specify a date for the recall election voting to begin, the Executive Board shall schedule such an election to commence no more than 60 days after the recall motion is passed by the Delegates or the recall petitions are certified. The date for counting the votes in the recall election shall be no more than 35 days after the day that voting is expected to begin. Until the votes in the recall election are counted, the recalled Executive Board member retains all rights and privileges of a Board member. Once the recall votes are counted, if the recall is affirmed the Board member is immediately removed from the Executive Board and a vacancy exists on the Executive Board.

SECTION 12. RESTRICTIONS.

Elected members of the Executive Board may not serve as paid USCF employees, paid consultants or as vendors of goods or services to the USCF during their actual tenure on the Executive Board and for a period of one year after the board service ends.

Except as noted below, this shall not affect a board member's ability to organize or direct USCF-rated events or to serve as an officer or owner of a USCF affiliate. Elected members of the Executive Board may not serve as the chief TD of USCF national events during their tenure on the Board and for a period of one year after their board service ends. Elected members of the Executive Board may not be awarded the bid to serve as the organizer of a USCF national event (or as an officer or owner of a USCF affiliate serving as the organizer of a USCF national event) during their actual tenure on the Board and for a period of one year after their board service ends unless the agreement to serve as the organizer of that national event was signed prior to that person's becoming a candidate for election to the Executive Board. State chapter and not-for-profit Affiliates with Board members who are also on their board are exempt from this restriction. In unusual circumstances, elected Executive Board members may be assigned tasks dealing with day-to-day operations of the USCF. No compensation for these tasks beyond the reimbursement of direct out-of-pocket expenses may be paid.

An Executive Board member who is a party to litigation or arbitration filed by that Executive Board member against the USCF or by the USCF against that Executive Board member, shall abstain from voting on any action concerning the litigation or arbitration, shall have no right to be present during any portion of an Executive Board meeting in which the litigation or arbitration is discussed, and shall have no right to access attorney-client or work-product privileged information concerning or relating to that litigation or arbitration, regardless of whether the litigation or arbitration is still pending.

Unless otherwise prohibited by applicable law, each member of the Executive Board waives any right to file a lawsuit (including but not limited to a lawsuit seeking a jury trial) against the USCF, the USCF Executive Board members or USCF employees, and must instead submit a mandatory arbitration to be conducted by the American Arbitration Association. The arbitration award will be final and binding upon the parties to that arbitration. The location of any such arbitration shall be solely in the city in which the USCF is headquartered at the time of filing of the arbitration notice.

SECTION 13. WEBSITE ACCESS.

Executive Board members and candidates for the Executive Board are subject to the same rules, restrictions and sanctions as other USCF members with regards to information posted by them on the USCF website, such as in the USCF Forums. This includes the option of temporarily or permanently banning an EB member or candidate from posting. The Election Committee may, at its discretion and convenience, post all candidate statements as they appear in *Chess Life* on the USCF website.

SECTION 14. NEPOTISM.

No two or more individuals may serve on the Executive Board concurrently who share one or more of the following relationships:

1. One is the direct descendant of the other.
2. They are spouses or partners in a civil union.
3. They are siblings, by birth, marriage, or adoption.
4. They are adopted children and parent or stepparent and stepchild.

Article VII: Other Officers, Appointees, and Committees

SECTION 1. OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

The Executive Board shall appoint an Executive Director and a Publications Director. The Executive Board shall also give approval to the hiring of a chief financial officer (CFO) by the Executive Director. The office of Secretary should not be an elected office, but rather the Executive Board designates a person to fulfill the functions of the Secretary.

A. Secretary. The Secretary shall review Minutes of all Executive Board meetings, Delegates' meetings, and Membership meetings. The Secretary shall post these Minutes, after Executive Board review, on the USCF website within six weeks for each meeting and shall mail the Minutes to all the Delegates and Alternate Delegates who request such mailing and pay a printing and mailing fee, set by the Executive Director, sufficient to offset the costs of printing and mailing. Printed copies of the Minutes of the Membership Meeting and Delegates' Meeting of the previous year, and of all Special Delegates' meetings and Executive Board meetings held thereafter, shall be available at the Delegates' meetings. The Executive Board shall determine a means of recording all meetings. The Secretary shall act as the custodian of the corporate seal, ensure that the annual report is filed with the Secretary of State of the state of Illinois, and perform such other duties as are prescribed by the Bylaws.

SECTION 2. DUTIES OF APPOINTEES.

The duties of Officers appointed by the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and other Executive Board appointees shall be set forth in written memoranda by the Executive Board. Copies of said memoranda shall be added to the minutes for dissemination to the Delegates.

SECTION 3. COMMITTEES.

A) The Board of Delegates shall appoint the following Standing Committees:

1) Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall consist of four persons; the Vice President for Finance as a non-voting member and three members elected by the delegates from among the delegates and alternate delegates who are knowledgeable in accounting matters such as (but not limited to) a certified public accountant (CPA), a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) or someone who has substantial experience in the public or private sectors. No other member of the Executive Board may be a member of the Audit Committee. The duties of the Committee shall be:

- a)** To advise the EB on the appointment of the External Auditors, the audit fee, the provision of any non-audit services by the External Auditors and any questions of resignation or dismissal of the External Auditors.
- b)** To discuss, if necessary, with the External Auditors before the audit commences the nature and scope of the audit.
- c)** To discuss problems and reservations arising from interim and final audits and any questions the External Auditors may wish to discuss (in the absence of management, where necessary.)
- d)** To consider and advise the EB on the establishment of the internal audit service and Head of Internal Audit, if any.
- e)** To review the internal audit plan, to consider major findings of internal audit investigations and management's response and to promote coordination between the Internal and External Auditors and to advise the EB and the Delegates accordingly.

f) To keep under review the effectiveness of internal control systems and, in particular, review the External Auditors' Management Letter, the Internal Annual Report and management responses and to advise the EB accordingly.

g) To monitor the performance and effectiveness of external and internal audit.

h) To consider, if necessary, the draft of the Audited Financial statements.

i) To monitor annually or more frequently, if necessary, the implementation of approved recommendations arising from internal audit reports, external audit reports and management letters and to advise the EB accordingly.

j) To oversee arrangements made by the Executive Board for the internal audit service and the External Auditors to examine the agency-wide financial statements.

k) To advise the Executive Director, as requested.

l) To report, as appropriate, to the Executive Board.

m) To advise the Delegates as requested and to report, as appropriate, to the Delegates.

2) Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall choose its own chair.

3) Election Committee. The Election Committee shall consist of 4 members appointed by the Delegates. Alternate members may also be appointed who would replace any member of the committee who resigns or otherwise leaves the committee. The committee is responsible for the conduct of and shall preside over Federation elections. No member of the Election Committee may be a candidate for the USCF Executive Board during his or her service on the Election Committee. No member of the Election Committee may sign nominating petitions for any candidate for the Executive Board, campaign on behalf of any candidate, or make an endorsement for or against any candidate for the Executive Board. The Committee shall choose its own Chair.

4) Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee shall choose its own chair.

B) The Delegates may appoint any other committees as needed. The Executive Board may appoint such subcommittees of the Board or committees as it deems appropriate.

C) Except as provided elsewhere, in the event of a vacancy on a Delegate-appointed Committee, the committee and Executive Board may appoint a replacement. Such appointment requires a 2/3 majority of each of the remaining committee members and the Executive Board.

D) No individual member can chair more than one of the following at the same time: Audit Committee, Finance Committee, or the Life Member Asset Trust Board of Trustees.

E) No individual other than the Vice President–Finance can serve on more than two of the following at the same time: Audit Committee, Finance Committee, or the Life Member Asset Trust Board of Trustees.

SECTION 4. COUNSEL.

Legal Counsel shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

SECTION 5. ELIGIBILITY.

None of the National Officers (including members of the Executive Board and Executive Director) shall be officers of other sports organizations recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as a national governing body.

Article VIII: Organizational Units.

SECTION 1. STATE CHAPTERS.

Every state (the District of Columbia being treated as a state for all Federation purposes and Northern and Southern California being treated as separate states for all Federation purposes) shall be entitled to have an affiliate designated as the State Chapter, provided that any state having more than 5000 members may have two state chapters divided along geographical lines. Credentials of affiliates applying for designation as State Chapters submitted before June 1 shall be presented by the Executive Board to the Board of Delegates with recommendations, if any, one month before the next Annual Meeting. Credentials submitted after June 1 shall be presented by the Executive Board to the Board of Delegates one month before the Annual Meeting of the following year.

SECTION 2. FUNCTIONS.

Each State Chapter shall guide the chess activity within the state in a manner that provides representation to all groups of chessplayers within its state. Each State Chapter shall nominate Delegates and Alternate Delegates as provided in Article V Section 4 of these Bylaws. Each State Chapter shall fulfill other responsibilities as the Board of Delegates may from time to time designate.

SECTION 3. AFFILIATES.

Any organization of chessplayers may affiliate with the Federation upon payment of the fee of \$40 per year. Any organization of chessplayers who are exclusively scholastic players may affiliate with the Federation as a Scholastic Affiliate upon payment of the fee of \$40 per year. Any organization of chessplayers who are incarcerated in a penal institution may affiliate with the Federation as a Prison Affiliate upon the payment of the fee of \$15 per year. Affiliation does not constitute the affiliate as an agent of the USCF for any purpose.

SECTION 4. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

Each affiliate shall:

- (a) receive a subscription to *Chess Life*;
- (b) be entitled to conduct USCF-rated tournaments in accordance with USCF tournament rules;
- (c) be privileged to issue Federation memberships per Article III above, and to collect and forward to the USCF headquarters the membership application forms and associated dues amounts due therefrom.

SECTION 5. REVOCATION.

The Executive Board may, subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 13, revoke or suspend the affiliation of any affiliate for good cause shown.

Article IX: Sundry Bylaws

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.

These Bylaws have been adopted by the Delegates under the authority of the charter issued to the United States of America Chess Federation by the State of Illinois.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Delegates present at an Annual or a Special Delegates' meeting except that any proposal not specifically included in the Delegates' advance agenda shall require a 2/3 majority vote to pass.

SECTION 3. OFFICE.

The registered office of the Federation shall be at such address in the State of Illinois as is designated by the Executive Board.

SECTION 4. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

The Federation is the official USA unit of FIDE and shall be represented officially in all FIDE affairs by a Permanent Delegate appointed by the Executive Board.

SECTION 5. PUBLICATIONS.

Chess Life, a periodical, or its successor publication, is designated an official publication.

SECTION 6. FISCAL PERIOD.

The Fiscal period shall be the year ended May 31.

SECTION 7. FUND DEPOSITORIES AND DISBURSEMENTS.

All funds, other than Life Member Assets, shall be deposited in one or more federally insured depositories, or other vehicles approved by the Executive Board, disbursable only by withdrawal authorized by two or more of the following: President, Vice President for Finance, Executive Director, and such senior staff as the Executive Board shall designate. The Executive Board may authorize petty cash accounts, whose amounts may not exceed \$500.00, and disbursable only by check signed by one of the above, or any two employees approved by the Executive Board.

SECTION 8. ACCOUNTANTS.

Early in each fiscal year the Executive Board shall engage properly qualified independent certified public accountants to review the Federation's accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

SECTION 9. ENCUMBRANCE.

A.) No asset of the Federation may be encumbered without the approval of the Executive Board or Board of Delegates, except as provided in Section 10 below, and any mortgage, loan, or borrowing agreement must be signed by at least two of the following: President, Vice President for Finance, Executive Director.

B.) Any land and /or buildings, owned by the USCF cannot be sold, encumbered, liened, or mortgaged, in any fashion, without approval by the Delegates at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose, except as provided in Section 10 below.

SECTION 10. LIFE MEMBER ASSETS MANAGEMENT.

When a trust has been established for the management of Life Member assets, the trust can only be revoked or amended by a 2/3 vote of the Delegates present at an Annual or Special Delegates' Meeting provided that a proposal to revoke is included in the Delegates' advance agenda. Upon revocation all assets will revert to the USCF.

SECTION 11.

The Federation will publish an annual report within four months of the end of the fiscal year. The report will contain, among other things, a complete presentation of the audited financial statements.

SECTION 12. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

Each member of the Board of Delegates, Executive Board, national officer (hereinafter "officer"), and employee of the corporation now or hereafter serving as such, shall be indemnified by the corporation against any and all claims and liabilities to which he or she has or shall become subject by reason of serving or having served as such delegate, director, officer, or employee or by reason of any action alleged to have been taken, omitted, or neglected by him or her as such a director, officer, or employee; and the corporation shall reimburse each such person for all legal expenses reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with any such liability, provided, however, that indemnification shall be limited to cases in which such person acted

in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal act or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful; and provided further, however, that as a member of the Board of Delegates such a person shall only be indemnified for his or her acts or omissions at an Annual or Special Meeting of the Board of Delegates and not for any local or other activities.

To the extent that a delegate, director, officer, or employee of the corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he or she shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith.

Any indemnification against any and all claims (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the delegate, director, officer, or employee, is proper in the circumstances because he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. Such determination shall be made (A) by the Board of Delegates by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of delegates who were not parties to such action, suit, proceeding, or claim, or (B) if such a quorum is not obtainable, or, even if obtainable, a quorum of disinterested delegates so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion.

The right of indemnification herein above provided for shall not be exclusive of any rights to which any delegate, director, officer, or employee of the corporation may otherwise be entitled by law, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a delegate, director, officer, or employee, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of such a person.

The corporation shall have power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a delegate, director, officer, or employee, or agent of the corporation, against any liability asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liability under the provisions of this article.

SECTION 13. RATIFICATION OF VOIDABLE ACTS.

Any transaction questioned in any suit brought by any member on the grounds of lack of authority, defective or irregular execution, adverse interest of any director, officer, employee, or member, nondisclosure, miscomputation, or the application of improper principles or practices of accounting may be ratified before or after judgment by the Board of Directors and, if so ratified, shall have the same force and effect as if the questioned transaction had been originally duly authorized, and said ratification shall be binding upon the corporation and its members and shall constitute a bar to any claim or execution of any judgment in respect of such questioned transaction.

SECTION 14. RELIANCE ON RECORDS.

Each director, officer, Delegate, or employee shall in the performance of his or her duties be fully protected in relying in good faith upon the books of account or reports made to the corporation by any of its officials, or by an independent Certified Public Accountant, or by an appraiser selected with reasonable care by the Board of Delegates, or in relying in good faith upon other records of the corporation.

SECTION 15. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be used at all meetings of the membership, Board of Delegates, Executive Board, in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules which have been adopted.

SECTION 16. NON-DISCRIMINATION.

Participation in chess shall be open to athletes, coaches, trainers, team captains, managers, seconds, and analysts without discrimination.

SECTION 17. NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS AS USCF EMPLOYEES.

For purposes of the bylaws, a tournament director at a National Tournament who is not already a USCF employee shall not be considered a USCF employee.

SECTION 18. MODIFICATION OF THE OFFICIAL RULES OF CHESS.

A change of U.S. Chess Federation's Rules of Chess shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the Delegates present to pass.

SECTION 19. SEVERABILITY.

If a court of competent jurisdiction shall hold a portion of these Bylaws to be invalid, the remainder of the Bylaws not so held invalid shall remain in full force and effect.

Revision Date: 1/24/16

NOTES

Motions of the US Chess Executive Board in FY 2015-2016

MOTION #	SPONSOR	DATE/METHOD	SUBJECT	DISPOSITION
EB16-001	Board	08/09/15 M	Officers Named	PASSED 7-0
EB16-002	Board	08/09/15 M	Committee Chairs and Liaisons	PASSED 7-0
EB16-003	Board	08/09/15 M	Committee Membership Changes	PASSED 7-0
EB16-004	Walters, Atkins	08/09/15 M	Anti-Cheating Committee	PASSED 7-0
EB16-005	Belakovskaia	08/09/15 M	Corporate Connections Task Force	PASSED 7-0
EB16-006	Board	08/09/15 M	Special Needs and Circumstances Committee	PASSED 7-0
EB16-007	Board	08/09/15 M	Growth and Retention Task Force	PASSED 7-0
EB16-008	Walters	08/09/15 M	Disband the Governance Task Force	PASSED 7-0
EB16-009	Priest, Hoffman	08/09/15 M	Adopt a 401K Plan for Eligible Employees	PASSED 7-0
EB16-010	Walters	08/09/15 M	Add Sophia Rohde to Hall of Fame Committee	PASSED 7-0
EB16-011	Walters	08/09/15 M	Add Boyd Reed to the FIDE Events Committee	PASSED 7-0
EB16-012	Haring	08/09/15 M	Add Ken Regan, Jon Haskel to FIDE Events Comm.	PASSED 7-0
EB16-013	Atkins	08/11-12/15 E	TD Certification Rule 17 change in Rulebook	PASSED 7-0
EB16-014	Atkins	08/11-17/15 E	Add Ernie Schlich back to the Rules Committee	PASSED 7-0
EB16-015	Haring	08/19/15 E	Member Acquisition and Retention Task Force	PASSED 7-0
EB16-016	Belakovskaia	08/16-09/01/15 E	Add Fun Fong and Eric Vigil to Outreach Comm.	PASSED 7-0
EB16-017	Nietman	09/10-11/15 E	Approval of Minutes of August EB Meetings	PASSED 7-0
EB16-018	Bauer	09/16-18/15 E	Publications Committee Membership Change	PASSED 7-0
EB16-019	Atkins	11/21/15 M	Accept Resignation of Senior Comm. Chair	PASSED 7-0
EB16-020	Haring	11/21/15 M	Change Name of NGIT to NGTOC	PASSED 7-0
EB16-021	Haring, Belakovskaia	11/21/15 M	Females as Underserved Community	PASSED 7-0
EB16-022	Haring	11/21/15 M	Texas Tech Scholarship for NGTOC	PASSED 7-0
EB16-023	Walters	11/21/15 M	Committee Member-At-Large Resignations	PASSED 6-1
EB16-024	Nietman	11/21/15 M	Electronic Devices at Pan Am Intercollegiate	PASSED 7-0
EB16-025	Nietman	11/21/15 M	Player Eligibility at Pan Am Intercollegiate	PASSED 7-0
EB16-026	Atkins	11/21/15 M	TD Certification Change	PASSED 7-0
EB16-027	Board	11/21/15 M	Ethics Committee Decision	PASSED 5-1-1
EB16-028	Belakovskaia	11/21/15 M	Corporate Connections Task Force	PASSED 7-0
EB16-029	Priest	11/21/15 M	National Event Advisory Committee	PASSED 6-1
EB16-030	Belakovskaia	11/22/15 M	Support for World Senior and Women's World Sr.	PASSED 5-2

MOTION #	SPONSOR	DATE/METHOD	SUBJECT	DISPOSITION
EB16-030A	Bauer	11/22/15 M	Motion to table 16-030 before final vote	FAILED 3-4
EB16-031	Belakovskaia	11/22/15 M	Status of Benefits of Chess Research	PASSED 7-0
EB16-032	Priest	11/22/15 M	National Event Advisory Committee Members	PASSED 5-0
EB16-033	Priest	11/22/15 M	401K Plan Trustee	PASSED 5-0
EB16-034	Priest	11/22/15 M	401K Plan Investment Options	PASSED 5-0
EB16-035	Priest	11/22/15 M	401K Plan Sponsor Review of Investment Options	PASSED 5-0
EB16-036	Nietman	12/10-17/16 E	Scholastic Regulations	PASSED 6-1
EB16-037	Hoffman	12/23/15-01/11/16 E	Invitational Requirements	PASSED 7-0
EB16-038	Atkins	01/13-23/16 E	Money Based Floors	PASSED 4-3
EB16-039	Priest	02/20/16 C	Regions Bank Savings Account	PASSED 6-0
EB16-040	Nietman	01/23-02/20/16 C	Accept Minutes of November EB Meeting	PASSED 7-0
EB16-041	Priest	01/26-02/20/16 C	Repeal Motion EB-030	FAILED 3-4
EB16-042	Priest	01/26-02/20/16 C	Senior Travel Stipend	PASSED 6-0
EB16-043	Atkins	02/20/16 C	Add NTD Rudy Abate to TDCC	PASSED 7-0
EB16-044	Atkins	01/29-02/20/16 C	Procedure for adding Committee Members	PASSED 5-1
EB16-045	Haring	02/20/16 C	Rescind Motion PB97-29 re: Regional Commitment	PASSED 6-0
EB16-046	Haring	02/20-25/16 E O	Add Gabby Kay to Women's Committee	NO OBJ
EB16-047	Hoffman	02/29-03/01/16 E	Royle Printing Agreement	PASSED 7-0
EB16-048	Hoffman	03/15-17/16 E	Millionaire Chess Agreement	PASSED 7-0
EB16-049	Hoffman	02/22-03/15/16 E	USATE Agreement	PASSED 7-0
EB16-050	Atkins	03/20-27/16 E	Name William Daly Senior Committee Chair	PASSED 7-0
EB16-051	Nietman	03/31-04/09/16 E	Accept Minutes of February EB Meeting	PASSED 6-0
EB16-052	Hoffman	04/14-27/16 E	FIDE Ratings Fees and Policies	PASSED 7-0
EB16-053	Priest	05/14/16 M	Auditors	PASSED 6-0
EB16-054	Priest	05/14/16 M	Approve Budget	PASSED 6-0
EB16-055	Priest	05/14/16 M	Contribution to Employee Plan	PASSED 6-0
EB16-056	Priest	05/14/16 M	Transfer LMA Account from Oberweis to Scottrade	PASSED 6-0
EB16-057	Bauer	05/14/16 M	Add Claudia Munoz to Website Advisory Comm.	PASSED 6-0
EB16-058	Bauer	05/15/16 M	US Chess Development Committee	PASSED 6-0
EB16-059	Bauer	05/15/16 M	FIDE Zonal President	PASSED 4-0-2
EB16-060	Priest	05/15/16 M	Reimburse FIDE Meeting Expenses for our Reps	PASSED 6-0
EB16-061	Board	05/15/16 M	Affirm Ethics Committee Decision	PASSED 6-0
EB16-062	Board	05/15/16 M	2016 Awards	PASSED 6-0
EB16-063	Bauer	05/15/16 M	Accept US Chess Sales Bookstore Bid	PASSED 6-0
EB16-064	Bauer	05/15/16 M	Accept Northwest Designs T-Shirt Bid	PASSED 6-0
EB16-065	Hoffman	04/11-05/25/16 E	Additions to Website Advisory Committee	PASSED 6-0
EB16-066	Nietman	05/26-06/06/16 E	Approve Minutes of the May EB Meeting	PASSED 6-0
EB16-067	Hoffman	06/07-08/16 E	Chess Federation Sales, Inc. Agreement	PASSED 6-1

The following nine motions arose from the closed session of the first meeting of the 2016 EB, which took place on Sunday, August 09, 2015, at the Arizona Biltmore Resort in Phoenix, Arizona. They were voted on in open session later the same day.

EB16-001 - BOARD

The Executive Board names the following officers for 2015-2016: - **PASSED 7-0**

President	Gary Walters
Vice President	Randy Bauer
Vice President of Finance	Allen Priest
Secretary	Mike Nietman

EB16-002 - BOARD

The Executive Board names the following committee liaisons and chairs for 2015-2016: **PASSED 7-0**

*=Please note that the Anti Cheating Committee (See EB16-004), the Corporate Connections Task Force (See EB16-005), the Special Needs and Circumstances Committee (See EB16-006), and the Growth and Retention Task Force (See EB16-007,15) were not included in this motion but were added in subsequent motions as shown. TBD indicates To be determined.

**Please note that the name of the Growth and Retention Task Force was changed in EB16-015 to "Membership Acquisition and Retention Task Force" (MAR Task Force).

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EB LIAISON
Anti-cheating*	TBD	TBD
Audit (DEL)	Bill Brock	Allen Priest
Awards	John Donaldson	Randy Bauer
Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions	Jon Haskel, Stephen Shutt Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman
Bylaws (DEL)	Harold J. Winston, Guy Hoffman Co-Chairs	Allen Priest
Chess in Education	John Buky	M. Nietman, A. Belakovskaia
Clubs	Sevan Muradian	A. Priest, A. Belakovskaia
College Chess	Al Lawrence	Mike Nietman
Corporate Connections Task Force*	TBD	Anjelina Belakovskaia
Correspondence Chess	Brad Rogers	Gary Walters
Cramer Awards	Frank Brady	Randy Bauer
Denker Invitational	Stephen Shutt, Jon Haskel Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman
Election (DEL)	Ken Ballou	Randy Bauer
Ethics (DEL)	Alex Relyea	Gary Walters
FIDE Events	Carol Jarecki	Ruth Haring
Finance	Jim Bedenbaugh	Allen Priest
Forum	Bob Messenger	Randy Bauer

Growth & Retention Task Force (MAR)*,**	John McCrary	Ruth Haring
Hall of Fame	Harold J. Winston	Gary Walters
Hall of Records	TBD	Mike Nietman
International Affairs	Michael Khodarkovsky	Ruth Haring
Military	Colonel Mike Hoffpaur, U.S. Army (ret)	Ruth Haring
Outreach	Myron Lieberman	Anjelina Belakovskaia
Player Opportunity Fund	TBD	Gary Walters
PPHB Fund Management	John Donaldson	Allen Priest
Prison	Steve Frymer	Ruth Haring
Publications	John Hartmann	Randy Bauer
Ratings	Mark Glickman	Mike Atkins
Rules	David Kuhns Chair, Kenneth Sloan Vice-Chair	Mike Atkins
Scholastic Chess Council	Mike Hoffpaur, Beatriz Marinello Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman
Senior	Mike Eberhardinger	Mike Atkins
Special Needs and Circumstances*	TBD	Ruth Haring
States	Guy Hoffman	Mike Atkins
Top Players	Camilla Baginskaite	Ruth Haring
Tournament Director Certification (TDCC)	Jeff Wiewel, Chair, Tim Just, Vice Chair	Mike Atkins
U.S. Open	Hal Terrie III	Randy Bauer
Web Site Advisory (WSAC)	Boyd Reed	Mike Nietman
Woman's Chess	Janelle Losoff, Maureen Grimaud Co-Chairs	Ruth Haring, A. Belakovskaia

EB16-003 - BOARD

The Executive Board makes the following committee membership changes: **PASSED 7-0**

- a. Publications: Add Ramon Hernandez
- b. FIDE Events: Add Jon Haskel, Mike Atkins, Ken Regan
- c. Prison: Add Larry Storch, Scout Veitch, Shawn Johnson and Will Barela
- d. Women's: Add Nisha Digs, Kimberly Doo, Jennifer Smith, Sophia Rohde and Martha Underwood
- e. Chess in Education: Remove Tony Pabon
- f. States: Remove Harvey Lerman
- g. Rules: Add Bob Messenger, Steve Immitt, David Hater. Remove Ernie Schlich
- h. Senior: Add Gordon Simons
- i. Denker: Add Al Lawrence. Remove Joe Lux
- j. Barber: Add Al Lawrence. Remove Joe Lux

k. Scholastic: Add Garrett Scott to the Scholastic Council and move Elizabeth Shaughnessy to the Committee

EB16-004 - WALTERS, ATKINS

Move to create an Anti-Cheating Committee with Al Losoff, Mike Hoffpauir and David Kuhns as members with additional members and a chair to be named. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-005 - BELAKOVSKAIA

Create a Corporate Connections Task Force that will eventually form a committee with the charter to identify opportunities to partner with corporations in the areas of leadership development, critical thinking, decision making and problem solving. Anjelina Belakovskaia will be the liaison. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-006 - BOARD

The Executive Board moves to form a Special Needs and Circumstances Committee for the purpose of enjoying the benefits of serious chess in a tournament environment. Members and a chair will be named later. Ruth Haring as liaison. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-007 - BOARD

The Executive Board creates a Growth and Retention Task Force with the purpose of improving the membership growth and retention rate of members. Ruth Haring will be the liaison. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-008 - WALTERS

Disband the Governance Task Force (GTF). **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-009 - PRIEST, HOFFMAN

Allen Priest and Jean Hoffman move to adopt a 401(k) plan for eligible employees of the US Chess Federation using the Vanguard Small Plan 401(k). **PASSED 7-0.**

The above motions arose from discussions in closed session. The next three motions originated in open session.

EB16-010 - WALTERS

Add Sophia Rohde to the Hall of Fame Committee. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-011 - WALTERS

Add Boyd Reed to the FIDE Events Committee. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-012 - HARING

Add Ken Regan and Jon Haskel to the FIDE Events Committee. **PASSED 7-0.**

The TDCC by an 8-0 vote requested a change to Rule 17 in the USCF Rulebook. Mike Atkins moved by e-mail on 08/11/15 to accept their recommendation. The vote was completed the next day.

EB16-013 - ATKINS

Below is the resulting change in the rulebook language and I move that the EB accept the proposed change. **PASSED 7-0.**

REVISION (in its entirety)

17. Category B. - A USCF-rated Swiss system tournament or section of a tournament, except Category I, N, or A, drawing 100 or more entrants. Such tournaments or sections of tournaments may be directed by senior TDs. See also 32, Limitations. It is strongly recommended

that for these types of tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or "floor," problem solving procedures.

- Subcategory B1: A Category B tournament, or any one section considered as a stand-alone event, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category B requirements, where the TD is limited to solving problems and making rulings on the floor only (floor TD) for the entire tournament or any one section, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category B requirements.

- Subcategory B2: A Category B tournament, or any one section considered as a stand-alone event, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category B requirements, where the TD is limited to the duties of pairings in a back room capacity using a pairing program (back room TD) for the entire tournament or any one section, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category B requirements.

TD TIP: B, B1 or B2 TD experience credit can be claimed for an entire tournament meeting the requirements of a Category B tournament or for any tournament section (of any category tournament) that by itself, as a stand-alone section, would qualify as a Category B tournament.

Ernie Schlich had been inadvertently left off of the Rules Committee. When it was clarified that he wanted to remain on the Rules Committee Mike Atkins moved by e-mail on 08/10/15 to add Ernie Schlich back to the committee. The unanimous vote was completed on 08/17/15.

EB16-014 - ATKINS

I move to add back to the Rules Committee NTD/NA Ernie Schlich of Virginia. **PASSED 7-0.**

Ruth Haring moved to confirm the structure of the Member Acquisition and Retention Task Force.

EB16-015 - HARING

I move that the Member Acquisition and Retention Task Force be confirmed with: Chair: John McCrary, Members: Ryan Velez, Chuck Unruh, Jay Stallings and EB Liaison: Ruth Haring. **PASSED 7-0.**

At the request of Outreach Committee Chair Myron Lieberman Anjelina Belakovskaia moved by e-mail on 08/26/15 to add Fun Fong and Eric Vigil to the Outreach Committee. The vote was completed on 09/01/15.

EB16-016 - BELAKOVSKAIA

I move to add Fun Fong and Eric Vigil to the Outreach Committee. **PASSED 7-0.**

Mike Nietman moved the approval of the minutes of the August, 2015, meetings of the 2015 and 2016 Board by e-mail on September 10, 2015. Voting was completed the following day.

EB16-017 - NIETMAN

I move that we accept the minutes from our August 06, 2015, and August 09, 2015, meetings as previously distributed. **PASSED 7-0.**

Randy Bauer moved by e-mail on September 16, 2015, to accept Ramon Hernandez's request to resign from the Publications Committee. Voting was completed on September 18, 2015.

EB16-018 - BAUER

I move that, at the request of the individual, Ramon Hernandez be removed from the Publications Committee. A replacement may be named at a later date. **PASSED 7-0.**

The Executive Board held a meeting in Norfolk, VA, on the weekend of 11/21-22, 2015. The following motions arose from that meeting.

EB16-019 - ATKINS

I move to accept the resignation of Mike Eberhardinger as chair and member of the Senior Committee. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-020 - HARING

I move to accept the tournament name change suggested by the Women's Committee for the National Girls Invitational Tournament. Note: The new name will be the "National Girls Tournament of Champions (NGTOC)". **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-021 - HARING, BELAKOVSKAIA

Moved, that the Executive Board, in its continuing effort to support underserved communities, formally recognize the female chess population as an "Under Served Community". **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-022 - HARING

I move to accept in principle the offer of the Texas Tech University scholarship for the National Girls Tournament of Champions and asks the office to work out the details. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-023 - WALTERS

I move that resignations of members at large of USCF committees do not require a motion by the Executive Board and will be administered by the office. **PASSED 6-1** with Mike Atkins opposed.

EB16-024 - NIETMAN

I move that the Executive Board accept the recommendation from the College Chess Committee to add a new rule regarding electronic devices to the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships: Official Tournament Rules document. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-025 - NIETMAN

I move the Executive Board accept the recommendation from the College Chess Committee to revise Rule 5 of section 2c of the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships: Official Tournament Rules document regarding player eligibility. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-026 - ATKINS

Mike Atkins moves that the Executive Board accept this proposed change in TD Certification from TDCC. **PASSED 7-0.**

32. Limitations. A senior TD may not be the Chief TD of Category N tournaments and should not be the Chief TD of Category A tournaments or of any tournament or section of a tournament expected to draw more than 300 players. Computer assisted Senior TDs may be the Chief TD of a tournament or section of a tournament (excluding category A or category N tournaments) expected to draw up to 360 players with the aid of one assistant TD.

EB16-027 - BOARD

(From closed session) The Executive Board affirms the decision of the Ethics Committee in the case of Breeding vs. Moon and accepts the two year membership suspension for Kyle Moon effective Monday, November 23, 2015. **PASSED 5-1-1** with Ruth Haring opposed and Allen Priest recusing himself.

EB16-028 - BELAKOVSKAIA

I move to add Beatriz Marinello, Vladimir Naroditsky, Rodney Thomas and AJ Steigman to the Corporate Connections Task Force. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-029 - PRIEST

I move that the Board create a National Event Advisory Committee. This committee is charged with:

- a. developing standard operating procedures for both the back room and the front side of national events;
- b. serving as an advisory committee to the Executive Director, National Events Director, Scholastic Council, Scholastic Committee, College Chess Committee, U.S. Open Committee and The Executive Board as to issues with the implementation of proposed changes in events and with potential changes in the standard operating procedures;
- c. proposing changes in the standard operating procedures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of tournament operations to the advised groups; and
- d. serving as a general resource for the National Events Director as needed.

The committee will consist of a small group of National Tournament Directors with significant experience in the administration of national events and US Chess staff involved in tournament administration to include the National Events Director. They will ask for the advice and assistance of others as necessary. **PASSED 6-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.

EB16-030 - BELAKOVSKAIA

I move to support the World Senior Championship and Women's World Senior Championship age 50 and 65 at the level of \$500 per event as long as the recipients play in the preceding U.S. Senior Open. **PASSED 5-2** with Randy Bauer and Allen Priest opposed. Please note: Randy Bauer moved to table this motion prior to the vote. The motion to table failed 3-4 with Randy Bauer, Mike Nietman, and Allen Priest in favor of tabling.

EB16-031 - BELAKOVSKAIA

I move that the Executive Board ask the Chess In Education Committee to provide the status of the current state of published and peer reviewed research of the benefits of chess in education. **PASSED 7-0.**

EB16-032 - PRIEST

Members of the National Event Advisory Committee will be National Events Director Franc Guadalupe, US Chess team member Susan Kantor, National Tournament Directors Mike Hoffpauir, Alan Losoff, and Allen Priest. **PASSED 5-0** with Randy Bauer and Anjelina Belakovskaia not present and not voting.

The next three motions, regarding the 401K plan, arose from closed session.

EB16-033 - PRIEST

I move that as the plan sponsor the board appoints the Executive Director as the 401K plan Trustee. **PASSED 5-0** with Randy Bauer and Anjelina Belakovskaia not present and not voting.

EB16-034 - PRIEST

I move that the Board recognizes the need to provide the lowest cost options and diversification for participants. The board adopts the

investment options highlighted in yellow listed in the board meeting exhibit for the Vanguard 401K Plan. If the plan does not qualify for the Admiral Shares of the plans listed we approve the use of the investor class shares of those funds. **PASSED 5-0** with Randy Bauer and Anjelina Belakovskaia not present and not voting.

EB16-035 - PRIEST

I move that the Board commits to a sponsor review of the investment options every year. The sponsor review may be done by the Trustee, the Personnel Committee, or the Executive Board as deemed necessary by the Trustee. **PASSED 5-0** with Randy Bauer and Anjelina Belakovskaia not present and not voting.

Mike Nietman presented the Scholastic Council's suggested 2016 US Chess Scholastic Tournament Regulations to the Executive Board by e-mail on December 10, 2015 and moved their approval. The vote was concluded on December 17.

EB16-036 - NIETMAN

I move that the EB accept the changes to the National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations as presented by the Scholastic Council. **PASSED 6-1** with Michael Atkins opposed. Please note:

The approved regulations can be found at:

http://www.uschess.org/images/stories/scholastic_chess_resources/us_chess-scholasticregs_jan2016.pdf

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail suggested changes to the requirements for participation in invitational events on December 23, 2015. After considerable discussion the vote was completed on January 12, 2016. The revised invitational requirements will replace the 2015 invitational requirements on the website.

EB16-037 - HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board approve the attached changes to the Invitational Requirements. **PASSED 7-0**.

Mike Atkins moved by e-mail on January 13, 2016, to increase money based rating floors, which raised a more general discussion of money based floors. The vote was completed on January 23 but related issues may remain.

EB16-038 - ATKINS

Moved,

1.) that the money-based floors in the rating system be reset to \$4,000 for the 1400-1500-1600-1700-1800-1900-2000 and 2100 levels.

2.) That any player, retroactive to October 1, 2015, who earned between \$2,000 and \$3,999.99 and was given a money based floor be reset back to their actual achieved rating after that tournament and all subsequent tournaments be re-rated.

3.) The \$4,000 limit will then take effect for the rest of US Chess starting April 1, 2016 and be advertised in *Chess Life* and an e-mail blast to TDs and Affiliates. **PASSED 4-3** with Anjelina Belakovskaia, Ruth Haring and Gary Walters opposed.

Discussions were started by e-mail on four motions in late January, however the votes were not completed by February 19. The motions were: Mike Nietman moved on 1/23/16 to approve the minutes of the November EB Meeting.

Allen Priest moved on 1/26/16 to repeal motion EB16-30 and to provide a travel stipend for the highest finishing U.S. players in the U.S. Senior Open who go to the World Senior and Women's World Senior championships. Michael Atkins moved on 1/29/16 to change the procedures for appointing committee members between scheduled EB meetings.

The EB met by conference call on February 20, 2016 to consider these and other motions. The final vote total includes votes made by e-mail and on the call. The following motions arose from that conference call:

EB16-039 - PRIEST

I move the EB authorize the office to take the steps necessary to set up a savings account at Regions Bank. This is being done to establish an additional banking relationship and to expand our coverage under the FDIC program. **PASSED 6-0** with Anjelina Belakovskaia absent and not voting.

EB16-040 - NIETMAN

I move that we accept the minutes of the November 21-22 EB Meeting. **PASSED 7-0**.

EB16-041 - PRIEST

I move to repeal motion EB16-030. **FAILED 3-4** with Mike Atkins, Randy Bauer and Allen Priest in favor and Anjelina Belakovskaia, Ruth Haring, Mike Nietman and Gary Walters opposed.

EB16-042 - PRIEST

I move to provide a \$500 travel stipend to the highest finishing U.S. flagged players in U.S. Senior Open in each of four categories—open age 50 and up, open age 65 and up, female age 50 and up and female age 65 and up. The travel stipend is only to be used to offset costs to participate in the succeeding World Senior Championship or Women's World Senior Championship. **PASSED 6-0** with Anjelina Belakovskaia absent and not voting. Please note that the above wording is the wording that passed and differs from the original e-mailed wording.

EB16-043 - ATKINS

Moved, that NTD Rudy Abate of NC be added to the TDCC. **PASSED 7-0**.

EB16-044 - ATKINS

Moved, that in between scheduled meetings of the EB, that appointments of regular committee members (non-chair or co/vice chair) will be presented by an EB member by e-mail who posts "Mr/Ms ____ will become a member of ____ committee in 5 days with no objections." These posts will continue to be all EB members, BINFO and Myron/Rachel Lieberman. **PASSED 5-1** with Ruth Haring opposed and Anjelina Belakovskaia absent and not voting.

The following motion was discussed in closed session and confirmed in open session afterward.

EB16-045 - HARING

Move to rescind PB97-29. **PASSED 6-0** with Anjelina Belakovskaia absent and not voting.

Please note: PB97-29, which is now rescinded, stated "\$100 per region is allocated for Women's and College Championships. Conflicts within regions will be settled by the Senior RVP in a region."

Ruth Haring moved on February 20, 2016, by Objections Procedure that Gabby Kay be approved as a member of the Women's Chess Committee.

No objections were received by February 25, so Gabby Kay is automatically approved as a member of the Women's Chess Committee with no need for a full vote.

EB16-046 - HARING

Move that Gabby Kay be approved as a member of the Women's Chess Committee. **PASSED** without objection.

Jean Hoffman moved approval of an agreement with Royle Printing by e-mail on February 29. The vote was completed on March 1.

EB16-047 - HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board approve the proposed agreement with Royle Printing. **PASSED 7-0.**

Jean Hoffman moved approval of an agreement with Millionaire Chess on March 15. The vote was completed on March 17.

EB16-048 - HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board approve the proposed agreement with Millionaire Chess. **PASSED 7-0.**

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on February 22 to approve the USATE agreement with the NJSCF. The vote was completed on March 15.

EB16-049 - HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the proposed USATE Agreement with the New Jersey State Chess Federation. **PASSED 7-0.**

The US Chess Senior Chess Committee chairmanship is currently vacant. Mike Atkins moved by e-mail on 03/20/16 that the vacancy be filled by Bill Daly of NM, who helped coordinate the Senior Workshop at the 2015 U.S. Open and is willing to accept the position.

EB16-050 - ATKINS

I move that William Daly (10004926) be named Chair of the Senior Committee. **PASSED 7-0.**

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on March 31, 2016, the approval of the minutes of the February EB Meeting. The vote was completed on April 9, 2016.

EB16-051 - NIETMAN

I move that we accept the February 2016 EB Meeting Minutes as previously distributed. **PASSED 6-0** with Anjelina Belakovskaia, who did not attend the meeting, abstaining.

After discussions and revisions to the motion Jean Hoffman moved an update to US Chess policies regarding FIDE ratings and fees by e-mail on April 14, 2016. The vote was completed on April 27, 2016.

EB16-052 - HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board authorize the following: **PASSED 7-0.**

Effective August 1, 2016:

US Chess will charge a \$60 administrative fee to US Chess affiliates for all FIDE rated events, except for those submitted by exempt organizations.

US Chess will offer a \$40 discount off the administrative fee for all FIDE events submitted with the FIDE rating reports prepared

using a pairing program that is compatible with FIDE requirements and the FIDE General Data Exchange Format (also known as the Krause format).

US Chess will charge affiliates the rating fees collected by FIDE and as defined by the FIDE Financial Regulations. The Executive Director or the ED's designee will adjust the fees on a monthly basis based on changes to FIDE policy, the current currency exchange rate and bank fees.

After January 1, 2017, US Chess will require affiliates to submit FIDE rating reports using a pairing program that is compatible with FIDE requirements and the FIDE General Data Exchange Format (also known as the Krause format). Any events not submitted in accordance with these standards will not be submitted to FIDE for rating and will be returned to the affiliate for re-submission in the proper format.

The Executive Board met in St. Louis on the weekend of May 14-15, 2016. The following motions were voted at that meeting. Motions EB16-053 through EB16-057 were voted on May 14, while motions EB16-058 through EB16-064 were voted after closed session discussions on May 15. **Please note that Gary Walters was not present at the meeting and did not vote on any motions.**

EB16-053 - PRIEST

I move to engage the Bible, Harris auditors for three years for a fee between \$12,000 and \$13,750 per year plus out of pocket fees. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB16-054 - PRIEST

I move to accept the 2016-2017 budget as presented. The budget must be presented to the delegates for approval. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB16-055 - PRIEST

I move that the Board authorizes the plan administrator to begin a 2% contribution of payroll for all eligible participants in the plan. This is to be effective as soon as possible. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB16-056 - PRIEST

I move that the Executive Board authorizes the office to take the necessary steps to close the Oberweis LMA account, transfer the funds and open an account with Scottrade in the name of the LMA Trust, the names of those authorized to trade in the account will be determined by the LMA Trust. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB16-057 - BAUER

I move to add Claudia Munoz to the Website Advisory Committee. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB16-058 - BAUER

I move that the Executive Board create an Executive Board committee called the "US Chess Development Committee" and the Executive Director is authorized to seek potential committee members whose membership on the committee the Executive Board will approve. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB16-059 - BAUER

I move that Ruth Haring be named FIDE Zonal President upon completion of the current Zonal President's term. **PASSED 4-0-2** with Anjelina Belakovskaia and Ruth Haring abstaining.

EB16-060 – PRIEST

I move that US Chess will reimburse its official representatives and U.S. zonal representatives for reasonable expenses related to FIDE meetings. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB16-061 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to affirm the Ethics Committee decision in the case of Hater (on behalf of Castle Chess, Inc.) vs. Thomas and rules that their recommendation of a reprimand be in effect and a six month probationary period for Mr. Thomas begin Tuesday, May 17, 2016. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB16-062 – BOARD

The Executive Board names the following 2016 award winners: **PASSED 6-0.**

2016 US Chess Award Winners

<u>Award</u>	<u>Winner(s)</u>
Distinguished Service	Bill Goichberg (NY), Dewain Barber (SCA)
Outstanding Career Achievement	Carl Dolson (IL), Riley Dan Driver (OH), Sharon Driver (OH), Larry Bell (KY), Roger Gotschall (IA) (Posthumously)
Special Services	David Moody (MI), John Hilbert (NY), Dennis Monokroussos (IN), Guy Hoffman (WI), David and Sheila Heiser (IL)
Meritorious Services	Mike Joelson (OH), Hans Multhopp (OH), Joe Riegsecker (IN), Roger Blaine (IN)
Committee of the Year	Women's Chess Committee
Chess City of the Year	Louisville, KY
Koltanowski Gold - i	Dr. Jeanne Sinquefield and Rex Sinquefield (MO)
Koltanowski Gold - ii	Frank P. Samford III (AL)
Scholastic Service (Individual)	Kevin Fite (MI)
Organizer of the Year	Alex Relyea (NH)
Frank J. Marshall Ambassador	GM Alex Onischuk (TX), GM Irina Krush (NY)
Grandmaster of the Year	GM Fabiano Caruana (MO)
Honorary Chess Mate	David Grimaud (SC)
Chess Club of the Year	Sacramento Chess Club
College of the Year	Oberlin College (OH)
Tournament Director of the Year	Tom Langland (NCA)
TD Lifetime Achievement	Walter Brown (TN), Sevan Muradian (IL) (Posthumously)
Outstanding Player Achievement	Jeffery Xiong (TX)
Outstanding Team Performance	2015 World Team Championship (GM Sam Shankland, GM Alex Lenderman, GM Alex Onischuk, GM Daniel Naroditsky, GM Varuzhan Akobian, Coach GM Gregory Kaidanov)
Woman Chessplayer of the Year	Carissa Yip (MA)
Special Friend of US Chess	Francis Slay (MO)

EB16-063 – BAUER

I move to accept the 2016-2017 book store bid from USCF Sales for a lump sum payment. The ED is authorized to negotiate a contract with them. **PASSED 6-0**

EB16-064 – BAUER

I move to accept the 2016-2017 T-shirt bid from Northwest Designs, Inc. The Executive Director is authorized to negotiate a contract with them. **PASSED 6-0.**

Jean Hoffman moved the addition of two members to the Website Advisory Committee on April 11, 2016. As the requirements to pass this motion by objections procedure per motion EB16-044 did not apply, the vote was finalized by e-mail on May 25, 2016.

EB16-065 – HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board add Brennan Price and Anand Dommalapati to the Website Advisory Committee. **PASSED 6-0** with Ruth Haring not voting.

Mike Nietman moved approval of the minutes of the May EB meeting by e-mail on May 26, 2016. The vote was completed on June 06, 2016.

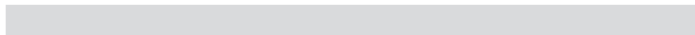
EB16-066 – NIETMAN

I move to approve the previously distributed minutes to the May, 2016 EB Meeting. **PASSED 6-0** with one Randy Bauer not voting.

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on June 7, 2016, to execute an agreement with Chess Federation Sales, Inc. The vote was completed the next day.

EB16-067 – HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the proposed agreement with Chess Federation Sales Inc. **PASSED 6-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.



2016 Delegates & Alternate Delegates

Delegate at Large (DAL), Additional Alternate Delegates (AAD), Current Executive Board Members (EB), Past Executive Board members (PEB) (These do not count toward State allocations.).

ALABAMA 1,1

DAL FRANK CAMARATTA
Del Gerald Larson
Alt Michael Ciamarra

ALASKA 1,1

Del
Alt

ARIZONA 3,3

EB ANJELINA
BELAKOVSKAIA
DAL MYRON LIEBERMAN
DAL RACHEL LIEBERMAN
Del Norman Saba
Del Michelle Martinez
Del Martha Underwood
Alt
Alt
Alt

ARKANSAS 1,1

Del Stephen J. Paulson
Alt

N. CALIFORNIA 7,7

EB RUTH HARING
Del Tom Langland
Del Joe Lonsdale
Del Richard Koepcke
Del Elizabeth Shaughnessy
Del James Eade
Del John McCumiskey
Del Judit Sztaray
Alt Salman Azhar
Alt Hunter Klotz-Burwell
Alt Swaminathan Sankar
Alt Stephen Shaughnessy
Alt John Donaldson
Alt Mark Pinto
Alt Jordan Langland
AAD FRANK ELLEY

S. CALIFORNIA 6,6

DAL RANDY HOUGH
DAL DEWAIN BARBER
Del Philip Chase
Del Charles Ensey
Del James Mennella
Del Steven Morford
Del Dylan Quercia
Del Guy Reams
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt

COLORADO 2,2

Del Richard Buchanan
Del Paul Covington
Alt Dean W. Brown
Alt Shirley Herman

CONNECTICUT 2,2

Del Jim Celone
Del David Aldi
Alt Bob Milardo
Alt

DELAWARE 1,1

Del
Alt

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 1,1

Del Salvador Rosario
Alt Ralph Mikell

FLORIDA 5,5

DAL ANTHONY COTTELL
Del Jon Haskel
Del Steve Lampkin
Del Harvey Lerman
Del William Bowman
Del Kevin Pryor
Alt Peter Dyson
Alt Steve Abrahams
Alt Robert Persante
Alt Steve Vigil
Alt Daaim Shabazz

GEORGIA 3,3

Del Fun Fong
Del Amrita Kumar
Del Deepak Aaron
Alt David Mbonu
Alt Victor Gann
Alt

HAWAII 1,1

Del Cornelius Rubsamen
Alt Guy P. Ontai

IDAHO 1,1

Del Alise Pemsler
Alt Jeff Roland

ILLINOIS 5,5

DAL HAROLD J. WINSTON
Del Tim Just
Del Bill Feldman
Del Garrett Scott
Del Kevin Taylor
Del Jeff Wiewel
Alt Bill Brock
Alt
Alt
Alt
AAD HELEN WARREN

INDIANA 2,2

Del Craig Hines
Del Terry Winchester
Alt
Alt

IOWA 1,1

EB RANDY BAUER
Del Christine Denison
Alt Robert Vance

KANSAS 1,1

Del Brian Yang
Alt C.J. Armenta

KENTUCKY 2,2

EB W. ALLEN PRIEST
Del Ryan Velez
Del Randas Burns
Alt
Alt

LOUISIANA 1,1

Del Leila D'Aquin
Alt Mario Rodriguez

MAINE 1,1

Del Andrew Bryan
Alt Dan Fishbein

MARYLAND 3,3

EB MICHAEL ATKINS
Del Chris Y. Kim
Del Larry Charles Kaufman
Del Michael W. Regan
Alt
Alt
Alt

MASSACHUSETTS 2,2

Del Kenneth Ballou
Del Robert Messenger
Alt Nathan Smolensky
Alt Stephen Dann

MICHIGAN 2,2

Del Stan Beckwith
Del Brad Rogers
Alt
Alt

MINNESOTA 2,2

Del David Kuhns
Del Jackson Wahl
Alt Ed Wahl
Alt Dan Voje

MISSISSIPPI 1,1

Del Mark O. Nicholas
Alt Alex Cibotarica

MISSOURI 2,2

Del Thomas Rehmeier
Del Bob Howe
Alt C.J. Armenta
Alt Bob Holliman

MONTANA 1,1

Del
Alt

NEBRASKA 1,1

Del John Hartmann
Alt

NEVADA 1,1

Del Janelle Losoff
Alt Tom Brownscombe

NEW HAMPSHIRE 1,1

Del Alex Relyea
Alt Hal Terrie

NEW JERSEY 4,4

DAL LEROY DUBECK
Del Hal Sprechman
Del Dov Gorman
Del Kevin Chen
Del Michael Khodarkovsky
Alt Joe Lux
Alt Todd Lunna
Alt
Alt
AAD E. STEPHEN DOYLE
AAD MAXIM DLUGY

NEW MEXICO 1,1

Del William Barela
Alt

NEW YORK-DOWNSTATE 7,7

DAL BEATRIZ MARINELLO
Del Brenda Goichberg
Del Dan Rohde
Del Sophia Rohde
Del Polly Wright
Del Carol Jarecki
Del Sunil Weeramantry

Del Joe Felber
Alt Ed Frumkin
Alt Dolly Teasley
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
AAD GARY H. SPERLING

NEW YORK-UPSTATE 4,4

DAL BILL GOICHBURG
Del Harold Scott
Del Shelby Lohrman
Del Steve Immitt
Del
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt

NORTH CAROLINA 4,4

Del Kevin J. Hyde
Del Jeffrey Mason Jones
Del Sarah R. Walsh
Del Venkataraja
Shanmugavadivel
Alt Cahyono Nugroho
Alt Walter High
Alt Rudolph D. Abate
Alt L. Thad Rogers

NORTH DAKOTA 1,1

Del Todd Wolf
Alt

OHIO 3,3

EB GARY WALTERS
Del Riley Driver
Del Sharon Driver
Del Joe Yun
Alt Evan Shelton
Alt Eric Gittrich
Alt Cunyed Tolek

OKLAHOMA 1,1

PEB CHARLES D. UNRUH
DAL JIM BERRY
Del James C. Gray
Alt Charles M. Unruh

OREGON 1,1

Del Carl Haessler
Alt Michael J. Morris

PENNSYLVANIA 5,5

Del Stephen D. Shutt
Del Stanley N. Booz
Del Daniel E. Heisman
Del Tom M. Martinak
Del Robert C. Ferguson, Jr.
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
AAD GERARD DULLEA

RHODE ISLAND 1,1

Del Frank Vogel
Alt Benjamin Swiszc

SOUTH CAROLINA 1,1

DAL JOHN McCRARY
Del David Grimaud
Alt David Causey

SOUTH DAKOTA 1,1

Del Jerry John Casteel
Alt Terry Likens

TENNESSEE 2,2

DAL HARRY SABINE
Del Chris Prosser
Del Angela McElrath-Prosser
Alt
Alt

TEXAS 13,13

DAL AL LAWRENCE
DAL TIMOTHY REDMAN
Del Luis Salinas
Del Jim Stallings
Del Forrest Marler
Del Barbara Swafford
Del Lakshmana Viswanath
Del Robert Jones
Del Eddie Rios
Del Victor Flores
Del Lori Balkum
Del Gary Gaiffe
Del Michael Langer
Del Russell Harwood
Del
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt

UTAH 1,1

Del David Day
Alt

VERMONT 1,1

Del Parker Montgomery
Alt Andrew Palmer

VIRGINIA 4,4

Del Mike Hoffpaur
Del Andrew Rea
Del
Del
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
AAD F. WOODROW HARRIS

WASHINGTON 2,2

Del Fred Kleist
Del
Alt
Alt

WEST VIRGINIA

Del Craig Timmons
Alt Sam Timmons

WISCONSIN 2,2

EB MIKE NIETMAN
Del Guy Hoffman
Del Sandra Hoffman
Alt
Alt

WYOMING 1,1

Del Brian Walker
Alt

US Chess Trust Report

By Harold J. Winston, Trust Chairman



THE CHESS TRUST LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH US CHESS to promote and encourage chess in this country. Last summer new Trust Managing Director Al Lawrence and I had a positive lunch meeting with Executive Director Jean Hoffman and soon to be US Chess President Gary Walters and we recently had a telephone meeting with them. The Trust is a 501(c)(3) Massachusetts Trust that supports chess nationwide by donating US Chess memberships and chess sets and boards to American schools. We also support scholastic chess by sponsoring the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions, with the aid of the Denker family, and the Dewain Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, with the aid of the Barber family. This year we are also contributing the cash prizes to the National Girls Tournament of Champions, held the same time as the Denker and Barber at the U.S. Open.

This has been a year of change for the Chess Trust. Joe Lux served as Managing Director for the first half of the year. He had ideas and enthusiasm, but it turned out he was not the right fit with the Trust. We wish Joe success on his career. The Trust was fortunate to welcome Al Lawrence as our new Managing Director. Al brings a wealth of chess experience, including service as US Chess Executive Director from 1988-1996 (including while I was US Chess President), being the sparkplug of the World Chess Hall of Fame when it was in Miami, Florida, Program Director of Texas Tech Chess, excellence in chess journalism, and most recently Chairman of the College Chess Committee of US Chess. He is now back home in New York State and thus the Trust can continue to use the same PO Box as before. The double transition was made much easier by the hard work and full cooperation of former Managing Director Barbara DeMaro. Her help was invaluable and it is noteworthy that she received a Special Service Award at the U.S. Open in 2015.

The Trust, in particular, and American chess as a whole, sustained a great loss in December 2015 when Trust founder Harold Dondis died while playing chess at the Boylston Chess Club. Harold Dondis was not only our longtime chairman, but consistently provided the Trust with excellent legal and ethical advice. Harold Dondis picked me as his successor when he stepped down as chairman in 2000 and I have tried to live up to his ideals. He is greatly missed by all who knew him.

The Trust now is donating a \$5,000 college scholarship to the winner of the Denker Tournament and Dewain Barber will be donating a similar scholarship through the Trust to the winner of the Barber event. I am pleased to announce that US Chess has obtained a matching scholarship for the winner of the National Girls Tournament of Champions (NGTOC) and the Trust will cover the cash prizes for the NGTOC. The Trust is happy to acknowledge the high degree of activity of the US Chess Women's Committee, led by Maureen Grimaud (SC) and Janelle Losoff (NV). The Trust enjoys working with Dewain Barber, Steve Shutt, and Jon Haskel in the Denker and Barber events. We were delighted that Dylan Denker, son of Mitchell Denker, and grandson of Arnold Denker, participated in the Denker ceremonies in Phoenix last year.

The Trust works with the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis and elects new members of the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame after nominations from the Hall of Fame Committee. As Trust Chairman, I was honored to induct Gata Kamsky and Maurice Ashley into the Hall of Fame on April 13 at the opening ceremony of the U.S. Championship and U.S. Women's Championship in St. Louis. Trustee Rex Sinquefield and his wife Jeanne were present as sponsors of the events, as was Trust Managing Director Al Lawrence. Al and I met with a number of museum officials in St. Louis.

The Trust continues to be the main sponsor of the Scholar Chessplayer Awards, with the support of Sunil Weeramantry's National Scholastic Chess Foundation. The 2016 award winners are IM Safal Bora (MI), WIM Agata Bykvtsev (CA), IM Akshat Chandra (NJ), IM Daniel Gurevich (GA), and NM Christopher Yang (PA). Congratulations to all, who receive \$1,500 scholarships based on chess and academic accomplishments.

The Trust is also proud to administer the Samford Fellowship Program, well led by IM John Donaldson. We salute the current Samford Fellows: GMs Samuel Sevian and Kayden Troff, whose terms continue to July 2017, and the newest Samford Fellow, GM Wesley So, the 2016 Samford Fellow.

The Trust also appreciates the continued commitment of Two Sigma and Booz Allen Hamilton to support the Collegiate Final Four and the work of Mike Hoffpaur of Virginia and Mark Herman of New York. Hoffpaur received the Dondis Award last year for his work for chess.

The advice of President Jim Eade (NCA) and Treasurer Leroy Dubeck (NJ) continues to be invaluable to me. Secretary Myron Lieberman (AZ) keeps track of the resolutions passed and handles the minutes. My thanks go to them and to all the other trustees for their involvement and ideas: Chess in Education VP Tim Redman (TX), Scholastic Chess VP Sunil Weeramantry (NY), Steve Doyle (NJ), Beatriz Marinello (NY), Stuart Chagrin (NY), Rex Sinquefield (MO), Dr. Norman Saba (AZ), and President Emeritus Shane Samole (FL). We miss former Trustee Mark Fins (MA), who remains a donor and is concentrating on his other work for chess. The work of Webmaster Dora Leticia, Web Editor Beatriz Marinello, and Website Chair Jim Eade is highly appreciated. Donations can be made through our website: www.uschesstrust.org, which also acknowledges donations for the memory of those for whom chess was important in their lives.

To contact our Managing Director, whether to request chess sets or memberships, or make legacy donations, contact al@uschesstrust.org. We welcome support for our many programs, including the Denker, Barber, NGTOC, and Scholar-Chessplayer Program. You can send checks to U.S. Chess Trust, PO Box 838, Wallkill, NY 12589. You can contact me at HJWinston@aol.com.

Our annual meeting is open to all on Thursday, August 4 at 4 p.m. in the U.S. Open hotel in Indianapolis. I will be happy to accept donations at the annual meetings.

FIDE Zonal President's Report

By Francisco L. Guadalupe

Our players continue to make great impact in Continental and World events. This report includes events that have concluded since August 1, 2015. As always, I am also including a list of players who earned FIDE titles by ratings or norms, as well as the players who were granted FIDE federation transfers.

2015 World Youth Chess Championship, Halkidiki, Greece, October 24 – November 6. The USA delegation consisted of 123 players in 12 divisions, nine coaches, and eight players from FIDE academies. It was the largest delegation ever for the USA. The increase is attributed to a change of US Chess policy to allow players who did not qualify by rating to participate coupled with, arguably, a very attractive location. Our players earned four medals: Carissa Yip (Girls U12) finished in a tie for first place but was awarded the silver medal on tiebreaks, David Peng (Open U12) finished in a three-way tie for first but was awarded the bronze medal on tiebreaks, Agata Bykovtsev (Girls U16) won a bronze medal and Justin Wang (Open U10) won a bronze medal, as well. Adi Murgescu (Open U8) tied for third place but missed the bronze medal on tiebreaks. Members of our delegation wore USA uniforms thanks to the generous sponsorship of Two Sigma.

2016 Women's Continental Championship, Lima, Peru, February 19 – 28. Our official representatives were WGM Tatev Abrahamyan and WIM Ashritha Eswaran. Ashritha won the bronze medal and made her second woman grandmaster norm, while Tatev finished in fifth place.

2016 Continental Championship, San Salvador, El Salvador, May 27 – June 6. Our official representatives at this event were GMs Aleksandr Lenderman and Sergey Erenburg. Alex had a great event, finishing in second place with 8½/11 which earned him a spot at the 2017 World Cup! Sergey tied for seventh place, 7/11, along with eight other players, including IM Awonder Liang. Awonder had a great event which included a second-round victory over the top seed, GM Lazaro Bruzón. For his efforts, Awonder achieved his first grandmaster norm! Also participating for the USA was Carlos Avalos.

51st International Capablanca Memorial, Premier, Varadero, Cuba, June 6 – 20, 2016. Although my report normally only covers events where players participated representing the U.S., I am including the Capablanca Memorial because the top two players under the age of 16 in the world, GMs Jeffery Xiong (FIDE 2627) and Samuel Sevian (2603), both from the U.S., were invited. Cementing his place as the World Best Under 16, Jeffery finished in clear first, 6½/9, in the 10-player round robin! It is worth noting that, at the present time, the top four World U16 players are from the U.S.: Xiong, Sevian, IM John Michael Burke and IM Ruifeng Li!

Upcoming Events

2016 Pan American U20 Chess Championships, Guatapé, Colombia, June 19 – 26. The event is currently in progress. Our representatives are IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy and Kesav Viswanadha in the Open division, and WIM Ashritha Eswaran (defending gold medalist) in the Girls division. The event is in progress as this report is prepared, so a final report will be presented at the Delegates Meeting.

2016 Pan American Youth Chess Championships, Montevideo, Uruguay, July 24 – 31. This event will conclude prior to the Delegates Meeting but a report will be presented at that time.

2016 World Junior and Girls U20 Chess Championships, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India, August 7 – 21. Our official representatives will be GM Jeffery Xiong and WIM Ashritha Eswaran.

2016 World Chess Olympiad, Baku, Azerbaijan, September 1 – 14. Our team members are as follows:

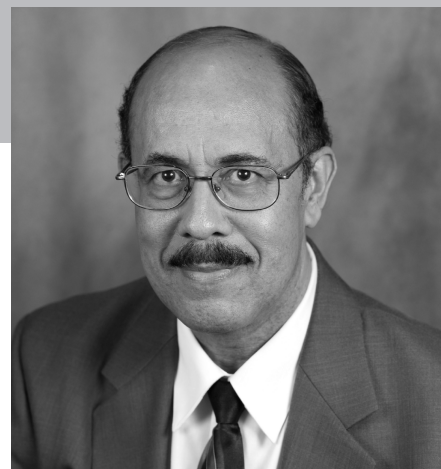
Open

GM Fabiano Caruana
GM Hikaru Nakamura
GM Wesley So
GM Ray Robson
GM Sam Shankland
IM John Donaldson (Captain)
GM Aleksandr Lenderman (Coach)

Women

GM Irina Krush
IM/WGM Anna Zatonskih
WGM Katerina Nemcova
IM/WGM Nazi Paikidze
WGM Sabina-Francesca Foisor
GM Yasser Seirawan (Captain)
GM Robert Hess (Coach)

WGM Tatev Abrahamyan qualified for the team but declined participation. She was replaced with WGM Foisor.



2016 World Youth Chess Championship (WYCC), Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, September 20 – October 4. The former World Youth Chess Championship has now been split into two separate events. The 2016 Championship includes only the U18, U16 and U14 sections, Open and Girls. Based on communications with players and parents, we are expecting approximately 20 USA players at this event. Updated information will be provided at the Delegates Meeting.

2016 World Cadet Chess Championship, Batumi, Georgia, October 18 – 31. This was the other half of the former World Youth Chess Championships and will only include the U12, U10 and U8 sections. Approximately 80 players have expressed interest but, as in the case of the WYCC, updated information will be provided at the Delegates Meeting.

New FIDE Titles Earned

Grandmaster: Jeffery Xiong

International Masters: Michael Bodek, Daniel Gurevich, Ruifeng Li, Eric Rosen, John Burke, Matthew Herman, Sean Vibbert, Awonder Liang

Woman International Master: Akshita Gorti

Internatiornal Arbiter: Steve Immitt

FIDE Arbiter: Anand Dommalapati, Michael Kummer, Luis Salinas, Rudolph Abate, Gregory Keener, Bryan Quick

FIDE Transfers

GM Ildar Ibragimov (2537, to Russia)
Aana Baksi (Unrated, to Singapore)
Lochana Bolisetty (FIDE rating 1186, from India)
Kaden Chan (1340, to Hong Kong)
Kirk Ghazarian (1920, from US Virgin Islands)
Elie Platnick (1449, from France)

Code of Ethics of the US Chess Federation (US Chess)

The Code of Ethics is Item 22 in the Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest which can be found on page 38.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. The purpose of this code of ethics is to set forth standards to which the conduct of players, tournament directors, sponsors, and other individuals and entities participating in the affairs of the United States Chess Federation (US Chess), including tournaments and other activities sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess, should conform; to specify sanctions for conduct that does not conform to such standards; and to specify the procedures by which alleged violations are to be investigated and, if necessary, the appropriate sanctions imposed.

2. The standards, procedures, and sanctions set forth in this code of ethics are not equivalent to criminal laws and procedures. Rather, they concern the rights and privileges of US Chess membership, including, but not limited to, the privilege of participating in tournaments, events, or other activities as a member of US Chess.

3. The standards, procedures, and sanctions set forth in this code of ethics shall apply only to actions and behavior by:

(A) members of US Chess, that occur in connection with tournaments or other activities sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess; and (B) individuals and entities acting in an official capacity as officers or representatives of US Chess. This code shall not apply to actions or behavior by employees of US Chess acting in the scope of their duties. Such actions fall instead under the province of the Executive Board.

4. Each member of US Chess and each participant in a US Chess activity shall be bound by this code of ethics.

THE US CHESS ETHICS COMMITTEE

5. The US Chess Ethics Committee is appointed in accordance with procedures consistent with the bylaws of US Chess. The committee exists to consider allegations of unethical conduct at or in connection with events sanctioned by US Chess, and allegations of unethical conduct involving US Chess and its activities, in accordance with the standards and procedures contained in this code. The committee will exercise all other duties as may be assigned by the Bylaws or by action of the US Chess Board of Delegates.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

6. The actions and behavior of individuals participating in US Chess activities, or in events sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess, shall be lawful and in accordance with all US Chess rules and regulations, and consistent with the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for the rights of others. The following is a list of examples of actions and behavior that are considered unethical. The list is not intended to be exhaustive, and any action or behavior that is unlawful or violates US Chess rules and regulations, or is

inconsistent with the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for the rights of others, may be considered to fall within the scope of this code of ethics.

- (a) Intentional violations of tournament regulations, or of any other regulations pertaining to USCF activities and goals, particularly after being warned.
- (b) Cheating in a game of chess by illegally giving, receiving, offering, or soliciting advice; or by consulting written sources; or by tampering with clocks; or in any other manner.
- (c) Deliberately losing a game for payment, or to lower one's rating, or for any other reason; or attempting to induce another player to do so. Deliberately failing to play at one's best in a game, in any manner inconsistent with the principles of good sportsmanship, honesty, or fair play.
- (d) Deliberately misrepresenting one's playing ability in order to compete in a tournament or division of a tournament intended for players of lesser ability; players with foreign ratings are expected to disclose those ratings.
- (e) Participating in a tournament under a false name or submitting a falsified rating report.
- (f) Participating in a tournament while under suspension.
- (g) Purposely giving false information in order to circumvent or violate any rule or regulation or goal recognized by US Chess.
- (h) Attempting to interfere with the rights of any US Chess member, such as by barring someone from entering a US Chess-sanctioned event for personal reasons. Generally, no individual should be barred from a US Chess-sanctioned event for which he or she meets the advertised qualifications, without appropriate due process, and then only for behavior inconsistent with the principles of this code and/or the rules of chess. If a ban on future participation is imposed, the individual should be notified of the ban prior to his attempting to appear at future events.
- (i) Violating federal, state, or local laws while participating in activities that are associated with US Chess.

PROCEDURES

7. Any US Chess member may initiate procedures under this code of ethics by filing a complaint in a timely manner with the US Chess Ethics Committee. A good-faith deposit of \$25 must be submitted by the complainant. The deposit shall be returned unless the Committee rules that the case is frivolous. The Committee may determine whether to return the deposit even before it determines jurisdictional and merit questions. The Committee may also, by a two-thirds vote, accept complaints submitted without the \$25 deposit.

In the case of any accusation that does not fall clearly under the Standards of Conduct above, the Ethics Committee shall have the

authority to decide whether the alleged conduct is within the scope of the code of ethics. In the case of each alleged violation that is within the scope of the code of ethics, the following steps shall occur in a timely manner:

- (a) A factual inquiry shall be made by the Ethics Committee, assisted as necessary by the US Chess staff. Previous findings of the Ethics Committee or other US Chess entities may be included among the evidence considered by the Ethics Committee, if relevant to the circumstances of the present case. As a part of such an inquiry, any person accused of unethical conduct shall have the right to examine the evidence against him or her, the right to respond to the accusation, and the right to produce written evidence in his or her behalf.
- (b) Appropriate sanctions, if any, shall be recommended to the Executive Board by the Ethics Committee. In recommending sanctions, the Ethics Committee may consider any previous ruling or finding of the Ethics Committee, or other US Chess entity, pertaining to the past conduct of the person being sanctioned. In recommending sanctions, the person being recommended for sanctions must be informed of this fact. Any person against whom sanctions have been recommended shall be promptly notified. If appeals are filed, the Ethics Committee shall be promptly notified.
- (c) Except as specified in 7(e) sanctions recommended to the Executive Board shall be deemed final unless appealed to the Executive Board by the person or persons upon whom the sanctions have been imposed, or upon the initiative of any member of the Executive Board. Such an appeal must be made within thirty days of the date that notification of recommended sanctions occurred, except that the Executive Board may extend the deadline for appeal if in its judgment an unavoidable delay in communications or other valid cause prevented a timely appeal. If an appeal has not been filed by the deadline the recommended sanctions shall be placed into effect.
- (d) Upon appeal, a review of the facts and the appropriateness of the recommended sanction shall be undertaken by the Executive Board. The person against whom the sanction has been recommended, as well as the person filing the initial complaint, shall be given notice of the time and place the Executive Board will review the case. The person against whom the sanctions have been recommended shall have the right to appear before the Board and present evidence. In all appeals the recommended sanctions imposed by the Ethics Committee shall not be in effect until the appeal hearing is completed. The recommended sanctions shall be either confirmed, modified, or revoked by the Executive Board.
- (e) If the person against whom sanctions have been recommended is a member of the US Chess Executive Board, he or she may not appeal the sanctions to the Executive Board, but may appeal to the US Chess Board of Delegates at its next scheduled meeting.
- (f) If any member of the Ethics Committee or of the US Chess Executive Board has a conflict of interest of any kind that might preclude objective participation in the consideration of any case, that person may not act in the capacity of a committee or board member on the case.

SANCTIONS

8. The following are some of the sanctions that may be imposed as a result of the procedures specified above. In unusual cases, other

appropriate sanctions may be imposed, or these sanctions may be varied or combined.

- (a) Reprimand. A determination that a member has committed an offense warranting discipline becomes a matter of record, but no further sanction is imposed at the time. A reprimand automatically carries a probation of at least three months, or longer if so specified. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during the probation, he or she is then liable to further sanctions for both offenses.
 - (b) Censure. A determination that a member has committed a serious offense warranting discipline becomes a matter of record, but no further sanction is imposed at the time. Censure automatically carries a probation of at least one year, or longer if so specified. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during the probationary period, he or she is then liable to further sanctions for both offenses.
 - (c) Suspended sentence with probation. A determination is made that the member has committed an offense warranting discipline. When the discipline is imposed and execution thereof suspended, such suspension shall include probation for at least six months longer than the discipline imposed. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during this period, unless otherwise decreed, the original discipline shall be added to such new discipline as may be imposed for the new offense.
 - (d) Suspension. Suspension is a determination that the member has committed an offense warranting abrogation, for a specified period of time, of all membership rights and privileges.
 - (e) Expulsion. Expulsion is a determination that a member has committed an offense warranting permanent abrogation of all membership rights and privileges. An expelled member may be readmitted to membership only by the US Chess Executive Board or by the US Chess Board of Delegates.
 - (f) Exclusion from events. This is a more selective determination that a member has committed an offense warranting abrogation of the right to participate in certain specified events or activities.
- 9.** If the person being sanctioned is a member of the US Chess Executive Board, the Ethics Committee may recommend to the Executive Board no sanctions other than censure or reprimand, but may also recommend to the Board of Delegates other actions.
- 10.** In the case of every sanction that involves suspension or expulsion, a member may not hold any office in US Chess or participate in any capacity in any event or activity sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess.
- 11.** The US Chess Business Office shall be informed in writing of all official determinations by the Ethics Committee, and shall record any recommendations of any sanctions. The US Chess Business Office shall inform the Executive Board of any sanctions recommended.

Implementation and modification history: the previous Code of Ethics was replaced in its entirety with the above Code by DM 97-16/ADM 97-24 and passed as amended at the 1997 Annual Meeting. This Code of Ethics was further amended by DM 98-71/ADM 98-80 and the amendments were passed at the 1998 Annual Meeting. This Code of Ethics was further amended by DM 99-75/NDM 99-68 and the amendments were passed at the 1999 Annual Meeting. This Code of Ethics was further amended by DM 04-22/ADM 04-16, DM 04-23/ADM 04-17 and DM 04-25/ADM 04-19 and the amendments were passed at the 2004 Annual Meeting. This Code of Ethics was further amended by DM 15-20/NDM 15-05 and the amendments were passed at the 2015 Annual meeting.

Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest

1. **Sites of USCF-Sponsored Tournaments.** Since the U.S. Chess Federation is open to all players, regardless of race, sex, creed, religion, or national origin, and is interested in promoting chess among all groups, all tournaments sponsored by USCF are to be conducted at sites accommodating the right to play of all USCF members. (1960)
2. **Tournament Coordination.** The USCF shall exert its influence through Officers to coordinate and schedule sanctioned tournaments sponsored by regional or state chess organizations (without conflict of time and place). (1964)
3. **Speed of Rated Games.** Any change in the speed of rated games requires approval by the Board of Delegates. (1971)
4. **Rating Lists and Supplements.** The Executive Board is required by the Delegates to publish annually the ratings of active players and to make available by download a bimonthly or monthly Supplement. Rating lists (annual lists and supplements) can be received via electronic media. (1972) (2002) (2006) (2011)
5. **Annual U.S. Championship.** It is the intent of the Board of Delegates that a U.S. Championship be held annually. (1972) (1982) (1983) (1997)
6. **Unfinished Delegate Business.** All motions not acted on by the Delegates at the Annual Meeting that deal with matters which the Executive Board can act on under the Bylaws, shall be acted upon by the Board. These actions shall be reported in the *Executive Board Newsletter* and at the next year's Delegates Meeting. (1978) Motions limiting the Executive Board or disagreeing with the decisions made by the Executive Board shall automatically retain their place on next year's Delegates Agenda. (1980)
7. **Smoking.** Tournaments which prohibit smoking in the playing room of a USCF-rated tournament shall be so indicated in the Tournament Life Announcement in *Chess Life*. Smoking is prohibited at the following National Tournaments: U.S. Open, National Open, U.S. Amateur, U.S. Junior Open, U.S. Class. There shall be no smoking permitted in any contract areas of all national scholastic tournaments. (1998)
8. **State Chapter Requirements and Recommendations.** The first four items of the following list are required of each State Chapter and the remaining items are recommendations for each State Chapter:
 1. Pay its affiliate membership when due and payable;
 2. Certify in writing to the USCF Secretary by the authorized date (November 1st) the Delegate(s) and Alternate(s), who shall be USCF members, and report how they were selected (i.e., appointed, elected);
 3. Directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) an annual USCF rated State Championship;
 4. Have a formal organizational structure as laid out in bylaws or articles of association which includes but is not limited specifying the governing authority and their selection, meeting schedule and purpose of the State Chapter, and provide opportunities for membership and participation by all USCF members residing in the State;
 5. Directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) annual USCF rated Scholastic State High School, Junior High or Middle School and Elementary School Championships;
 6. Directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) other chess tournaments throughout the State and be involved in tournament coordination within the State and with the USCF Tournament Clearinghouse Representative. State Chapters are to support chess throughout the state and exhibit geographical representation in its tournament sponsorship. Examples include but are not limited to statewide or geographically rotating; Rated Beginner Open tournaments, weekend Swisses, tornados, quads as well as: participation in National Chess Day Activities, Regional and/or National Championships;
 7. Disseminate a periodical that serves as a State chess journal preserving a record of chess activities, promotion events, identifying state officers and, in general, providing a regular mechanism for communicating with its membership. Examples include but are not limited to: State Bulletins, Newsletters or Magazines;
 8. Promote and publicize chess activities through various media, including but not limited to newspaper articles, television and radio coverage, flyers or notices at libraries, schools and veteran hospitals. Examples include but are not limited to: chess exhibitions and simultaneous, tournaments, chess lectures, chess lessons, chess columns and articles in local and statewide newspapers, chess clubs and meeting lists and announcements; and
 9. Responsibly act in the best interests of its entire State Chapter membership, encouraging and promoting chess activity statewide. The State Chapter affirms its intention to comply with the duties and responsibilities of credentialed State Chapters. (2010)
9. **USCF Regions.**
 - I. MA, CT, RI, NH, ME, VT
 - II. NY, NY
 - III. PA, MD, VA, WVA, DE, DC
 - IV. FL, GA, NC, SC

- V. OH, MI, IN, KY
- VI. MN, WI, ND, SD
- VII. IL, MO, IA, NE
- VIII. TN, AL, LA, MS, AR
- IX. CO, UT, KS, WY
- X. TX, OK, NM
- XI. SCA, NCA, AZ, NV, HI
- XII. WA, OR, ID, MT, AK

10. Paid Tournament Directors at National Tournaments. No Executive Board member shall serve as the paid TD of more than one USCF National Tournament or International Tournament during a calendar year unless the same opportunity has been declined by all non-members of the Executive Board who are qualified to direct the tournament. (1975)

No Executive Board member shall be awarded a paid directorship or concession at a National Tournament on which he/she participated in the award vote, except in the case of an uncontested bid. An Executive Board will not be restricted in the number of awarded paid directorships or concessions received at any National Tournament when the award vote and the acceptance of a paid directorship or concession for the National Tournament occurred before the Executive Board member was elected to office. (1984, 1993, 1994)

11. Tournament Cancellation. Tournaments announced in *Chess Life* may not be cancelled unless the cancellation notice appears in *Chess Life*. Cancellations which occur too late to appear in *Chess Life* are permitted only if it is physically impossible to hold the tournament (for example, in the case of extreme weather conditions). Cancellations for any other reasons without notice are not permitted. Disappointing advance entries do not constitute a valid reason for cancellation. Organizers violating this rule shall be prohibited from listing their tournaments in "Tournament Life" or advertising in *Chess Life* for 3 years. Exceptions can be made by the USCF President or Executive Director in extreme circumstances. (1979) (2002)

12. Chess Life.

GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION.

The goal of *Chess Life* shall be to promote the United States Chess Federation and chess in the United States and the world. *Chess Life* shall be the journal of record of chess play in the U.S.

As the Federation's most important means of communication to its members, and as the Federation's most visible service, the magazine should be as attractively and professionally produced as resources allow, making use of photography, artwork, cartoons, and other graphic devices, as warranted.

Mindful of our members and potential members, the wide range of playing strengths and interests represented therein, and our overall goal, *Chess Life* should present a comparable range of subject matter. Instructional analysis (aimed at a variety of skill levels), correspondence chess, reader opinion, non-technical (i.e., historical articles, fiction) and human-interest material (i.e., interviews), rules changes, national and international news, and providing coverage of international, national, and regional events, are suggested, but do not delimit areas of concentration.

Consistent with our stated goal, advertising in *Chess Life* is a service to readers as well as a significant source of revenue.

The editor and publisher (Executive Director) will be responsible for ensuring that the overall advertising content in *Chess Life* and

subject matter are appropriate. The editor and publisher, in their best judgment, have discretion to refuse any advertisement.

COMPOSITION OF CHESS LIFE.

The following items shall be required *Chess Life* content:

Chess Life should provide a regular section for announcements of upcoming tournaments. This Tournament Life section should be well-organized, informative, and as helpful as possible in order to encourage participation in USCF-rated events, particularly USCF titled events, Grand Prix events, and American Classic events.

In contested elections to the Executive Board, *Chess Life* shall publish a campaign statement of up to 110 words for each candidate in the July issue.

The January issue of *Chess Life* shall contain an annual rating list for over-the-board players.

The April issue of *Chess Life* shall be the yearbook issue containing general information about the USCF and about chess governance and activity in the U.S. Suggested content includes, but is not limited to, such things as names and addresses of significant individuals and organizations, top and busiest lists, and historical data.

RESPONSIBILITY.

Journalism is a public trust, which is best served by the protection of the public interest and the preservation of the credibility of the publication. The reader's right to know is best served when given accurate and complete, unbiased, and factual reporting. Opinion must never be confused with fact. Criticism must be supportable by factual evidence. The purpose and nature of such criticism must be demonstrably in the public interest and not serve merely to harass or discredit. Fairness dictates that a person whose actions are criticized must be given the timely opportunity to explain those actions or reply to the criticism, although practical considerations may not permit concurrent response.

The editor is hired by the USCF Executive Board. The editor will be accountable to the publisher for the performance of his duties in a timely, responsible, and professional manner.

The performance of the editor, with respect to the stated goal of *Chess Life*, will be subject to periodic review by the Executive Board. (1991)

YEARBOOK

(Annual Yearbook in *Chess Life*).

The Annual Yearbook be restored to either March, April, or May issue of *Chess Life*. (2001)

DELEGATE INFO

(*Chess Life* Publication).

The issue of *Chess Life* that appears in the March, April, or May shall contain the names and contact information of current USCF Delegates and Alternate Delegates. (2001)

13. Free Membership to Grandmasters and Woman Grandmasters. USCF memberships shall be awarded upon request to International Grandmasters, including Women Grandmasters, when it is determined by the Executive Director that a player is registering with FIDE as an American player; or when an American player is awarded the title by FIDE. (1980, 1991)

14. Profits from Scholastic Tournaments. Any profits generated by National Scholastic Tournaments that are earned by USCF will be retained by USCF and earmarked for Scholastic Chess. (1998)

15. Calling the Question. At USCF Delegates meetings, the practice of a speaker calling the question immediately after speaking to the merits of a motion shall not be permitted. (1993)

16. Review of DMs. At every Executive Board meeting, the Executive Board shall review the resolutions passed by the last annual Delegates' meeting to make certain those resolutions are being enforced. (1993)

17. Choosing Committees. It is the sense of the Delegates that committee chairmen shall be fully consulted prior to selection of committees and there shall be continuing consultation concerning committee membership and work through the liaison. (1994)

18. Presenting Committee Reports. All annual committee reports not published in the annual report will be presented to the Delegates after the published committee reports have been presented to the Delegates and will be limited to a ten minute presentation. (1994)

19. Investment of Life Membership Assets. The LMA Committee shall establish an investment policy that is expected to produce an aggregate return equaling or exceeding 6% on its invested assets (excluding the USCF office building). (2002)

20. Personnel. All Board-approved changes to employee compensation will be subject to a vote of the full Board and the vote will be recorded in open session. The text of any Board-approved change to employee compensation will be recorded as a confidential BINFO item.

Any Board-approved change to an employee incentive plan must be finalized no later than 90 days after the plan has been approved. Any Board-approved employee contract must have the signature of no fewer than one officer and one other Board member. Board-conducted employee reviews must be discussed and written before presented. (1997)

21. Standards of Conduct for the USCF Executive Board. The USCF Board of Delegates establishes the following standards of conduct for Executive Board members in the performance of their duties:

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

Members of the USCF Executive Board have responsibilities of the highest order for the promotion of chess and for stewardship of the resources of the USCF. In the execution of these responsibilities, they are expected to act lawfully and in accordance with USCF policy, and to adhere consistently to the principles of fairness, honesty, and respect for the rights of others. They are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner throughout the performance of all duties, contributing thereby to maximum effectiveness in the achievement of the goals of the USCF.

(1) Executive Board members are expected to contribute to the functioning of the Board as a cohesive unit, with information flowing comfortably among all its members. Actions that interfere with comfortable and open communication among all Board members should be avoided.

(a) All Board members have the right to receive all information pertinent to the making, monitoring, and implementation of USCF policy. Board member(s) should not withhold full and accurate information from other Board members, when that information is relevant to Board decisions or potential decisions. Where decision-making authority has been given to a specific officer by the Board or the Bylaws, that officer must keep all Board members fully and accu-

rately informed of all decisions made and factors influencing those decisions.

(b) All Board members have the right to be involved in the determination of all Board decisions. A Board majority has no authority except as a majority vote within the context of a properly called Board meeting. Board decisions must result from discussions in which all Board members have had the opportunity to participate.

(c) Board members are responsible for contributing to constructive communication within the Board. Board members are responsible to communicate directly with each other whenever there is misunderstanding or ill will, making strenuous efforts to resolve the issue amicably through such communication, before making the dispute public.

(2) The Executive Board is responsible for conducting business in an efficient, constructive, and open manner.

(a) All actions taken by the Executive Board must be consistent with the Bylaws of the USCF, and with all policy established by the USCF Board of Delegates.

(b) Executive Board members must respect the dignity of all persons in all statements and actions. Any derogatory and/or sarcastic statements attacking an individual in a personal manner, or intended to bring scorn or ridicule on an individual, shall be considered out of order at any and all times in an Executive Board meeting, whether in open or closed session. Any angry and heated exchanges in a Board meeting should be considered out of order. The Chair of the meeting shall be responsible for promptly ruling such utterances out of order, or any member may raise a point of order to that effect. Personal differences must be privately resolved without disturbing the efficient conduct of USCF business in a Board meeting.

(c) A closed session should be held only when the best interests of the USCF are definitely served by doing so. Examples of when closed sessions are proper would include the discussion of matters that are legally sensitive, issues involving sensitive negotiations, or matters in which the privacy rights of any individual may be at risk. Closed sessions should not be scheduled to permit the airing of heated or derogatory comments, which should be out of order in any meeting discussion, or to avoid the necessity of Board members' dealing with unpopular issues publicly.

The Board may invite other persons into the closed session if such persons possess special information or expertise needed by the Board, but a certified Executive Board candidate who is not currently on the Board should not be included in a closed session unless all Board candidates present at the meeting are also invited.

(d) Board members should be sensitive to the feelings of volunteers and staff members whose names may be mentioned, or whose work may be criticized, during Board discussion.

(e) All Board members must strictly observe confidentiality of closed sessions. In the case of a conference call, the Board members must clearly understand what portions of the call are considered open or closed, for the purpose of determining what information in the call must be considered confidential.

(f) When appointed by the Delegates, the USCF Ethics Committee may consider an allegation by any USCF member

that an Executive Board member has committed significant violations of this code of conduct. The Ethics Committee may, if it determines that such violations have occurred, either warn the Board member or recommend actions, such as recall of the member, to the Board of Delegates in accordance with the Bylaws of the USCF. (1997)

22. The Code of Ethics of the United States Chess Federation.

SEE PAGE 36 FOR THE CODE OF ETHICS

23. FIDE Policy. The U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) endorses the concept of a strong world organization of chessplayers, which supports a system of competitions for the strongest players in the world culminating in a valid world championship. The USCF also firmly embraces the principles of freedom of action and freedom of speech. The USCF cannot accept any regulation that limits journalistic freedom or freedom of expression, or interferes with the efforts of free enterprise to promote chess. The USCF endorses the principles of compromise in helping to maintain a universally-accepted world championship. (2011)

24. U.S. Open Scheduling. No rounds of the US Open may be scheduled to conflict with the Delegates Meeting. The U.S. Open shall finish no later than August 15th. (1999, 2001, 2010)

25. Binfo System. In the interest of both history and accountability, the Board information (BINFO) system should be maintained and used in the following manner:

1. The Executive Board and Executive Director will place documents relating to their decisions and discussions in this record system.
2. An effort will be made to include all relevant documents bearing on the making of USCF policy and other decisions.
3. At the request of any single Executive Board member or the Executive Director, a document will be placed in the system.
4. BINFO documents may be classified as confidential, using strict, documented criteria.
5. Classified BINFO's will be reviewed periodically for declassification. This will include but not be limited to documents now in the system and placed there by previous Boards.
6. Non-classified documents will be supplied to members on request; a reasonable duplication fee may be charged.
7. Binders of non-classified documents will be maintained at the USCF office and will be available on request to visiting adult members to examine while in the office.
8. Updated, descriptive indexes of the BINFO system will be available on the USCF website in the most expeditious manner possible, and available in hard copy on request for a reasonable duplication fee. (2000)
9. Non-confidential BINFOs are to be made available electronically without cost to any Delegate or Alternate Delegate that asks to receive them. This is to be done by making them available on the USCF website in a public area and/or setting up a read-only mailing list and adding to the list anyone who wants to receive the BINFO's via e-mail. (2001)

26. Scholastic Chess. The USCF shall have a full-time Scholastic Director, working in consultation with the Scholastic Committee.

The job description and workload priorities of the Scholastic Director will be developed jointly by the Scholastic Committee and the Executive Director.

The Finance Committee shall include at least one member recommended by the Scholastic Committee.

The USCF shall implement an income and expense system, which separately identifies scholastic chess activities. (1999)

27. ADM votes on the Website. The final decision of the Board of Delegates on ADMs shall be recorded and published on the USCF website. All available information regarding the vote shall be included. (1999)

28. Ballots. Ballots shall contain only a candidate's name and state. No titles, credentials or other honors shall appear on ballots. (1999)

29. Committee Actions. USCF Committees, excepting those appointed by the Delegates, exist to advise and recommend, but may not make any ruling that affects the status of any member without ratification by the Executive Board, Office or Delegates. (1998)

30. Delegate Committees. All newly-created Delegates Committees must have a statement of purpose defining their function. (1998)

31. LMA Annual Report. The LMA Management Committee shall publish an annual report showing the performance of the fund's investments, the investments owned, the investment strategy, and an assessment of investment risks. (1998)

32. Based on Prizes. Effective January 1, 1999, all tournaments without exception advertised in *Chess Life*, *Tournament Life*, or elsewhere shall be required to pay at least 50% of any based-on prize advertised if the prize fund is over \$500. Based-on prizes in tournaments with an advertised total prize fund of \$500 or less must be paid in proportion to turnout. Minimum penalty for violation of this rule shall be disqualification from advertising in *Chess Life* for one year. Additional penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the Executive Director. If a tournament is affected by an act of God, then the organizer may appeal to the Executive Board. Exceptions can be made by the USCF President or Executive Director in extreme circumstances. *Chess Life* shall print no display ads for "based-on" tournaments which mention the "based-on" prize fund without indicating that this prize fund is based on entries. (1998) (2002) (2004)

33. Volunteer Expenses. A summary of all reimbursements to each member of the Executive Board, International Delegations, and all other volunteers shall be published in the *Executive Board Newsletters* and on the USCF website. (1990, 1998)

34. Membership Accounting. 90% of the income from life memberships and 50% from sustaining memberships shall be deposited directly in to the LMA. Services provided to life and sustaining members shall be funded quarterly. (1996, 1999)

35. Bylaws Committee. To aid the Delegates and the Executive Board in informed decision making, the Bylaws Committee shall advise the Executive Board and the Delegates concerning both the substance and the wording of proposed bylaws changes. (1987)

36. Drug Testing. The Delegates believe that drug testing is unnecessary in chess and urge FIDE to limit testing only to events where it is absolutely essential for qualification into the Olympic Games. (2001)

37. Candidate Disclosure (Executive Board Candidate Disclosure). Executive Board candidates are asked to disclose if they are employed full time or are a candidate for full-time employment with any organization that is a vendor for the USCF, a competitor to USCF in any area, or has any significant other business interest (including substantial ownership of a business) that could be affected by decisions made by the USCF. Failure to disclose these interests would not disqualify a candidate from running, but could affect the voters' evaluation of the candidate. (2001)

38. Delegates Call (Report in Delegates Call). A report on compliance or noncompliance with the previous year's Delegate Motions will be provided in the *Delegates Call* each year. (2001)

39. Committees (No Pay for Committee Members). Members of USCF Committees shall not be paid for committee work without authorization of the Delegates. They may continue to receive reimbursement for expenses. (2001)

40. USCF Regions. Executive Board election results shall once again be tabulated by region, beginning in 2003. There shall be twelve regions, each consisting of the same states that the region included before the discontinuation of regions. (2002)

41. Financial Reports on Website. Comprehensive USCF financial reports including at least a balance sheet and statement of all activities will be posted on the USCF website on at least a quarterly basis. (2002)

42. California Borders. The border between Northern and Southern California shall be set along county lines. Where San Luis Obispo, Kern and Inyo are the northern most counties of Southern California, and Monterey, Kings, Tulare, Fresno and Mono are the southernmost counties of Northern California. The USCF may use zip codes to approximate this border. The two California state affiliates are responsible for maintaining the zip code mapping used for this border approximation. (2005)

43. TDCC Changes. Changes in the Tournament Director certification program proposed by the TDC Committee may be approved by the Executive Board without approval of the delegates. (2006).

44. USCF National Scholastic Events. The following USCF Scholastic Championships shall not be outsourced, sold or part of any contractual agreement to organize the tournament with any third parties or any other organization without the prior review of the Scholastic Council and approval of the USCF Board of Delegates:

- National Scholastic K-12 Grade Championship
- National Elementary Grade Championship
- National Junior High- Middle School Championship
- National High School Championship
- SuperNationals

(2007) (2010)

45. Delegates & Financial Reports. Any Delegate has the right to access the official monthly financial reports. The USCF may charge Delegates for the costs incurred in accessing and copying the official monthly financial reports. (2008)

46. Procedures for applications for benefits from the Professional Players' Health and Benefits Fund (PPHBF):

- 1) Applicants must be U.S. citizens who hold the GM, IM, WGM, or WIM titles as granted by FIDE.

- 2) Applicants must provide documentation that they have serious financial difficulties resulting from their own medical or psychiatric conditions.

- 3) Applicants must give signed consent for the consideration, discussion, and review of all medical, psychiatric, and financial information they submit in support of their application, by any officials of the U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) who are designated by USCF to make recommendations or decisions regarding their application. Such signed consent by applicants must expressly allow PPHBF committee members, the USCF Executive Director, and members of the Executive Board, or others designated by the Executive Board, the right to review and discuss any information submitted by the applicant in support of his/her application.

- 4) The USCF Executive Board shall appoint a PPHBF committee which shall review all applications for benefits, and forward recommendations from such review to the Executive Board for final decision regarding the applications. The USCF Executive Board has sole discretion over the granting or failing to grant any benefits from the PPHBF to applicants.

- 5) Applicants must agree in writing at the time of their application that they will accept the decisions of the USCF Executive Board, and shall hold harmless all persons involved in the review and decision process, and shall not initiate any legal actions concerning any such review and recommendations at any time.

- 6) A lifetime limit of \$10,000 to any applicant will be in effect.

- 7) Applications which do not fully comply with these procedures will not be considered. (2009, 2015)

47. Annual Report of Players Health and Benefit Fund. The USCF shall report annually to the Board of Delegates the following financial information about the Players Health and Benefits fund:

- (1) Any expenditure's made during the fiscal year ending the prior May 31 including the amount awarded to each person without identifying the person.

- (2) The status of the funds as of the prior May 31 including any encumbrances against these funds. (2011)

48. USCF Life Member Asset Trust

1. The trust shall be called the USCF Life Member Asset Trust.
2. The United States of America Chess Federation (USCF) is the beneficiary of the trust.

3. The trust may be revoked or amended by the USCF Board of Delegates by a 2/3 vote of the Delegates present at an Annual or Special Delegates Meeting provided that a proposal to revoke is included in the Delegates' advance agenda.

4. Upon the dissolution of the USCF the trust is to be dissolved and the assets distributed in the same manner as provided for the assets of the USCF in its Articles of Incorporation.

5. There shall be 11 trustees. The Trustees shall elect a chair and a vice-chair.

6. The current USCF Vice President-Finance shall be one of the trustees.

7. The remaining trustees shall be appointed by the USCF Board of Delegates for a term of one year from the date of appointment or until their successors are appointed.

8. The USCF Board of Delegates may replace/remove the trustees at a special delegates meeting called in the manner prescribed in the USCF bylaws for such meetings.

9. Any vacancies amongst the Trustees may be filled by appointment made by the remaining Trustees. Such appointment will require a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Trustees.

10. The purpose of the trust is to provide income to the USCF to provide services to those who have purchased life and sustaining memberships in the USCF after December 31, 2007. The Trustees are to prudently invest the trust assets with this goal in mind.

11. The trust may own real estate that is occupied by the USCF. The Trustees need not require the USCF to pay rent for such property.

12. The Trustees may encumber any trust assets by a majority vote and only with the prior approval of the USCF Board of Directors, and any mortgage, loan, or borrowing agreement must be signed by at least two Trustees, one of whom must be the USCF Vice President-Finance.

13. The Trustees cannot sell, encumber, or mortgage, in any fashion, any land and/or buildings, owned by the trust without the prior approval by the USCF Board of Delegates at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

14. The Trustees may make loans to the USCF provided that the USCF Executive Director certifies that there is a need for such borrowing, the Executive Board approves of the borrowing, and a majority of the Trustees approves of such borrowing.

15. The trust shall be funded with the assets currently under the supervision of the USCF Life Member Asset Committee.

16. The trust may receive additional assets at any time from the sale of USCF Life or other multi-year memberships. The beneficiary will transfer to the trust an amount for each such membership as agreed with the Trustees no less than quarterly for memberships sold in the prior quarter.

17. The Trustees will transfer to the USCF on a monthly basis an amount sufficient to provide services to those who have purchased any sustaining memberships in the USCF after December 31, 2007.

18. In the event that the Trustees and the USCF Board of Directors fail to reach agreement as to the amounts to be transferred to the USCF, the matter shall be subject to arbitration with the costs to be borne by the USCF.

(2012)

49. USCF Articles of Incorporation

Effective January 1, 2013

The Board of Delegates shall be the legislative body of the USCF. The Board of Delegates shall be the authoritative body of the Federation to determine the policies that shall govern the USCF in all of its activities. Among other things, it shall have the authority to amend the Bylaws and the USCF Official Rules of Chess, approve the sale, exchange or other transfer of real estate owned by the USCF, approve any borrowing secured by real estate owned by the USCF, approve the annual budget, establish, amend or revoke one or more trusts for the management of Life Member assets and appoint or remove one or more Trustees for the purpose of administering said trusts, and supervise the ethics compliance process of the USCF.

AND:

The Executive Board shall be the Board of Directors. It is the administrative and managing body of the USCF and is vested with full power to conduct all business of the Federation, subject to the laws of the State of Illinois, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws and the mandates of the Board of Delegates.

AND:

Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation that are proposed by the Executive Board must be approved by a vote of the voting members. The Board of Directors must present any such amendment for discussion at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Delegates before submitting such amendment to the voting members. The voting procedure will be as provided for in the bylaws of the corporation. (2012)

50. Endowment Fund. The Delegates encourage the Executive Board to establish and administer a special USCF endowment fund to help sponsor USCF memberships for needy individuals. (2014)

51. Tournament Recommendations. The Delegates remind all those involved with the USCF National tournaments that these tournaments are for the benefit of the players. It is because of the support of the players, as well as the parents and coaches, that these events are even possible. Though inevitably there may arise disagreements among those involved as how best to realize this objective, the primacy of this goal must never be forgotten.

In order to increase participation, especially female participation, USCF shall encourage affiliates to offer mixed doubles prizes at tournaments. (2014)

52. Invitational Requirements. Regarding the U.S. Championship and U.S. Women's Championship, Olympiad, and World Teams, USCF's invitational requirements will disallow those residing in the U.S. on student visas (currently, "F" or "M" visas) or tourist visas (currently, "B" visas). (2014)

Approved 25 January 2016

US Chess Committee Reports

Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions

JON HASKEL AND STEPHEN SHUTT, CO-CHAIRS

2015 BARBER TOURNAMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS, 2015 BARBER WINNER: ADVAIT PATEL MAKES IT BACK TO BACK

No player in the history of the GM Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the Dewain Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions or the National Girls' Invitational Tournament of Champions has ever gone back to back until this year. Congratulations to Advait Patel (OK) who scored 5½/6 in a field of nine national masters, which is also a record for this event.

Advait had a draw in the last round against Andrew Zheng (MD) and that cleared the way for the victory and the title, undisputed Barber champion of champions. He also was the winner of the \$500 for the Stephen Shutt Chess Camp Scholarship.

WISCONSIN AND OKLAHOMA TOP STATE TEAM COMPETITORS

Congratulations to the 2015 co-champions, Wisconsin (team average 2074) and Oklahoma (team average 2134) for charging forward with a 13½/18 score which was a full point above the third place team, Washington State (team average 2014). In the end Wisconsin (Alexander Velikanov, Kevin Li and Anupama Rajendra) had the best tiebreaks. Oklahoma (Joshua Alexander, Advait Patel and Veronika Zilajeva) were in the hunt, but fell short.

State team winners in the under sections were Massachusetts (Under 2100), Maryland (Under 1900) and Tennessee (Under 1700). Complete results can be found at: www.uschess.org/results/15/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=dgtcombined.

As co-chairs of the Denker/Barber Committee, Jon Haskel and Stephen Shutt wish to thank Dewain Barber for his time, effort and financial contributions without which this annual event would not be possible. Additional sponsors we wish to thank are: the Denker Family, US Chess Trust, US Chess, the American Chess Equipment Company, the Ursula Foster Family, the Internet Chess Club, the National Scholastic Chess Foundation, the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, and Dwight Barber.

Bylaws Committee

HAROLD WINSTON, CO-CHAIR

The Bylaws Committee advises the delegates and executive board on bylaws and governance issues. When votes are listed, the first number

is in favor, the second opposed, the third abstentions, and the last means needs more thought.

The Delegates referred three motions to the committee. The first, DM 15-25, proposed by Robert Messenger (MA) and Michael Langer (TX) would reword Art. IX, section 16 of the Bylaws to increase application of the anti-discrimination clause and have it apply to TDs and organizers and specify that applicable types of discrimination include "on the basis of race, religion or sexual orientation." The Delegates also requested a legal opinion be obtained and it was. The lawyer consulted recommended two substitutes: one Bylaws amendment and one change in the Code of Ethics. The committee considered those suggestions and is sponsoring both suggestions as substitutes for DM 15-25, believing they accomplish the purposes behind the original motion.

The new wording is

1. Reword Art. IX, sec. 16 to read "USCF shall comply with all laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law with respect to chess tournaments sponsored by the organization." (11-1-0-0)
2. Modify the Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct, section 6 to change the start of the first sentence to read "The actions and behavior of players, tournament directors, sponsors, and other individuals participating in USCF activities" (11-0-0-1) It now reads "The actions and behavior of individuals participating in USCF activities ..."

The next motion referred, was DM 15-56, proposed by Richard Koeppke (N CA), which deals with Official Write-In Candidates. It provides that such candidates pay a \$100 fee and notify the Executive Director by May 1 of an election year and after the Election Committee certifies their eligibility, their votes will be counted by name and they may purchase mailing labels on the same terms as nominated candidates. It also provides that write-in votes for other candidates shall not be counted by name. The committee was generally favorable to the concept and took a series of votes as follows. Official write-ins must notify the Executive Director by May 1 (10-0-1-1), such candidates must pay \$100 by May 1 (10-0-1-1), the Election Committee will certify their eligibility (10-0-1-1), other write-in votes are not counted by name (6-2-2-2), such candidates may purchase mailing labels on the same terms as nominated candidates (9-0-2-1), the motion as a whole (8-1-1-2). Some committee members believed all write-in votes should be counted by name. A related motion considered by the committee, which I proposed, would specify that only votes for current US Chess members be counted. The committee favored this (7-0-0-0). One person has stated that the Delegates already passed such a motion but it is not listed in the Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest, nor included in the Bylaws.

The third referral related to *Chess Life* statements of nominated Executive Board candidates and is the most controversial. DM 15-57, proposed by Harold Winston (IL) and Frank Camaratta (AL) would require nominated candidates who decide to support a write-in candidate to submit such statements 25 days in advance of the deadline and copy all other nominated candidates at the same time. The rationale is to prevent other candidates being unfairly surprised when such an endorsement appears, as one did last year. If a candidate fails to submit such an endorsement to the other candidates, the intent is the Elections Committee would delete the endorsement wording from the *Chess Life* statement. However, some committee members, and our liaison, Allen Priest, find this constitutes censorship; co-sponsor Frank Camaratta believes such endorsements should be prohibited and, other members are more concerned with attacks on other nominated candidates. The committee took votes on the specific provisions as follows: submitting such statements 25 days in advance of the deadline (5-5-1-0), sending such statements to other candidates 25 days in advance of the deadline (4-6-2-0), only allowing endorsement of official write-ins (3-7-2-0), the motion as a whole (3-7-1-1).

In addition, the USCF office has authorized the use of "US Chess" to describe our federation in place of U.S. Chess Federation or USCF. To reflect this, our committee narrowly supports a proposal to change the words "federation" or "the federation" wherever they occur in the Bylaws to "US Chess." (6-3-2-1) I will sponsor such a motion. One member believes the words "US Chess Federation" should be used in all cases. Article I of our Bylaws currently states "The name of the corporation shall be the United States Chess Federation (USCF) also known as the United States of America Chess Federation, commonly known as US Chess."

One committee member strongly believes we should continue to use the abbreviation USCF in certain phrases, such as "USCF Ratings", "USCF rated", and "USCF Member." This needs more discussion.

A final committee vote dealt with Art. IX, sec. 18 which now reads: "A change of U.S. Chess Federation's Rules of Chess shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the Delegates present to pass." I suggest changing this to "A change of USCF's Rules of Chess" as I find "US Chess' Rules of Chess" awkward. The committee divided on that change (5-3-2-1).

My thanks to all committee members, starting with co-chair Guy Hoffman (WI), and including Richard Koepcke (NCA), Robert Messenger (MA), Myron Lieberman (AZ), Bill Goichberg (NY), Robert Persante (FL), David Mehler (MD), Gary Kitts (MI), John McCrary (SC), Gerald Larson (AL), Randy Hough (SCA), and our liaison Allen Priest (KY).

Everyone is welcome at the annual Bylaws Workshop which will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, August 5, at 9 a.m., at the playing site of the 2016 U.S. Open. If you have any other proposals please contact me at HJWinston@aol.com.

College Chess Committee

AL LAWRENCE, CHAIR

The Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship returned to Cleveland for the first time in 57 years, hosted by Oberlin College and organized by College Chess Committee member Constantine Ananiadis. Despite widespread bad weather, 185 post-secondary students, including 25 grandmasters, staffed 42 teams from 27 colleges.

More than a third of the players were national masters or internationally titled players. It was likely the strongest PanAms in history. Oberlin provided top-quality conditions, including big-screen projections of games in the spectator rooms, an Internet broadcast, and a spacious playing area. Chief Director NTD Joe Yun, backed up by both NTD Boyd Reed and Senior TD Kelly Bloomfield, ran a flawless event.

Each student-player is pre-qualified by the CCC's eligibility subcommittee. You can review the College Chess Rules at www.collegechess.org. No electronic devices (other than those used by tournament staff) that can send or receive chess moves were allowed in the tournament room or on the player's person, wherever he or she was, during the game.

For the first time in its history, Texas Tech University won the PanAms, on tie-breaks over Webster University, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, and Columbia University.

Attendance at the PanAms has recently stabilized at 40-plus teams after dropping to the twenties from 1998 to 2010. (We continue to miss teams from the West Coast.) In order to further boost attendance, two new steps have been taken:

1. The 2016 PanAms will be held in New Orleans, hosted by Cajun Chess and Tulane University on the traditional dates of December 27-30. We hope that by offering the tournament in a city that is a popular tourist-attraction in a warm climate, we'll see even more teams.

2. For future PanAms, we will open the bidding to include alternate dates of January 3-6. This idea was polled and discussed at the Cleveland PanAms and received strong support. One dilemma caused by the traditional December dates is the necessity of either traveling on Christmas day, sometimes from family homes outside the U.S., or risking weather delays by traveling on the day before the event.

EXPANDED SPONSORSHIP IN COLLEGE CHESS AND NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

The top four U.S. schools at the PanAms go on to the Final Four of College Chess. Sponsors Booz Allen Hamilton and Two Sigma provided generous stipends to the schools and all the expenses of a first-class event, this year held at New York City's Marshall Chess Club, where Webster University won its fourth national championship.

TWO NEW COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

UT-Rio Grande Valley is a new school, a consolidation of UT-Pan American and UT-Brownsville. Its showing at the PanAms and its strong, second-place finish at the Final Four showed Coach Bartek Macieja's program to be a threat for the national title. St. Louis University (SLU), a well-established school, becomes the third college in the St. Louis area, along with Webster University and Lindenwood University, to offer chess scholarships. SLU has secured GM Alejandro Ramirez as its coach and has the backing of chess benefactors Rex and Jeanne Sinquefield.

OTHER COMMITTEE ACHIEVEMENTS

The Committee continues to standardize and simplify both the eligibility requirements and the process of documenting eligibility for college teams. Beginning with the 2013 PanAms in Lubbock, Texas, we've established a standard logo for the event that continues to be



used and allows modification (including school colors) to recognize the hosting city.

The Committee also recommends its choices for Chess College of the Year to the US Chess Executive Board for final action. This year, we nominated Oberlin College, host of this year's well-run PanAms. Oberlin has now won the Top Small College award three years in a row—which

Chief Organizer Ananiadis, then playing board one, helped to win for Florida's Stetson University 20 years ago!

KUDOS

The College Chess Committee is a very experienced, geographically disperse, and hardworking crew. My special thanks to former chair James Stallings of UT-Dallas for his tireless and invaluable help on the eligibility committee and other issues. And thanks to all the rest: Michael Aigner, Constantine Ananiadis, Kelly Bloomfield, Ana DeMahy, Rene Garcia, Renier Gonzalez, Russell Harwood, Jon Haskel, Hal Karlsson, Beatriz Marinello, Clemente Rendon, Alan Sherman, and Glenn Petersen.

Denker Invitational Committee

JON HASKEL AND STEPHEN SHUTT, CO-CHAIRS

2015 DENKER TOURNAMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

In this year's 2015 Denker Tournament of High School Champions, FM Alexander Velikanov (WI) scored 5/6 in a field of 15 masters out of 46 participants to take clear first place. In addition, Alexander was the winner of the Erik Patchell \$750.00 College Scholarship given in memory of Erik who played in the Denker. There were five players who tied for second Place. They had a score of 4½/6 and appear in this order: IM Andrew Tang (MN), FM Sean Vibbert (IN), Tianqi Wang (NC), Vignesh Panchanatham (CA-N) and Noah Dennis Fields (WA). The Ursula Foster Award went to IM Andrew Tang (MN) for the best score of the U16 qualifiers. Complete results can be found at: <http://www.uschess.org/results/2015/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=denker>.

WISCONSIN AND OKLAHOMA TOP STATE TEAM COMPETITORS

Congratulations to the 2015 Co-Champions, Wisconsin (team average 2074) and Oklahoma (team average 2134) for charging forward with a 13½/18 score which was a full point above the third place team, Washington State (team average 2014). In the end Wisconsin (Alexander Velikanov, Kevin Li and Anupama Rajendra) had the best tiebreaks. Oklahoma (Joshua Alexander, Advait Patel and Veronika Zilajeva) were in the hunt, but fell short.

State Team winners in the Under Sections were Massachusetts (Under 2100), Maryland (Under 1900) and Tennessee (Under 1700).

Complete results can be found at: www.uschess.org/results/15/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=dgtcombined.

Election Committee

KEN BALLOU, CHAIR

The committee received nomination petitions for two individuals for the 2016 Executive Board election. The committee certified the candidacies of Mr. Mike Hoffpaur and Mr. Charles D. Unruh for the two Executive Board seats to be filled in this year's election.

The current Executive Board members are as follows:

- Terms expiring in 2016: Mr. Michael Atkins (continuous service since 2009), Ms. Ruth Haring (continuous service since 2009)
- Terms expiring in 2017: Mr. Mike Nietman (continuous service since 2010), Mr. Allen Priest (continuous service since 2011), Mr. Gary Walters (continuous service since 2010)
- Terms expiring in 2018: Mr. Randy Bauer (continuous service since 2013), Ms. Anjelina Belakovskaia (continuous service since 2015)

Article VI Section 7 of the US Chess Bylaws limits Executive Board members to no more than nine consecutive years of service. The committee notes that in 2017, Mr. Nietman and Mr. Walters will be term limited under the current Bylaws (having served on the Executive Board continuously since 2010).

The committee has considered Delegate Motion DM 15-57, which would require any nominated candidate who supports a write-in candidate in their *Chess Life* statement to submit that statement 25 days in advance of the deadline and copy all other candidates for the position the write-in is seeking. A majority of the committee is opposed to this idea and favors no restraint on campaign speech in *Chess Life*, subject to the editorial discretion of the magazine's editor. A majority of the committee recommends that the delegates vote against this motion, although this sentiment is not held unanimously among the committee members.

Finally, the committee notes with great sadness the passing of longtime member and friend Roger Gotschall. His service and contribution to the committee is keenly missed. *Requiescat in pace*, Roger.

Ethics Committee

HAL TERRIE, CHAIR

The Ethics Committee handled 10 cases this year. As of this writing, one additional case is still ongoing.

Over the last few years, poor communication led to increasing friction between the committee and the Executive Board, resulting in the passage of two motions by the Delegates at the 2015 meeting. In response to the mandate to provide a rationale for its decisions, the committee has expanded its decision letters to a typical length of about a page and a half, from their former length of sometimes only a few sentences. The Executive Board has done their part as well, by immediately informing the committee of all appeals. I am hopeful that the era of difficult relations between the committee and the Executive Board is over.

In September of last year, some research I did on the Code of Ethics revealed that the version of the Code which appeared in the *2015 Delegates Call* (and which, as of this writing, still appears on the US Chess website) is not accurate. It turns out that some provisions of ethics-related motions passed at the 2004 Delegates Meeting were never imple-

mented in subsequent published version of the Code. Fortunately, the missing changes to the Code from 2004 did not affect its substance in any meaningful way. By the time you read this, the correct version should appear on the website and in the *2016 Delegates Call*.

The committee will be offering four ethics-related ADMs for your consideration this summer. Three of these are mostly technical, the fourth has a substantive component. I refer you to the Delegates Agenda for the text and rationale for each of these motions. My understanding is that the Bylaws Committee will also be offering an ethics-related ADM, intended to be technical in nature.

The committee will be seeking time for a workshop this summer, where all of these motions may be discussed. It is likely that the motions will be considered at the Bylaws workshop as well. I may also post the motions on the US Chess Forums for further discussion.

FIDE Events Committee

NTD/IA CAROL JARECKI, CHAIR

The FIDE Events Committee is new and, as an offshoot of the long-established TDCC, was set up to cover issues regarding FIDE matters as pertaining to US Chess.

As should be well-known, all FIDE-rated events in the USA, and elsewhere, have been obliged to use FIDE rules since July 2014. This pertains to rated events, not only norm events. Also any and all TDs who are listed as staff for any FIDE-rated event must be licensed by FIDE otherwise the event will not be rated. This license is referred to as NA. It is not a title. It is a license and all titled arbiters (FA and IA) must also be licensed. A US Chess TD who wants to obtain the NA license must first acquire the level of Senior TD and then notify the US Chess office. Due to the fact that most US TDs have not had sufficient experience with using FIDE rules and regulations another requirement is to pass a short NA exam, available by request to the US Chess office. It may be of general interest to know that most other federations require much more stringent regulations and exams.

Unfortunately, when the NA requirement was first announced by FIDE, the US Chess office registered anyone who requested it even without being qualified. So NA licenses held by those who are below the level of Senior TD are being considered inactive. They will be activated, without a new fee, when the individual fulfills the requirements necessary. It is therefore imperative for anyone in this situation to update to Senior level as soon as possible. Everyone in this group has already had adequate notice. The NA license of those not qualified will expire without refund of the fee.

Attendance in a qualified FA Seminar is required as one of the norms for the FA title. One was held at the 2015 National Open in Las Vegas and another in May 2016 at the Las Vegas Chess Club. Another will be offered at the 2016 U.S. Open.

Forum Committee

BOB MESSENGER, CHAIR

The US Chess Forums are a discussion area on the *uschess.org* website, provided by US Chess to increase the enjoyment of and to advance the game of chess to both members and non-members. The US Chess Issues forum is restricted to US Chess members, while the Announcements, All Things Chess, Chess Clubs, Running Chess Tournaments, and Chess Life Articles forums are open to the general public.

Starting in August 2015 most comments on *Chess Life* articles are posted through WordPress, although the Chess Life Articles forum is still available for commenting on older articles. The plan as recommended by the Website Advisory Committee and approved by the Executive Director and the Executive Board is that all of the existing Forums will eventually be replaced by WordPress Forums as one of the final phases of that multi-year project.

During the past year Terry Winchester, Tom Langland and I have continued as moderators of the Forums.

According to Forum Administrator Mike Nolan, there were 10,132 posts (not including WordPress posts) between June 1, 2015 and May 2, 2016, compared to 14,898 posts in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Some of this difference is because most comments on Chess Life articles are now going through WordPress, and there is also a difference due to comparing 11 months this year versus 12 months last year. Even after adjusting for these factors, though, there were fewer posts this year than last year.

Forum name	2014-15 posts	2015-16 posts	2015-16 view count
US Chess Issues	7,199	5,390	72,141
Running Tournaments	4,552	2,917	67,904
All Things Chess	1,958	1,335	40,952
Chess Life Articles	1,093	404	12,019
Chess Clubs	96	86	2,901
Totals	14,898	10,132	195,917

Hall of Fame Committee

HAROLD J. WINSTON, CHAIR

In April, in St. Louis, at the opening ceremony of the U.S. Championship and the U.S. Women's Championship, I inducted two new members into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame: Maurice Ashley and Gata Kamsky. Maurice Ashley (1966-) is not only the first African-American grandmaster, but also has obtained major sponsorship for chess with three events with huge prizefunds: the HB Global Challenge (2005) and the Millionaire Chess Opens (2014, 2015). Ashley is also a world-class commentator on chess and the author of *Chess For Success: Using an Old Game to Build New Strengths in Children and Teens* (2005). Maurice's family attended and he recounted how his mother had worked for years to bring him to this country from Jamaica.

Gata Kamsky (1974-) is one of our country's greatest players. He is a five-time U.S. Chess Champion (1991, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014) and has been ranked third in the world twice. He played on six U.S. Olympiad teams and was top board for the only American team that won the World Team Championship in 1993. Kamsky is also the only American besides Fischer to play a match for the FIDE World Championship (against Karpov). Gata Kamsky is now the youngest member of the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame.

Also, acting under the authority of FIDE Vice President Beatriz Marinello, I inducted three people into the World Chess Hall of Fame: David Bronstein (1924-2006), who drew a match with World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik in 1951, Sonya Graf-Stevenson (1908-1965), one of the top women players in the world in the 1930s and Vera Menchik's strongest rival, and Howard Staunton of England (1810-1874), winner of a famous match versus St. Amant and a top player of the 1840s.

Tournament sponsors Jeanne and Rex Sinquefeld spoke at the opening ceremony and Hall of Fame Committee members Jennifer Shahade and Al Lawrence also attended.

I welcome Sophia Rohde as our newest committee member and thank all the other committee members: John Donaldson, John McCrary, John Hilbert, Joel Benjamin, Andy Soltis, Jennifer Shahade, Al Lawrence, and Shane Samole. The US Chess Hall of Fame Committee nominates members for the US Chess Hall of Fame and the final vote is by the trustees of the U.S. Chess Trust. FIDE chooses members of the World Chess Hall of Fame.

This year the World Chess Hall of Fame celebrated its 50,000th visitor on March 15, 2016, in its fifth year of operation in St. Louis (2011-2016). I salute General Manager Joy Bray, Chief Curator Shannon Bailey, Assistant Curator Emily Allred, and the rest of the fine staff at the museum. The Hall of Fame has had 21 school trips in the last 12 months. Two current exhibits I enjoyed are "Her Turn: Revolutionary Women of Chess," which is open until September 4 and "Kings, Queens, and Castles," open until September 11. The second exhibit will be traveling to children's museums and if there is such a museum in your area that would be interested contact Shannon Bailey at shannon.bailey@worldchesshof.org. Also check out their website: www.worldchesshof.org.

LMA Trust Committee

CHUCK UNRUH, CHAIR

The previous Chairman, Tim Redman, and the LMA Trustees read the economic tea leaves correctly in the last year. The forecast was a prediction for global economic decline with an increase in the value of the U.S. dollar (USD). With leadership guidance, LMA Trustees suspended the S&P cost averaging investment program near the top of the stock market in 2015. As a result, the LMA Trust holds over 90 percent of the liquid assets invested in United States dollars. The strategy increased the value of the LMA Trust relative to the global goods and services.

The market news writers love acronyms and the word TINA has popular use when describing the world of liquid public assets- There Is No Alternative- to public stocks and bonds. However, cash was a reasonable alternative in last year's investment market. Based on a treasury bond study over the last 200 years, low interest rates are in the financial bubble zone. Currently, the sun is setting on the LMA Trust relatively safe haven U.S. dollar investment with the USD value falling below the popular moving averages. To meet the new trend in the dollar, LMA Trustees have developed a recent plan for investment action that coincides with modern market theory. The Trust plan diversifies liquid assets into a balance between short term cash, equities and fixed income.

The Trustees have approved the investment plan known as Phoenix. Phoenix is a flexible investment structure primarily targeting indexes and other exchange traded funds. Key to Phoenix is a focus on modest

growth with emphasis on various forms of fixed incomes that include preferred, convertibles, notes and other interest bearing issues. Although cash was a good choice last year, the Trust should adhere to diversification guidelines in the knowledge that a correlation exists with lowering risk by holding numerous different issues. Phoenix conforms to investment guidelines and governing Trust statutes on behalf of the grantor (US Chess.)

In the next year, the LMA Trustees will work closely with the Vice President of Finance in advancing a platform suitable for the Phoenix Plan and other investment initiatives originating from the LMA Trust Investment Committee. The LMA Trust investment goal for the 2016-17 year remains a targeted real return of 6 percent. In general, the LMA Trust will pursue a defensive investment market profile (low beta) with focus on limited downside swings in the account net worth (good Sharpe ratios.)

Trustee nominations for the 2016-17 US Chess fiscal year for service on the LMA Trust are as follows: Frank Camaratta, Steve Doyle, Jim Bedenbaugh, Leroy Dubeck, Dov Gorman, Beatriz Marinello, Allen Priest (ex officio), Tim Redman, Peter Dyson and Alex Relyea and myself.

I thank all of the above Trustees for their service over the past year and look forward to working with the team in the future.

Outreach Committee

MYRON LIEBERMAN, CHAIR

Many well-earned thanks to Outreach Committee members Fun Fong, Fernando Moreno, Rachel Lieberman and Eric Vigil for their work during the past year.

CHESS IN COUNSELING

Fernando Moreno presented a report entitled *Chess Mediated Counseling* to the London Chess and Society Conference. A PDF overview of his presentation can be found at <http://londonchessconference.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/London-Chess-mediated-counseling-Fernando-Moreno.pdf>.

Congratulations to Fernando Moreno for receiving the Montgomery County (MD) Public Schools award for Distinctive Service to Public Education for his Teaching Life Skills Through Chess program.

Fernando Moreno published an article in the April, 2016, issue of *Ajedrez Social Y Terapeutico* (Therapeutic and Social Chess) regarding the use of chess as an instrument of integration of immigrants. Those who are (or plan to be) working with schools or agencies in Spanish speaking areas may find http://www.chessmagic.net/ajedrez_st/, which contains that article, an excellent Spanish language resource. Thanks again, Fernando, for all you do.

STATE OUTREACH COMMITTEES

Thanks to Dr. Fun Fong, President of the Georgia Chess Association (GCA), for his work in initiating a Georgia Chess Outreach Committee in August, 2015, and to Ashley Thomas, Chair of the Committee, for sending a summary of their 2015-6 activity. The Committee has assisted local clubs, brought scholastic events to Douglas County (since many there cannot travel to Atlanta), held a social to recognize GCA volunteers and attract new members, and helped establish new chess clubs, tournaments and other events. Their report stated that the aim of the Committee is to promote chess in Georgia, and noted that chess

is a game that connects people across various boundaries. It is a game that levels the ground and encourages people to sit down across a table and have fun. The Committee has received a number of requests to partner with other organizations statewide to bring chess to a diverse group of people. Their biggest challenge is to find more volunteers to share their passion and dedicate some of their time to these efforts. The Committee has made building a team to achieve this as their goal. We believe that outreach committees on a state and club level are an excellent idea and we would like to see this become typical in the U.S. Eventually we would like to see organizers and committees who have or want to run outreach projects have a place to share their ideas and experiences. Possibly there can be an Outreach area on the US Chess site for that purpose.

STEM AND STEAM

STEM originated as an acronym for a project to interest students, especially girls, in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The reach of STEM has since become more generalized and the acronym is used by a number of organizations that focus on interesting students in these technical subjects in many different ways. There are many grants available to conduct STEM research today.

The city of Tempe, Arizona, held and promoted a festival at the Tempe City Hall that celebrates STEAM (which adds Arts to the STEM subjects and is planned as an annual event). It was well received.

ATIC and SFA—The Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council (ATIC) held a public meeting on February 18, 2016, at Grand Canyon University, which we attended. The featured guest was Ken Quartermain of the Science Foundation Arizona (SFA), who leads the AZ STEM Network. He presented an extensive report on STEM in Arizona schools and noted that the SFA site at <http://www.sfaz.org/stem/> is an excellent resource. A number of STEM links are on the site, as is information for SFA STEM Research grants. We recommend that anyone interested in the STEM subjects should visit the SFA site. He noted that a good STEM resource is the National Science Foundation (NSF) site at <http://www.nsfresources.org/home.cfm>.

Please note that the NSF has a girls STEM program but a search of their site yields no information on chess. Get a grant and help change this! Need partners? A major key is networking with others. If you want to get your ideas known to people who may help you or benefit from them set up a booth at a conference or other event and make your ideas known.

Quantum Chess—Chris Cantwell developed a chess variant that is reputed to be able to teach quantum mechanics through chess. Chess24 on February 25, 2016, featured an article by GM Jose Cuenca which included a video of IM Anna Rudolf competing against Chris Cantwell, a video described as a match between Stephen Hawking and Paul Rudd featuring Keanu Reeves, and more unusual content. Find it at <https://chess24.com/en/read/news/quantum-chess>.

STEM + Music—The Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) has maintained a very successful STEM+Music program for educators. We had the opportunity to attend a STEM+Music workshop at the MIM. It was an excellent example of how an organization can use its particular strengths effectively for teaching. A packet of materials was distributed that included a STEM+Music curriculum guide, lesson plans for the 2015-6 school year, and a CD that included the same material and more.

The STEM+Music curriculum and supporting materials can also be downloaded from <http://mim.org/education/educator-resources/elementary-school/>.

VISIBILITY OF CHESS

Chess continues to be an attractive subject for not only the news media but also for advertising and public relations agencies that use chess to help get the public to understand their points. Often chess is used as a symbol of a smart move. It isn't any specific slant on chess that interests the media anymore. It is simply chess and chess players. The *New York Times* (NYT) in their March 15, 2016 issue published an article by Matt Chaban, which included historical background, about GM William Lombardy's pending eviction from the apartment where he has lived for nearly 40 years. The NYT published a chess article by John Leland a few days later (March 20, 2016) about Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura returning to NYC to play in the World Championship. The article focused on both their background and the event's history.

Eric Vigil's work with prisoners at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center, a medium security prison in Oakdale, Iowa, has been well covered with a feature on the Des Moines TV station KCCI (Channel 8). Thanks to Eric for donating his time every week to bring chess to the prisoners and hopefully change some lives. The KCCI news coverage can be found at <http://www.kcci.com/news/chess-teaches-inmates-lessons-beyond-the-board/38865268>. You can help change lives too. If you don't have time to volunteer, you can donate extra issues of *Chess Life* to prisons, hospitals, senior centers, etc.

Many thanks are due to the US Chess management and office staff for their outreach and media consciousness and support. Local and national media interest in chess today is so diverse that there is no way for this report (or any report) to mention all significant outreach opportunities or ideas that have been published. Those interested in chess related media articles from around the world as well as news are encouraged to subscribe (at no cost) to Google's daily update for chess. Yes, you will find the usual releases from chess news sites, but you will also find a wealth of local coverage, usually not seen by interested chess organizers outside of the locality involved. You never know what you'll find but you'll find something interesting every day. Some recent examples include an April 26, 2016, *Bloomberg* article on a court case where a player credits speed chess for enabling him to think so fast that he was accused of market manipulation; an April 26, 2016, *Radio Canada International* article about public opinion forcing a major mall to reverse an order evicting a group of chessplayers from the mall; an April 25, 2016 *St. Augustine Record* feature about chess at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, and Buffalo's radio station WBFO's feature entitled "Teaching Life's Lessons Through The Game of Chess."

We repeat this point every year, but now, more than ever, anyone who is going to attend a US Chess event should notify the local media as the media can't provide recognition for both the player and the event if they haven't been notified.

Please note that Rachel Lieberman is willing to send letters and other materials to anyone who can use them in their outreach efforts.

Prison Committee

STEVE FRYMER, CHAIR

In the last year the committee has mailed 11,400 chess magazines to 215 prison facilities nationwide. We are also working to establish prison chess clubs at facilities in Iowa.

David Leclair (FL) and Billy Monk (FL) play postal chess with the incarcerated. Howard Goldowsky (MA) organizes volunteer visits to prisons.

Bob Messenger (NH) has provided both logistics and generous financial support. John Donaldson (N CA) has contributed a wonderful publication on Alekhine that is included with the chess magazine mailings. There is an active program at the Cook County Jail (IL). The CCLA is collecting books and magazines to contribute to our outreach program.

The committee thanks everyone for their support of prison chess.

PPHB Fund Committee

JOHN DONALDSON, CHAIR

The past few years have been quiet ones for the Professional Players' Health and Benefit Fund (PPHBF) and 2015 continued this trend. This has allowed the PPHBF to replenish its reserves after many years of providing assistance to individuals who have dedicated their lives to chess.

The resources of the Fund are not large enough to provide health care for all titled players, but allows grants of up to \$10,000 per person for those truly in need. This amount has made the difference in many ways, from providing physical therapy not covered by medical insurance to supplying a safety net for those in danger of being forced to live on the street. The aim with the latter has been not only to meet a short term need, but also find a long term solution. This has included assisting individuals to apply for Veterans Benefits, SSI or state and county programs as appropriate. All those granted assistance were able to get back on their feet and lead productive lives.

The Professional Players' Health and Benefit Fund is grateful to the many tournament organizers who have provided support throughout the years. The \$1 per player per event voluntary donation in return for enhanced Grand Prix status has provided much good.

As of March 31, 2016 the checking balance is \$27,828.74 and the CDs held for the PPHB total \$103,742.00

PPHBF Committee members Jim Eade, Steve Immitt, Dr. Anthony Saidy and John Donaldson (Chairman).

Publications Committee

JOHN HARTMANN, CHAIR

After a few years in the wilderness, the Publications Committee is beginning to reconstitute itself. The EB installed a new Chairman, and with some turnover of Committee members, we began to return to normal working order in the late spring.

The Publications Committee is charged with oversight of all US Chess publications, including *Chess Life*, *Chess Life Kids*, and the *Delegates Call*. Presumably there would also be oversight of *US Chess News* and other content found on the US Chess website, but the overlap with the Website Advisory Committee is unclear and needs to be addressed.

One of the difficulties faced by this Committee is that it is a tiger with no teeth, having no ways to enforce its recommendations or obligate the Director of Publications to heed it in the least. Indeed, a current

member of the Executive Board has gone so far as to tell the new Chair that the Board has no expectations of this Committee. (Why then does it exist?)

The Committee chooses to see this freedom as a feature and not a bug. Building on a good working relationship with the Director of Publications, the Committee aims to offer advice on publications as they appear, and also to serve as a sounding board for the Director as needed. A fuller report of these activities will be presented at the meeting of the Publications Committee.

We are also at the time of writing looking for at least one new member of the Committee. Nominations, including self-nominations, may be sent to the Chair at jrhchess@gmail.com. General comments about US Chess publications are welcomed and may also be sent to that address.

Ratings Committee

MARK E. GLICKMAN, PH.D., CHAIR

This past year, the Ratings Committee (RC) tackled a variety of tasks. Some of these tasks were connected to charges from last year, and several new issues arose. Discussions on the US Chess Forums triggered several advisory questions, and we thank members for their input on helping to improve the rating and title systems. We describe the achievements of the RC over the past year, including both major and minor issues that have been addressed. We also continue to monitor the rating system for systematic changes, and we describe the results of this year's analysis below.

An ongoing issue that the RC has been addressing is the way in which players rated under the Northwest Scholastic rating system (NWSRS) are to be sectioned in US Chess tournaments if they are US Chess-unrated. Last year, we provided guidance for sectioning such players with a rating conversion formula. The RC was asked this year by our Executive Board (EB) liaison to review a white paper presenting an analysis that derived a different set of formulas to convert NWSRS ratings to a US Chess rating scale. While we found much to like about the paper, we concluded that several technical problems with the method reduced our enthusiasm at the formulas the author presented. Our recommendation was to use the formulas the RC derived last year and described in the 2015 RC report.

Late in 2015, the RC was asked to comment on whether it was sensible to rate games in which one player was simultaneously playing multiple players. Specifically, we were asked to comment on the following two issues: (1) If a player competed in two sections of the same tournament simultaneously, should the games be rated? (2) Can a clock simultaneous exhibition be rated if the "simul giver" has the same amount of time on the clock as other players in the simultaneous exhibition? The essential recommendation by the RC was "no" to both questions. The basic principle at work is that ratings are measuring ability in the context of one-on-one games. If a player is competing in multiple games simultaneously, then the player's strength is not likely at the same level as if he/she is playing one-on-one games. Thus updating ratings based on results of such games is not necessarily reflective of one-on-one game ability.

Several motions were passed this year that involved RC discussion. Last June, the RC recommendation that the bonus point threshold of B=12 was implemented. This was an increase from the prior year's value of B=10. Larger values of B result in less opportunity for a player to earn bonus points. The reason for the increase of the threshold was

that we have been starting to observe rating inflation. The tuning of the bonus point threshold is one of our main tools in controlling inflation and deflation. A second motion that passed this year was related to money floors. A player had complained about receiving a money prize-based floor from earning a moderate prize (> \$2,000) in a large prize fund tournament. The RC was asked whether the current rules were too strict in creating floors based on prizes. The general attitude by most members on the RC is that money floors distort the rating system, and that any opportunity to weaken money floors would help improve the rating system. Together with the EB liaison, the RC advised that increasing the money floor threshold to \$4,000 would be acceptable. A motion to increase the money floors passed, and as of April 1, 2016, the \$4,000 prize threshold for awarding floors was put in use. The rating system white paper now reflects this change in the rules.

An advance delegate motion from last year, ADM 15-45, was referred back to the Ratings Committee. The ADM requested wording for the new official rules language about rating floors. The RC suggested using the following wording, which will be presented for a vote to the delegates this year:

“Rating floor. Each rated player has a rating floor. Every player has a personal absolute floor between 100 and 150. A player with an established rating has a rating floor possibly higher than the absolute floor. Higher rating floors exist at 1200, 1300, 1400, ..., 2100. A player's rating floor is calculated by subtracting 200 points from the highest attained established rating after rounding to the nearest integer, and then using the floor at or just below. For example, if an established player's highest rating was 1941, then subtracting 200 yields 1741, and the floor just below is 1700. Thus the player's rating cannot go below 1700. If a player's highest established rating were 1999.51, then subtracting 200 from the integer-rounded rating of 2000 yields 1800 which is the player's floor. If an established player's highest rating was 1388, then subtracting 200 yields 1188, and the next lowest floor is the player's absolute floor, which is this player's current floor. A player who achieves the Original Life Master (OLM) title is given a floor of 2200. The OLM title is earned by playing 300 games, not necessarily consecutive, with an established rating of 2200 or higher. A player's rating floor can also change if he or she wins a large cash prize.”

An issue that was discussed with the RC chair this past year was the increase in Blitz events that are 20 or more rounds long. The rating programs were set up to support up to 32 rounds, but this may change given the longer Blitz events that are being submitted for rating. The RC chair was queried on whether the rating formulas needed to address longer events. The response was that the mathematical underpinnings of the rating formulas are particularly sound in longer events, so that no concern was necessary. A related issue was whether the formulas needed to change for Blitz matches if the match length restriction were increased. This is an area of further study, but based on previous work by the RC chair the formulas should change by dividing the difference between the total attained score and total winning expectancy by the square root of the number of games against the same opponent. Currently, the rating system has no such adjustment for competing against the same opponent multiple times.

Last July the EB liaison to the RC asked our opinion about the US Chess partnering online sites, Internet Chess Club (ICC) and *chess.com*, to eventually offer access to actual US Chess over-the-board Blitz or Quick ratings. We already have online Blitz and Quick ratings which

are separate systems from the over-the-board systems. The RC had been asked about this early on when ICC was being considered initially for hosting rated events. Our response was that over-the-board ratings should not be impacted by results of ICC games for various reasons (cheating potential being the most obvious).

Throughout the year, several minor changes were made to the rating system white paper and the title system white paper. These changes were made to reduce the ambiguity of some of the descriptions of the rating system, and to more accurately reflect the system that is currently implemented. Some of the changes included (1) correcting the date to which the norm and title computations are retroactively computed, (2) clarifying that norms can be earned only in regular time control over-the-board events, and (3) clarifying that the age-based rating formula applies to children even younger than three years old. Finally, the rating system, norm and title system, and approximation formulas document now include the new US Chess logo and refer only to US Chess and not the old abbreviation USCF.

Each year the RC performs a set of diagnostic analyses to monitor trends in the rating pool. Overall rating levels deflated from the mid-1990s through 2000 when rating floors were decreased by 100 points without a counteracting inflationary mechanism. With the new rating system implemented in 2001, ratings started to re-inflate. The RC's goal has been to re-inflate and then maintain rating levels roughly where they were at the end of 1997. Our analyses have focused on players with established ratings who have been active over the current and previous three years and who are aged 35-45 years old in the current year. Based on our analyses of rating changes, current ratings are still uncomfortably higher relative to where they were at the end of 1997. With the change in the “effective N” formula and K-factor formula made effective in May 2013, players' ratings are experiencing noticeable inflation relative to the formulas previously in place. Last year's increase to the bonus point threshold has slowed down the inflation, but based on this year's analysis the RC has recommended that no further change should be made even though ratings have increased. We will continue to monitor changes in the pool, and in particular whether the inflation slows down or reverses in the upcoming year.

Scholastic Council Report

MIKE HOFFPAUIR AND BEATRIZ MARINELLO, CO-CHAIRS

At the 2015 Delegates Convention several delegate's motions (DM) required action by the Scholastic Council (hereafter, the Council). These DMs required changes to the Scholastic Regulations, as well as, significant procedural improvements during national scholastic tournaments. The Council acted upon and implemented all of the DMs. Results from the past school year's events suggest that the Council's actions were highly successful.

In particular, the over-the-board (OTB) ratings issues observed at the 2015 National Elementary (K-6) Championships were dramatically reduced. The Council developed and codified procedures in the 2016 Scholastic Regulations that: 1) ensured early identification of players with other over-the-board ratings (e.g. FIDE, Northwest, ChessXpress, Kansas), 2) took action, when necessary, to re-section players entering the Unrated and Under sections or to adjust their ratings within an Unrated Section, and 3) notified parents/coaches of affected players so that they were part of the process. In the 2016 spring national tournaments, over 70 players were impacted. There was only

one glitch when one parent was not notified about her daughter having a ChessXpress rating. Two other parents felt the rating conversions used for the Northwest Rating System needed additional improvements. Both issues are already under study by the Council in preparation for the 2017 Scholastic Regulations.

In addition, three ADMs (15-35, 36 and 37) put forth by Steve Shutt, were placed into the Scholastic Regulations. They improved procedures with regard to electronic devices, cell phones, and player behavior during games. The overall intent was to decrease potential for cheating. Evidence from the spring national tournaments is that these ADMs achieved their desired effects. During the scholastic meetings at the National High School (K-12) Championship, National Junior High School (K-9) Championships and National Elementary School (K-6) Championships, parents and coaches felt the changes were good.

For the 2016 school year the Council also considered revising the section structure for the National High School (K-12) Championship and National Elementary School (K-6) Championships. After discussion, the Council decided to focus only on the National High School (K-12) Championship, where in 2015 the Championship section had over 470 players. The Council introduced a K-12 Under 1900 section, which reduced the size of the Championship section to under 300 players. For the coming year, the Council is turning its attention to the sections for the National Elementary School (K-6) Championships and National Junior High (K-9) Championships. In addition, in response to the suggestions of parents and coaches, the Council also shall review the G/120 d5 time controls for the National Elementary School (K-6) Championships with an eye toward shortening them (probably to G/90 d5).

The three Council members elected in 2015 were Robby Adamson, Jay Stallings and Garrett Scott. In 2016, the four positions held by Mike Hoffpauir, Beatriz Marinello, Aviv Friedman, and Russell Harwood are up for re-election.

Senior Chess Committee

BILL DALY, CHAIR

I want to begin by thanking our EB liaison Mike Atkins. Mike's term on the Board expires this year. He provided consistently excellent service to the committee. I also want to thank Mike Eberhardinger and Bob Mahan who served as chairs of the committee over the last couple of years. Each provided us with strong and thoughtful leadership. They will both be missed. This year's U.S. Senior Open tournament will be held June 16-19 in Kenner, Louisiana. Our meeting in Indianapolis is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3 at 10 a.m. It will provide us an opportunity to review the committee's existing programs and activities while looking at new approaches and opportunities to serve US Chess and senior chess in general. Additional areas of discussion will include efforts to improve the membership retention rate of seniors and working with affiliates to promote successful local and state wide senior events. If you have an interest in helping us promote senior chess, please consider membership on our committee.

States Committee

GUY HOFFMAN, CHAIR

While the committee wasn't particularly active, I was made aware of a few problems:

Back in June of 2015, I was informed that the Alaska chapter, Far North Chess, had not renewed its affiliate. E-mails to some of the previous tournament directors (TD) failed to generate any interest in reviving the affiliate. In November, a new individual expressed interest, but he isn't a TD, so running a state championship would only be one of the problems. Then in March, someone else expressed interest, so I had the two of them contact each other (with the aid of the office) and put together an application for a state chapter, as per the Bylaws ("present credentials"). They have sent a draft of their bylaws, which will be presented to the Executive Board.

In September, I became aware that a member of the Mississippi Chess Association was looking for the bylaws of the MCA and didn't find any. He contacted the Bylaws Chairman, so I contacted the office to generate a search. This search was unsuccessful. In fact they found NO bylaws for any state organization. We made a recommendation to create new bylaws.

In February of 2016, the office informed me that Rhode Island was restructuring, and felt the need to create a new state chapter, the Southeast New England Chess Association, while keeping the previous affiliate. This sounded like having two state chapters, so the committee was consulted. They agreed that two affiliates were not allowed, though there would not be a problem with another affiliate running the tournaments of the state chapter. Since this would be a change of affiliate and state chapter, I thought that the new affiliate would have to "present credentials", so strongly suggested that they simply change the name of the Rhode Island Chess Association. In April, they agreed to do this, so now Rhode Island and Alaska have state chapter names that differ from their state. I do wonder if Massachusetts will think that Rhode Island is trying to expand its territory to include Cape Cod, or if New York will take offense to the use of the acronym of the new name (SENECA), which is a lake in New York.

These and any other topics can be discussed at the States workshop in Indianapolis at the U.S. Open.

I would like to thank committee members Frank Berry (OK), Walter Buehl (NY), Larry Cohen (IL), Ed Conway (MN), Jim Gray (OK), Richard Koepcke (NCA), and Harvey Lerman (FL).

U.S. Open Committee

HAL TERRIE, CHAIR

The U.S. Open Committee advises the US Chess office on U.S. Open formats and locations. We also monitor attendance at the tournament for the purpose of making certificate awards to those who attend multiple U.S. Opens (five, 10, 15 etc.). Each year we award 10-20 certificates. In 2015, 19 certificates were awarded.

The Delegate mandated experiment using the time control 40/90, SD/30, with an increment of 30 seconds from move one, will be conducted this year. The traditional and six-day schedules will both use this control. The committee will create a brief survey for distribution in one of the late rounds (after all schedules are merged), asking for player opinions on the control. Survey results will be reported to the Delegates.

Attempts to place the 2017 U.S. Open in St. Louis failed. Instead, it will be held in Norfolk, Virginia. The 2018 U.S. Open will return to Madison, WI, the site of the 2013 event.

US Chess Task Force on Member Acquisition and Retention

JOHN MCCRARY, CHAIR

This Board-appointed task force, consisting of John McCrary (Chair), Ryan Velez, Chuck Unruh, and Jay Stallings, with Ruth Haring and Jean Hoffman, focused on scholastic retention. We discussed a number of ideas among ourselves, and also reviewed and solicited suggestions from other experts in scholastic chess. There has been consensus on several general ideas, though the specifics of such ideas have remained diverse. There's general agreement on the following:

1) For scholastic players, say age 13 and below, new terms for lower rating classes need to be created with more positive connotations than the current "Class" names that go down to "F" or "J" and below. A large percentage of scholastic players have ratings that are in very low classes, and a significant percentage of those players stop US Chess tournament play, and often scholastic chess, after a single event. So the lack of positive reinforcers, especially from US Chess, is an area that needs to be improved. Telling your friends and family that you've made it to Class "F" is likely to bring more embarrassment than praise from family and friends who don't understand its significance.

2) Pursuant to point (1), scholastic players who achieve certain ratings should be credited with irrevocable norm-like levels that would supplement, not replace rating classes. This is analogous to the current system of placing a letter after a player's highest class achieved, which remains even when the rating drops. But instead of just a letter, scholastic players should be credited with reaching a category with a name that sounds attractive to a young person. Since kids like the medieval terminology of chess pieces, a player might be credited with achieving a "knight" rank when his/her rating reaches a certain level, and later with being promoted to "Castle" rank when he/she makes the next rating level, etc. Perhaps boys and girls could choose between the "King" or "Queen" rank as they move up. These terms are analogous to those used by other youth organizations: e.g., Cub Scouts who achieve "wolf" or "bear" ranks, or a church youth organization that grants ranks of "page, squire, and knight".

Another suggestion is to name the higher rating levels after Hall of Fame players. Such might appeal to youngsters' interest in great players, similar to playing in a "Babe Ruth League" or buying a "Hank Aaron" bat. A young player might be credited with reaching the "Marshall" rank, and could move up to the "Pillsbury" and then "Morphy" ranks. (We should avoid a "Fischer" rank.) Girls might be allowed to choose ranks named after female greats, such as Gisela Gresser (who's in the Hall of Fame). Such class names would also be a way of teaching some basic chess history. Keep in mind that chess-playing youngsters are invariably intelligent, and are open to such learning about their game's history. One scholastic organizer with whom I spoke noted that games like chess and baseball have the advantage of a rich history, which modern video games don't have.

Note that the ratings themselves could drop without affecting the ranks achieved. Thus ratings calculation formulae would not be affected by these irrevocable "level" or "rank" recognitions. Such norm-like levels need not have the complex programming issues of adult norms, because they wouldn't require any number of games; they would be given for simply reaching a new rating level. They shouldn't be more complex to program than giving adult players a letter for the highest class achieved, that remains even when ratings drop.

For a scholastic player, a positive certificate, perhaps printed off the website or included in a congratulatory e-mail, would be a significant reinforcement for achieving a new rating, and should be inexpensive to provide. Graphic artists could design attractive visual logos, etc. and literature (at least online) could be provided to US Chess by volunteer historical experts to supplement the level names. For example, the online designation for a "Knight" rank could have an appealing logo design analogous to those in video-game organizations, along with brief information about the knight and its history.

In addition to the above ideas, a number of other suggestions have been made to help retention of scholastic players:

3) Credit for Achieving Levels of Chess Education: Young players might receive credit, online or by e-mail, for learning basic chess ideas. Such an approach has the advantage that it's non-competitive, and thus doesn't involve feeling discouraged by losses. Ideas such as algebraic notation (Many young first-time scholastic players are clearly threatened by the request to record their games) could be a learning module. Then they could move up to learning annotation symbols, etc., receiving some kind of positive recognition for each achievement. They could be credited for learning chess terms, like "gambit" or "trap", and so on up to "endgame", or "problem", etc., as they advance. US Chess volunteers and staff could readily provide the material for both the learning modules and the recognition reinforcers for achievement.

4) General Educational Ideas: One task force member has suggested "theme" tournaments such as Martin Luther King Day, which could include educational material about the role of chess in helping social progress. Literature might be given out at such events regarding how chess has spanned cultures and nations, and how social classes have come together over the chess board without social barriers. Such general educational material could be developed through US Chess volunteers (I gladly volunteer my own historical expertise—I have many publications—, and I have contacts with other chess historians). Such general educational themes would appeal to parents of youngsters, who are hoping chess would be a means of the general enrichment they're always seeking for their kids.

5) Recognizing participation through online awards for playing so many games, etc.

6) More Top 100 lists: As many of these lists as possible could be generated for lower age groups; for girls, etc.

7) Material rewards for significant achievements, such as sets or software for reaching higher rating levels. Or vouchers for reduced prices on some items; or similar incentives. Of course, school definitions of "amateur" should be checked prior to giving any material rewards.

8) Financial: The costs of above suggestions need not be substantial, and would be repaid with any level of success in keeping kids interested. The US Chess Trust, and/or direct fund-raising through US Chess, should be avenues that are tried. A cost-benefit analysis should be ongoing.

9) Legal: Implementation of ideas such as giving names to rating categories must include legal review to avoid trademark issues with the various scholastic organizations that exist. US Chess' national marketing area would be an advantage over more local organizations, as regards trademark rights, as an organization that markets in a specific area or region typically has no trademark rights beyond that area.

10) Synergy through cooperation with local scholastic organizations, as opposed to competition with them, is needed in implementing any approaches.

11) Other suggestions include: Renaming the entire rating-class system, including adults, into numbered categories rather than letters, to improve connotations at all levels. Help rural tournament directors advance. Improve user-friendliness of the US Chess website, especially rating submissions.

The above report was referred, after Executive Board discussion, to the US Chess office for feasibility evaluation.

Women's Committee

JANELLE LOSOFF & MAUREEN GRIMAUD, CO-CHAIRS

Women's committee created a mission statement, goals, and core values for the purposes of direction, unity, respect, and guidance within our committee as well as our dealing with other committees, and the chess community as a whole.

We wrote and the EB approved, our proposal that identifies and recognizes females in the chess community was an underrepresented population within the US Chess population. Together we are committed to growing that population through numbers, participation and retention. We have stated our commitment to female players as well as the volunteers and support network which includes parents, female coaches, female tournament directors (TDs) and female organizers, and sponsors. This is how we do it:

PRESENCE AT EVENTS:

The Women's Committee had a first time presence at scholastic tournaments in order to:

Understand the needs of our community so we can address them.

Help us both gain and retaining more female players.

Promote US Chess rated events for women and girls.

Make direct contact with the players, parents, coaches, TDs and organizers in order to help understand their need to grow and retain the number of females and to network with them from a national level to make that possible.

METHODS WE USED:

Table with banners to identify us and our support of women and girls.

Give surveys to female players, parents, coaches, and supporters.

Hand out calendars listing "Female Friendly" events for the upcoming year.

Networking: prize drawings, town hall meeting, gift give-aways. In the girls' club room we had grandmaster (GM) simultaneous exhibitions, game analysis on female friendly colored boards and pieces, bughouse, GM Skype lectures and discussions, snacks, and activities that girls relate to such as crafts and nail painting for the younger girls (which holds the largest number of US Chess memberships by age). The overall results were very positive and encouraging.

Previous data from the surveys had indicated female participation in chess events was low because of lack of social connections. We addressed this problem with a girls' club room where the girls interacted, socialized, and bonded new and lasting friendships. This was well received and we will do this again if permitted.

—National K-12 in Orlando, Florida

Purpose: network, promote and get to know our market.

Stats: Interviews, surveys and data collected on 132 female players out of 285. Total players in the tournament: 1,750. Had a town hall meeting with approximately 50-60 players, coaches, parents, and supporters attend. It was very well received since many commented this was the first this had ever been done, that it was much needed, and they appreciated having a voice.

—Pan Am Intercollegiate in Cleveland, Ohio

Purpose: network, promote and get to know our market.

Stats: Interviews, surveys, and data collected on 12 female players of 15. With permission from Tournament Organizer Constantine Ananiadis, Franc Guadalupe, and College Committee Chair Al Lawrence, the Women's committee was able to privately hand out small chocolate gift boxes to each of the female players.

—National High School in Atlanta, Georgia

Purpose: Get to know our market. Give girls a better understanding of college life and expectations for female chess players.

Stats: Surveys and data collected. Waiting on survey totals. 80 -100+ participated in the girls' club.

We passed out surveys and collected contact information, along with a listing of national calendar events. With approval from Executive Events Director Franc Guadalupe and College Committee Chair Al Lawrence we passed out college brochures as well as directed them to the college tables to all who were interested including both male/ female players, parents, and coaches. We had a girls' club room for female players, coaches, parents, and supporters. We had a 12 board simultaneous exhibition by WIM Carolina Blanco, and did a Skype session with Alexandra Wiener, Brown University chess club president and representative for the Ivy League school chess clubs. The purpose was to see college chess life and expectations from a female chess player's perspective. Jennifer Christianson volunteered to do game reviews along with coaches Robert Meyers from Houston and Nick Matta from New Orleans. We saw first hand the club room was a place girls could go meet and greet and formed new and lasting friendships.

—All-Girls National in Chicago, Illinois

Stats: Collected approximately 102 player surveys and 104 from parents.

448 attended this year, 90 more than last year, a record turn-out considering most of the increases from previous years were 30-40 range. Heiser credits part of the attendance spike to our committee's promotion of the event on our calendar of events. Participants came from as far away as Washington and the number of local players increased. Special Events: At the All-Girls National the committee organized a video shout out "YOU GO LADIES" to the U.S. Women's Championship players being held simultaneously in St. Louis, Missouri. Jennifer Shahade had Sophia Rohde and six All-Girl's players do a live radio interview as well for the U.S. Women's Championship.

Other local events the Women's committee attended with permission from the tournament organizers and Franc Guadalupe:

—Spence All-Girls School in New York, New York, the New York City tournament, New York State Scholastic Championship, and the U.S. Amateur Team East. We were able to conduct and collect surveys and contact information. This is still being analyzed.

Scheduled Upcoming Events:

—National Elementary School (K-6) Championships in Nashville, Tennessee

—U.S. Women's Open in Las Vegas, Nevada

—U.S. Open in Indianapolis, Indianapolis

Other highlights throughout the year:

NDM/ADMs:

Committee Recommendation:

A) DM 15-66/NDM 15-18: Says that all US Chess invitational tournaments should be FIDE rated unless exempted by the majority of the Executive Board (EB). This was not approved. The origins of this proposal was recommended by Dewain Barber that the National Girls' Invitational should be FIDE rated. The EB wants Women's Committee's (WC's) recommendation on what they would do.

The Women's Committee Response and Recommendation:

The Women's Committee is of the opinion that FIDE rating the National Girls' Tournament of Champions would lend prestige to this tournament. It would also signal that US Chess is serious about providing a path to international chess play for our young female players.

B) DM 15-54/ADM 15-58 (Steve Immitt, NY) Mixed double prizes. Problem is ratings may be too high to play for some participants. Perhaps recommend offering a range of classifications. EB is referring to WC for recommendation and research. Ruth recommends talking with Steve Immitt about his ideas of mixed double prizes since he holds a lot of mixed doubles in his tournaments.

Women's Committee Response and Recommendation to DM 15-54/ADM 15-58:

The Women's Committee is of the opinion that mixed doubles prizes may become an increasingly useful tool for increasing participation by female players in open events. Therefore, we encourage US Chess and tournament organizers to add mixed doubles prizes to their open events.

We agree that the mixed doubles format is relatively new and needs refinement. US Chess should NOT limit tournament organizers to any specific ratings range or classification of mixed double prizes. Instead organizers should be encouraged to experiment with varying mixed doubles combined ratings ranges, classes and prizes, suitable for the expected strengths of the players of the event. Classifications and rules for a mixed double in a single section tournament are likely to vary from those in a multi-section event.

If an organizer wishes to offer a range of classifications for a mixed doubles event, those classifications should be announced in advance and posted.

—We are beginning to network and market on Facebook.

—The National Girls Invitational Tournament was recommended and officially changed to the National Girls Tournament of Champions by the committee. The purpose for the name change is to recognize this is a female tournament for champions who are currently winners in their own right.

—The Women's Committee recommended and was granted permission to have the National Girls Tournament of Champions winner be seated in the U.S. Girls Closed.

—We rebranded the former National Girls Invitational Tournament website at *ngitchess.com* to reflect the name change of this tournament. It is now the National Girls Tournament of Champions (NGOTC). We are in the process of re-branding the NGTOC site to promote women's chess. We are waiting on review and approval from the Executive Board as of May 5, 2015.

—The Committee created a women and girls national calendar of events, with the approval of Franc Guadalupe, National Events Direc-

tor. The information was taken directly from the US Chess TLAs unaltered. In February 2016, the calendar was e-mailed to all state affiliates and to others involved with female players.

—Women's committee created a first time mission statement, goals, and core values for the purposes of direction, unity, respect, and guidance within the committee as well as outside the committee to help bring about positive changes and accomplishments for everyone associated with chess. The females in the chess community are an underrepresented group and would like to see the numbers grow in participation from the players as well as the volunteers and support network which includes parents, female coaches, female tournament directors and female organizers, and sponsors. If we want to grow, we need to recognize that all are critically important in this undertaking.

—World Chess Hall of Fame highlighted featured articles on the history of past females in chess. Ruth Haring was an invited guest this year in the featured exhibit "Her Turn" on February 4th, 2016. The Women's Committee would like to work with the World Chess Hall of Fame in highlighting and recognizing material found in the archives as a motivation for current and future players.

—The committee received a \$10,000 scholarship from Texas Tech University to be given to the winner of the U.S. Junior Girls Championship. This was greatly appreciated and our many thanks goes to Al Lawrence and Harold Winston for making this possible.

—Committee also received a \$5,000 scholarship for the winner of the 2016 National Girls Tournament of Champions funded by private donors Richard and Barbara Schiffrin. Jean Hoffman and Jennifer Shahade were instrumental in coordinating the donation and the committee wishes to thank them for their wonderful efforts.

—We congratulate the first female, Maggie Feng, ever to win the National Junior High School (K-9) Championships, held this year in Indianapolis, Indiana. She finished with a score of 6½/7 and became the first girl in history to win the K-9 Championship. She is hoping to get her rating high enough to qualify for the U.S. Women's Closed Championship 2017.

—Claudia Munoz will be the Women's Committee representative for the U.S. Website committee.

—Connecticut hosted its first All-Girls State Scholastic Championship. 30 girls participated and the winner will be the National Girls Tournament of Champions qualifier.

—The first Women's California Chess Championship took place at Hillside Elementary School. Uyanga Byambaa won first place with a perfect score.

—With our active participation this year and committee presence at these tournaments and our interactions with coaches, supporters, and organizers, some have told us they are interested in starting women and girls activities and tournaments in their state and local regional markets after speaking with us and have started working on making it possible.

—In January 2016, the Women's Committee recommended and was granted the proposal to have a new series of women's top 100 list. We now have girls only lists broken down into individual years. Lists were also added for regular, blitz and quick chess, and for women over 50

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Robert's Rules of Order

A Guide for US Chess Delegates

Written by Mike Nolan, US Chess Parliamentarian. Revised June 2001. Reference: Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th Edition (published in 2000), edited by Robert, Evans, Honemann and Balch, Perseus Publishing, ISBN-13: 978-0306820205 or ISBN-10: 030682020X (List price \$15 in paperback on Amazon.com.) This is a simplified selection of some key points from Robert's Rules of Order, with a few explanatory remarks and examples and some exceptions and extensions that have come into general use by the Delegates.

Definitions

Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian serves as a resource to the chair, offering advice on rulings and other matters to assist the chair in keeping the meeting orderly and productive. The Parliamentarian never 'rules' on a question, the chair has that privilege and may ignore or not solicit the advice of the Parliamentarian before making any ruling. The Parliamentarian also serves as a resource to Delegates, to advise them on proper parliamentary procedure.

2nd

Indicates a willingness to have the Delegates consider the motion, not any support for it. Except for motions on the advance agenda, motions arising from a committee and motions arising from the Membership Meeting, all main and subsidiary motions and most privileged or incidental motions require a 2nd in order to be considered by the Delegates further. While the maker of a motion is expected to argue in favor of it during debate, the seconder is under no such requirement.

Debatable

Discussion of the merits of the motion is permitted. An undebatable motion must be voted upon immediately without discussion unless an amendment or higher-ranking motion is in order and offered.

Majority

A simple majority means that more people vote 'yes' than 'no.' A 2/3 majority means that at least twice as many people vote 'yes' as 'no.' To abstain from voting means to yield to the will of the majority that does vote, whatever that majority is. It does not matter whether the number of 'yes' and 'no' votes adds up to a quorum or not, as long as a quorum is present. Although a count of abstaining Delegates is sometimes requested of the chair, it is not mandatory under *Robert's Rules*.

Reconsider

A motion to reverse an earlier vote. A motion to reconsider may only be offered by someone who voted on the prevailing side on the earlier vote. A motion to reconsider always requires a simple majority, even if the motion being reconsidered required a larger majority to succeed. When a motion to reconsider is successful, the matter becomes active again, although it might not be the current order of business if some

other business is also pending. Some motions may not be reconsidered, such as a failed motion to postpone indefinitely.

Chair

The person running the meeting. The chair assigns the floor during debate and recognizes members, including responding to points of order or privilege (and making rulings as required), parliamentary inquiries, and to request whether a speaker will yield to a point of information. All questions should be addressed to the chair, not to other members, including the member who currently has the floor. The chair is expected to remain impartial and must refrain from debate on the merits of any issue. A chair who wishes to speak to the merits should yield the chair by passing the gavel to another person for the duration of the debate on that issue.

Agenda

The agenda is the order in which business is to be conducted. Many organizations have adopted a standard agenda for meetings, indicating in which order officer and committee reports are to be given, etc. It is also common for organizations to prepare an advance agenda of matters likely to come before the body. Sometimes the Bylaws specify that certain matters cannot be enacted unless pre-announced in the advance agenda, or require a different majority to pass if not pre-announced, such as amendments to the Bylaws. But the advance agenda is an informational document only until such time as it is adopted by the body during the meeting once a quorum is established.

13 Ranking Motions

(Larger numbers indicate motions that take precedence over lower-ranking ones.) Except where indicated, none of these motions are in order when someone else has the floor.

1. Main motion.

Requires a 2nd (except for motions on the advance agenda or arising from a committee), debatable, amendable, may be reconsidered, passes by a simple majority unless the subject matter requires a higher majority, such as Bylaws changes which were not in the advance agenda. A main motion may not be made when some other motion is pending. The chair will call up as main motions items printed in the advance agenda in the order in which they appear, though motions may be called up by a committee out of the preprinted order if the motion was sponsored by or referred to the committee. Motions may be brought up in any order either by unanimous consent of the Delegates or by suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority.

The following are subsidiary motions, and generally apply only to a main motion or a motion relating to a main motion. These motions are in order of increasing priority. For example, a motion to commit takes precedence over a motion to amend, and a motion to table takes precedence over all other subsidiary motions.

2. Postpone indefinitely.

Requires a 2nd, debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority, may only be reconsidered in the affirmative. If successful, the main motion to which it applies is killed for the duration of the meeting and may not be reintroduced. Because of its low ranking, this motion may only be made when the main motion is under discussion, not when any amendments or other motions are pending.

3. Amend.

Requires a 2nd, debatable if the motion to which it applies is debatable, amendable (but an amendment to an amendment is not further amendable, because it gets too confusing to keep track of things), may be reconsidered, requires a simple majority. (See below on the 'friendly amendment'.)

4. Commit (refer).

Requires a 2nd, debatable if the motion to which it applies is debatable, amendable, requires a simple majority, may be reconsidered. If successful, the current main motion including all pending motions such as amendments, is referred to the designated committee(s) and the order of business is now the next item on the agenda. With some exceptions, such as a motion to amend the Bylaws, the Delegates may refer a matter to the Executive Board or to a committee with the power to implement it. Motions may also be referred to the Executive Board or to a committee with instructions to report back at the next Delegates Meeting. By convention, unless otherwise indicated a referral to a committee includes instructions to report back at the next Delegates Meeting, but referrals to the Board do not include instructions to report back at the next Delegates Meeting, unless the Board does not have the authority to implement and that power is not attached in the motion to refer.

5. Postpone to a definite time.

Requires a 2nd, debatable, amendable, generally requires a simple majority, may be reconsidered. (If made a special order, requires a 2/3 majority. See 'call for the orders of the day'.)

6. Limit debate.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, amendable, requires a 2/3 majority to pass, may be reconsidered if still possible. Used to limit the rights of the Delegates to debate an issue, such as placing a time limit on an item of business, limiting the length of individual speeches, or the number of times a Delegate can speak on any one issue during debate on a motion.

7. Previous question (call the question).

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a 2/3 majority to pass, may be reconsidered. Used to end debate on a motion and proceed to an immediate vote on it. In its basic form it applies only to the current pending motion (such as an amendment), but may also be applied to motions below that one in order, all the way back to the current main motion.

8. Lay on the table.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority to pass, may not be reconsidered. Often used improperly

to kill a motion, but more properly used to permit the Delegates to set aside a subject in order to move on to a more pressing one, since the tabled matter may be brought back to the floor by a simple majority vote later on, whereas one that is postponed indefinitely may not be brought to the floor later in the meeting. Tabled matters that are still tabled at the end of the meeting are automatically referred to the Executive Board, which may act upon a motion, refer it to appropriate committees, or place it on the agenda for the next year's meeting, although the EB is not required to take any of these actions. Motions for which the Executive Board does not have the authority to take final action, such as a Bylaws change, may still be referred by the Executive Board to committees or placed on next year's agenda, but unlike motions specifically referred to the Board this is not mandatory.

The following motions are privileged, may be made at any time, and do not refer to a pending main or subsidiary motion.

9. Call for the orders of the day.

Does not require a 2nd, may be made when someone else has the floor, not debatable, not amendable, does not require a vote, may not be reconsidered. The orders of the day are any motions that have been passed calling for consideration of a particular subject at a particular time as a special order. When the appointed time arises, any member may call the chair's attention to the matter by calling for the orders of the day, and the current pending matter must be set aside and the subject of the special order brought to the floor immediately.

10. Raise a question of privilege.

Does not require a 2nd, may be made when someone else has the floor, not debatable, not amendable, is acted upon by the chair without a vote, and may not be reconsidered. A question of privilege deals with the rights of the Delegates or an individual Delegate to participate in the business at hand or correct the record on previous business. For example, if the speaker system isn't working and a Delegate can't hear the debate, that would be a question of privilege. Similarly, a loud disturbance from elsewhere would be a question of privilege. A question of personal privilege is often invoked when a member's name is mentioned in debate, but this is not proper unless this has been done in such a fashion as to incorrectly place into the record the member's participation or lack of participation in matters previously dealt with or to circulate a charge against that member's character. (The more proper motion to deal with an imprudent remark about you made by the speaker during debate is to raise a point of order to 'call the member to order,' that is to have the chair request that the speaker refrain from making further improper personal comments about other members.)

11. Recess.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, amendable, requires a simple majority, may not be reconsidered. Once a motion to recess is passed, the Delegates are in recess until the time specified for the meeting to resume, at which time the chair may resume the meeting as soon as a quorum is present.

12. Adjourn.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority, may not be reconsidered. Properly used as it applies to the Delegates meeting, this motion is only used to end the meeting. A motion to adjourn to 9 AM tomorrow morning should actually be made as a motion to recess until 9 AM, and the chair should rephrase it as such.

13. Fix the time to which to adjourn.

This motion has no practical application to the Delegates meeting, since the meeting is short and of a fixed duration and except in special circumstances would not continue beyond that time frame.

Other motions

The following motions are restorative, they bring a matter back before the Delegates that had previously been tabled or voted upon:

A. Take from the table

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority, may not be reconsidered. (But a new motion to take the matter from the table may be offered later on.) This motion is only in order when there is no main motion pending, and it brings a matter before the Delegates that had been tabled earlier in the meeting, in the exact form it was in at the point at which it was tabled. See discussion above as to the disposition of motions left on the table at the end of the meeting.

B. Reconsider

Requires a 2nd, debatable if the motion to which it applies is also debatable, may not be amended, requires a simple majority, may not be made a 2nd time if unsuccessful. If a vote is reconsidered, any earlier disposition is reversed and whatever action is taken on the motion after reconsideration overrides any earlier action. If an action is irreversible, the matter cannot be reconsidered. This motion must be made by someone who voted on the prevailing side of the motion being reconsidered.

The following are some incidental motions that may arise, there is no order to these motions.

A. Suspend the rules.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a 2/3 majority, may not be reconsidered. This is a motion to suspend *Robert's Rules* or any standing rules or customs. The Bylaws may not be suspended, they must be amended. Suspending the rules is often requested to change the order of business to consider something ahead of its place in the agenda. Although not debatable, the maker of the motion generally offers a short explanation as to why the rules should be suspended or what action will be taken once the rules are suspended. If a motion to suspend the rules for a particular purpose is unsuccessful, it may not be renewed without unanimous consent of the Delegates.

B. Point of Order.

May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd, is not debatable, is not amendable, may not be reconsidered, and is ruled upon by the chair rather than voted upon by the Delegates. A point of order is a request for the chair to enforce the rules under which the Delegates operate, such as dealing with a motion or member being out of order. For example, if an amendment to an amendment to an amendment is offered, it would be out of order and if the chair doesn't rule it out of order, a Delegate should raise a point of order to have the chair enforce the rules and declare the amendment out of order. A ruling by the chair is made, possibly after consulting with the Secretary or Parliamentarian, and once made the ruling may be appealed by any two Delegates (an appeal requires a 2nd), a simple majority being needed to reverse the ruling of the chair. A point of order can also be made to enforce the rules on decorum in debate, to enforce a time limit on debate or the number of times a speaker is recognized, or to clarify the status of the motion(s) currently before the Delegates.

C. Parliamentary Inquiry.

May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd, is not debatable. Similar to a point of order, but generally limited to inquiring as to the proper motion to make under some circumstance or to ascertain the effect of such a motion or any pending motion. The chair answers the inquiry and may consult with others, such as the Parliamentarian or Secretary, for advice before answering. Since this is not (yet) a ruling, it may not be appealed.

D. Point of Information.

May be made when someone else has the floor. This is not a motion, per se, but a request for permission to seek further information about the pending matter from the current speaker or for a brief answer from someone else with expertise in the subject, generally another Delegate or a US Chess staff member. The speaker is not obliged to yield the floor to hear the question. This motion is often improperly used to interrupt a speaker just to rebut the speaker's debate, and in proper usage the interrupter should not make the rebuttal argument immediately but limit the interruption to a request that the speaker yield for a question, since the proper means for rebuttal in debate is to gain the floor through the usual means.

E. Object to the consideration of a question.

May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd, is not debatable, is not amendable, requires a 2/3 majority, may not be reconsidered. This motion may only be applied to a main motion when it is first introduced, its purpose is to prevent any discussion or debate on the motion, including any discussion as to why the question should not be considered. Another way to think of it is as the opposite of a 2nd, it indicates a lack of willingness to have the motion considered by the Delegates. An immediate vote on the objection should be taken and, if successful, the motion is killed and may not be reintroduced during the remainder of the meeting.

F. Division of a question.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, amendable, requires a simple majority, may not be reconsidered. This is a request to split a motion into several parts, and is only in order when the motion is easily severable.

Division of the assembly.

May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd, is not debatable, is not amendable, may not be reconsidered, does not require a vote. Used to request a tabulated vote when the vote announced by the chair is disputed by the Delegates. A first request for a division should almost always be granted, as should a second request for a very close vote, but repeated requests for recounts of a close vote are a stalling tactic and after a vote has been carefully tabulated twice unless there is still a reasonable doubt as to the outcome the chair may ignore further requests for a division of the assembly and declare the vote concluded. Though it has been done on occasion, there is no specific provision in *Robert's Rules* or in the US Chess Bylaws for ordering a roll call vote, and due to the time involved such an order should be used sparingly.

Appeal.

May be made when someone else has the floor, requires a 2nd, is debatable if applied to a question which was debatable, requires a simple majority. Decisions of the chair regarding points of order, points of privilege, or assignment of the floor during debate may be appealed. Such an appeal must occur immediately after the ruling

to which it applies, and the motion to appeal takes precedence over the motion which was pending at the time the decision was made. Rulings regarding decorum in debate or the priority of business are not debatable, and a ruling made while a nondebatable motion is pending is also nondebatable. However, the chair is entitled to explain the ruling even if an appeal is nondebatable.

Standing rules or customary rules

Used by US Chess Delegates at past meetings, including procedural rules initially developed by the US Chess President for use at the 1998 Delegates meeting:

- A.** A speaker may not move the previous question (call the question) after speaking to the merits of a question in that turn at the microphone. [Passed by the Delegates as a standing rule.]
- B.** Except for motions arising from the US Chess Membership Meeting, if the sponsor or co-sponsor of a motion is not present at the time it is reached in the agenda, it goes to the end of the agenda, after all other advance motions and motions filed with the Secretary before or during the meeting but not included in the advance agenda. A request for unanimous consent or a motion to suspend the rules may be offered to bring the motion back to the floor ahead of then. (Congratulatory motions generally made at the end of the meeting are usually deferred until all other Delegate motions are dealt with, including those moved to the end of the agenda.) Motions on the advance agenda do not require a second, a Delegate who objects to such a motion should raise an objection to consideration of the question, either during adoption of the advance agenda or when the motion is reached in the meeting. Delegate motions not printed in the advance agenda do require a second.
- C.** A Delegate may withdraw a motion as long as it is still in its original form, even during debate, but once a motion has been revised from its initial form it may only be withdrawn by unanimous consent. All co-signers to the original motion must also consent to its withdrawal. (The person who seconded the motion does not need to consent to its withdrawal, since seconding a motion does not express an opinion on the merits of the motion, and the seconder is always free to attempt to gain the floor to make the motion again, at which time it requires another Delegate to second it.) When a motion is divided into multiple questions, each of the parts is now a separate motion and such a separated motion may be withdrawn if it is still in its original form.
- D.** The maker of a motion may accept as an improved version a 'friendly amendment' from another Delegate. Such a motion is still considered to be in its original form. The seconder does not have to consent to the friendly amendment, since the person offering the improvement is obviously willing to have the motion considered, which is the point of requiring a second. [This is a deviation from Robert's Rules, which now has a reference to the friendly amendment in the 10th edition, but in a much more restricted sense than found in common practice, including at US Chess Delegates Meetings.]
- E.** Committee chairs may only bring to the floor during their reports motions that were referred to them by the previous or current Delegates meeting, motions referred to them by the Executive Board and printed in the *Executive Board Newsletter* or (preferably) placed on the advance agenda, or motions that the committee, or the committee chair on the committee's behalf, placed on the advance agenda. In specific, motions from workshops have no special standing with the Delegates, though they may be brought

to the floor as main motions later in the meeting in the usual manner or offered as amendments during debate.

- F.** Straw polls may be made at the sole discretion of the chair, although the speaker may request them of the chair. The chair will conduct all straw polls and votes. [Because they neither advance nor defeat the issue, the use of straw polls is not sanctioned by Robert's Rules, which suggests that a form of 'committee of the whole' be used instead.]
- G.** All main motions and amendments not appearing in the advance agenda should be submitted to the Secretary in written format, to assist the chair in the orderly conduct of the meeting and the Secretary in preparing an accurate set of minutes.

Pro and Con microphones will be placed on the floor. All Delegates wishing to debate a motion should stand in line at the appropriate microphone and wait to be assigned the floor by the chair. If an amendment or other debatable motion is offered, the Pro and Con microphones will now refer to that motion, and Delegates wishing to speak on that subject should move to the appropriate microphone, others should stand aside or sit down.

A podium may be provided for committee chairs to make their committee reports from. A committee chair or other Delegate at the podium is not entitled to any preference in debate but may be called upon to answer points of information regarding a committee's views on motions referred to it, in the advance agenda, or arising from the committee workshop. Makers of main motions may also be requested to present their motions from the podium and to remain at the podium to answer points of information.

Motions introduced and passed at the US Chess Membership Meeting for consideration by the Delegates are entered on the agenda as the first items under New Business, and are brought to the floor in order at that point in the agenda. These motions do not require a second. The maker of the motion during the Membership Meeting, if not a Delegate, is not entitled to speak at the Delegates meeting without the unanimous consent of the Delegates.

Delegates who have already spoken to the merits of a pending question are requested to defer to Delegates who have not yet spoken to the merit of that question. The chair may recognize Delegates who have not yet spoken to the merits of a pending question ahead of those who have already spoken on it. Where possible the chair will alternate between speakers for and speakers against the pending question. The maker of a motion is always entitled to the first opportunity in debate to speak to the merits of that motion. The chair assigns the floor, a Delegate may not yield the floor to another Delegate without the unanimous consent of the Delegates. Except for committee chairs giving their report, the Parliamentarian (if not a Delegate) and US Chess staff members presenting a staff report or answering a point of information, non-Delegates are not entitled to speak to the Delegates without unanimous consent.

As indicated above, motions not reached by the Delegates or motions tabled by the Delegates are automatically referred to the Executive Board at the conclusion of the Delegates Meeting, but without the power to implement (where applicable) and without instructions to report back to the Delegates, so they will not appear on the advance agenda of the next Delegates Meeting except by specific action of the Executive Board, nor does progress on these motions need to be reported upon.

Volunteer and Legal Expenses

VOLUNTEER EXPENSES 6/1/15 - 5/31/16

Name	Capacity	Total Amount
Michael Atkins	Executive Board	\$1,593.60
Anjelina Belakovskaia	Executive Board	\$1,296.50
Ruth Haring	Executive Board	\$3,320.65
Mike Nietman	Executive Board	\$2,980.38
Gary Walters	Executive Board	\$1,724.80

***Mike Nietman was reimbursed for EB expenses and he returned the money to US Chess as a donation.

LEGAL EXPENSES 6/1/15 - 5/31/16

Name	Capacity	Total Amount
Trademark	Lucas & Mercanti	\$ 1,955.00
Non-Profit Consulting	Quarles & Brady LLP	\$24,796.50
Personnel	Bone, McAllester & Norton, PLLC	\$ 944.98
Governance & Misc.	Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.	\$ 3,570.00
	Quarles & Brady LLP	\$13,306.50

Total Legal Expenses 2015-2016 \$44,572.98

Membership Appreciation Program (MAP)

The MAP program continues in 2016. See details at main.uschess.org/go/MAP. Top standings will appear every two months in *Chess Life*.

Overall Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	546
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	392
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	323
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	162
ROCKS & ROOKS CHESS CLUB	TX	157
WESTERN PA YOUTH CHESS CLUB	PA	143
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	137
FOOTHILL HS CHESS CLUB	CA	127
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR	MO	119
LONG ISLAND CHESS NUTS	NY	109

Small State Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
MAINE ASSOC OF CHESS COACHES	ME	73
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CC	ME	54
NEW MEXICO SCHOL CHESS ORG	NM	43
WVSCA	WV	29
AIRLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ME	13
TOURNAMENT IN A BOX	NH	10
DELAWARE YOUTH CHESS ORG	DE	10
MESA CHESS CLUB	NM	10
OMAHA CHESS COMMUNITY	NE	10
BORDERLAND CHESS CENTRAL	NM	7

State Chapter Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
MARYLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION	MD	280
MICHIGAN CHESS ASSOCIATION	MI	138
PENNSYLVANIA ST CHESS FED	PA	92
WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	66
MASSACHUSETTS CHESS ASSOC	MA	55
TENNESSEE CHESS ASSOCIATION	TN	36
MINNESOTA ST CHESS ASSN	MN	33
NEVADA CHESS INC	NV	28
IOWA STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION	IA	25
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHESS ASSN	NH	24
NEW JERSEY ST CHESS FED	NJ	20

Adult Membership Standings

Name	State	Count
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	410
MARSHALL CHESS CLUB	NY	92
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR	MO	61
SAN DIEGO CHESS CLUB	CA	51
CHESS CASTLE OF MINNESOTA	MN	50
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	50
SOUTH JERSEY CHESS CLUB	NJ	49
LOS ANGELES CHESS CLUB	CA	40
DALLAS CHESS CLUB	TX	34
ROCHESTER CHESS CENTER	NY	33

Scholastic and Youth Membership Standings

Name	State	Count
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	342
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	295
ROCKS & ROOKS CHESS CLUB	TX	143
WESTERN PA YOUTH CHESS CLUB	PA	137
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	136
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	130
FOOTHILL HS CHESS CLUB	CA	117
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	113
LONG ISLAND CHESS NUTS	NY	103
BEYOND CHESS	CA	99

Member Standings

Name	State	Count
NAVARRO, DANIEL A	TX	19
SOSO, VAUGHN JONATIN	NY	17
KRANICH RITTER, TANIA	FL	13
TUSING, TIMOTHY A	FL	12
WAGUESPACK, GARY PHILLIP	MD	9
SPENCER, ALEC	CA	5
CLARK, MIKE	MO	5
SLAVIN, DANIEL JOSHUA	NY	5
BRACKENRIDGE, KEITH	OH	5
STALLINGS, JAY S	CA	4
SHAEFFER, JAY	CO	4
MOY, BOBBY	NY	4
SETSER, BRADY	SC	4
ALVAREZ, WAYLON	TX	4

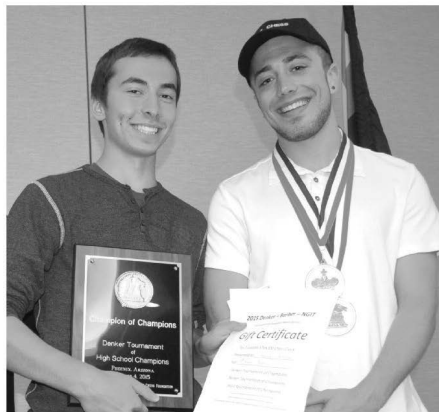
PCT Gain Standings

State	Dec15	May16	PCT	State	Dec15	May16	PCT	State	Dec15	May16	PCT	State	Dec15	May16	PCT
TERR	50	69	38.0	AR	221	249	12.7	CT	1306	1375	5.3	NM	637	658	3.3
VT	231	287	24.2	DE	258	286	10.9	MN	996	1032	3.6				
UT	634	745	17.5	OK	375	401	6.9	CA-N	5220	5393	3.3				



U.S. Chess Trust

A Charitable, 501 (c)(3) organization.



Donate to the Denker!

Denker Tournament of High School Champions
Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions
National Girls' Invitational Tournament

www.uschesstrust.org

Or contact Al Lawrence at al@uschesstrust.org.
Donations to the U.S. Chess Trust are tax deductible.

US Chess Membership Rates: Premium (P) and Regular (R)

(U.S., CANADA, MEXICO)

Type	1 yr	2 yr
Adult P	\$49	\$95
Adult R	\$40	\$75
Senior (65+)	\$40	\$75
Young Adult P (U25)*	\$35	\$65
Young Adult R (U25)*	\$26	\$48
Youth P (U16)*	\$30	\$55
Youth R (U16)*	\$22	\$40
Scholastic P (U13)*	\$25	\$45
Scholastic R (U13)*	\$17	\$30

*Premium membership provides a printed copy of Chess Life (monthly) or Chess Life for Kids (bimonthly) plus all other benefits of regular membership. Regular membership provides online-only access to Chess Life and Chess Life Kids. Youth provides bimonthly Chess Life, Scholastic bimonthly Chess Life Kids, others listed above monthly Chess Life. See www.uschess.org for other membership categories. Dues are not refundable and may be changed without notice. *Ages at expiration*

Be a US Chess Benefactor!

Benefactor Membership includes Life Membership, a special membership card, and recognition on a benefactor page of our website and periodically in Chess Life. The cost is \$3,000, or \$1,500 to existing Life Members. Half the funds collected will go to US Chess Life Member Assets Fund and half to assist US Chess operations. Become a Benefactor at uschess.org, by phone at 1-800-903-8723, or by mail to US Chess, PO Box 3967, Crossville TN 38557.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR BENEFACTORS!

US Chess Benefactor Members as of February 29, 2016:

Jim Bedenbaugh | Jim Blackwood | Joseph Boyle | John J. Brendel | Fabiano Caruana
Jonathan Crumiller | Jeffrey Davidson | Martin Dean | Kenneth Duffy | Bill Goichberg
Robert E. Hux | In Memory Of: David Kaplan | David Kochman | Christopher Lewis
David C. Miller | Parker Montgomery | David H. Raymond | Timothy M. Sawyier | Phillip Smith
Christopher P. Snell | Henry L. Terrie | Thomas N. Thrush | Harold Torrance
Charles Unruh | Edward Wycoff

HELP PROMOTE AMERICAN CHESS

Schedule for 2016 U.S. Open Workshops & Committee Meetings

Time	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM
WEDNESDAY August 3	Forum	Senior	FIDE Events	LUNCH	States	Outreach	TDCC	TDCC / Problem Solving
	Denker H.S. & Barber K-8	College Chess			Women's Chess	Scholastic Committee		
	FIDE Arbiters Seminar				FIDE Arbiters Seminar			
THURSDAY August 4	Executive Board CLOSED	Executive Board OPEN		LUNCH	Chess in Education		Website Advisory	Chess Trust
					Rules Workshop		Ratings	Clubs
	FIDE Arbiters Seminar				FIDE Arbiters Seminar			
FRIDAY August 5	Bylaws		Ethics	LUNCH	Finance		International Affairs	Staff Forum/ General Membership Meeting
		Special Needs & Circumstances			Publications	CJA	Audit (closed)	
	FIDE Arbiters Seminar				FIDE Arbiters Seminar			
SATURDAY August 6	Delegates Meeting			AWARDS LUNCHEON		Delegates Meeting		
SUNDAY Aug. 7	Delegates Meeting							

SATURDAY, July 30, Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, and the National Girls Tournament of Champions Opening Ceremony

FRIDAY, August 5, Executive Board Reception 5:30 PM

Saturday, August 6, 2016 US Chess Awards Luncheon, Noon

SUNDAY, August 7, Executive Board Meeting (CLOSED) 3 PM and Executive Board Meeting (OPEN) 6 PM

****Schedule Subject to Change - Check www.uschess.org for updates****