

**Proceedings from the US Chess Membership Meeting
August 4, 2017
Norfolk, VA**

This document is a summary of the proceedings of the meeting. It includes motions made, action items accepted and subjects discussed. Details of discussions, etc., may be obtained from the audio files online.

The following Executive Board members were present:

Gary Walters
Allen Priest
Chuck Unruh
Mike Nietman
Anjelina Belakovskaia
Mike Hoffpauir
Jean Hoffman

The following members were present at the meeting:

Myron Lieberman (AZ)	Ruth Haring (CA-N)	L. Thad Rogers (GA)
Rachel Lieberman (AZ)	Maureen Grimaud (SC)	Alex Relyea (NH)
Al Lawrence (NY)	Francisco Guadalupe (TX)	Kenneth Ballou (MA)
Tim Just (IL)	Richard Koepcke (CA-N)	Bob Messenger (NH)
Ernest Schlich (VA)	Russell Harwood (TX)	Carey Fan (CA)
Hal Sprechman (NJ)	Sophia Rohde (NY)	Guy Hoffman (WI)
Daniel Rohde (NY)	John McCrary (SC)	Sandy Hoffman (WI)
Ken Sloan (AL)	Frank Camaratta (AL)	Korey Kormick (TN)
David Kuhns (MN)	Phil Chase (CA-S)	Andrew Rea (VA)
Hal Terrie (NH)	Fun Fong (GA)	Jay Stallings (CA-S)
Harold Stenzel (NY)	Luis Salinas (TX)	Randas Burns (KY)
Harold Winston (IL)	Sam Sloan (NY)	Ryan Velez (KY)
Steve Immitt (NY)	Beatriz Marinello (NY)	Tim Just (IL)
Michael Atkins (MD)	Garrett Scott (IL)	Lakshmana Viswanath (TX)
Michelle Martinez (AZ)	Aviv Friedman (NJ)	Hal Sprechman (NJ)

The Executive Board President, Gary Walters, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. All Board members were present. President Walters introduced the Board and each shared how they got started in chess and US Chess.

President Walters called on Harold Winston to introduce the following membership motion and a vote was taken:

MM 17-01 (Harold Winston, IL)

Move that under Article V, Section 9, the US Chess Membership Meeting elects the following additional Delegates: Hal Terrie (NH), Ken Sloan (AL), Fun Fong (GA), Maureen Grimaud (SC).

PASSED

Allen Priest commented on some of the discussions that took place earlier today in the Ethics workshop and introduced the following two (2) motions. Gary Walters also commented on the motions and called for a vote to be taken.

MM 17-02 (Allen Priest, KY)

Move to amend the Code of Ethics of the US Chess Federation, Section 7, Part D to change the word “defendant” to the word “respondent”.

PASSED

MM 17-03 (Allen Priest, KY)

Move to require the Ethics Committee and the office to avoid the use of the terms “plaintiff” and “defendant” in ethics cases in favor of the terms “complainant” and “respondent”.

PASSED

MM 17-04 (Rules Committee)

In rule 9D, after “If the player has released the pawn on the last rank, the move is not yet determined, but the player no longer has the right to play the pawn to another square.” add “The choice of piece is finalized when the piece has touched the square of promotion, regardless of whether the pawn has been physically touched or placed on the promotion square. Once a piece has touched the promotion square a pawn must be promoted to that piece on that square, provided that the move is legal.”

In Rule 10H, in the sentence “A player who advances a pawn to the last rank and then touches a piece off the board is not obligated to promote the pawn to the piece touched until that piece has been released on the promotion square.” change the end of the sentence to “until that piece touches the promotion square.”

PASSED

Steve Immitt remarked on the accomplishments of GM Bill Lombardy and introduced the following motion:

MM 17-05 (Steve Immitt, NY)

Move that in recognition of his many spectacular accomplishments in the chess world throughout his life and his achievements in raising the level of American chess, and in acknowledgement of his status as a true icon of American chess, the membership would like to recommend that the delegates express their deep and sincere appreciation to Grandmaster Bill Lombardy.

PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

President Walters introduced the two (2) new members of the Executive Board, Lakshmana Viswanath and Hal Sprechman. At this time, Gary Walters opened the floor for comments and questions. The following topics were presented: Rachel Lieberman (AZ) on chess T-shirts; Al Lawrence, Andy Rea, Steve Immitt commented on the location and attendance of this year’s U.S. Open held in Norfolk, Virginia and future locations for the U.S. Open; Sam Sloan on World Blitz and Rapid; and Mike Nietman on the location of next year’s U.S. Open which will be held in Middleton, Wisconsin. Gary Walters, Allen Priest, Hal Terrie and Franc Guadalupe added comments to the discussions.

The meeting was adjourned.