

US CHESS
Minutes of Executive Board Meeting
November 11-12, 2017
Nashville, TN

This document is a summary of the proceedings of the meeting held at the Embassy Suites near the airport in Nashville, TN. It includes motions made, action items accepted, and subjects discussed. Details of discussions, etc., may be obtained from the audio files online.

The following Executive Board members were present:

Mike Hoffpauir, President	Anjelina Belakovskaia, Member at Large
Allen Priest, Vice President	Hal Sprechman, Member at Large
Chuck Unruh, Vice President of Finance	Lakshmana “Vish” Viswanath, Member at Large
Mike Nietman, Secretary	Carol Meyer, Executive Director

The following guests were present:

Franc Guadalupe, Director of Events
Boyd Reed, Assistant Director of Events

OPEN SESSION I, Saturday, November 11, 2017 – Nashville, TN

Executive Board President Mike Hoffpauir called the meeting to order at 9:01am and welcomed everyone. Secretary Mike Nietman called the roll. All Executive Board members were present and a quorum was established.

President Hoffpauir asked Mike Nietman to confirm that the minutes of the August meeting have been voted upon and duly approved by the Executive Board. Secretary Nietman confirmed.

EB 18-016 – Nietman - I move that we accept the minutes to the August 3, 2017, and August 6, 2017, Executive Board meetings. **PASSED 7-0**

OFFICER AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

President’s Report

President Hoffpauir thanked Executive Director Carol Meyer for her part in organizing the Board’s meeting on Friday, November 10, 2017 with the staff on site and via conference call at the US Chess office in Crossville, TN. He conveyed how the Board was glad to see the “heartbeat of US Chess” and to meet all the staff. He expressed his appreciation for the diversity of the Board with each having a different set of interests to bring to the table and brought attention to the Standards of Conduct for the US Chess Executive Board. President Hoffpauir stated his focus will be on strategic matters such as the core of the budget, our 501(c)(3) mission, and US Chess goals.

Vice President of Finance Report

Chuck Unruh thanked Allen Priest for his help during his transition as Vice President of Finance. Mr. Priest reported on October’s month end. Other topics discussed were as follows: finance report to date; budget direction; individual and club/affiliate membership structure; events revenue; voucher programs; the reserve fund; and the LMA Trust. An extensive discussion ensued among Board members regarding membership retention and voucher programs. Boyd Reed and Franc Guadalupe added to the discussion. President Hoffpauir called for a brief recess.

OPEN SESSION II, Saturday, November 11, 2017

President Hoffpauir welcomed everyone back to the meeting. The Board continued their discussion on membership structure, public relations, committees, clubs and state affiliates.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Carol Meyer thanked the Board and Jean Hoffman for their assistance as she came on board with US Chess the beginning of October this year. She also praised the staff for their commitment to US Chess. The following topics were discussed: staffing profile; organizational processes and office procedures; 401k structure and contribution; budgeting for building maintenance; compliance as a 501(c)(3); committee charters and communication; IT status; events management including sponsorships and advertising; and outreach and growing the game in our chess communities. Allen Priest, Chuck Unruh and Vish Viswanath commented.

Allen Priest introduced the following motion and a vote was taken.

EB 18-018 – Priest – I move that the Executive Board approves a one-time profit sharing contribution to the US Chess 401K Plan for calendar year 2017 in the amount of 2% of compensation for all eligible employees. **PASSED 7-0**

Executive Director Meyer continued with her report and action items from prior EB meetings. Strategy for US Chess 501(c)(3) charitable donations process and the redesign of the US Chess website were discussed among the Board.

Director of Publications Report

Dan Lucas, Director of Publications, provided a written report which included TLA presentation in Chess Life and other publications after feedback at the U.S. Open. The Board and Franc Guadalupe discussed TLA newsletters, cost and page hits.

The Board recessed for lunch.

OPEN SESSION III, Saturday, November 11, 2017

The meeting reconvened with President Hoffpauir calling on Carol Meyer to present the following resolution.

EB 18-019 – Meyer – I move the following resolution: **PASSED 7-0**

RESOLUTION APPROVING ASSIGNMENT OF BANK ACCOUNT OWNERSHIP AND RELATED MATTERS FOR THE US CHESS FEDERATION

Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, the US Chess Federation, from time to time, experiences turnover in its Executive Board Officers and staff;

WHEREAS, the US Chess Federation wishes to assign ownership of its bank accounts with Cumberland County Bank consistent with updates to its Officers and staff;

RESOLVED THAT, the US Chess Federation names the following Officers and staff to open and close bank accounts upon appropriate Executive Board motion;

Name	Officer / Staff
Allen Priest	Vice President
Chuck Unruh	Vice President, Finance
Carol Meyer	Executive Director
Judy Misner	Director of Administration

FURTHER RESOLVED, the US Chess Federation allows its currently named account signatories to also initiate electronic, telephonic or oral instructions for the transfer or payment of funds on deposit with Cumberland County Bank

The undersigned, Michael Nietman, certifies that he is the duly elected Secretary of this Corporation, and that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution that was duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors, which was held in accordance with State law and the Bylaws of the Corporation.

Date

Secretary

President

Director of Events Report

Franc Guadalupe, Director of Events, reported on the following events: National K12 registration to date and hotel accommodations; the World Junior Chess Championship; the World Championship; the FIDE Congress meeting; TD Seminars; US Chess website link for college chess scholarships; and ADA compliance. Questions and comments from the Board and Boyd Reed were discussed.

Committee Liaison Reports

Mike Hoffpauir asked Allen Priest to address the US Chess' support for national and FIDE events prioritization list.

President Hoffpauir called on Mike Nietman to address items for the Scholastic Council. Mr. Nietman briefly commented on the good work being done by the Chess in Education Committee. He continued with Scholastic Council items and introduced the following motion.

EB 18-020 – Nietman - I move that the EB accepts Aviv Friedman's resignation from the Scholastic Council and to name Eric Vigil (IA) to the Scholastic Council. **PASSED 7-0**

The Board went into closed session at this time.

OPEN SESSION IV, Saturday, November 11, 2017

President Hoffpauir called on Mike Nietman to continue addressing Scholastic Council items. He brought attention to the Scholastic/College Chess area on the US Chess website and presented suggested

modifications to the web page and the adding of new paragraphs. The following topics were also discussed: the Scholastic National Invitational Event and Award Requirements web page including U16 Olympiad requirements; international travel and visas; and the All-America Team awards requirements. Mr. Nietman introduced the following two motions:

EB 18-021 – Nietman - I move to insert the following as a new paragraph 8 into the Scholastic National Invitational Event and Award Requirements web page: **PASSED 7-0**

8 FIDE World Youth U16 Olympiad Selection Criteria: The World Youth U16 Olympiad is an annual tournament featuring team play. Teams are composed of four players and an alternate. Players who attend as part of the U.S. Team must be approved by US Chess in order to participate. The age cutoff is based on January 1st of the year of the tournament. In the event that any FIDE rules or regulations are determined to be in contradiction with these selection criteria, FIDE rules and procedures will supersede these criteria. FIDE does not limit the number of teams that can participate. Any group of four or five US Chess players with “USA” as their FIDE country who meet the age criteria can attend the World Youth U16 Olympiad as a member of the U.S. Delegation. Only the sponsored team members must meet the rating and activity requirements as defined below. All other players may be allowed to participate; however, these additional players will not be offered any financial assistance by US Chess. They must pay their own way, to include the administrative fee established by US Chess. These players do not need to meet the activity requirement but they must still be eligible to represent the U.S. under FIDE rules. Players who transfer their FIDE country to the USA may not represent the U.S. until the date established by FIDE.

The sponsored team members must meet the rating requirement as well as the activity requirement of 30 rated games in the 12-month qualification period. The 30-rated games can be either US Chess or FIDE-rated. If the games are FIDE rated, the player may request US Chess verification.

1. The sponsored team shall consist of 5 players + one coach/Head of Delegation. Per FIDE requirements at least one of the players must be female who will play in at least 1/3 of the games.
2. The team will be comprised of the 5 highest rated eligible players by peak supplement rating in the six months prior to selection. Selection will be six months prior to the event.
3. Only US Chess ratings will count for selection. FIDE ratings will not be averaged in. This will ensure that players from areas without access to FIDE rated events will not be discriminated against.

EB 18-022 – Nietman - I move to revise current paragraph 9 of the Scholastic National Invitational Event and Award Requirements web page to include the following rating thresholds for the All-America Team beginning for the 2018 team.

PASSED 6-1 with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.

Age	New
08	1950
09	2050
10	2150
11	2225
12	2300
13	2350
14	2400
15	2425
16	2450
17	2475
18	2500

Mike Hoffpauir called on Anjelina Belakovskaia to address the Women's Committee requests. Topics discussed were reimbursements for travel and other expenses for the Women's Committee, Pan-Am WGMs and WIMs rules/ratings, and anti-harassment policies. The Board went into closed session for further discussion.

OPEN SESSION I, Sunday, November 12, 2017 – Nashville, TN

President Hoffpauir welcomed everyone to open session and stated they are returning from their closed session earlier this morning. The following motion was discussed in closed session and presented in open session by Mike Nietman.

EB 18-023 – Board - The Executive Board moves to set aside the Ethics Committee decision in the case of Chachere vs. Eustache but directs the coaches of Tim Eustache to re-emphasize proper tournament procedures with him. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Allen Priest absent during discussion and therefore abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Hoffpauir called on Chuck Unruh to introduce the next motion. The motion was briefly discussed before a vote was taken.

EB 18-024 – Unruh - I move that US Chess provide up to \$10,000 in prize funding for the 2018 Tournament of State Senior Champions. Participants completing all rounds in the event are eligible for a reduced entry fee into the US Open. The entry fee incentives are the same offered in the invitational tournaments coincident with the US Open event. **PASSED 7-0**

President Hoffpauir addressed the following motion on the establishment of an affiliates committee. Guidelines and best practices for affiliates and TDs were discussed. Franc Guadalupe and Boyd Reed added to the discussion.

EB 18-025 – Hoffpauir - I move in response to ADM17-40, the Executive Board directs establishment of an Affiliates Committee to advise the EB on matters related to affiliate activities and issues, and to enhance the ability of affiliates to organize and conduct chess tournaments in accordance with the Rules of Chess and organizational best practices. **PASSED 7-0**

The Board discussed ADM 17-42 concerning background checks and contracts for TDs and staff who work National Scholastic events. Franc Guadalupe and Boyd Reed also addressed concerns for restricted playing halls and other areas where children will be present. The Board went into closed session to further discuss background check initiatives.

OPEN SESSION II, Sunday, November 12, 2017

President Hoffpauir opened the meeting continuing discussion on background check initiatives per ADM 17-42 and identification bands for wrists of K-3 players at Scholastic National and other events per ADM 17-43.

Mr. Hoffpauir moved on to adult invitational rules with Franc Guadalupe leading the discussion. Allen Priest introduced the following motion and a vote was taken.

EB 18-026 – Priest - I move that the Executive Board adopt the revised adult invitational rules as presented by Franc Guadalupe effective immediately. The board recognizes that the changes are not substantive but are administrative and clean up in nature. **PASSED 7-0**

President Hoffpauir called to recess for lunch with the meeting to reconvene at 1:00pm.

OPEN SESSION III, Sunday, November 12, 2017

President Hoffpauir called the meeting to order. Mike Nietman introduced the next motion and a vote was taken.

EB 18-027 – Unruh - I move to expand the leadership positions in the Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee to include a Vice Chairperson. Furthermore, Sean Manross a current member of the Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee will fill the new leadership position.

PASSED 7-0

President Hoffpauir called on Allen Priest to address and introduce the next motion.

EB 18-028 – Priest - I move that the Executive Board directs the office staff, TD Certification, Rules, FIDE Events, and Affiliates committees to adopt the delegates' recommendation to use the terms complainant and respondent in dealing with cases before them. **PASSED 7-0**

President Hoffpauir tabled the topic on future charitable contributions and other strategic topics for discussion at the January 2018 EB meeting.

Mike Hoffpauir directed a discussion regarding disciplinary committees reaching out to the Scholastic Council when dealing with cases that involve a member(s) under the age of 18. He introduced the following motion:

EB 18-029 – Hoffpauir - I move that the Executive Board direct that the Chairs / Co-Chair / Vice Chair of TDCC, Rules and FIDE Events, when dealing with cases that involve member(s) under the age of 18, reach out to the Scholastic Council to request support from a member of the council in deliberating the merits of the case. The Scholastic Council member would not have any voting authority in the case, but is there to serve as a resource to advise the committee on the matter. Further, the Executive Board requests the Delegate-appointed Ethics Committee consider the same action when dealing with such cases. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Hoffpauir addressed the relationship between US Chess and U.S. Chess Trust. A brief discussion among the Board followed. The Board went into closed session at this time.

OPEN SESSION IV, Sunday, November 12, 2017

President Hoffpauir called on Allen Priest to introduce the following motion. No further discussion was needed.

EB 18-030 – Priest - I move that the Executive Board provide \$12,500 support for an official Under 16 Olympiad team beginning with the 2018 tournament. The team will be selected according to criteria approved by the Executive Board. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Hoffpauir announced the next Executive Board meeting to be held January 13-15, 2017 in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel. The budget will be discussed.

President Hoffpauir adjourned the meeting.