

2017 Delegates 2 Call

AUGUST 2-6, 2017

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
Norfolk, Virginia



Mission Statement

Empowering people through chess
one move at a time.



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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2017 DELEGATES CALL

AUGUST 2-6, 2017

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AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Note about 2017 Delegates Call Content: As in 2016, we have taken many of the items you have seen in recent Delegates Calls and moved them to a new publication titled 2017 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 Delegates Meeting.



Advance Agenda for the 2017 US Chess Board of Delegates Meeting

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, August 5-6, 2017

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 17-01 (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 2016 DELEGATES MEETING, AND APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

ADM 17-02 (Harold Winston, DAL-IL)

Move that the minutes of the 2016 Delegates meeting, as available to the Delegates present in Norfolk, VA be accepted.

ADM 17-03 (Gary Walters, OH)

Move that Ken Ballou be appointed parliamentarian.

ADM 17-04 (Gary Walters, OH)

Move the Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2017 Delegates' Meeting and approve the standing rules as printed in the *Delegates' Call*.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

ADM 17-05 (Ken Ballou, MA; Elections Committee)

The Delegates certify the Executive Board election results. The new Executive Board members elected to full three-year terms will take office at the conclusion of this meeting. The candidate elected to fill the existing Executive Board vacancy will take office upon passage of this motion.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

Report of the President (Gary Walters)

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

ADM 17-06 (Executive Board)

The 2017-2018 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 17-07 (Chuck Unruh, LMA Trust Chairman)

The US Chess Delegates elect as Trustees of the LMA Trust those persons recommended in the LMA Trust report. The LMA 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 17-08 (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 2016-2017 and authorize their continuation.

ADM 17-09 (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 17-10 (DM16-18/ADM 16-14 [DM 15-51/ADM 15-56] Steve Immitt, NY)

RESOLVED: For the calendar year 2017, 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, partic-

ularly 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 scholastics. 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 emails 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 IN 2015

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 2016

ADM 17-11 (DM 16-67/NDM 16-11 [NM2-F102 David Grimaud SC; as amended])

PROPOSAL FOR TOURNAMENT OF SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONS: A new "Tournament of Senior State Champions" shall be added as an additional event for future U.S. Opens beginning in 2017. This tournament shall consist of one senior U.S. Chess member (50 years of age or older) designated by each state affiliate as its champion. This motion is to be referred to the Executive Board for further study with power to implement.

RATIONALE: This tournament has several benefits: 1) It enhances participation of senior chess at the state level, and thus aids US Chess. 2) It brings the senior state champions throughout the U.S. together into one competition. 3) It honors an important segment of our membership. 4) It likely increases the number of hotel room nights at the U.S. Open. 5) Finally, costs and efforts will be marginal to US Chess as this ground has already been effectively plowed by the Denker/Barber/National Girls tournaments.

REFERRED TO THE U.S. OPEN COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ADM 17-12 (DM 16-62/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 spike in 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 be 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.

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE FOR STUDY

ADM 17-13 (DM 16-63/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 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 considering 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.

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE

ADM 17-14 (DM 16-69/ NDM 16-13 [NM4-F116 Steve Immitt, NY])

US Chess website should give current (updated) links, with details to colleges that offer scholarships (full or partial) for chess.

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE

ADM 17-15 (DM 16-70/NDM 16-13 [NM5-F119 Andy Rea, VA])

All sites for U.S. Championships are to be compliant with the Americans for Disabilities Act.

RATIONALE: This is in accord with ADM 16-31.

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE

ADM 17-16 (DM 16-68/NDM 16-12 [NM3-F106 Randy Bauer, IA; Alex Relyea, NH])

Amend Article VII Section 3 of the Bylaws to add the following sentence:

No committee chair may serve for more than 9 consecutive years.

REFERRED TO BYLAWS

ADM 17-17 (DM 16-73/NDM 16-16 [NM9 Leila D'Aquin, LA])

Amend the first 2 sentences of Article V, section 2, of the Bylaws regarding number of delegates to provide as follows:

The Board of Delegates shall be composed of the Executive Board members, the Delegates at Large, and 150 Delegates, apportioned among the states in proportion of their residents. US Chess membership as of May 31 of the year, prior to delegates elections, except that each state must have at least 2 delegates, at least 1 of whom must be under the age of 40.

And amend Article V, section 3, of the Bylaws to provide that the number of alternate delegates shall be 150.

REFERRED TO BYLAWS AND STATES

ADM 17-18 Substitute for ADM 17-17 (Harold Winston, IL)

Add a section 10 to Delegate Action of Continuing Interest 8, which deals with State Chapter Requirements and Recommendations as follows: "States having five or more Delegates are encouraged to select at least one Delegate under age 40 (age at time of Delegates meeting)."

Alternative wording would be: "State having four or more Delegates are encouraged to select at least one Delegate under age 40 (age at time of Delegates meeting)."

RATIONALE: We have many older Delegates and should encourage new blood. This is a recommendation, not a requirement. Many persons now active began being Delegates at younger ages. For example, I became a Delegate (then called Director) at age 25; Steve Doyle did as a teenager. State Chapters with five or more Delegates last year were N. California, S. California, Florida, Illinois, NY Downstate, Pennsylvania, and Texas. The following State Chapters had four delegates: NY Upstate, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Virginia.

ADM 17-19 (DM 16-27/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 IN 2015

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE IN 2016

ADM 17-20 (DM 16-30/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 IN 2015

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE IN 2016

ADM 17-21 Substitute for ADM 17-20 (Rules Committee)

28L2. Determination.

In the first round, the bye is given to the player with the lowest US Chess rating but not to an unrated player or a late entrant. In subsequent rounds, it is given to the lowest-rated player in the lowest score group but not to an unrated player. 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 US Chess-rated tournament too recently to obtain a published rating. If this, too, is impossible, a new player may be assigned the bye. New players should be indicated by *NEW* on the pairing card and wall chart. See also 28J, The first round; 28S, Reentries; and 28L4, Full-point byes after half-point byes.

Variation (unannounced) 28L2a. 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. See also 29E5a, The 80-point rule; and 29E5b, The 200-point rule.

ADM 17-22 (DM 16-61/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.

REFERRED TO RULES

ADM 17-23 (DM 16-24/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

REFERRED TO THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL IN 2016

ADM 17-24 (DM 16-59/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 US 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 student’s 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.

REFERRED TO SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL

ADM 17-25 (DM 16-40/ADM 16-42 [DM 15-58/NDM15-09] Steve Immitt, NY)

The Delegates recommend that the TDCC develop a practical mechanism to help evaluate a candidate’s skills in solving problems and resolving disputes in tournaments.

REFERRED TO THE TDCC IN 2015

REFERRED TO THE TDCC IN 2016

ADM 17-26 (DM 16-66/NDM 16-10 [NM1-F101] David Day, UT)

Revise the definition of “Category R” within the Tournament Director Certification Rules as follows:

Replace the phrase “eight or more rated entrants” with the phrase “six or more rated entrants” and replace the phrase “mean rating of at least 1800” with the phrase “mean rating of at least 1400”.

RATIONALE: This change is intended to ease the logistics associated with completing the Class R “experience” requirement for tournament directors seeking the ANTD or NTD certification level, especially for those directors who live in areas of the country where it is difficult to locate 8 or more players with a mean rating of 1800+ who are willing to play in an round robin. The sponsor believes that TD are likely to receive substantially the same benefits/experience from directing a round robin with 6 or more players and a somewhat more flexible rating range.

REFERRED TO TDCC

NEW BUSINESS

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

ADM 17-27 (Harold Winston, IL; Mike Nietman, WI; Gary Walters, OH; Allen Priest, KY)

The Delegates elect former US Chess President Ruth Haring a Delegate at Large under Art. V sec. 8A of the Bylaws.

ADM 17-28 (Mike Atkins, MD; Bob Messenger, MA)

Under Section 12 Restrictions of the US Chess Bylaws it reads:

“... e. 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 ...”

This seems exceptionally arbitrary and related to perhaps past problems with EB members giving themselves jobs before they left the EB. The above restriction should not apply to the U.S. Open as it is held year after year on roughly the same weekend. In fact, a simple scheduling change could find someone eligible for one year and not the next. Since 2011, the number of days short of 365 from the end of one U.S. Open until the start of the next one has been 9, 3, 16, 8, 2, 9 and 11 days. Since the U.S. Open is held one year followed by the next U.S. Open on roughly the same weekend the following year, I contend that this matches the need for “a period of one year” and that exactly 365 days is capricious, arbitrary, meaningless and serves no good function.

I move that the wording in 12: Restrictions be modified to: (the change/addition in bold)

“... e. 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 **for all national events except the U.S. Open.**”

ADM 17-29 (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: At least one of the sponsors was under the impression that this original ADM from 2016 had been referred to the Scholastic Council. However, at this year’s SuperNationals, this same policy mandate apparently lived on for another year.

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 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.

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.

Here are the possible results of following the current policy, and why the preponderance of unfavorable outcomes speaks against its continuance:

1. TD says “Yes” and it’s not = very angry coach/parent, appeal and probably split result.
2. TD says “No” and it is = very angry coach/parent, appeal and

probably split result.

3. TD says “No” and it’s not = giving assistance to game in progress and possibly annoyed coach/parent.

4. TD says “Yes” and it is = probably about one minute of time saved and one or two players stopped from learning why they don’t need to ask that question in future games.

We realize the importance to keep the rounds moving, but having the TD inappropriately interfere in a game can easily lead to LOTS of extra time trying to sort out angry appeals after the fact, if the TD incorrectly answers that question, especially if he/she is in a hurry already, in an attempt to speed things up.

The sponsors believe it is most appropriate to bear in mind the Delegate Action of Continuing Interest # 50 below:

Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest page 80 (from 2015 Delegates Call):

50. 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.

ADM 17-30 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY; Bill Goichberg, NY; Dan Rohde, NY)

The Delegates request that after our 2021 contractual obligations with the Gaylord Opryland have been fulfilled, alternative possible locations be explored with the idea of selecting them for future US Chess National Scholastics.

RATIONALE: 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.

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 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 to this with corresponding price increases. If this is enough to affect the prices of fares between Nashville and major airport centers like New York City, then we would expect the fares to be affected similarly or *even more adversely* between Nashville and other points of origin, such as Boston, Miami, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Francisco and Seattle, for example.

The sponsors understand that the USCF must honor its contractual obligations through 2021, and we are thus scheduled to return there every year through 2021.

The concern that future events may continue to be scheduled at Gaylord Opryland on an annual basis beyond 2021 has resulted in a submission of this ADM, from a similar one from 2016.

The sponsors believe that at the very least the membership should be advised as to whether the National Scholastics are going to continue to return to the Gaylord Opryland even after 2021, usually in the form of the National Elementary Championship, even during years when there are no SuperNationals?

One major benefit in rotating a national championship among a number of other suitable facilities is to promote these events to members and chess enthusiasts around the country and make our national scholastic flagship events more accessible to various large

and diverse populations.

We believe the U.S. Open Championship, by contrast, would be a much different and less desirable experience for our membership as a whole if it were slated to return to the Gaylord Opryland every year or every other year. We believe the same holds true for the National Elementary Championship, for example.

If it is necessary to continue to schedule annual scholastics at Gaylord Opryland after 2021, because otherwise the room rates at future SuperNationals every four years would be even higher than they are currently, the sponsors 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 increasing 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 or the other individual National Scholastics made more accessible and attractive to them as well.

ADM 17-31 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY; Dan Rohde, NY)

Be It Resolved:

The USCF Code of Ethics shall be modified as follows.

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.

The following language shall be inserted here:

All complaints of unethical or improper behavior alleged to have been perpetrated by members under the age of eighteen shall first be forwarded to the Scholastic Council, which may recommend then forwarding the complaint on to the Ethics Committee or to another committee, or may recommend replying to the complainant directly. The complainant shall have right to appeal the Scholastic Council's decision to the Executive Board.

The remainder of the paragraph remains unchanged, as follows:

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 sponsors believe that this refinement of the US Chess Ethics Code has a number of benefits:

1. To protect elementary children from formal inquiries from the Ethics Committee regarding issues which are not appropriate for its review, such as complaints directed against elementary students making illegal moves in a scholastic tournament.
2. To prevent children from being turned into defendants who are required to prove their innocence against harmful aspersions made against their character.
3. To reduce the likelihood of US Chess having to explain these tribunals to their parents and attorneys.

We strongly feel that such matters should first be investigated by the Scholastic Council, which has special expertise in dealing with scholastic players and the unique problems and circumstances which youngsters face in competitive chess environments. The Council should determine the level of complexity of the complaint, and whether it believes that a formal complaint to the Ethics Committee is appropriate, or if the details of the complaint indicate that a referral to another Committee is the correct approach. The Scholastic Council may also determine that in the best interests of all concerned, the complaint should only be addressed by the Council itself.

The complainant may appeal the Scholastic Council's decision to the Executive Board, which may overrule the Scholastic Council and determine that the complaint is best addressed by the Ethics Committee.

ADM 17-32 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)

The Delegates approve adding the following to the Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest:

In complaints to US Chess of unethical, unprofessional or improper actions made against members, employees or tournament staff, the defendant, if he or she contests the allegation(s), shall be presumed to be innocent of the charges unless the US Chess Committee or Executive Board, which is investigating the complaint, determines otherwise.

RATIONALE: The presumption of innocence is a pillar of our justice system. This same standard should apply to members who are accused of cheating or employees or Tournament Directors who are accused of unprofessional or improper actions.

In the case of a complaint made against the actions of a Tournament Director, the TD remains under a cloud of suspected wrongdoing, based solely on an allegation which may be unproven or inaccurate, while the appeal is being considered. 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. The very nature of the appeals process can serve as a basis which places **the burden of proof 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. This is especially so when 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.

This cloud of suspicion also follows the player who has been accused of cheating. If the accusations are ultimately proven unfounded, then the player's reputation and ability to receive tournament invitations, advertise for students, etc. may have been substantially harmed in the interim.

The suspicion of impropriety alone should not result in a judgment of having committed the offense, without appropriate proof.

ADM 17-33 (Allen Priest, KY; Chuck Unruh, OK)

Motion: The Delegates hereby adopt the following Conflict of Interest Policy to apply to all Delegates, Alternate Delegates and those appointed by the Delegates to committees of the US Chess Federation.

United States of America Conflict of Interest Policy

Article I

Purpose

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (Organization) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Organization or

might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Article II

Definitions

1. Interested Person

Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

2. Financial Interest

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- a.** An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement,
- b.** A compensation arrangement with the Organization or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or
- c.** A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Organization is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

Article III

Procedures

1. Duty to Disclose

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest

- a.** An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
- b.** The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- c.** After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- d.** If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest,

the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

- a.** If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b.** If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

Article IV

Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

- a.** The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- b.** The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

Article V

Compensation

- a.** A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b.** A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c.** No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

Article VI

Annual Statements

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a.** Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b.** Has read and understands the policy,
- c.** Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- d.** Understands the Organization is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which

accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Article VII

Periodic Reviews

To ensure the Organization operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining.
- b. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the Organization's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

Article VIII

Use of Outside Experts

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, the Organization may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

RATIONALE: The Internal Revenue Service recommends that non-profit organizations adopt a conflict of interest policy. This is taken directly from the IRS instructions for Form 1023. The Executive Board has adopted it for itself and the USCF officers and believes that it is appropriate for the Delegates, Alternate delegates and committee members as well. Adopting the policy will add an administrative burden of sending the policy out to all parties annually and asking for them to return a signed statement as noted in Article VI. Since delegates and alternates must accept their positions, this can be done at the same time. Alternatively, it can be done at the annual meeting. Committee members appointed and present at the annual meeting can get the policy and sign the statement there. It will have to be sent to those not present at the annual meeting.

ADM 17-34 (Executive Board)

Amend Article III Section 12 to add:

The Executive Director may, on an emergency basis, suspend the membership of any person and their related affiliate who has engaged in any activity that potentially endangers the health or safety of US Chess employees, volunteers or members. Such suspension will be in effect immediately and will be in effect for no more than 90 days. If the Executive Director suspends any membership under this provision, the Executive Director will contact the suspended person or affiliate within 72 hours to inform them of the decision. The Executive Director will also contact the Executive Board within 72 hours which will then review the suspension and follow the provisions of Article III, Section 13. The emergency suspension will stay in effect while the provisions of Article III Section 13 are being followed.

ADM 17-35 (Guy Hoffman, WI)

When submitting their annual dues, each State Chapter shall submit a copy of their bylaws or articles of association, as specified in DACI 8, #4. This may be in written or electronic form.

RATIONALE: The DACI specifies they are required, but the office has no record for any state. This was discovered when someone asked for the bylaws of his state, and we had to tell him we have no copies

from any state.

ADM 17-36 (Gary Walters, OH; Allen Priest, KY)

Moved: To revise Ethics Code 7.c. to add the words "from the record," as in, "The person against whom the sanctions have been recommended shall have the right to appear before the Board and present evidence from the record."

Discussion: Appellants have occasionally believed that they are entitled to present new evidence to the Executive Board upon appeal of an Ethics Committee sanction. In fact, they are limited to evidence presented to the Committee.

ADM 17-37 (Gary Walters, OH; Allen Priest, KY)

Moved: To revise Ethics Code 7.c. as follows: Immediately following the sentence, "The person against whom the sanctions have been recommended shall have the right to appear before the Board and present evidence from the record," the following sentence shall be added: "Any person appearing before the Executive Board upon appeal may be represented by counsel with the permission and at the sole discretion of the Executive Board."

Discussion: An appeal of an Ethics Committee decision to the Executive Board is an administrative proceeding, which normally does not warrant participation by legal counsel.

ADM 17-38 (Alex Relyea, NH)

Amend DM 16-68 to say the following:

Effective August 2018 add Article VII Section 3 F to read, "No individual shall chair any US Chess Committee for more than four consecutive years."

RATIONALE: This matches existing practice for the Executive Board (EB). Both the EB and Committee Chairs play an important role in the governance process, and it will serve the organization to ensure that both have regular turnover and opportunities for new leaders to emerge.

Many committees have long standing chairs, and most of them do very good jobs. However, this is not always the case. There is a story, for example, of one committee that conducted its business entirely by email, but the (now former) chair did not have an email account. It is important to keep chairs from becoming so entrenched that important business gets ignored because of a chair's longstanding views and/or sway over the committee. It is likewise important to develop new leaders for US Chess. Finally, it is important for rank and file committee members to understand the extra work that is involved in being a committee chair.

ADM 17-39 (Alex Relyea, NH)

The per-game rating fees for tournaments submitted online shall be reduced to 0. To pay for this, all single year memberships shall be increased by \$3. All two year memberships shall be increased by \$4. Bylaws Article III, Sections 1-7 will be rewritten to read:

Section 1. Adult Memberships. Any person may become an Adult (also known as Regular) Member of US Chess upon payment of \$43 for one year, or \$79 for two years, or a Premium Adult (also known as Premium) Member upon payment of \$53 for one year, or \$99 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 US Chess upon payment of \$29 for one year, or \$52

for two years, or a Premium Young Adult Member upon payment of \$38 for one year, or \$69 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 US Chess upon payment of \$25 for one year, or \$44 for two years, or a Premium Youth Member upon payment of \$33 for one year, or \$59 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 US Chess upon payment of \$20 for one year, or \$34 for two years, or a Premium Scholastic member upon payment of \$28 for one year, or \$49 for two years.

Section 5. Senior Membership. A person who has passed his or her 65th birthday may become a Senior Member of US Chess upon payment of \$43 for one year, or \$79 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 US Chess for \$21 for one year.

Section 7. Family Membership Plans.

Family Plan 1: \$83, 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: \$53, 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*.

RATIONALE: This motion does not mean to minimize the importance of the rating fees to US Chess revenue. It instead recognizes that the fees can be an impediment to running and rating small tournaments. If “activity means members,” eliminating this fee should create more tournaments and therefore more members, and provide an added benefit for all members. It will also encourage tournament directors to use this method which is more cost effective for the office and reduce the number of small credit card charges we accept which are very expensive on a percentage basis.

ADM 17-40 (Alex Relyea, NH; Michael Atkins, MD)

Create a committee to handle organizer and affiliate issues. This committee shall be called the Organizer/Affiliate Committee.

RATIONALE: Many TDs are also organizers, but not all. They are, however, fundamentally different roles. The committees with the power to recommend player sanctions to the Executive Board (Ethics, Rules, TDCC and FIDE Events) have also had to confront inappropriate behavior from Organizers/Affiliates. Only the Executive Board is empowered to sanction affiliates but the recommendations it gets are side bar offshoot recommendations from player sanctions. If there was a committee empowered to advise and recommend sanctions for Affiliates, the other committees can deal best with what they do—handle players.

ADM 17-41 (Alex Relyea, NH)

No games that are not played by the (FIDE) Laws of Chess shall be rated by the US Chess rating system.

RATIONALE: A precocious youngster is likely to play under no fewer than four major sets of rules over the course of a year: The Official

(US Chess) Rules of Chess, the Laws of Chess, the US Chess Scholastic Rules, and CCA Rules. It is extremely unfair to expect this player to remember at any given moment what rules apply in any given game. In addition, we currently allow many variations, such that it is possible that under “house rules” a player could play under a different set of rules in every tournament. Our rulebook is 369 pages long in an attempt to have players play under the same conditions from Maine to California, and it has failed miserably. The Laws of Chess are 16 pages long and available free online.

ADM 17-42 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)

The Delegates recommend that Tournament Directors and staff at the National Scholastics who will come in contact with minors should be subject to an appropriate criminal background check.

RATIONALE: Checking applicants’ backgrounds for convictions of crimes which may pose a risk to other children is a standard and accepted practice for teachers, school employees and other professionals who work with children. Such checks may also be necessary for certain types of liability insurance coverage. The players in the National Scholastics are also entitled to this same basic safeguard as well.

ADM 17-43 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)

The Delegates recommend that players in the K-3 sections of the National Scholastics be given identification bands, with similar matching IDs provided to their parents or guardians.

RATIONALE: Making it easier for tournament staff to identify young players, by means of a tournament ID band, would facilitate contacting the parents in the event of an emergency, or in ensuring that a player is correctly reunited with his parent or guardian in the event that they become separated, and would even help to ensure that the child is returned to the proper adults at the end of their games.

PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

Bylaws of the U.S. Chess Federation

Includes all changes passed at the 2016 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 US Chess shall be educational and instructional, to broaden and develop chess as art and recreation, as a significant element of culture in America. US Chess 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. US Chess shall disseminate information through its publications and representatives, and US Chess shall select the official USA representatives in all international chess affairs. US Chess 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.

US Chess 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 US Chess 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 US Chess 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 US Chess 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 US Chess 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 US Chess 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 US Chess 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 US Chess 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 US Chess 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. US Chess 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 email 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 email 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 US Chess, 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 pro-

cedure 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 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 US Chess to determine the policies that shall govern 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 US Chess.

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 9:30am 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 email 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 2pm 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 reelection 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 US Chess 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 US Chess, 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 web-site within a month of the meeting record.

Executive Board votes may be taken by email 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. No person can be nominated for the Executive Board for more than three consecutive terms. Partial terms of less than half a full term shall not be counted when applying this restriction.

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.

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 an Official Write-in candidate, and may purchase mailing labels as specified in Article VI, section 4 of the bylaws. No person can be elected unless they have notified the Executive Director of their willingness to serve by May 1 of an election year.

Only votes for current US Chess members shall be counted.

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

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 three consecutive terms on the Executive Board, not counting partial terms of less than half of a full term. 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 US Chess officially on occasion, and report annually to the Board of Delegates.

Vice President. The Vice President shall execute the duties of 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 US Chess, 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 or 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 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 US Chess upon payment of the fee of \$40 per year. Any organization of chessplayers who are exclusively scholastic players may affiliate with US Chess 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 US Chess 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 US Chess 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 US Chess shall be at such address in the State of Illinois as is designated by the Executive Board.

SECTION 4. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

US Chess 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, disburseable 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 disburseable 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 US Chess' accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

SECTION 9. ENCUMBRANCE.

A.) No asset of US Chess 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.

US Chess 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 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.

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.

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: 1/22/17

Motions of the US Chess Executive Board in FY 2016-2017

MOTION #	SPONSOR	DATE/METHOD	SUBJECT	DISPOSITION
EB17-001	Board	08/07/16 M	Officers Named	PASSED 6-0
EB17-002	Board	08/07/16 M	Committee Chairs and Liaisons Named	PASSED 6-0
EB17-003	Board	08/07/16 M	Committee Membership Changes	PASSED 6-0
EB17-004	Board	08/07/16 M	TDCC Decision upheld	PASSED 6-0
EB17-005	Board	08/07/16 M	Ethics Committee Decision Affirmed	PASSED 6-0
EB17-006	Priest	08/07/16 M	Clock Working Group	PASSED 6-0
EB17-007	Nietman	08/07/16 M	Committee Member Additions	PASSED 6-0
EB17-008	Nietman	08/15/16 E	Approval of August 4 Minutes	PASSED 7-0
EB17-009	Nietman	08/15/16 E	Additional Committee Changes	PASSED 7-0
EB17-010	Nietman	08/20/16 E	Approval of August 7 Minutes	PASSED 7-0
EB17-011	Belakovskaia	08/20/16 E	Clubs Committee	PASSED 7-0
EB17-012	Board	10/04/16 E	Membership Suspension Authority	PASSED 5-1-1
EB17-013	Nietman	10/11/16 E	Extend Voucher Expiration Dates	PASSED 4-3
EB17-014	Nietman	10/20/16 E (Obj)	Add Sophia Rohde to Chess in Educ. Committee	PASS No Obj
EB17-015	Board	11/12/16 M	Thanks to Randy Bauer	PASSED 6-0
EB17-016	Board	11/12/16 M	Implement DM16-18 (Comm. Chair Term Limits)	FAIL 0-5-1
EB17-017	Priest	11/12/16 M	Gift Acceptance Policy	PASS 4-1-1
EB17-018	Nietman	11/12/16 M	Scholastic Regulations	PASSED 6-0
EB17-019	Walters	11/12/16 M	Special Election for EB Vacancy	PASSED 6-0
EB17-020	Priest	11/12/16 M	Scholarship Reserve Fund	PASSED 6-0
EB17-021	Priest	11/12/16 M	Financial Emergencies Reserve Fund	PASSED 5-1
EB17-022	Hoffman	11/13/16 M	Agreement with Francesca Butler	PASSED 6-0
EB17-023	Hoffman	11/13/16 M	Website Advisory Committee Changes	PASSED 6-0
EB17-024	Belakovskaia	11/13/16 M	Add member to Corporate Connections Task Force	No Objections
EB17-025	Belakovskaia	11/13/16 M	Add member to Clubs Committee	No Objections
EB17-026	Board	11/13/16 M	Membership Suspension	PASSED 5-1
EB17-027	Belakovskaia	11/13/16 M	Financial Emergencies Reserve Fund Restriction	FAIL 1-3-2

MOTION #	SPONSOR	DATE/METHOD	SUBJECT	DISPOSITION
EB17-028	Priest	11/13/16 M	Restrictions on Scholarships as Prizes	PASSED 6-0
EB17-029	Belakovskaia	11/13/16 M	Women's Regional Championships	TABLED 5-0-1
EB17-030	Priest	11/13/16 M	New Executive Board Committee Liaisons	PASSED 6-0
EB17-031	Board	11/13/16 M	Chuck Unruh Named Vice President	PASSED 6-0
EB17-032	Nietman	01/02/17 E	Accept November 2016 EB Meeting Minutes	PASSED 6-0
EB17-033	Unruh	01/09/17 E (Obj)	Add Phil Simpkins to States Committee	PASS No Obj
EB17-034	Hoffpauir	01/20/17 M	Women's Chess	PASSED 5-0
EB17-035	Unruh	01/20/17 M	Extend New Member Recruitment Pilot Program	PASSED 5-0
EB17-036	Hoffpauir	01/22/17 M	Place Uncertainty on Players' Ratings	FAIL 1-5
EB17-037	Hoffpauir/Unruh	01/22/17 M	New wording for EB17-035	PASSED 6-0
EB17-038	Nietman	01/22/17 M	Add Mike Hoffpauir to EB's Personnel Comm.	PASSED 6-0
EB17-039	Hoffpauir	01/22/17 M	Add Tracey Vibbert to FIDE Events Committee	PASSED 6-0
EB17-040	Nietman	01/22/17 M	Remove 2100 Rating Level in 16-038	PASSED 6-0
EB17-041	Priest	01/22/17 M	Women's Chess Fund	PASSED 6-0
EB17-042	Belakovskaia	01/22/17 M	Travel Stipend for World Team Senior	FAIL 3-3
EB17-043	Belakovskaia/Priest	01/22/17 M	FIDE Under 16 Olympiad	PASSED 6-0
EB17-044	Belakovskaia	01/22/17 M	US Chess Camp	PASSED 5-0-1
EB17-045	Belakovskaia	01/22/17 M	Plan for World Team Senior	PASSED 6-0
EB17-046	Hoffman	02/10/17 E	Trophies for SuperNationals	PASSED 6-0
EB17-047	Nietman	02/25-03/09/17 E	Accept Minutes of January Meeting	PASSED 6-0
EB17-048	Nietman	03/10-25/17 E	Youth Coaches and Delegation Heads at Int'l Events	PASSED 5-1
EB17-049	Priest	06/03/17 M	Move \$250,000 into Reserve Fund	PASSED 6-0
EB17-050	Priest	06/03/17 M	Sweep Account	PASSED 6-0
EB17-051	Unruh	06/03/17 M	Special Circumstances Committee Name Change	PASSED 6-0
EB17-052	Belakovskaia	06/03/17 M	World Senior	PASSED 4-2
EB17-053	Belakovskaia	06/03/17 M	Top Players Committee	PASSED 6-0
EB17-054	Belakovskaia	06/03/17 M	Promote female coaches on website	FAIL 1-5
EB17-055	Hoffman	05/09-06/03/17	Change Signatories on Bank Accounts	PASSED 6-0
EB17-056	Hoffpauir	06/03/17 M	Anti-Cheating Committee Addition	PASSED 6-0
EB17-057	Unruh	05/25-06/03 O	Special Circumstances Committee Membership	PASSED 6-0
EB17-058	Priest	06/03/17 M	Accept Budget	PASSED 6-0
EB17-059	Board	06/04/17 M	Ethics Appeal	PASSED 6-0
EB17-060	Board	06/04/17 M	Approve T-Shirt bid	PASSED 6-0
EB17-061	Board	06/04/17 M	Approve Bookstore bid	PASSED 5-1
EB17-062	Board	06/04/17 M	Awards for 2017	PASSED 6-0
EB17-063	Priest	06/08/17 E	Proxy for FIDE Continental Meeting	PASSED 5-1

NOTE: M = MEETING, C = CONFERENCE CALL, E = EMAIL, I = INTERNET CONFERENCE, OBJ/O = OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE

The first meeting of the 2016-2017 US Chess Executive Board took place on August 7, 2016, at the Marriott Hotel in East Indianapolis, IN. Randy Bauer did not attend the meeting. Welcome to new EB members Chuck Unruh and Mike Hoffpauir. Thanks to Ruth Haring and Mike Atkins for their years of service on the EB.

The following five motions arose from closed session and were voted in open session later the same day:

EB17-001 - BOARD

The Executive Board names the following officers for 2016-2017: - **PASSED 6-0**

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

Please note that Randy Bauer resigned from the Board and was replaced as VP by Chuck Unruh per motion EB17-031.

EB17-002 - BOARD

The Executive Board names the following committee liaisons and chairs for 2016-2017: **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting. Please note that some Delegate appointed committees name their own chairs and the chair was listed as TBD (To Be Determined) in the motion. This table includes the chairs that became known after the motion.

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EB LIAISON
Anti-cheating*	Mike Atkins	Gary Walters
Audit (DEL)	TBD	Allen Priest
Awards	John Donaldson	Mike Nietman*
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	Mike Nietman Anjelina Belakovskaia
Clock Working Group	Mike Atkins Ryan Velez Dan Rohde Co-Chairs	TBD
Clubs*	Will Barela Frank Niro Co-Chairs (EB 17-011)	Anjelina Belakovskaia
College Chess	Al Lawrence	Mike Nietman
Corporate Connections	TBD	Anjelina Belakovskaia
Task Force (TF)		
Correspondence Chess	Brad Rogers	Gary Walters
Cramer Awards	Frank Brady	Chuck Unruh*
Denker Invitational	Stephen Shutt Jon Haskel Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman

Election (DEL)	Ken Ballou	Gary Walters
Ethics (DEL)	Alex Relyea	Gary Walters
FIDE Events	Carol Jarecki	Mike Hoffpauir
Finance	Jim Bedenbaugh	Allen Priest
Forum	Bob Messenger	Gary Walters Allen Priest
Hall of Fame	Harold J. Winston	Gary Walters
Hall of Records	TBD	Mike Nietman
International Affairs	Michael Khodarkovsky	Allen Priest
Membership Acquisition and Retention TF	John McCrary	Mike Nietman
Military	Captain Thomas Belke US Navy (Ret)	Mike Hoffpauir
National Event Advisory	TBD	Mike Hoffpauir
Outreach	Myron Lieberman	Anjelina Belakovskaia
Player Opportunity Fund	TBD	Gary Walters
PPHB Fund Management	John Donaldson	Allen Priest
Prison	Steve Frymer	Chuck Unruh*
Publications	John Hartmann	Allen Priest*
Ratings	Mark Glickman	Mike Hoffpauir
Rules	David Kuhns Al Losoff Co-Chairs	Mike Hoffpauir
Scholastic Chess Council*	Beatriz Marinello Robby Adamson Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman
Senior	David Grimaud Bill Daly Co-Chairs	Chuck Unruh
Special Needs and Circumstances*	Janelle Losoff	Chuck Unruh
States	Guy Hoffman	Chuck Unruh
Top Players	Camilla Baginskaite	Anjelina Belakovskaia
Tournament Director Certification (TDCC)	Jeff Wiewel Chair Tim Just Vice Chair	Mike Hoffpauir
US Chess Development	TBD	Gary Walters Anjelina Belakovskaia*
US Open	Hal Terrie III	Mike Nietman Mike Hoffpauir*
Web Site Advisory (WSAC)	Anand Dommalapati GP Sinha*	Mike Nietman
Women's Chess	Maureen Grimaud	Chuck Unruh Anjelina Belakovskaia*

Please note: This list of Chairs and Liaisons has been modified by subsequent motions. These are indicated by a *. Please see motions EB17-009, 011, 023, and 030 for details.

EB17-003 - BOARD

The Executive Board makes the following committee membership changes: **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting

- a. Publications: Remove Thomas Langland and Diego Garces. Add Mark Capron and Frederick Rhine.
- b. College Chess: Add Claudia Munoz (TX) and David Mbonu (GA). Remove Clemente Rendon (TX) and Renier Gonzalez (FL).
- c. Scholastic Committee: Add Steve Shaughnessy (NCA), Joe Lonsdale (NCA) and Daniel Rohde (NY). Remove: Elizabeth Shaughnessy (NCA), Jim Dean (IN) and Tony Pabon (NCA).
- d. Scholastic Council: Add Sunil Weeramantry. Remove Mike Hoffpauir (VA).
- e. FIDE Events: Add Ruth Haring.
- f. Rules: Add Myron Thomas and Michael Regan.
- g. States: Add Robert Tanner (AZ) and Robert Messenger (MA).
- h. Forum: Add Tom Langland (NCA) and Terry Winchester (IN).
- i. Denker: Remove Tom Brownscombe (NV).
- j. Barber: Remove Tom Brownscombe (NV).
- k. TDCC: Add Mike Atkins (MD). Remove Tracy Vibbert (IN).
- l. Membership Acquisition and Retention Task Force: Add Ruth Haring (NCA).
- m. Hall of Fame: Add Frank Camaratta (AL). Remove Shane Samole.
- n. Website Advisory: Add Brennan Price, Anjelina Belakovskaia and Anand Dommalapati. Note that Claudia Munoz was previously added but not listed on the website.
- o. International Affairs: Add Ruth Haring.
- p. Finance: Add Frank Camaratta.
- q. US Chess Development: Add Ruth Haring, Michael Shurman, Bill Brock, John Rockefeller, Maureen Grimaud, Jay Stallings.
- r. Women's: Add Ruth Haring, Elizabeth Shaughnessy, Leila D'quin and Rusty Harwood. Remove Jennifer Skidmore Smith and Nisha Dias.
- s. Clock Working Group: Dan Rohde (NY), Ryan Velez (KY), Mike Atkins (MD), Mike Hoffpauir (VA), Steve Immitt (NY), Tim Just (IL), Dave Kuhns (MN), Allen Priest (KY), David Hater (GA).
- t. Prevention: Ned Wahl (MN)

EB17-004 - BOARD

The Executive Board upholds the TDCC decision in Page vs. Maldonado. **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting.

EB17-005 - BOARD

The Executive Board affirms the Ethics Committee decision in Ensey vs. Whitten. Mr. Whitten's US Chess membership is suspended beginning Monday, August 15, 2016, through August 14, 2022. **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting.

The following motions originated in Open Session:

EB17-006 - PRIEST

I move that the Executive Board establishes a Clock Working Group. The purpose of the working group is to develop a list of clock features that are required and /or recommended by the US Chess Rules of Chess and any clock features required and/or recommended by the FIDE Laws

of Chess that are not in conflict with the US Chess Rules of Chess. Also the group will produce a report as a service to our members and to people who are new to chess assessing how various chess clocks meet those requirements. We expect that this list will be published on the US Chess website and made available at US Chess events.

This working group is not authorized to establish any list of "approved clocks", nor can it ask for any funding or fees from clock designers or manufacturers, nor can it officially authorize any manufacturer to list this list in advertising.

The working group is independent of clock designers and/or manufacturers, but may consult with them if the group deems necessary. **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting.

EB17-007 - NIETMAN

I move to add Renate Otterbach to the Chess in Education Committee and Frank Niro to the Clubs Committee. **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting.

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail the acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting of the previous EB, which was held August 4, 2016. The vote was completed on August 15.

EB17-008 - NIETMAN

I move to accept the 8/4/16 meeting minutes as previously distributed. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Nietman noted in an e-mail on August 8, 2016, that there were additional committee requests that came in after the meeting. He moved three changes in a single motion. The vote was completed on August 15.

EB17-009 - NIETMAN

I move that we:

1. Add Ruth Haring and Mike Atkins to the Senior Committee.
2. Add Ruth Haring to the Special Needs and Circumstances Committee.
3. Name Robby Adamson Scholastic Council Co-Chair.

PASSED 7-0

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on August 13, 2016, approval of the minutes of the first EB meeting of the new Board, which was held on August 7, 2016. The vote was completed on August 20, 2016.

EB17-010 - NIETMAN

I move to accept the 8/7/16 meeting minutes as previously distributed. **PASSED 7-0**

Anjelina Belakovskaia moved by e-mail on August 14, 2016, changes to the Clubs Committee.

EB17-011 - BELAKOVSKAIA

I move that we:

1. Add Will Barela (NM) 12592643 email *will@endgamechess.com* and Mark Reyes (TX) 14325866 email *markierockstar@gmail.com* as new members to the Clubs Committee.
2. Approve Will Barela and Frank Niro as Co-Chairs of that Committee.

PASSED 7-0

The Board conferred in a closed e-mail session on September 30 and October 1, 2016. One motion arose from that closed session, which was confirmed publicly on October 4, 2016.

EB17-012 - BOARD

Moved, that the Executive Board grants the Executive Director the authority to suspend US Chess memberships. **PASSED 5-1-1** with Randy Bauer opposed and Mike Nietman abstaining.

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on October 4, 2016, to extend the expiration dates for vouchers from six months to nine months. The vote was completed on October 11.

EB17-013 - NIETMAN

I move to extend the expiration deadlines for the voucher program from six to nine months. The deadline for any currently purchased, unexpired vouchers are extended for three months. The purpose of this motion is to align the expiry dates to be valid for an entire school year so schools may purchase the vouchers at the beginning of the school year and use them throughout the school year. **PASSED 4-3** with Anjelina Belakovskaia, Allen Priest and Chuck Unruh opposed.

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail objections procedure on October 15, 2016, to add Sophia Rohde to the Chess in Education Committee. Under objections procedure if no objections are received within five days the motion passes. Although this was not confirmed until October 23, the motion passed and became effective on October 20.

EB17-014 - NIETMAN

I move that Sophia Rohde will become a member of the Chess in Education committee in five days with no objections. **PASSED** with no objections received.

The Executive Board met in New York City on November 12, 2016. Vice President Randy Bauer had indicated earlier that he was resigning from the Board. He was not in attendance at the meeting. The following 17 motions were voted at that meeting.

EB17-015 - BOARD

US Chess hereby thanks Randy Bauer for his long and honorable service to the United States Chess Federation. Randy has been central to the present good state of our Federation finances and has taken the leading role for several years in our developing the Federation's strategic vision, as well as the transition to a charitable institution. We will miss Randy and wish him all the best. Resolved. US Chess Executive Board. November 12, 2016. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-016 - BOARD

The Executive Board has reviewed DM16-18 (re: Term Limits for Committee Chairs) and while sympathetic to the spirit of the motion we do not find its implementation viable. The Executive Board voted on the motion as written and the motion was rejected. Implementation of Motion DM16-18, which was referred by the Delegates, **FAILED 0-5-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia abstaining.

EB17-017 - PRIEST

Move to accept the Gift Acceptance Policy as presented. **PASSED 4-1-1** with Gary Walters opposed and Anjelina Belakovskaia abstaining

EB17-018 - NIETMAN

Move to accept the Scholastic Council's recommendations for changes

to the Scholastic Regulations document with the exception of section 12.4.2 where the 2016 language regarding using outside ratings for under and unrated sections will be retained. **PASSED 6-0**. - Please Note: The Council's recommendation was to use alternate system ratings in all sections including Championship sections.

A closed session was held at this point to determine whether or not the EB vacancy caused by Randy Bauer's resignation is to be filled and, if so, how to do it. Gary Walters moved to have the Election Committee hold a special election, preferably concurrent with the current election.

EB17-019 - WALTERS

Move that the Executive Board direct the Elections Committee to hold a special election for the open Executive Board seat and the Executive Board urges the Elections Committee to run the special election concurrently with the next scheduled regular election. **PASSED 6-0**

Allen Priest then moved in open session to establish a Scholarship Reserve Fund and a Financial Emergencies Reserve Fund, after which the meeting recessed until the next day.

EB17-020 - PRIEST

Move to name the existing Scholarship money market account at Cumberland County Bank as the Scholarship Reserve Fund. This fund can be used without board approval to satisfy claims for scholarships awarded at US Chess youth events. The ED is authorized to make scholarship payments from this fund and to withdraw into the operating account any funds in the reserve in excess of the total amount of outstanding scholarships at any time. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-021 - PRIEST

Move that the Board creates the Financial Emergencies Reserve Fund. The Board designates the existing Regions Savings Bank account as the Reserve. The Board directs that the reserve fund be initially set at \$550,000 and directs the Executive Director to transfer additional funds from the checking account to Regions Bank to bring the savings account to that balance as soon as possible. **PASSED 5-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.

The next four motions were made via e-mail earlier. The vote was completed in open session at the meeting on 11/13/16.

EB17-022 - HOFFMAN

Move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the proposed agreement with Francesca Butler. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-023 - HOFFMAN

Move that the Executive Board add Maret Thorpe to the Website Advisory Committee and name Anand Dommalapati and GP Sinha as co-chairs for the Committee. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-024 - BELAKOVSKAIA

Move that William E. Perry, III (ID #12394466) will become a member of the Corporate Connections Task Force in five days with no objections. **PASSED** without objection.

EB17-025 - BELAKOVSKAIA

Move that Eric Yussman of Louisville (ID #12478327) will become a

member of the Clubs committee in five days with no objections. **PASSED** without objection.

The Executive Board then went into closed session. The next six motions arose from that closed session and were then presented in open session.

EB17-026 - BOARD

The Executive Board moves that after a conference call today between Curtis Lee Simmons and the US Chess Executive Board relating to Mr. Simmons conduct on or about September 25, 2016, the Executive Board hereby suspends Mr. Simmons' membership and the affiliate named Rocky Mountain Chess for a period of time until December 31, 2016. Mr. Simmons will additionally be issued a letter of admonishment by US Chess. **PASSED 5-1** with Mike Nietman opposed.

EB17-027 - BELAKOVSKAIA

Move that as soon as the amount of Financial Emergencies Reserve Fund exceeds \$600,000, The Board directs US Chess to open additional account at JP Morgan Chase Bank and allocate evenly the Financial Emergencies Reserve Fund into both accounts, to follow the best practices of reducing risk arising from FDIC insurance limits. **FAILED 1-3-2** with Anjelina Belakovskaia in favor and Mike Hoffpauir and Chuck Unruh abstaining.

EB17-028 - PRIEST

Move that US Chess national events are prohibited from awarding any scholarships as prizes unless the event sets aside the full amount of the scholarship awards from the event proceeds at the time of the event. The scholarship total is to be deposited in the Scholarship Reserve Fund within two weeks after the conclusion of the event. Any scholarships awarded must contain the following restrictions:

- A. An expiration date of no later than the winner's 24th birthday
- B. Payments can only be made directly to an educational institution upon proof of enrollment.

PASSED 6-0

EB17-029 - BELAKOVSKAIA

Move for the Executive Board to approve the inclusion of annual Women's regional championships into the list of national events offered under the umbrella of US Chess, starting from January 1, 2017. The events will be organized and sponsored by local organizations. US Chess office to develop the requirements and approval procedure. **TABLED** on a motion by Mike Nietman.

EB17-029a - NIETMAN

Move to Table. **PASSED 5-0-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia abstaining.

EB17-030 - PRIEST

Move the following new Executive Board liaison positions:
PASSED 6-0

Awards – Mike Nietman

Cramer – Chuck Unruh

Development – Gary Walters and Anjelina Belakovskaia

Prison – Chuck Unruh

Publications – Allen Priest

US Open – Mike Nietman and Mike Hoffpauir

EB17-031 - BOARD

The Executive Board moves to name Chuck Unruh as Vice President. **PASSED 6-0**

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on Dec. 28, 2016, the acceptance of the minutes of the November EB meeting. The vote was completed on 01/02/17.

EB17-032 - NIETMAN

Move to accept the November, 2016, Executive Board meeting minutes that were previously distributed for review. **PASSED 6-0**

Chuck Unruh moved on 01/04/17 by e-mail objections procedure the addition of Phil Simpkins to the States Committee. No objections were received, so the motion passed on 01/09/17.

EB17-033 - UNRUH

Mr. Simpkins will become a member of the States Committee in five days with no objections.

The US Chess Executive Board met in Atlanta, GA, on January 20 and 22, 2017. The following two motions were voted at the January 20 meeting. Gary Walters was not present on that day and did not vote on either motion.

EB17-034 - HOFFPAUIR

Move that US Chess encourages the growth of women's chess by facilitating the organization of regional women's events. The Women's Committee will recommend structure on this initiative and report to the EB regularly on its progress. **PASSED 5-0**

EB17-035 - UNRUH

Move to extend the New Member Recruitment Pilot Program until May 31, 2018. **PASSED 5-0**. Please note: the wording was changed later in the meeting per EB17-037.

The following motions were voted at the January 22 meeting. All EB members were present.

EB17-036 - HOFFPAUIR

Move that the Ratings Committee discuss the idea of identifying a means to place some measure of uncertainty on player ratings based on various factors including but not limited to activity, previous progress, age, etc. The Ratings Committee will report to the EB on progress at an appropriate time. **FAILED 1-5** with Mike Hoffpauir in favor.

EB17-037 - HOFFPAUIR/UNRUH

Mike Hoffpauir moves to substitute the following language for motion EB17-035 from earlier in the meeting to "Chuck Unruh moves to re-initiate the New Member Recruitment Pilot Program (NMRPP) that began in mid-June 2015 and ended a year later. The NMRPP shall receive an additional time beginning March 1, 2017 and ending May 31, 2018." **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-038 - NIETMAN

Move to add Mike Hoffpauir to the Board's Personnel Committee. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-039 - HOFFPAUR

Add Tracey Vibbert to the FIDE Events Committee. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-040 - NIETMAN

Move to remove “and 2100 levels” from the end of the first item in EB16-038.

PASSED 6-0 Please note: The maker of the motion, Mike Atkins, was consulted and agrees that this portion of the motion was in error as he believed that there was a 2100 rating floor and he was trying to match the money rating floors to that list.

EB17-041 - PRIEST

Move that US Chess creates a Women’s Chess Fund. The fund seed money will be \$5,000, which comes from an anonymous gift US Chess has already received. The Women’s Chess Committee is authorized to spend up to this amount in support of volunteer activities at US Chess events as outlined in the committee report presented January 22, 2017. The committee is not authorized to spend in excess of this amount. **PASSED 6-0**

The following motions arose from a closed session and were confirmed in open session on January 22.

EB17-042 - BELAKOVSKAIA

Anjelina Belakovskaia moves for US Chess to provide travel stipend for US Chess Senior Team to participate in the FIDE World Team Senior Championship starting in 2018 and in the amount not to exceed \$15,000. The EB recommends that the Top Players Committee designs invitational requirements and reports to the Executive Board by March 31, 2017 for review and approval. **FAILED 3-3** with Anjelina Belakovskaia, Mike Hoffpaur and Mike Nietman voting Yes.

EB17-043 - BELAKOVSKAIA/PRIEST

Anjelina Belakovskaia, as amended by Allen Priest, moves that the EB directs the Scholastic Council to develop a plan for U.S. participation in the FIDE U-16 Olympiad to be presented by the June 2017 EB meeting. The plan should include the player selection criteria, the timing of the selection of players, the number of players to be included, coach and other adult selection criteria, the year in which we might be able to begin participation in this event, and proposed funding level and possible funding sources. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-044 - BELAKOVSKAIA

Anjelina Belakovskaia moves for US Chess to refer to Top Players and Women’s Committees to propose details of organizing an annual US Chess camp for Top 10 women players. The plan is to be submitted by May 31, 2017. **PASSED 5-0-1** with Allen Priest abstaining.

EB17-045 - BELAKOVSKAIA

Move that the EB directs the Top Players committee to develop a plan for U.S. participation in the World Team Senior Championship to be presented by the June 2017 EB meeting. The plan should include the players and coach selection criteria and the timing of the selection, the year in which we might be able to begin participation in this event, and proposed funding level and possible funding sources, as well as recommendations for team players’ participation in promoting chess around the U.S. **PASSED 6-0**

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on February 6, 2017, to authorize an

agreement with Trophies Plus for 2017 SuperNationals trophies. The vote was completed on February 10.

EB17-046 - HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with Trophies Plus for the 2017 SuperNationals. **PASSED 6-0**

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on February 25, 2017, the acceptance of the minutes of the January EB Meeting. The vote was completed on March 09.

EB17-047 - NIETMAN

I move to accept the minutes of the January 2017 meeting as previously distributed. **PASSED 6-0**

Jean Hoffman and Franc Guadalupe prepared revised documents relating to the selection of the US Coaching Staff at International Youth Events and the responsibilities of Coaches and Delegation Heads at those events. They were combined and approved by five members of the Scholastic Council. Mike Nietman moved the approval of the final document by e-mail on March 10. Voting was completed on March 25.

EB17-048 - NIETMAN

I move to accept the draft of the “Selection Policy for US Chess Coaching Staff at International Youth Events” and “Duties and Responsibilities of International Heads of Delegation and Youth Coaches” combined document. **PASSED 5-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.

The US Chess Executive Board met in Tulsa, OK on June 3 and 4, 2017. The following motions, including two that were proposed earlier by e-mail, were voted at that meeting:

EB17-049 - PRIEST

We move \$250,000 into the reserve fund. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-050 - PRIEST

The Executive Board authorizes the office to move all but \$250,000 of the Reserve Fund at Regions Bank to a newly established bank sweep account at Ameritrade/ScotTrade with the same group of signatories as exist on the other US Chess bank accounts. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-051 - UNRUH

Change the name of the “Special Needs and Circumstances Committee” to the “Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee.” **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-052 - BELAKOVSKAIA

For US Chess to provide support for travel and hotel accommodations for the US Chess Senior Team participation in the FIDE World Senior Team Championship (ages 50+) in 2018 and in the amount of up to \$3,000 per participant (up to five players), with the total amount not to exceed \$15,000. Players’ selection criteria, invitational cut-off dates and other guidelines shall generally follow the same requirements as for Olympiad and World Team, and be added to the “US Chess Invitational Requirements” accordingly. Team Members shall actively contribute in identifying additional funding sources and help US Chess to advance the goal of growing the game, through providing free post-event article(s) about their experience with annotated games to our

Publications Department and increase participation in promoting chess around the U.S. **PASSED 4-2** with Allen Priest and Chuck Unruh opposed.

EB17-053 - BELAKOVSKAIA

Accept Camilla Baginskaite's resignation as Chair of the Top Players Committee and name Robert Hess and Tatev Abrahamyan as new Co-Chairs. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-054 - BELAKOVSKAIA

Separate ALL Female and ALL Male Coaches, TD, WGM/WIM, GM/IM lists and display them on the *uschess.org* website in order to increase public awareness of US Chess Top Female players availability to coach, TD, give lectures, simuls and other possible participation in promotional chess activities and make it easier for the public to contact those players directly. **FAILED 1-5** with Anjelina Belakovskaia in favor.

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on May 9 to replace Cheryle Bruce with Kathleen Collins as a signator.

EB17-055 - HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board authorize Jean Hoffman, Executive Director of the US Chess Federation, 137 O'Brien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555, to execute whatever documents are required by our depository banks to add Kathleen Collins and remove Cheryle Bruce as a signer of checks. Bank accounts are at the Putnam County Bank and Regions Bank in Crossville, TN. **PASSED 6-0**

The following motions were presented by e-mail prior to the meeting and voted at this time.

Mike Hoffpauir moved to add FM Jon Jacobs to the Anti-Cheating Committee by e-mail on May 22.

EB17-056 - HOFFPAUIR

I move that FM Jon Jacobs be added to the Anti-Cheating Committee. **PASSED 6-0**

Chuck Unruh moved the membership of the Special Circumstances Committee by e-mail objections procedure on May 25. As there were no objections the motion passed without objections on May 30. The EB confirmed its passage at the meeting. It is included here as documentation although it went into effect on May 30.

EB17-057 - UNRUH

I move that Michael Aigner, William Barela, Steve Immitt, Michael Lenox, Beatriz Marinello, Steven N. Morford, Mark Anthony Reyes, Sophia Rohde, Phillip Junius Simpkins, Martha Underwood become a additional members of the Special Needs & Circumstances Committee in five days with no objection. **PASSED 6-0**

Allen Priest then moved acceptance of the budget.

EB17-058 - PRIEST

Accept the 2017-2018 budget as presented. The budget must be presented to the Delegates for approval. **PASSED 6-0**

The following four motions were discussed and passed in closed session and subsequently read into the record in open session on June 4.

EB17-059 - BOARD

In the Ethics appeal of Steiner v. Camarda and Armenta, the US Chess Executive Board affirms the Ethics Committee recommendations of reprimands for Armenta and Camarda, with the proviso that upon a report from the Kansas Chess Association to US Chess of the abolishment of the Kansas Scholastic Chess Association rule that forbids Kansas students from attending any other event if there is a KSCA sanctioned event within 100 miles, the reprimands will be expunged from Camarda's and Armenta's records. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-060 - BOARD

The Executive Board approves the 2017-2018 event T-shirt bid from Northwest Designs. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-061 - BOARD

The Executive Board approves the 2017-2018 event bookstore bid from Wood Expression Inc. **PASSED 5-1** with Allen Priest opposed.

EB17-062 - BOARD

The Executive Board names the following 2017 award winners: **PASSED 6-0**

- a. **Distinguished Service Award** Ruth Haring (N-CA), Mike Atkins (MD)
- b. **Outstanding Career Achievement Award** Murrel Rhodes (IL), GM Larry Kaufman (MD), John Roush (WV), R. Mark Johnson (VA), FM Macon Shibut (VA), Ernest W. Schlich (VA)
- c. **Special Services Award** Maureen Grimaud (SC), Tom Dart (IL)
- d. **Meritorious Services Award** Jean Troendle (LA), Andy Rea (VA), Anand Dommalapati (VA), Ed Westing (WA), Ralph Mikell (DC)
- e. **Committee of the Year** Ethics Committee
- f. **Chess City of the Year** Franklin County, MS
- g. **Koltanowski Awards**
 - a. Gold—US Chess Trust
 - b. Silver—Two Sigma
- h. **Scholastic Service Award** Individual—David MacEnulty (NY)
- i. **Organizer of the Year** Judit Sztaray (N-CA)
- j. **Frank J. Marshall Award** IM Walter Shipman (N-CA and NY) posthumously and IM Danny Kopec (NY) posthumously
- k. **Grandmaster of the Year** GM Wesley So (MN)
- l. **Honorary Chess Mate** Helen and Allen Hinshaw (VA)
- m. **Chess Club of the Year** Hampton Roads Scholastic Chess Club (VA)
- n. **Chess College of the Year** St. Louis University (MO)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

FIDE Zonal President's Report

By Ruth Haring



The 87th FIDE Congress was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from September 4th-14th. Attending the Congress representing the USA were our FIDE Delegate, Michael Khodarkovsky; QC Commission Councilor Walter Brown; and myself. GM Susan Polgar of St. Louis headed the women's commission and FIDE vice president Beatriz Marinello of New York were also in attendance. A full report is published online on *uschess.org* dated October 24, 2016.

FIDE Norm-Based Titles Approved Since the Last U.S. Open

GM Akshat Chandra; GM Ruifeng Li

IM Michael Brown; IM Nicolas Checa; IM Vignesh Panchanatham; IM Atulya Shetty; IM Praveen Balakrishnan; IM Konstantin Kavutskiy; IM Cameron Wheeler. The following are conditional on rating: IM Alexander Velikanov; IM Craig Hilby; IM Justus Williams.

WIM Jennifer Yu

IA Robert Messinger; IA Oscar Garcia

FA David Hater; FA Chris Kim; FA John McCumiskey; FA Brian Yang

Title Requests for 2nd Qtr. PB Meeting (unspecified date)

IM Joshua Colas; IM David Brodsky; IA Alex Relyea

FA Grant Oen

FIDE Federation Transfers (IN)

GM Elshan Moradiabadi—From Iran/FID; Joshua Chong (youth)—From Malaysia; Elie Platnick (youth)—From France; Rao Samarth (youth)—From India

FIDE Federation Transfers (OUT)

Chinguun Bayaraa (youth)—To Mongolia; Thomas Weissbein—To Poland; Kaden Chang (youth)—To Hong Kong

2017 Zonal Championships in St. Louis, Missouri. As you know, the USA, zone 2.1, is a one-country zone. We have two qualifying spots for the Women's World Championship (WWC) Knockout Tournament and five qualifying spots for the Open Championship. If players in our zonal qualify otherwise for the World Cup—for example, by FIDE rating average—we replace those players by going down the list of finishers until we get players who can accept, with the caveat that the replacement player must have achieved 50 percent in the zonal tournament, up to our allotment of two and five, respectively.

In 2017, Wesley So became our new U.S. champion, outlasting Alexander Onischuk in the tie-break round. Congratulations to Wesley! Our qualifiers from Zone 2.1 2017 tournament will be six:

By rating: Wesley So, Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura

From Zone 2.1 standings: Alexander Onischuk, Varuzhan Akobian, and Yaroslav Zherebukh.

This year WGM Sabina Foisor started slowly with some difficult losses, but regained her composure and went into the last round tied for first with the defending champion, IM Nazi Paikidze, to win the U.S. Women's Championship and Zonal with a brilliant queen sacrifice! Sabina Foisor and Nazi Paikidze are qualified to represent our zone in the next WWC tournament.

Sabina has been "there" for US Chess, filling in at the last minute in Olympiads, and most recently a replacement player, playing in the WWC Knockout Tournament in Iran. I talked to Sabina on the phone about that tournament. Her mother, IM Cristina Foisor, who passed away on the eve of the WWC event, had qualified from Romania. Sabina and her mother had big plans to set records, "For me it was about mother and daughter; it had never happened before." Sabina was thankful that FIDE kept her mom on the participant list and honored her in a ceremony at the event. Now Sabina looks at her life with a new perspective.

A five-time Romanian women's champion, Sabina had been dreaming of winning the U.S. Women's Championship. But this time it was different. Sabina had to choose between her job and playing chess. Most importantly, she was motivated by the dreams she had with her mother. She said, "No one really thought I had a chance until the last round." Sabina has played in the U.S. Women's Championship many times. She said, "It is better and better every year. Players are treated really well." Congratulations to WGM Sabina Foisor, 2017 U.S. Women's Champion!

The Women's World Championship Knockout Tournament in Tehran, Iran. Our representatives—Viktorija Ni, Katerina Nemcova, and Sabina Foisor—were all eliminated in the first round. Our players, underdogs all, fought valiantly: Sabina lost to the eventual winner Tan Zhongyi, 16th Women's World Champion. Viktorija lost to Valentina Gunina and Katerina lost to Pia Cramling. Note that going forward USA has two (2) qualifiers from our zonal championship for women.

World Cup. For the 2016 tournament, we had three qualifiers by rating: Hikaru Nakamura, Fabiano Caruana, and Wesley So. Nineteen players qualified by rating. We had an additional five qualifiers from our previous zonal tournament: Varuzhan Akobian, Alexander Onischuk, Ray Robson, Samuel Sevian, and Sam Shankland. The Continental Championship is also a path for our players to qualify for this event. The World Cup was won by Sergey Karjakin.

Candidates Tournament in Moscow, Russia. For our players, the road to the Candidates tournament did not come from the World Cup. Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura qualified by finishing on top in the FIDE Grand Prix. Qualifiers were: loser of the World Chess

Championship 2014 match, top two from the World Cup 2015, top two from the FIDE Grand Prix 2015-16, top two with highest average 2015 rating who played in the World Cup or Grand Prix, and one wild card by organizers with FIDE rating in July 2015 of at least 2728.

After a neck-and-neck fight, Caruana lost to Karjakin in the last round and Karjakin advanced to challenge Magnus Carlsen. It all came down to the final round game between Karjakin and Caruana, each with 7½ points, and the only two players who could win the tournament. For Caruana to become challenger, he needed to win or draw and rely on Viswanathan Anand to beat Peter Svidler in order for the tiebreaks to be favorable. Caruana ended at 7½, edging out Anand in the tiebreaks.

World Chess Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan. The 42nd World Chess Olympiad took place in Baku from September 1st-14th, 2016. There was a lot of nail-biting and stress while we waited for the games to finish and final calculations to be done.

At 5:07 Baku time, the arbiters announced to the press center: USA won on tiebreaks!

Team USA had won their first title since 1976 on tiebreaks over Ukraine. Russia took clear third. Congratulations to the “golden” U.S. team: Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, Wesley So, Samuel Shankland, Ray Robson, Captain John Donaldson, and Coach Alex Lenderman. Wesley So won gold on board three for his performance, 2896.

The Hamilton-Russell trophy travels with every winning team until the next Olympiad.

For the next two years, it will be displayed at US Chess events and the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis, Missouri. On the way home from Baku, John Donaldson carried the trophy for the team, and very graciously took pictures with all comers in the Baku airport.

The U.S. women’s team of Irina Krush, Nazi Paikadze, Anna Zatonskih, Katerina Nemcova, and Sabina Foisor had an outstanding Olympiad and finished in sixth place. They beat the favored Russians, but lost to China and Ukraine. Our women’s team was led by Captain Yasser Seirawan and Coach Robert Hess.

For the Gaprindashvili Cup (which combines the results of the Open and Women’s tournaments), the U.S. finished second behind Ukraine and ahead of Russia and China.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

- o. Tournament Director of the Year** NTD Korey J. Kormick (TN)
- p. Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement Award** NTD George M. Mirijanian (MA) and NTD Ernest W. Schlich (VA)
- q. Outstanding Player Achievement Award** IM Jay Bonin (NY)
- r. Outstanding Team Performance Award** 2016 gold medal winning U.S. Olympiad team
- s. Woman Chessplayer of the Year Award** Nazi Paikidze (NV)
- t. Special Friend of US Chess** Sen. John Davison “Jay” Rockefeller IV

the US Chess FIDE Delegate issue a proxy to GM Darcy Lima of Brazil to vote for himself for this position. The proxy is limited only to the vote for this position and no other purpose. **PASSED 5-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.

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 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*

The next motion was made by e-mail on June 8, 2017. It arose from the fact that our FIDE Delegate could not be present at then upcoming FIDE continental meeting in Costa Rica where our continental member of the FIDE Election Commission will be elected. Allen Priest moved by e-mail that we name a proxy to represent our interests.

EB17-063 – PRIEST

To provide for US Chess to be represented in the selection of the FIDE Americas representative to the FIDE Election Commission, I move that

2017 Delegates & Alternate Delegates

Delegates 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 2,3

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

ARKANSAS 1,1

Del Stephen J. Paulson
Alt

N. CALIFORNIA 7,7

PEB-DAL RUTH HARING
Del Tom Langland
Del Ruth Haring
Del Joe Lonsdale
Del Richard Koepcke
Del Elizabeth Shaughnessy
Del James Eade
Del Judit Sztaray
Alt Salman Azhar
Alt Stephen Shaughnessy
Alt John McCumiskey
Alt Jordan Langland
Alt Swaminathan Sankar
Alt John Donaldson
Alt Mark Pinto
AAD FRANK ELLEY

S. CALIFORNIA 6,6

DAL RANDY HOUGH
DAL DEWAIN BARBER

Del Philip Chase
Del Brian Glover
Del Gabriella T. Kay
Del James Mennella
Del Steven Morford
Del Dylan Quercia
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt

COLORADO 2,2

Del Richard Buchanan
Del Paul Covington
Alt Dean W. Brown
Alt Earle Wikle

CONNECTICUT 2,2

Del Derek Meredith
Del Alex Lumelsky
Alt
Alt

DELAWARE 1,1

Del
Alt

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 1,1

Del Salvador Rosario
Alt Ralph Mikell

FLORIDA 6,6

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

GEORGIA 3,3

Del David Mbonu
Del Amrita Kumar
Del L. Thad Rogers
Alt Clause Friese
Alt David Hater
Alt Fun Fong

HAWAII 1,1

Del Cornelius Rubsamen
Alt Guy P. Ontai

IDAHO 1,1

Del Adam Porth
Alt Chris Naccarato

ILLINOIS 5,5

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

INDIANA 2,2

Del Gerald Roberts
Del Mathew Leach
Alt Roger Blaine
Alt Benjamin Pitchkites

IOWA 1,1

Del Eric Vigil
Alt Dr. Robert Keating

KANSAS 1,1

Del Brian Yang
Alt C.J. Armenta

KENTUCKY 2,2

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

LOUISIANA 1,1

Del Leila D'Aquin
Alt Mario Rodriguez

MAINE 1,1

Del Andrew Bryan
Alt Dan Fishbein

MARYLAND 3,3

PEB-DAL MICHAEL ATKINS
Del Larry Charles Kaufman
Del Chris Y. Kim
Del Michael W. Regan
Alt
Alt
Alt

MASSACHUSETTS 2,2

Del Kenneth Ballou
Del Robert Messenger
Alt Nathan Smolensky
Alt Johnny Sadoff

MICHIGAN 2,2

Del Bradley Rogers
Del Chris Sims
Alt
Alt

MINNESOTA 2,2

Del David Kuhns
Del Jiten Patel
Alt
Alt

MISSISSIPPI 1,1

Del Mark O. Nicholas
 Alt Jeff Hensley

MISSOURI 2,2

Del Bob Howe
 Del Kenneth E. Jones
 Alt
 Alt

MONTANA 1,1

Del Antonius Raelund
 Alt Dan McCourt

NEBRASKA 1,1

Del John Hartmann
 Alt

NEVADA 1,1

Del Alan Losoff
 Alt Janelle Losoff

NEW HAMPSHIRE 1,1

Del Alex Relyea
 Alt Hal Terrie

NEW JERSEY 4,4

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

NEW MEXICO 1,1

Del William Barela
 Alt

NEW YORK-DOWNSTATE 7,7

DAL BEATRIZ MARINELLO
 Del Beatriz Marinello
 Del Daniel Rohde
 Del Sophia Rohde
 Del Polly Wright

Del Carol Jarecki
 Del Sunil Weeramantry
 Del Ed Frumkin
 Alt Joe Felber
 Alt Dolly Teasley
 Alt Harold Stenzel
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 AAD GARY H. SPERLING

NEW YORK-UPSTATE 4,4

DAL BILL GOICHBERG
 DAL AL LAWRENCE
 Del Harold Scott
 Del Steve Immitt
 Del Sandeep Alampalli
 Del Brenda Goichberg
 Alt Dr. Craig Fisher
 Alt Sreenivas Alampalli
 Alt
 Alt

NORTH CAROLINA 4,4

Del Kevin J. Hyde
 Del Jeffrey Mason Jones
 Del Venkataraja
 Shanmugavadivel
 Del Wayne Spon
 Alt Cahyono Nugroho
 Alt Walter High
 Alt Rudolph D. Abate
 Alt Peter Giannatos

NORTH DAKOTA 1,1

Del Todd Wolf
 Alt Vasantha Soori

OHIO 3,3

EB GARY WALTERS
 Del Steve Charles
 Del Grant Perks
 Del Kathy Lin
 Alt Joe Yun
 Alt
 Alt

OKLAHOMA 1,1

EB 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
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 AAD GERARD DULLEA

RHODE ISLAND 1,1

Del Frank Vogel
 Alt Ben Swiszczy

SOUTH CAROLINA 1,1

DAL JOHN McCRARY
 Del David Grimaud
 Alt David Causey

SOUTH DAKOTA 1,1

Del Nels Truelson
 Alt Terry Likens

TENNESSEE 2,2

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

TEXAS 13,13

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 Claudia Munoz
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt

Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 Alt
 AAD TIMOTHY REDMAN

UTAH 1,1

Del David Day
 Alt

VERMONT 1,1

Del Parker Montgomery
 Alt David E. Carter

VIRGINIA 4,4

EB MIKE HOFFPAUIR
 Del Adam Chrisney
 Del Ernie Schlich
 Del Andrew Rea
 Del Ryan Jones
 Alt John Farrell
 Alt Gerard Wasserbauer
 Alt Christina Schweiss
 Alt Helen Hinshaw
 AAD F. WOODROW HARRIS

WASHINGTON 2,2

Del Fred Kleist
 Del Murlin Varner
 Alt
 Alt

WEST VIRGINIA 1,1

Del Lewis F. Sanders
 Alt Charles McCallister

WISCONSIN 2,2

EB MIKE NIETMAN
 Del Guy Hoffman
 Del Sandra Hoffman
 Alt
 Alt

WYOMING 1,1

Del Brian Walker
 Alt

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 36.

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 players, tournament directors, sponsors, and other individuals and entities 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 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.

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) When issuing a decision, the Ethics Committee will provide a rationale for its decision to the parties involved and to the Executive Board.
- (c) 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.
- (d) Except as specified in 7(f), 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. No appeals shall be permitted in cases where the Ethics Committee has found in favor of the defendant and has recommended no sanctions.
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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.
- (g) 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 for 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. This Code of Ethics was further amended by DM16-31/ADM 16-32, DM 16-51/ADM 16-49, DM16-52/ADM 16-50, DM 16-53/ADM 16-51, DM 16-54/ADM 16-52, DM 16-59/ADM 16-58 and the amendments were passed at the 2016 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.** 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, senior tournaments, weekend Swisses, tornadoes, quads as well as participation in National Chess Day activities, regional and/or national championships; (2016)
 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)
 10. Designate a coordinator to promote participation and events for women and girls within their state. (2016)
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 member 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 that 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.

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)

DELEGATE INFO

(*Chess Life* Publication).

The March, April or May issue of *Chess Life* shall be the yearbook issue and shall contain general information about the USCF and about chess governance including the names and contact information of current USCF Delegates and Alternate Delegates. 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. (2016)

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 accurately 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 34 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 U.S. 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 BINFOs 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 BINFOs 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 with-

out 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 US 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 US 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 expenditures 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 12 February 2017

Volunteer and Legal Expenses

VOLUNTEER EXPENSES 6/1/16 - 5/31/17

Name	Capacity	Total Amount
Anjelina Belakovskaia	Executive Board	\$1,468.80
Mike Hoffpauir	Executive Board	\$ 585.20
Mike Nietman	Executive Board	\$1,439.26
Allen Priest	Executive Board	\$1,249.06
Gary Walters	Executive Board	\$2,097.98

***Mike Nietman was reimbursed for EB expenses and he returned the money to US Chess as a donation.

LEGAL EXPENSES 6/1/16 - 5/31/17

Name	Capacity	Total Amount
Trademark	Lucas & Mercanti	\$ 480.00
Non-Profit Consulting	Quarles & Brady LLP	\$6,667.50
Personnel	Bone, McAllester & Norton, PLLC	\$2,580.58
Governance & Misc.	Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.	\$1,687.50
	Quarles & Brady LLP	\$ 226.50

Total Legal Expenses 2016-2017

\$11,642.08

US Chess Trust Report

By Harold J. Winston, Trust Chairman

The U.S. Chess Trust (Trust) enjoys working with US Chess to promote and encourage chess in this country. Last summer, Trust Managing Director Al Lawrence and I had a dinner discussion meeting with US Chess President Gary Walters and Executive Director Jean Hoffman at the U.S. Open. The Trust is a 501(c)(3) Massachusetts Trust, led for many years by the late Harold Dondis. We support chess nationwide 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. We are proud to donate the cash prizes to the National Girls Tournament of Champions (NGTOC), held the same time as the Denker and Barber at the U.S. Open. We also donate US Chess memberships and chess sets and boards to American schools.

I am sorry to announce the death of Walter Buehl, a long time US Chess delegate from upstate New York. I always enjoyed talking with Walter at the U.S. Open. I greatly appreciate Walter's generous bequest to the U.S. Chess Trust in his will and encourage others to remember the Trust in their wills.

Two occasions I enjoy as Trust chairman are speaking at the opening ceremony of the Denker, Barber, and NGTOC tournaments and presenting prize checks at their closing ceremony. I was delighted that Trust Managing Director Al Lawrence was the main speaker at the 2016 opening ceremony in Indianapolis.

The Trust donates a \$5,000 college scholarship to the winner of the Denker Tournament, and Dewain Barber donates a similar scholarship through the Trust to the winner of the Barber event. The Trust also donates the cash prizes for the Denker, Barber, and NGTOC with the support of the Denker and Barber families. The Trust is happy to cooperate with Dewain Barber, Steve Shutt, Jon Haskel, and Maureen Grimaud in the Denker, Barber, and NGTOC events.

The Trust works with the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis and elects new members to the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame after nominations from the Hall of Fame committee. As Trust

chairman, I inducted Edward Lasker into the Hall of Fame on March 28, 2017, 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. That same day I met with museum officials, including Chief Curator Shannon Bailey and Assistant Curator Emily Allred, and toured the current three museum exhibits.

The Trust continues to be the main sponsor of the Scholar-Chessplayer Awards with the support of Sunil Weeramantry's National Scholastic Chess Foundation. For 2017, the award winners are Warren Wang (NY), FIDE Master Ethan Li (NY), Prateek Piniseti (AZ), Joshua Sheng (CA), and FIDE Master Zhaozhi (George) Li (IL). Each will receive \$1,500 college scholarships. Beatriz Marinello and Sunil Weeramantry announced the winners at the National High School Championship in Nashville during SuperNationals VI.

The Trust is also proud to administer the Samford Fellowship program, well-led by IM John Donaldson. We salute the newest Samford Fellow: sixteen-year-old World Junior Champion GM Jeffery Xiong of Texas. The U.S. Chess Trust Samford Fellowship gives developing American players a stipend and training expenses to give them a chance to reach their full potential. Four of the five players on Team USA, winners of the gold medal in last year's Olympiad, were Samford Fellows. So was GM Irina Krush, first board on our women's team.

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 Hoffpauir of Virginia and Mark Herman of New York. As usual, I heavily rely on the advice of Trust President Jim Eade (NCA) and Trust Treasurer Leroy Dubeck (NJ). I appreciate that Secretary Myron Lieberman (AZ) keeps track of all 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). 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.

Contact our Managing Director Al Lawrence, at al@uschesstrust.org, to request chess sets or memberships, or to make legacy donations. We welcome support for all our 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 3, 2017, at 4 p.m. at the U.S. Open in Norfolk, Virginia. I am happy to accept donations at the annual meetings.



US Chess Committee Reports

Accessibility and Special Circumstances

JANELLE LOSOFF, CHAIR

This committee (fka Special Needs and Circumstances) was created in 2016 and reports to the Executive Board (EB). Its purpose is to help US Chess meet its goals as stated in Article II, Section 1 of the US Chess Federation bylaws.

BYLAWS OF THE US CHESS FEDERATION

Article II: Purposes

Section 1. The purpose of the Federation ... *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.*

According to ADM 15-27, it also exists to “assist players with special needs and circumstances in overcoming barriers to participate in and enjoy USCF tournaments.”

As of this writing, “players with special needs and circumstances” are defined as:

“Players who face extra challenges to participate in tournaments, some as basic as finding a suitable space to play their games or even to move the pieces and press the clock. This would also include players who may have religious objections to using delay clocks on the Sabbath or those who express voluntary social exclusions or exceptions for political reasons.”

The Accessibility and Special Circumstances (ASC) committee is still welcoming new members. We would like to include members who may be players with accessibility needs and/or who bring special circumstances to chess themselves. Beside our 2016 committee members, we have recruited consultants and volunteers. We also utilize resources from the U.S. Government, GNOs, think tanks, universities, and well-recognized and respected agencies. Some of our current additional resources include:

- Center for Disease Control
- World Health Organization
- U.S. Veterans Administration
- FIDE
- The Stanford Center for Social Psychological Answers to Real-World Questions (SPARQ),
- Simmons Library
- Access Living in Chicago

During much of 2016, members of the ASC have researched the needs and trends within the “handicapped/disabled” community. We have also discussed the challenges of meeting the needs for “persons with voluntary social exclusions or exceptions for political or religious reasons.” While we have only scratched the surface of what we hope to know, we DO have some significant findings to report. Some quick generalizations.

1. People with disabilities have diverse needs, diverse cultures, and often face discrimination/ableism.
2. The anti-ableism movement is growing within the disabled community to counteract discrimination.
3. The community has a rapidly-growing social movement of activists who use social media to change the way they speak about themselves and are now starting to make more demands for respect, access, and inclusion in everyday life.
4. **“Nothing About Us Without Us”** is a popular slogan within the on-line disabled community. This slogan means that **no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members of the group(s) affected by that policy.** Its popularity signals that we at US Chess must start making changes in how we make rules regarding players with disabilities. In other words, it’s no longer adequate to have chess officials and/or outside health care professionals making decisions that affect these players. **If US Chess is to make policy “about” the disabled community, the disabled community will have to be part of the decision-making process.** Perhaps it’s no accident that a few members of this committee are also both disabled and activists for the disabled community.
5. Cultural differences exist within the general population of players also. If we hope to become more inclusive and diverse, we may need to make some accommodations for “persons with voluntary social exclusions or exceptions for political or religious reasons.” Persons with voluntary social exclusions or exceptions for political or religious reasons may include, but not be limited to:
 - Players who request that their games be rescheduled because of religious obligations or practices. For example, a Jewish player might request byes in his/her Saturday rounds, or there may be requests to reschedule games so as not to conflict with worship day/days/Sabbath. While it may not always be feasible to grant all such requests, the organizer or tournament director must decide, with fairness to all parties in each specific case, whether granting a specific request would in turn compromise the rights of others or would be likely to pose an extraordinary obstacle in running the tournament.
 - Players who refuse to play an opponent because of the political policies and religious regulations of his country or origin. For

example, do we have to give an Iranian player a forfeit loss if he/she refuses to play an Israeli who he/she is paired against? Under FIDE rules, this appears to be the only solution.

We will be looking at past challenges and the ways that these cases have been handled. Our goals include developing suggestions for tournament directors and organizers to solve difficult “special circumstances” in respectful, inclusive, and financially reasonable ways.

In order to aid US Chess in advancing its goals, the ASC is now focused on:

- 1) **Learning about the culture/popular movements and trends within the disabled community.**
- 2) **Studying and defining terms** to be used when talking to or about “players with handicaps/disabilities/special requirements or exclusions” within US Chess and this committee.
- 3) **Learning how to become a bridge** between US Chess and “players with handicaps/disabilities/special requirements or exclusions” to resolve issues before they become problems.
- 4) Helping US Chess **understand the different needs of diverse groups.**
- 5) Consulting with other US Chess committees to **develop procedures** (or best practices) that will meet the access, safety, and basic chess needs of these players without putting undue stress or financial burden on event organizers, tournament directors, or other players while protecting the health information of players, and that will make chess more inviting, accessible and inclusive for players with disabilities and who request special accommodations due to “special circumstances.”

Committee Actions 2016 through 2019:

- Asked US Chess for a table at SuperNationals VI for promotion of the World Disabled Championship and asked volunteers from our committee to staff it—Spring 2017.
- Wrote and submitted at total of 14 proposals to the Executive Board during Spring 2017.
- Proposed a new name for this committee—awaiting EB approval.
- Wrote a general policy statement in support of players with disabilities—awaiting EB approval.
- Researched language/terms for talking about disability issues and submitted some terms for adoption by US Chess—awaiting EB approval.
- Language research will be ongoing 2016 through 2019.
- Proposed a “Shift of Perspective” with top down and action-oriented approach to changing how US Chess deals with the needs of players with disabilities—awaiting EB approval.
- Requested approval to write a US Chess Guideline on the Treatment of Players with Disabilities—awaiting EB approval.
- Writing a Mission Statement and a Statement of Core Values—in committee.
- Requested approval from the EB to seek out experts from other non-profit organizations to aid us in developing a sensitivity training program. Some goals of the training program would be to help organizers and tournament directors develop greater communication skills and strategies for meeting the needs of players with disabilities—awaiting EB approval.
- Produce a calendar of scheduled meetings of the ASC—next meeting at U.S. Open.
- Produce a Confidentiality Statement to protect players’ health records privacy in accordance with HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996)—in committee.

- Produce a guideline for organizers and tournament directors so they understand HIPAA rules—planned for 2018.
- Study possible procedures for addressing the invisible challenges of players with learning, memory, mental agility and behavioral support issues—planned for 2018.
- Start working with the Rules committee to discuss changes to procedures and rules in support of players with disabilities—planned for 2018.
- Start writing rules with the Rules committee—planned for 2018.
- Start studying the feasibility of working with other non-profits in the development of a sensitivity training program—planned for 2019.
- Start studying the feasibility of creating a volunteer pool to aid players with disabilities—planned for 2019.
- Start studying the feasibility of adding questions to tournament director certification tests—planned for 2019.
- Perform a review of procedures and best practices learned from the World Disabled Championship—2017, 2018, 2019.
- Start studying the feasibility of creating a website for committee members to be used as a private forum for committee business and storage of committee communications, research, and documents—planned for 2019.

In the future, we hope to contribute to better access, inclusion, and support for players with disabilities and special circumstances. Our goal is fairness and dignity for all through better awareness, communication, procedures, and supporting policy. We foresee success coming from slow but steady progress, built on knowledge and supported by skill, cooperation, empathy and compassion.

Anti-Cheating

MIKE ATKINS, CHAIR

The Anti-Cheating Committee (ACC) was created at the Phoenix Delegates’ meeting via Executive Board motion. The chair was selected at the Indianapolis meeting. Over the next several months, the invited members were approved and the committee staffed.

The first topic was possible methods of cheating. The committee named 37 possible ways, although there are probably multiples of that number which are possible.

We had a discussion with member/consultant, Dr. Ken Regan, about his work in computer analysis of cheating. His example of an analysis from a recent Open tournament (with names stripped) showed long strings of Ms (match with computer) with Ns mixed in (equal optimal move that doesn’t drop the evaluation), and that every master game had at least one O that made the position deteriorate. One member concluded, “That also indicates that looking at a single game may be enough to trigger strong suspicion.”

We looked at a proposed charter for the committee that did not get much response from members other than a discussion of the makeup of the committee in terms of liaisons to various committees. The ACC was set up with the chairs of the Ethics, Rules, and TDCC committees; the FIDE Zonal President; chair of the Scholastic Council; several at-large members; several grandmasters; and a computer consultant.

We looked at the recent study from Europe that evaluated the effects of caffeine, Provigil, Ritalin, and a placebo on chess performance. The study was designed to have tournament players play a series of G/15 matches against a computer that was set for roughly their rating strength, something that is admittedly hard to accomplish. Food, sleep,

and other extraneous variables were controlled. The study concluded that the three medications significantly improved chess performance by increasing concentration in the form of spending more time analyzing. The one major flaw in the design was that, while increasing study time improved results, it also resulted in many forfeit losses, and these results were thrown out of the study, so “of course” the results were significant. The average Elo rating was 1670-1677, so an interesting future study could be done with higher rated players AND include all results by perhaps increasing game time to G/30.

For the coming year, it would be good to get more guidance from the Executive Board as to the scope, nature, and purpose of the committee. While we will never be a police force in the style of FIDE’s ACC, having specific guidelines for our advisory role would be helpful.

Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions

JON HASKEL AND STEPHEN SHUTT, CO-CHAIRS

2016 BARBER EVENT: BRANDON JACOBSON (NJ) WINS

CM Brandon Jacobson (NJ), scored 5½/6 in a field of 11 masters, which is a record for this event. Brandon had a solid performance, giving up only one draw to WFM Emily Nguyen (TX). In addition to the title of Barber Champion of Champions, Brandon received a \$5,000 college/university scholarship to his school of choice. There was a five-way tie (4½/6) for second place that included Emily Nguyen (TX), Andrew Zheng (MD), Vincent Jingwei Baker (OH), FM Trung Q. Nguyen (VA) and NM Ben Li (MI). Brandon was also the winner of the \$500 Stephen Shutt Chess Camp Scholarship for the best result under the age of 13.

NEW JERSEY CLEAR FIRST IN STATE TEAM COMPETITION

Congratulations to New Jersey on their commanding first place finish (14/18), ending any doubt that their state team average (2232) was strong enough to take the top spot. Their team was led by Barber representative CM Brandon Jacobson (5½/6), Denker representative IM John Burke (4½/6), and National Girls’ representative Angelica Chin (4/6). The second-place team, Texas (state team average of 2174), was a half point behind New Jersey, followed by Virginia (2227), which took clear third place a half point behind Texas. State team winners in the under sections were Oklahoma (under 2100), Oregon (under 1900), and Nevada (under 1700).

More information on the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions can be found at www.barberchess.com.

Bylaws

HAROLD J. WINSTON AND GUY HOFFMAN, CO-CHAIRS

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 two motions to the committee. The first, DM 16-68, proposed by Randy Bauer (IA) and Alex Relyea (NH), would amend Art. VII, section 3 of the Bylaws to add, “No committee chair may serve for more than nine consecutive years.” The committee voted against this 0-10-2-0; both Myron Lieberman and I abstained because we have served as a chair or co-chair for more than nine consecutive years. Other persons who would have to give up their

positions by my calculation would include David Kuhns (Rules), Guy Hoffman (States), and Mark Glickman (Ratings). Myron Lieberman (Outreach) and Harold Winston (Bylaws co-chair) would also be limited. I have been told the reason for the proposal is that a number of committee chairs, including myself, vigorously opposed an effort last year to abolish a Bylaws provision limiting Executive Board members to nine consecutive years.

There are several good reasons not to support the committee chair limit motion. First, committee chairs can be changed every year, and second, committee chairs do not have the power Executive Board members have. Most committees are appointed each year by the Executive Board, who can change chairs each time they appoint or reappoint a committee. In the case of delegate committees, such as Bylaws, the committee holds an election each year. This is completely different for Executive Board members, who are elected for a three-year term and cannot be changed each year.

Next, most committees can only recommend, not make decisions that Executive Board members make. While the Ethics committee can make decisions, its decisions can be appealed to the Executive Board. The Executive Board is our Board of Directors: it appoints the executive director, the publications director, most committees, and approves a chief financial officer. It sets policies between meetings of the delegates.

One Bylaws committee member commented: “Competent committee chairs are hard to come by ... they don’t really have that much power and they serve incredibly vital functions.” Tim Just served 13 years as Tournament Director Certification Committee chair and did excellent work.

The second motion referred to Bylaws was DM 16-73, proposed by Leila D’Aquin (LA). It would amend Article V, section 2 to provide:

“The Board of Delegates shall be composed of the Executive Board members, the Delegates at Large, and 150 delegates, apportioned among the states in proportion to their resident US Chess membership as of May 31 of the year prior to delegate elections, except that each state must have at least two delegates, at least one of whom must be under the age of 40.”

This amendment would increase the number of state delegates from 125 to 150, provide each state would have a minimum of two delegates, and would require one delegate be under the age of 40. The committee vote was opposed 0-11-0-1. The committee opposed requiring one delegate from each state be under the age of 40; one member commented this was “prima facie unconstitutional ageism.” The committee also was concerned with the increase in the quorum. States Chair Guy Hoffman pointed out the wording would require some states to lose delegates. At the 2016 meeting, some delegates from small states complained that they had active organizers over age 40 who did more work than those under age 40. On the other hand, committee members shared the sponsor’s concern that many delegates at our annual meeting come from older age brackets.

Because of that concern, I proposed two alternatives that would be recommendations, not requirements. Delegate Action of Continuing Interest 8 deals with state chapter requirements and recommendations. I proposed adding a section 10 that would state, “States having five or more delegates are encouraged to select at least one delegate under age 40.” An alternative would be, “States having four or more delegates are encouraged to select at least one delegate under age 40.” States with multiple delegates could more easily make such a selection and—as a recommendation, not a requirement—it would not be mandatory. Hopefully such encouragement would accomplish its goal. The Bylaws committee took votes on each of these alternatives: on the proposed recommendation for states with five or more delegates,

the Committee split 5-5-1-1; on the recommendation for states with four or more delegates, the committee voted narrowly against 4-6-1-1. I will place both alternatives on the delegates agenda; the Bylaws Workshop can consider both at their annual meeting. The 2016 Delegates Call listed the following state chapters with five or more delegates: N. California, S. California, Florida, Illinois, NY Downstate, Pennsylvania, and Texas. The following state chapters had four delegates: NY Upstate, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Two other votes were taken by the committee. The first was whether the under 40 age limit would apply at the time of appointment or the time of the delegate meeting. The committee voted as follows: time of delegate meeting-8, time of appointment-0, abstention-1, against the idea-3. The final vote was on an alternative proposed by Guy Hoffman to add a sentence to Article V, section 2: "Any state may have one additional delegate, provided that delegate is under the age of 40 at the time of the delegate meeting and is part of the ordered list submitted by the state chapter in accordance with Article V, section 4. Such individual may not be replaced by an alternate delegate." Guy stated that the only additional delegates would be those under age 40 who planned to attend; however, this proposal would allow the number of delegates to change each year. The committee opposed this alternative 0-8-3-1.

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

Everyone is welcome at the annual Bylaws Workshop, which will be held in Norfolk, Virginia on Friday, August 4, at 9 a.m., at the playing site of the 2017 U.S. Open. If you have any other proposals dealing with governance or bylaws, please contact me at HJWinston@aol.com.

Clock Working Group

MIKE ATKINS, RYAN VELEZ, AND DANIEL ROHDE, CO-CHAIRS

The Clock Working Group began its work in August 2016 and worked periodically up through April 2017. Members included Co-Chairs Mike Atkins and Ryan Velez. Tim Just, Allen Priest, and Mike Hoffpauir served on the task force as well. The clock evaluators were Ryan Velez and Mike Hoffpauir.

Essentially, our priority was figuring out a plan for evaluating clocks. The task force universally agreed that we would not get into making clock recommendations and agreed only to evaluate clocks based on:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Time Controls | Presets? Customizable time controls? |
| 2. Time Delay | Has delay? Customizable Delay? |
| 3. Time Increment | Has increment? Customizable increment? |
| 4. Pausing | Pausable? Customizable on Pause? |
| 5. Sounds | Make sounds? Can sounds be switched off? |
| 6. Lights | Has lights? Can they be switched off? |
| 7. Flag | Has a flag? At the end of time control? |
| 8. Move Counter | Has counter? Can it be turned off? |
| 9. Display | Color? Black and white? Size or color changeable? |

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 10. Batteries | AAA? AA? C? D? Other? |
| 11. US Chess versus FIDE | Compliant? Reviewer can put comments. |
| 12. Overall Impression | Reviewer can write five or six sentences about the clock |

Excutive Board member Mike Hoffpauir created a form that we used to evaluate clocks. In addition to the questions above, questions 1 through 11 required the evaluators to rank the feature on a 1 to 5 scale. If necessary, the reviewer could also write comments about each item. The highest possible score was 55, as the 12th question was a final overall review of the clock, which was reflected by the total score of the preceding 11 questions.

After the process and form were agreed to, we began to determine which clocks to review. Initially, the group wanted to evaluate as many clocks as possible. We shared websites, brand names, and screen shots of website where clocks were for sale. What we quickly learned was the number of clocks on the market is large, especially if you take into consideration clocks that are out of production but are still widely used.

These observations led the group to ask Allen Priest if US Chess would give the task force a small budget to purchase clocks for review. Allen agreed a budget could be helpful and asked how much we would need. No one on the taskforce ever presented a number, but we wanted it noted that US Chess was willing to support this effort. Mike Atkins suggested, and the taskforce agreed, that if we took the route of purchasing any clocks they be offered as prizes at an upcoming national competition.

Instead, it seemed much more practical to review clocks we already had. After discussing which clocks we all had access to, we determined we had six types of clocks available for review. Those six were the Chronos Touch, ZMF-II, Game Time II, a Saitek clock, OMCOR GameTimer 960, and the DGT 1002. The Saitek clock was malfunctioning due to a battery leaking issue and was consequently not reviewed. It was noted that this clock was no longer being manufactured anyway.

We have submitted the detailed reviews to US Chess.

College Chess

AL LAWRENCE, CHAIR

At the end of December, New Orleans hosted the 63rd Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship for the first time in the event's long history. Evidently, the tournament shouldn't have taken so long to try out the Big Easy—60 teams took part. You'd have to go back to 1982 in Columbus to find a higher turnout. The Pan-Ams is the only US Chess national college tournament. So to a large degree, it is a measure of the health of U.S. college chess.

Hosted by Cajun Chess and endorsed by Tulane University, the event was both powerful and diverse. Sixty of the 260 players had titles of FIDE master or above—including 24 grandmasters and 19 international masters. Webster "A" entered with an average rating of 2746, but finished second to its own powerful "B" team. On the other end of the spectrum were teams with average ratings of three digits. And there were teams at all points in between. The event offers many division and special trophies. Each student-player is pre-qualified by the College Chess committee's eligibility subcommittee. You can review the college chess rules at www.collegechess.org.

Organizer Jean Troendle, Chief Director Korey Kormick, and his assistants, Allen and Thomas Priest, provided a gracious, well-run event, complete with a spacious playing area, Internet broadcasts,

ancillary events—and one of the most enjoyable player receptions ever. (Please see the April 2017 *Chess Life* for more details.)

From 1998 to 2011, attendance at the Pan-Ams had fallen to 20 or so teams. Beginning in 2012, attendance climbed again. But an ongoing disappointment is that we continue to see no teams from the West Coast. The 2017 Pan-Ams will be held in Columbus, Ohio, hosted by Ohio State University and organized by Kelly Bloomfield. Columbus holds the all-time attendance record, back in the heady Fischer-boom year of 1975, with 123 teams.

PRODUCTIVE COLLEGE CHESS MEETING

The official meeting of the College Chess committee is held annually at the Pan-Ams. (A workshop is held every year at the U.S. Open and all are welcome. Please see the workshop schedule in this booklet.) The New Orleans meeting was especially well-attended and productive. Among other points, a dozen rule clarifications were discussed and endorsed unanimously, later approved by a full-committee vote by email, and forwarded to the Executive Board for final approval. The improvements are wide-ranging—from making eligibility requirements fairer and more verifiable by college registrars, to adding a mixed-doubles team award.

SPONSORSHIP OF FINAL FOUR

The top four U.S. schools at the Pan-Ams go on to the Final Four of College Chess. Sponsors Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) and Two Sigma continue to provide generous stipends to the schools and full funding of a first-class event, this year held at New York City's Marshall Chess Club, where Webster set a record with its fifth consecutive win. Texas Tech finished second, Saint Louis University came in third—an extremely promising result in the program's first year. University of Texas at Dallas (UT-Dallas) finished fourth.

With BAH's and Two Sigma's backing, Tournament Organizer Mark Herman, a retired division head for BAH, has, with the support of stalwart Mike Hoffpauir, burnished the Final Four for seven straight years, making sure that every school goes back to campus with an impressive trophy as bragging rights, and that every player gets a plaque to commemorate what is truly a lifetime achievement. Herman has also developed an online live broadcast of games, with commentary from GM Max Dlugy, which this year drew thousands of viewers from 25 nations.

THANKS TO HARDWORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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 and other issues. Importantly, two college students joined the committee this year, Claudia Munoz of Texas Tech and David Mbonu of Georgia Tech. The rest of the committee has years of service: Michael Aigner, Constantine Ananiadis, Kelly Bloomfield, Ana DeMahy, Russell Harwood, Jon Haskel, Jack Hutton, Hal Karlsson, Beatriz Marinello, Rade Milovanovic, Alan Sherman, and Glenn Petersen. Glenn has decided this year will be his last on the committee. We'll miss him.

Correspondence Chess

BRADLEY ROGERS, CHAIR

The committee has been re-establishing the roster and will be finalizing and confirming future desired participation at the delegates meeting in Norfolk, Virginia at the U.S. Open.

A workshop is scheduled at the U.S. Open.

FUTURE ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Server:** Recovery of grant/bequest from about 2010 that was designated to establish a designated server to US Chess specifically for correspondence chess. The monies were diverted at that time to cover lawsuit expenses, but now need to be reallocated.
2. Computer usage issues and acceptability in correspondence chess.
3. Rules and other issues as required by the delegates.

Denker Invitational

STEPHEN SHUTT AND JON HASKEL, CO-CHAIRS

2016 DENKER EVENT: MIKA BRATTAIN (MA) CLEAR FIRST

Congratulations to NM Mika Brattain (MA), rated 2465, who scored 5/6 in a field of 23 masters, which is a record for this event. Mika gave up two draws on his way to the title, Denker Champion of Champions. His two draws were against NM Zhaozhi Li (IL), rated 2361, and IM John Burke (NJ), rated 2503. With a clear point ahead of the field, Mika received a \$5,000 college/university scholarship, provided by the U.S. Chess Trust, to the school of his choice. There was a six-way tie for second place led by NM Advait Patel (OK). The others tied for second were NM Bovey Liu (TX); NM Zhaozhi Li (IL); last year's champion, IM Alexander Velikanov (WI); IM John Burke (NJ); and NM Aaron Grabinsky (OR). Patel was also the winner of the \$500 stipend for the Ursula Foster Award for the best result under the age of 16.

NEW JERSEY CLEAR FIRST IN STATE TEAM COMPETITION

Congratulations to New Jersey on their commanding first place finish (14/18), ending any doubt that their state team average (2232) was strong enough to take the top spot. Their team was led by Barber representative CM Brandon Jacobson (5½/6), Denker representative IM John Burke (4½/6), and National Girls representative Angelica Chin (4/6). The second place team, Texas (state team average of 2174), was a half point behind New Jersey, followed by Virginia (2227), which took clear third place a half point behind Texas. State team winners in the under sections were Oklahoma (under 2100), Oregon (under 1900) and Nevada (under 1700).

More information on the Denker Tournament of High School Champions can be found at www.denkerchess.com.

Election

KEN BALLOU, CHAIR

This year, the Executive Board directed the committee to run a special election to fill the vacancy caused by Randy Bauer's resignation (Bauer's term would have ended in 2018). The committee decided to run the special election concurrently with the general election. The top three finishers will serve full three year terms ending in 2020. The fourth finisher will serve a one-year term ending in 2018.

The committee received nomination petitions from eight individuals. The committee certified the candidacies of Fun Fong (GA), Mike Nietman (WI), Richard Koepcke (CA-N), Allen Priest (KY), Hal Sprechman (NJ), Ryan Velez (KY), and Lakshmana Viswanath (TX) for the four Executive Board seats to be filled in this year's general and special elections (Koepcke later withdrew from the race.)

The current Executive Board members are as follows:

- Terms expiring in 2017: Mike Nietman (continuous service since 2010), Allen Priest (continuous service since 2011), Gary Walters (continuous service since 2010).
- Terms expiring in 2018: Anjelina Belakovskaia (continuous service since 2015).
- Terms expiring in 2019: Mike Hoffpauir (continuous service since 2016), Charles D. Unruh (continuous service since 2016).

Article VI, section 7 of the US Chess bylaws limits Executive Board members to no more than three consecutive terms of service excluding partial terms of less than half a full term. None of the Executive Board members with terms expiring in 2018 or 2019 will be term limited from running for re-election under the current bylaws.

Ethics

HAROLD STENZEL, CHAIR

The Ethics Committee had a more active than average year. We have, as of this writing, worked on 10 new cases in addition to two carried over from the 2015-16 year. The committee was asked to make a recommendation on the good faith deposit which had been \$25 for decades. Every member of the committee found \$50 acceptable, which the Executive Director made effective March 1, 2017. The committee discussed adding members for the upcoming year as most of the current members are also active as tournament directors or in other chess-related activities. This has led to as many as three recusals per case and there are only four members voting. I wish to express my thanks to the members of the committee for their efforts.

Forum

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.

Since August 2015, most comments on *Chess Life* articles have been 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. Forum administrator Mike Nolan has retired from US Chess but is continuing to help on an as-needed basis until US Chess hires a replacement.

The following table summarizes monthly forum usage between January 2015 and April 2017:

Year	Posts per month	Topics per month	Posters (average/mo)
2015	1,216.4	132.8	97.3
2016	833.7	83.8	73.3
2017	684.8	90	82.8

Hall of Fame

HAROLD J. WINSTON, CHAIR

On March 28, 2017, at the opening ceremony of the U.S. Championship and the U.S. Women's Championship, I inducted Edward Lasker into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame. Edward Lasker (1885-1981) was one of the nation's top players in the early decades of the 20th century after emigrating from Europe. He won five U.S. Opens, then known as the Western Open, from 1916-1921. He challenged Frank Marshall to a match for the U.S. Championship in 1923, which he narrowly lost, 8½-9½, after becoming ill. He popularized chess through his books, such as *Chess for Fun & Chess for Blood*, *The Adventure of Chess*, and *Chess Secrets I Learned from the Masters*. At the induction, Maurice Ashley stated Lasker's book, *Chess Strategy*, had a great influence on him. Lasker continued to be active in chess until his death: he served as president of the Marshall Chess Club in New York City and was on the board of the Marshall when he died. Lasker also won a famous game against Sir George Thomas in 1912 in which he sacrificed his queen, chased Black's king from the eighth rank to the first rank, and delivered checkmate by castling queenside.

At the same opening ceremony, FIDE VP Beatriz Marinello inducted three persons into the World Chess Hall of Fame: Viktor Korchnoi, multiple times challenger for the world championship, and Alla Kushnir and Paula Wolf-Kalmar, two of the top women players in chess history. As all the inductees were no longer alive, commentaries on each were given by Maurice Ashley (for Lasker), Yasser Seirawan (for Korchnoi), and Jennifer Shahade (for Kushnir and Wolf-Kalmar).

Tournament sponsors Rex and Jeanne Sinquefield, and St. Louis mayor Francis Slay also spoke at the opening ceremony. Committee members John Donaldson and Jennifer Shahade were present.

In the last 12 months, the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) celebrated its fifth anniversary year beginning on September 8, 2016. The WCHOF has had over 64,000 visitors from every state in the nation and from over 20 countries. In the last year, the WCHOF has had 23 field trips with over 550 area students. When I visited St. Louis, I was able to see the three current exhibits at the museum: "Pow! Capturing Superheroes, Chess and Comics" (running through September 17, 2017), "Open Files 2: Celebrating 5 Years of Chess Collecting" (chess history open through October 29, 2017), and "Imagery of Chess: Saint Louis Artists" (running until September 24, 2017).

I welcome Frank Camaratta as our newest committee member and thank Shane Samole for his past service on the committee. I also thank all other committee members, who participated in an active discussion: John Donaldson, John McCrary, Joel Benjamin, Andy Soltis, John Hilbert, Al Lawrence, Jennifer Shahade, and Sophia Rohde. The U.S. Chess Hall of Fame committee nominates persons for the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame and the final vote is by trustees of the U.S. Chess Trust. FIDE chooses members of the World Chess Hall of Fame. I note with great regret the recent passing of a former Hall of Fame committee member and an inductee, GM Arthur Bisguier.

LMA Trust

CHUCK UNRUH, CHAIRMAN

Life Member Asset (LMA) trustees made significant investment progress during the US Chess fiscal year. Trustees were active in the development of investment policy and strategy. In the previous year, we championed the Phoenix Investment Plan strategy along with the guidelines for the future session of investment manage-

ment. The new policies were adopted and the results bode well for the long-term management of life member resources in the equity and bond markets.

Phoenix was a strong dollar investment plan with measured entry into the fixed income markets. During the US Chess fiscal year, the U.S. dollar broke higher while preserving and gaining value. However, the rate of U.S. dollar strength is subsiding and other overseas markets appear in recovery mode. Observing the market traffic signs are important features in LMA Trust guidelines. In response to a more active investment management, the LMA trustees created a five-member committee designed to execute the tactics and monitor the trends in the investment markets.

Recommendations from the Investment Committee (IC) are the building blocks for a LMA trustee strategic plan change during 2016-17. LMA Trustees formulated from the IC recommendations a successor plan to Phoenix known as Norfolk. Norfolk is similar to Phoenix in the fixed income strategies, but employs more contrarian positions should the U.S. dollar decline in value. Norfolk focuses on significant positions in the healthcare and International Dividend sectors through the use of dividend generous Closed End Funds. Meanwhile, the bread and butter investments are in preferred stock indexes. Currently, the Norfolk Investment Plan has yielded good results. Longer term, the LMA Trust investments should meet the 6 percent per year earnings goals.

The 2016-17 year also saw the start of the life member survey and response project. Executive Director Jean Hoffman and staff contacted and collected data important to the US Chess life membership profiles. Of the 10,435 life members on record as of September 1, 2016, operations received 6,675 survey replies through the end of March 2017. LMA trustees are reviewing the data as a work in progress. A discussion of 2016-17 life member survey and investment results are both scheduled for the Friday Finance workshop at the Delegates Annual Meeting.

LMA Trust Assets Under Management as of April 30th, 2017:

Building net Depreciation	\$403,424
Land	\$264,000
Cash	\$584,464
Marketable Securities	\$115,211
Total	\$1,367,099

Trustee nominations for the 2017-18 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, Alex Relyea, and Chuck Unruh.

I thank all of the trustees for their dedicated volunteer service over the past year. I look forward to working with the team in the next year.

Member Acquisition and Retention

JOHN MC CRARY, CHAIR

At the 2017 SuperNationals, this task force held an open forum on issues impacting membership acquisition and retention for young players. Dr. McCrary and Jay Stallings of the task force coordinated this forum in which approximately 25 coaches, teachers, authors, and parents participated, representing 15 states and four time zones. In addition, several experts who could not attend the forum offered input. Following is a summary of the points made in discussion:

The need for better transition from scholastic to adult events:

Fast time controls don't teach young players to think about their reasoning for moves, so they don't progress in their understanding of chess. Thus, there should be an effort to get them playing at gradually longer time controls. Young players should be encouraged to move toward playing in adult events, so that they broaden their understanding of chess and become less intimidated when meeting older competition. However, it was noted that adult players and tournament directors associated with chess organizations are not always welcoming of, or even polite to, young players, so some teaching of etiquette concepts for kids and adults would help.

More support for scholastic affiliates and coaches:

The need for more easily-available educational materials for new affiliates and coaches was strongly emphasized, such as learning modules on how to conduct tournaments and make better use of US Chess and other informative websites. Improved networking among coaches, who could offer support for each other, was mentioned by several. Such networking might include lists of coaches and other resources available in an area, as well as periodic meetings of coaches in an area. Facilitating the running of events, such as through online registration, was enthusiastically endorsed. It was noted that when school affiliates are charged an affiliation fee, it creates an additional obstacle to getting the principal's support if the school has to authorize the fee.

Providing readily-accessible materials regarding the educational benefits of chess would help potential coaches and school affiliates to get support from their schools. It was observed that Jerry Nash had presented a workshop on this topic the morning of the forum. His excellent presentation had noted many very specific ways that chess can benefit general educational goals. Mr. Nash was recommended as a readily-available support for those needing material on the educational benefits of chess.

Similar concerns were expressed about the need to encourage parental involvement in scholastic programs. It was noted that a cultural change was needed here, and that more ways to reach out and encourage parental interest and involvement, particularly where the child's participation was focused on a school club, was important.

More positive reinforcement from US Chess for new members

was endorsed. It was suggested that new names for rating classes for scholastic players, such as the "knight" or "rook" (instead of, or in addition to, "Class F") for progressing through rating levels, could be tried to determine if it had motivational impact. Opinion was divided on whether such re-naming of rating classes for young players should emphasize chess pieces or hall-of-fame players. Online certificates could be inexpensively sent by US Chess to be printed by the member. Online certificates for other achievements could also be considered: e.g., for number of tournaments played, or for number of rating classes advanced, or even recognition of birthdays. Any certificates for progressing through levels should be irrevocable, even if the member has a bad event. Recognition of achievements through these certificates should be sensitive to the needs of casual, play-for-fun youth, as well as for those more seriously motivated to progress in competitive strength. When a member checks the website, a pop-up with achievement noted (e.g., "Congratulations! You've completed five tournaments," etc.) should come up immediately.

Additional suggestions for positive reinforcement included more "top" lists for specific areas such as states, by gender or age, etc.; an online periodical focused on achievements of young players; and frequent updating of the picture on the home page of the US Chess website to emphasize younger players.

Educational exercises for young members: Online learning modules to help members become acquainted with ideas on chess strategy, history, etc., with possible members-only quizzes, was recognized as a good idea. However, in this area, US Chess should work in constructive symbiosis with groups that currently provide related services.

The problem of girls dropping out as teens was addressed by the forum. It was observed that team events are more conducive to girls' participation than are individual tournaments. Having female coaches helps to encourage girls' participation. It was suggested that trophies for girls should be discouraged after middle school, as they may seem meaningless or stigmatizing.

Other general suggestions included emphasizing that chess develops life skills, rather than focusing mainly on competitive progress; holding unique events such as opening-themed events; and, if a player is not doing well in a tournament and seems uncomfortable, assign other ways the player can help between games.

Outreach

MYRON LIEBERMAN, CHAIR

PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE—Chess is becoming so commonplace in the mainstream media, television, and film that seemingly it is no longer necessary to dwell on that point or to make improved public acceptance a major committee goal. One good example is at the Desert Rose complex in Glendale, Arizona (an area where a steak house, pizza parlor, hotel, and lounge share an outdoor patio area), which chose to include an outdoor chess set (with two foot pieces) on the crowded patio instead of adding more tables and chairs. Chess is often used as an activity while families wait to be seated.

EVENTS—The following basics of promoting chess events in the public media should be routinely practiced for all chess-related events, including exhibitions, tournaments, club activities, lectures, etc. Please remember that what interests your local media may not be what the chess community sees as significant. Speed chess, blindfold exhibitions or simultaneous exhibitions, charity partnerships, public interactions, etc., may draw more press attention than a grandmaster tournament.

Promoters, organizers, players, parents, and coaches should not rely on someone else to send a press release. We have seen too many situations where everybody thought that someone else would do the publicity and nobody actually did it. If you are holding an event, be sure to notify the local print and broadcast media (two weeks prior to the event is considered ideal by Associated Press), regardless of who else might do so. If local media receive multiple notifications, it could build their interest.

If a player is planning to attend an event, especially if it is out of town or an invitational, even as a spectator, be sure to inform the media about both the player and the event. This is especially important for scholastic regionals and nationals. Here again, parents, coaches, and friends can help the media know the who, what, when, where, and why. This can result in good coverage of both the player and the event.

OPPORTUNITIES—Always be on the lookout for opportunities for people outside of the chess community to consider chess. Recognize those opportunities and either act on them appropriately or notify someone who can.

Example 1: We learned that a friend of ours who organizes music events has a sister who is a very creative teacher in an underprivileged rural area. The teacher was considering chess for her students. We

were able to help her get started by providing chess contacts, magazines, and some equipment. Anybody can do this anywhere. Don't discard your old chess magazines. Donate them to someone who can use them.

Example 2: Wear chess-related clothing when going about your daily life, not just at chess events. Passersby in a store or restaurant may ask questions about chess clubs or events. The opportunities will come to you.

SOCIAL BENEFITS—Chess has long been known to be a positive alternative and a tool for prevention of anti-social behavior among children and teens. Many schools have established chess clubs and chess classes. The New York Police Athletic League (thanks to GM Maurice Ashley) and other law enforcement agencies have been working with underprivileged children for many years.

Race Relations—With mutual mistrust between authorities and activists (especially between races) probably at its highest level since the Civil War, it is interesting to note that Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) turned to chess as a tool to increase understanding and respect between races. The PBS site at <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/simple-game-chess-can-break-stereotypes/> allows you to either watch, listen to, or read the transcript of the content. The positive mental and social benefits of chess have been known for centuries, but the focus has been more general. Improvement of skills and study habits, economic equality, consideration of deferred consequences, and avoidance of negative influences on behavior are examples. While the example PBS used was a school in Georgia, this can create follow-up opportunities anywhere. Hopefully the existence of the PBS coverage can provide another tool for those who want to get a chess program started in a school or other organization. It may also help chess organizations find potential partners for projects that might not have been previously considered.

Thanks to Eric Vigil, Fernando Moreno, Fun Fong, and Rachel Lieberman for their outreach work. Thanks also to outgoing US Chess Executive Director Jean Hoffman, the US Chess office, and the US Chess Executive Board for their support for outreach efforts.

PPHB Fund

JOHN DONALDSON, CHAIR

The past few years have been quiet ones for the Professional Players' Health and Benefit Fund (PPHBF) and 2017 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 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, 2017 the checking balance is \$30,194.83 and the CDs held for the PPHB total \$104,470.46.

PPHBF committee members are Jim Eade, Steve Immitt, Dr. Anthony Saily and John Donaldson (Chairman).

Prison

STEVE FRYMER, CHAIR

During the last year, we continued the bulk mailing of chess magazines to prison facilities nationwide. We are approaching 300 separate mailings amounting to more than 16,000. My most valuable aides in this endeavor have been Bob Messenger (NH) and Dr. Dom Cangelosi (LA). Bob has contributed both tons of time and money to the prison chess effort. The Massachusetts Chess Association has almost 400 free subscribers on its *Chess Horizons* mailing list. Dr. Dom, as I refer to him, did several mailings on his own: over 300 chess magazines mailed to facilities in Louisiana and Texas. He also sent some of his inventory to me.

Ongoing is the chess program at the largest single jail in the U.S.: Cook County jail (Chicago). The project has been extended into its third unit, including a mental health unit. There are also online competitions against Brazilian and Italian prisons scheduled for May 2017 (Brazil) and June 2017 (Italy).

Eric Vigil directed several rated tournaments at the Iowa Medical Classification Center. And GM Timur Gareyev came and dazzled the inmates with a blindfold simultaneous exhibition! He challenged nine inmates at once and defeated all nine. State Champion Daniel Brashaw attended some of those tournaments and we are engaging community members to come to the prison and meet the inmates. The first inmate to be released since the program began now comes regularly to a chess club and plays in tournaments. A couple more inmates are due for release and may be joining in tournaments and club play on the outside.

And there is community member involvement! I have a couple of chess players who are interested in starting a club at their local prisons—an ongoing project as this report is written.

David Leclair (FL) plays tons of postal chess, both e-mail and snail mail, with the incarcerated, all without any outside financial assistance.

Howard Goldowsky (MA) took over my volunteer prison visit interest, and arranged a prison visit in which several of us took part.

Mary Ratcliff of the *San Francisco Bay View* newspaper gave us free advertising space to provide additional communication between the incarcerated and our prison chess support.

And, finally, there is a fellow in the northwest who has worked on prison chess for decades, maybe even 50 years, who has received little if any recognition for his prison chess work. It is past due that he receive whatever accolades that can be provided. I am nominating him to the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame for his outstanding work over so many years.

Ratings

MARK E. GLICKMAN, PH.D., CHAIR

This past year was relatively light for the Ratings Committee (RC). The year was marked with several transitions, including the welcoming of our new Executive Board (EB) liaison, Mike Hoffpauir, and the unfortunate retirement of Mike Nolan, with whom the RC has been working for many years. His retirement is well-deserved, but he will be gravely missed. The RC had several issues to address this year, some of which resulted in updating the rating system technical specifications as we describe below. We also continued to monitor the rating system

for systematic changes, and we describe below the results of this year's analyses.

At the Ratings Workshop at the 2016 U.S. Open, participants at the meeting proposed the idea that ratings should be accompanied by a simple measure of ratings uncertainty. Such a measure would highlight whether a player's rating was a reliable indicator of his/her playing strength, and could be used by players and tournament directors to refine the information available about player strength. This idea is not new; in fact, a rating system invented by the chair of the RC over 20 years ago has ratings accompanied by a measure of uncertainty, and this rating system is used on other leagues for head-to-head competition. A proposal was made to the EB stemming from the Ratings Workshop which was subsequently tabled by the EB. In January 2017, the RC chair raised the issue again with the EB liaison to propose at the January EB meeting. A motion was proposed by Mike Hoffpauir in which the EB would request the RC to discuss and report on the need to develop a quantitative measure of ratings uncertainty. The vote was one in favor, and five against. The issue was therefore formally dropped due to a lack of interest by the EB.

One of the ratings-related developments at the start of the 2017 calendar year was the roll-out of the Universal Rating System (URS), a project sponsored primarily by Grand Chess Tour (GCT). The URS is now in use for rating, ranking, and inviting elite players to GCT-sponsored events. The RC chair was one of the team members who developed the URS. The EB invited the RC chair to discuss some of the specifics of the URS to have a better sense of how the new rating system would co-exist with the US Chess rating system. During the January 2017 EB meeting conference call, the RC chair answered some of the EB's questions about the system. The RC chair clarified that the URS was not intended to become a substitute for the US Chess rating system. The details of the URS are spelled out on the site universalrating.com.

Several minor issues regarding the workings of the rating system were raised over the past year. One issue was triggered as a result of a FIDE player obtaining a US Chess membership but not having (yet) played in a US Chess tournament. The rating system specifications were a little ambiguous about which US Chess players would have their ratings updated as a result of playing in foreign FIDE-rated events. The intention was to have the procedure apply only to players with established ratings, but this was never included in the technical specifications. This matter was discussed by the RC, and the conclusion was to amend the rating system description to clarify the original intention of the rule. The technical specification of the system now includes language that clarifies that updating players' ratings from results in foreign FIDE-rated events applies only to US Chess members with established ratings.

A second minor issue involved Mike Nolan noticing towards the end of 2016 that 78 players had ratings between 1 and 99. This was due to various ratings database-related issues from the 1980s through 2004, and connected to changes on the web-server where ratings could remain below 100. Mike and I agreed that these players' ratings should be moved up to 100, the minimum possible rating. In actuality, a player's absolute floor according to the technical specifications is higher, but these 78 players' ratings would increase above 100 once they played in their next tournament.

The third minor issue was related to initializing online ratings. A question arose late in 2016 whether online Quick Chess (QC) ratings initialized from online blitz ratings should be based on 10 games. A discussion among the RC members acknowledged that online blitz ratings initialized from online QC ratings were based on 0 games, so why the asymmetry? The result of the RC discussion was to reset the

number of games on which online QC ratings would be initialized from blitz ratings (assuming initialization from blitz ratings according to the order of precedence described in the technical specifications) to 0. This change has been made to the technical specifications.

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 rising for this "stable" group of players, and that measures in the last couple of years have not counteracted the inflationary tendency. Depending on the summary measure one uses, ratings among 35-45 year olds who compete regularly have increased about 13-14 rating points from December 2015 to December 2016, and are now on average about 30 points higher than they were in 1997. The RC recommends increasing the bonus point threshold, currently at B=12, to B=14. We will work with the executive director to make this change. We will continue to monitor changes in the pool, particularly whether the inflation slows down or reverses in the upcoming year after the bonus point threshold change is implemented.

Rules

DAVID KUHNS, CHAIR AND AL LOSOFF, VICE CHAIR

Three motions were referred to the Rules committee. Two of these motions were referred from 2015 and discussed in 2016, then (again) referred back to Rules.

The Committee discussed these motions and reached the following conclusions:

DM 16-27/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."

We asked the committee members whether the existing rule allows the scorebook to be closed or the screen saver to be blank. Seven members believed the rule did not allow it and four thought it did. The chair concluded that clarification is needed.

The committee overwhelmingly felt that adding "electronic scoresheet, scorebook, or paper scoresheet" was unnecessary and undesirable since "scoresheet" is defined to include them elsewhere in the rules.

On the question of whether to modify rule 15A to be more explicit, eight of the members who responded were in favor and three felt no change was needed, but the members who voted for change were

divided on what the change should be. We also note that the three who voted for no change did not agree on what the rule currently means.

There was some discussion on whether to change the existing rule to remove the phrase "and the opponent" as this might serve as an aid to the opponent if that player had stopped keeping score (e.g. time pressure), thereby contradicting another rule.

If no change is made to rule 15, the committee was divided on whether to recommend a TD tip.

The Rules committee will continue discussing this motion and present its final vote and recommendation at the Rules Workshop and delegates meeting. We urge the delegates to act on this motion at this meeting.

DM 16-30/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 US Chess 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 US Chess-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.

It was the opinion of those participating that this motion be accepted. There is greater support to modify the motion to include the added text as a variation to the rule, rather than within the rule itself (see below).

The committee proposes the following substitute:

The substitute motion:

28L2. Determination.

In the first round, the bye is given to the player with the lowest US Chess rating but not to an unrated player or a late entrant. In subsequent rounds, it is given to the lowest-rated player in the lowest score group but not to an unrated player. 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 US Chess-rated tournament too recently to obtain a published rating. If this, too, is impossible, a new player may be assigned the bye. New players should be indicated by NEW on the pairing card and wall chart. **See also 28J, The first round; 28S, Reentries; and 28L4, Full-point byes after half-point byes.**

Variation (unannounced) 28L2a. 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. See also 29E5a, The 80-point rule; and 29E5b, The 200-point rule.

Among the committee members voting, the substitute was approved 8 to 1. The maker of the motion did not accept the substitute.

We urge the delegates to act on this motion at this meeting.

DM 16-61/ADM 16-59 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)
Resolved: Organizers who have their events rated by US Chess as well as by another rating service are required to disclose to the players all other such rating services.

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

In a recent US Chess national scholastic, one of the players had played in a US Chess-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 US Chess 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, US Chess members are entitled to know if a US Chess event in which they participate is to be forwarded by the organizer to any additional rating services.

In the opinion of the Rules committee: This does not fall under the Rules committee's jurisdiction. It is probably in the organizers' best interests (for promotional reasons and courtesy) to disclose any rating system used (US Chess, FIDE, club, state, etc.) but we see no reason to make it a rule.

This appears to be an issue only because of the much-debated scholastic regulations that mandate the use of various non-US Chess ratings for eligibility, pairings, and prizes. This and any fallout from the (in our opinion ill-advised) policy should be the responsibility of the authors of those rules. Our rules cover the use of other ratings systems in a totally different manner.

A majority of the Rules committee chose to take no action on this motion: eight, no action; one, refer to Executive Board for a policy decision; one, needs further discussion; and four, no response.

Scholastic Council

ROBBY ADAMSON AND BEATRIZ MARINELLO, CO-CHAIRS

Committee & Council Member News

- Scholastic Council members include Russell Harwood, Robby Adamson, Beatriz Marinello, Jay Stallings, Sunil Weeramantry, Garrett Scott, and Aviv Friedman. Mike Hoffpauir served on the council for several years but ran for the Executive Board and Sunil took his place (Sunil had previously served many years on the Council).
- Robby Adamson and Beatriz Marinello were selected as co-chairs of the Scholastic Council.

Scholastic Regulation Changes (Summary)

1. The electronic device rule (cell phone and other electronic devices) was adopted and applies to SuperNationals this year.
2. Mike Hoffpauir was the chief force in putting into place the disclosure requirement for any student attending SuperNationals who had a non-US Chess rating. Mike vetted every single entry for SuperNationals this year to ensure that players were properly placed in their appropriate section. This was necessary because many registered prior to the final supplement being made available, and because parents did not know of the requirement to disclose their non-US Chess rating.
3. Special care was taken to check players who had ratings under non-US Chess rating systems, including, but not limited to, Northwest

rating system, Chess Express, and others.

4. Boyd Reed and/or Susan Kantor of US Chess followed up by emailing parents who were re-sectioned so there were no surprises when the parents and students showed up at nationals. This process seemed to go very smoothly.
5. There was also communication about the above actions with Chris Bird, the chief tournament director of SuperNationals.

Awards

1. **Scholar-Chessplayer Awards**—An anonymous committee was assembled (our thanks to the committee) to judge the Scholar-Chessplayer Awards and the process went smoothly and on time.
2. **Scholastic Service Award**—Three nominations were received and the Scholastic Council made its recommendation to the Executive Board in early May.

Special Team Selection Issues

1. **All-America Team**—Trophies Plus once again sponsored the All-America Team.
2. **World Youth**—The World Youth event has now split into two separate events (one for under 18, under 16, and under 14, and another event for under 12, under 10, and under 8). The U.S. team turned in its best performance ever in scoring two gold medals and one silver at World Youth Cadets, finishing as the top team overall.
3. **Pan Am**—The Pan American Youth is held in July each year. The U.S. team performed well this year.

National Tournaments

1. **National Grade Level Championships**—Attendance fell from 2015 attendance of 1,730. This year there were 1,544 players. Glenn Panner served as chief tournament director of the event.
2. **SuperNationals**—SuperNationals was held May 12-14, 2017 at Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, Tennessee.

Senior Chess

DAVID GRIMAUD, CHAIR

The main initiative from the Senior committee in the 2016-17 chess year was the idea of promoting a tournament of senior state chess champions to be run alongside the annual U.S. Open tournament. This would be a Swiss style tournament between senior representatives of each of the US Chess state chapter affiliates. In essence, it would be a prestige tournament modeled after GM Arnold Denker's Tournament of High School Champions, which has become an enormous success.

The idea was presented at the 2016 Delegates Meeting, where it received support from both the Executive Board and the delegates. The Senior committee was hopeful that this tournament could be ready for the 2017 U.S. Open in Norfolk, Virginia. However, this was an ambitious plan given the logistics—i.e., consulting with members of the Senior committee, the U.S. Open committee, the US Chess staff, and the many state affiliates.

Moving forward toward 2018, the Senior committee will review a plan at the 2017 Senior Workshop in Norfolk. Items for discussion, among others, will include the name of the tournament, prospective sponsors, launching a website, and how to work with the state affiliates and other groups.

Other items under review by the Senior committee are a Senior Grand Prix circuit; a Regional Senior Open; and the idea of awards by age, given the age range between active seniors is broad, as much as forty

years (i.e., perhaps two categories: a Junior-Senior category for ages 50–69, and a Senior-Senior or Super-Senior category for ages 65+.)

The Senior committee would like to recognize the winners of the 2016 U.S. Senior Open held in Kenner, Louisiana: FM Stephen Stoyko (Florida) and IM Mark Ginsburg (Arizona). The 2017 U.S. Senior Open will be held July 21st-23rd in Northfield, Minnesota.

Finally, the Senior committee would like to recognize Executive Board liaison Chuck Unruh. He has been a great advocate for this committee.

States

GUY HOFFMAN, CHAIR

One item from the 2016 Delegates' Meeting was referred to our committee, NM 9 from Leila D'Aquin of Louisiana, which attempted to increase participation from those under the age of 40. The motion would increase the total number of delegates and stipulate that at least one had to be under the age of 40. The effect of this would only increase the number of delegates in the small states, and cost two of the larger states one delegate each. This motion was universally panned by the committee, mostly with accusations of being "ageist."

Alternatives were suggested: one would allow any state to add one delegate under the age of 40. This would solve the problem of not causing any state to lose a delegate, but the ageist complaint was still present, in addition to the uncertainty of the quorum.

Another suggestion was to encourage large states (four or more delegates) to have one delegate under the age of 40, but this was also opposed. Another suggestion was to have each committee appointed by the EB to have one member under the age of 40, but this was put forth too late for discussion.

To enlighten our discussion, the office provided statistics on the 2016 Delegates' meeting: there were 11 delegates and two alternates under the age of 40 serving last year. There are currently 20 delegates and seven alternates under the age of 40 listed for this year.

This topic will be discussed at the States Workshop on Wednesday at 1 p.m.

A suggestion has been made to require state chapters to supply a set of their bylaws when renewing their affiliates. This will be submitted as an ADM, with the rationale that the office has NO bylaws from any state.

I would like to thank my committee members: Walter Buehl (NY), Larry Cohen (IL), Ed Conway (MN), Jim Gray (OK), Richard Koepcke (NCA), Bob Messenger (NH), Phil Simpkins (DE), and Bob Tanner (AZ).

TDCC

JEFF WIEWEL, CHAIR, AND TIM JUST, VICE-CHAIR

This past year the Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC) considered six appeals and a waiver request. Judy Misner handled the appeals communications.

The TDCC was again given the task to nominate individuals for the tournament director of the year and lifetime tournament director achievement awards.

The TDCC also reviewed two motions the delegates referred to it.

The chair coordinated with the US Chess office testing liaison, Jerry Nash and then Grant Oen, and with the Executive Board liaison, Mike Hoffpauir. After four years with no change the current chair will be moving to vice chair and the new chair will be Alex Relyea.

There were 752 emails sent to the group mailbox (three fewer than the year before).

Thanks to the TDCC members for their service: Rudy Abate, NTD, FA; Mike Atkins, NTD, FA; Ken Ballou, NTD, IA; Charles Hatherill, SrTD; Guy Hoffman, ANTD; Carol Jarecki, NTD, IA; Tim Just, NTD, NA; Tom Langland, NTD, IA; John McCumiskey, NTD, FA; Jabari McGreen, NTD; Brennan Price, ANTD, FA; Thad Rogers, NTD, IA; Alex Relyea, ANTD, FA (chair); Ernie Schlich, NTD, NA; Jeff Wiewel, NTD, NA (vice chair)

U.S. Open

HAL TERRIE III, CHAIR

At the 2016 U.S. Open, 13 certificates were awarded to players attending their fifth, 10th, 15th, etc.

Following the 2016 U.S. Open, a question was added to a US Chess online survey about the time control experiment which was conducted (replacing 40/120, SD/60 d5 with 40/90, SD/30 i30). Only 72 people answered that question, with 40 favoring the new control and 32 favoring either the old control or some other control. This was not a very big response and the result can hardly be considered a definitive endorsement of the new control. So, it was decided to return to the old control this year and seek a larger response on the issue by asking for a show of hands prior to round seven, for increment versus non-increment.

The 2018 U.S. Open will be back in Wisconsin. As of this writing, no decision has been made about the 2019 event.

Women's Chess

MAUREEN GRIMAUD, CHAIR.

2016-17 WOMEN'S COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chuck Unruh (Executive Board [EB] liaison), Anjelina Belakovskaia (Executive Board liaison), Maureen Grimaud (Chair), Claudia Munoz, Heather Flewelling, Sophia Rohde, Kimberly Doo McVay, Jennifer Shahade, Phil Chase, Elizabeth Shaughnessy (new), Leila D'Aquin (new), Harold Winston, Adia Onyango (new), Ruth Haring, Rusty Harwood (new), Gabby Kay

PROPOSALS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1) CREATE A WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Purpose: Grow the number of female players by regions as most are concentrated in larger populated areas. Drawing off regions would help the smaller demographic, isolated areas bond together with the larger populated areas and work as a team, rather than individually. Though initially small in numbers, this has the potential to grow, bond, and retain females better as they connect with one another for lasting friendships.

Executive Director Jean Hoffman and Director of Events Franc Guadalupe recommend waiting on creating a National Women's Regional Championship. The board members discussed support throughout the country, the importance of established procedures for bidding as a national event, and continued support for women's chess. Assistant Director of Events Boyd Reed added to the discussion. Mike Hoffpauir introduced the following motion and a vote was taken:

EB17-034—Hoffpauir—Moved US Chess encourages growth of women's chess by facilitating the organization of independent regional

women's events. The Women's committee will recommend structure on this initiative and report to the EB regularly on its progress.

PASSED 5-0 with Gary Walters absent and not voting.

The Women's committee was in agreement with the decision. We recommend each event format be tested locally and regionally first, then the successful formula or structure can be developed and proposed to the EB to run nationally under the US Chess umbrella in the future, possibly for 2018-19.

We currently have and could potentially create:

- Individual Women's Regional Championships with team trophies
- Team Girls' & Women's Regional Championships
- Online Regional Women's & Girls' Championships

The Women's Committee will consider which events work better, then share with the EB and executive team. Meanwhile, several local and regional women's and girls' events have been or will be created this scholastic year, some for the first time.

2) BUDGET FOR VOLUNTEERS

- Four volunteers to SuperNationals
- Two volunteers to the National K-12s
- One volunteer to the Pan Am Intercollegiate

This would include reimbursing part of the costs for accommodations. Budget would include hotel (set price that would accommodate the location based on three nights), meals (\$30 per day), and travel (\$100).

Purpose of Budget: Equip volunteers selected by the Women's committee at tournaments to accomplish the following:

- Have legitimate presence in order to grow and retain female players overall.
- Increase female US Chess memberships.
- Retain and grow supporters for females in chess.
- Receive donations for US Chess and women's and girls' activities.
- Hold town hall meetings and training classes for potential female players and female tournament directors.
- Pass out surveys to players, parents, coaches, and supporters in order to collect data for research purposes and contact information for future volunteers, donations, and retention.
- Pass out schedule of events for women and girls to encourage more participation at regional, state, and local levels.
- Pass out instructional and helpful tips to get more females to play in local clubs and local events.
- Set up girls' club room for various female activities such as free game analysis, simultaneous exhibitions, puzzles, snacks, and to meet and greet one another. This could possibly include boys if accompanied by female players. We would be providing a service to our members, one of the benefits of having a US Chess membership.
- Set up free beginner chess classes for any and all players, male and female, young and old. This would encourage and provide a platform of potential new US Chess members and future donors.

Note, any monies donated from these events could possibly then be put back into women's Activities to cover costs in general.

EB17-041—Allen Priest—Moved that US Chess create a Women's Chess Fund. The fund seed money would be \$5,000, which came from an anonymous gift US Chess has already received. The Women's Chess committee would be authorized to spend up to this amount in support of volunteer activities at US Chess events as outlined in the committee report presented January 22, 2017. The committee would

not be authorized to spend in excess of this amount.

PASSED 6-0.

3) CREATE ANNUAL US CHESS CAMP FOR TOP 10 WOMEN PLAYERS

This proposal came to the Women's Committee from our EB liaison, Anjelina Belakovskaia.

EB17-044—Belakovskaia—Anjelina Belakovskaia moved for US Chess to refer to Top Players and Women's Committee to propose details of organizing an annual US Chess camp for top 10 women players. The plan is to be submitted by May 31, 2017.

PASSED 5-0-1 with Allen Priest abstaining.

The Women's Committee is working through the proposal. The original proposal was brought up by Anjelina at the January board meeting and not the Women's committee.

The idea of training camps came from email exchanges and phone conversations with Irina Krush, Sabina Foisor, Katerina Nemcova, Camilla Baginskaite, Robert Hess, Melikset Khachiyan and other top US Chess players. The camp would be about taking care of "professional" women players to help them prepare for the chess Olympiads and world team matches. Top US Chess women who have represented our country in those events have felt they lacked proper preparation for such events and asked for help.

Anjelina included their proposal with the following information, together with two more optional proposals:

Training camp for top 10 women (two options)—In the future can be extended as semi-annual camps, five to seven days or both options per year:

Option #1: Online seminar/lectures—\$2,500 for a coach.

Option #2: Three-days training camp:

Hotel: \$100 x five rooms x four days = \$2,000

Airfare: \$350 x 10 = \$3,500

Coach: \$2,250 + \$400 + \$350 = \$3,000

Training room: \$1,200 (might be free, if in the club)

Total: \$9,700

World Team Chess Championship 50+, 65+ ...

World Youth U-16 chess Olympiad ...

We believe it is important for US Chess to "grow the game" in balance by creating a comprehensive budget and making improvements in all four categories: Open, Women, Youth, and Seniors.

Currently, we believe there are no chess camps for top 10 women players that exist in the U.S. The Women's committee will be contacting the Top Players committee to work together on details of the proposal. They will be working through the proposal and will give their response to the EB by May 31st.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & GROWTH

- The Women's Committee received a \$5,000 National Girl's Tournament of Champions (NGTOC) scholarship from the Schiffrin family again for 2017. We especially want to thank the Schiffrins for their generosity and support of the NGTOC program.

- The committee is creating a list of state chess female coordinators. It's been a slow process, but we hope to complete before the U.S. Open in August as we get approval from the state associations. Some do not meet until their annual state scholastic tournaments are held.

Current List: Gabby Kay (SoCA), Elizabeth Shaughnessy (NoCA), Christina Schweiss (VA), Robin Floyd Ramson (DC), Claudia Munoz

(TX), Leila D'Aquin (LA), Sophia Rohde (NY), Sarah Buxbaum (MS), Rebecca Rutledge (OK), Bina Shukla (WA), Alise Pemsler (ID), Arlene Kleiman (TN)

- The Women's Committee has encouraged vendors to supply more female-friendly chess merchandise in order to entice and encourage more females to the game. US Chess Sales and Cajun Chess are two that have increased its supply catering to the female population. We thank you and appreciate your support.

- We appreciate Dewain Barber, Barber/Denker committee member, for stepping up to update the NGTOC website to its current status. Currently we are looking to change the NGTOC website name, but will wait until October as state associations are currently submitting their NGTOC winners and need information about the tournament.

- College Chess Committee conducted their meeting at the Pan Am tournament, December 27th-30th, 2016. Some of the highlights relating to the Women's committee:

- Voted to remove restrictions for titled female players in order to encourage more female players.

- Recommended adding mixed doubles prizes for college teams.

Thank you, College Chess committee, for your support of women and girls in chess.

The new top 100 list for women & girls 2016 has had an effect on growth and retention of female participation. There have been numerous positive comments both online and from parents, players, and coaches from across the U.S. Rusty Harwood, Texas chess coach, tournament director, and organizer thinks the top 100 girls by age list is great as it has led to increased support from his school districts and community. Six of his girls are on the top 100 girls by age list and they just started the program the last academic year.

TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS 2017

- Kudos to Sophia Rohde and teammates for hosting the first-ever New York State Girls' Championships with 226 players February 25-26, 2017. Winners gained free entries to two Continental Chess tournaments which include the World Open. A highlight of the tournament included pairing and standings emailed and texted to parents and their players before each round which created faster, efficient flow using technology.

Great job to Sophia, Steve Immitt (chief tournament director/co-organizer), and volunteers who helped make it successful. Sophia is looking to double attendance next year and will be including more activities such as parent workshops and training tournament directors.

- Berkeley Chess School hosted its first-ever CalChess Girls' Age Level Championship March 4th, in Berkeley, California. Thanks to Elizabeth Shaughnessy and her team, there were 83 girls present. The Berkeley Chess School has over 600 girls in its after-school program.

- South Carolina had its first-ever Midlands All Girls' tournament March 18th, 2017, in Columbia, South Carolina. Nineteen female players were in attendance. Thank you, Sam Copeland, chess coach and owner of Strategy, for organizing this event.

- CalChess Women's State Championship was held March 24-26, 2017, for a second year in a row in Berkeley, California. It had 25 players, which was up from 21 players last year. Congratulations Elizabeth and team for hosting the women's and girls' events.

- There will also be the Bay Area Chess All Girls' 7-12 Grade that will be held later this year. Expecting around 40+ players.

- The All Girls' National Championship was held again this year at McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois, April 7-9, 2017. Although 447 registered for the tournament, 423 participated versus the 448 who attended in 2016. Due to weather, the Women's committee volunteers, who were invited again this year by TOs David and Sheila Heiser, were not able to make this year's event. Storms in the east and south also forced some to cancel at the last minute and dashed hopes of breaking another record year in attendance. They were expecting 460, but 30 had to cancel due to weather-related issues.

- On April 15, 2017, Chess Girls DC hosted a first-time District of Columbia All Girls' chess tournament. It was held at the PEPCO Edison Art Gallery in Washington, DC. A \$1,000 scholarship award was presented to the first-place winner. The Ben's Chili Bowl Foundation funded the scholarship award on behalf of Chess Girls DC. A total of 32 girls participated in the tournament. Congratulations to Robin Ramson and her team for working hard to put DC on the map for girls.

- Grade Level Championship for Girls K-6 had its tournament in San Raphael, California, April 29th, 2017 with 63 girls in attendance. Ray Orwig, from St. Mark's School, ran the tournament.

- The Women's Committee received permission from Franc Guadalupe, US Chess Director of Events, to implement the following recommendations for SuperNationals held at the Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee, from May 12-14, 2017:

- Reserve tables at prime locations for maximum publicity and exposure.

- Request larger sign (white board) to post announcements and request more Women's committee banners.

- Provide more giveaways, prizes, and chess sets for girls to play in the girls' club room and Women's committee table.

- Provide more US Chess donation brochures for Women's committee table, registration desk, and girls' club room as well as at next year's grade nationals.

- Provide flyers and event calendar of national, state, and local events that women and girls can participate in.

- Discuss holding beginner chess classes for any and all female as well as male potential players, young and old alike, in order to increase potential US Chess membership and potential US Chess donors.

- Discuss getting college female chess players to come to SuperNationals and help mentor scholastic female players.

- Hold town hall meeting Sunday 10 a.m. in girls' club room to discuss improvements and dialogue for parents, players, supporters, and coaches.

- Hold simultaneous exhibitions with titled grandmasters, women international masters in girls' club room if they are available, as well as game analysis, review, puzzles, and games.

- Provide giveaway prizes to all mothers present since SuperNationals falls on Mother's Day weekend.

- Leila D'Aquin, Louisiana delegate and state coordinator for women's and girls' chess, is working on getting chess in all-girls' schools in Louisiana. They will be having its first all girls' state tournament the first Sunday in June. The Louisiana state association will run for the first time an all girls' end of year tournament to choose its NGTOC. They plan to give away fewer trophies and focus on raising funds to help defray costs to the winner going to the NGTOC. They are expecting 20-30 girls. In the past, Jean Troendle has sponsored an all girls tournament at the beginning of the academic year and has done a great job with it. This will be an additional girls' event in order to grow more female players in Louisiana.

• The U.S. Women's Open will be held in Las Vegas June 14-15, 2017 in conjunction with the Las Vegas Chess Festival. Last year there were approximately 25 players. Thank you, Alan and Janelle Losoff, for your service in supporting women and girls in chess.

TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS 2016

NATIONAL GIRLS TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

JULY 30 – AUGUST 2, 2016

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

This year's participants walked into the opening and closing ceremony holding flags from their state. Barber/Denker/NGTOC players were given similar medallions and other gifts provided by US Chess, U.S. Chess Trust, and private donors. New this year was a one hour meet-and-greet session for players only. It was a hit as it focused on conversations among players for the purpose of bonding and retention. The 83 players were treated to pizza, snacks, and drinks. They came early and stayed well past the scheduled time. Thank you to the Schiffrin family, who again provided a generous \$5,000 college scholarship of their choice.

TEXAS GIRLS' SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP

SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

LA FERIA, TEXAS

Sam Houston Elementary hosted the Texas Girls' Scholastic Championship, with 139 girls participating in the event. This was a big jump from the last couple of years as participants have ranged from 60-80 in the past. Rusty Harwood, long time chess coach/tournament director/organizer, has 48 kids on his team, Sam Houston Elementary, of which 30 are girls. They won the K-1 section at the girls' state. Rusty believes the top 100 list for girls (proposed by the Women's committee the previous year) has had a big effect on his team and scholastic championship in terms of growth in female participation. Thank you, Rusty, for your hard work and effort in supporting the girls.

THE QUEEN OF KATWE

The *Queen of Katwe* movie debuted in September 2016. Many chess organizations across the country held chess events and watched the movie opening. In Valencia, California, over 40 young girls turned out for Chess 'n' Yogurt on September 18th before the screening, sponsored by Coach Jay's Chess Academy and California Youth Chess League. The full-size theater (288 seats) only had available seats in the front rows by the time the movie started!

After the movie, Phiona Mutesi and Robert Katende, the subjects of the movie, were introduced and received a long standing ovation. Following a 15-minute question and answer session, Robert and Phiona graciously stood for photos and signed autographs for at least another 30 minutes. The gold queens were a huge hit (donated by Dewain Barber, the ever-generous "father of scholastic chess in southern California").

Chess Girls DC hosted a movie premier party in September 2016 to present the *Queen of Katwe* movie to the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Thirty girls and their families were in attendance and were provided a light dinner hosted by participating sponsors. Chess Girls DC included parting words from Sheila Kinaheirwe from Uganda, who is participating in the Advocate for Women in Africa Fellows program at Georgetown Law School. She was accompanied by the nine other fellows in the program who spoke about how they had to utilize the resources that they had in Uganda as young women to move forward.

WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD

SEPTEMBER 1-14, 2016

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

US Chess Olympic women's team of GM/WGM Irina Krush (seven-time U.S. women's chess champion), IM/WGM Anna Zatonskih (four-time U.S. women's chess champion), WGM Katerina Nemcova (two-time Czech women's champion), IM/WGM Nazi Paikidze (2016 U.S. women's chess champion), and WGM Sabina-Francesca Foisor (2017 U.S. women's chess champion) took fourth place at the 42nd World Chess Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Irina, Nazi, and Sabina-Francesca were at SuperNationals May 12th-14th, 2017 and supported the Women's committee by providing activities for female players in the girls' club room.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

NOVEMBER 11-30, 2016

FULTON MARKET BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY

Although this was a good event, it was disappointing in terms of support from the organizers. No women's events were included due to restrictions from the organizer. Organizers Agon Limited and FIDE instead provided an exclusive live broadcast of the match through its *worldchess.com* website for a fee, catering to the world of online chess players, as well as offering limited live event seating. We wish to recognize Beatriz Marinello, Jean Hoffman, Sophia Rohde, and others in their efforts to include women's and girls' chess support during that time. Thank you!

Kimberly Doo McVay, Women's committee member, was able to volunteer in the actual event and gave a report from her perspective as a volunteer. Thank you Kimberly for your help and efforts during the Championship; much appreciated.

NATIONAL K-12 GRADE CHAMPIONSHIPS

NOVEMBER 16-18, 2016

GAYLORD OPRYLAND HOTEL AND RESORT, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

The Women's committee had a presence again this year with Kimberly Doo McVay manning the Women's committee table and Leila D'Aquin in charge of the girls' club room. Both gave verbal reports of the event.

The following highlights were reported:

- Leila reported roughly 50-60 girls came through the club.
- Many girls participated (returning players) in different events.
- Giveaway prizes were given at the table and club room. Prizes included hats, mini chess sets, Jennifer Shahade's book, *Play Like a Girl*, pencils, queen erasers. Prizes were also given away in the simul.
- Had a nail salon at the club again this year, along with snacks.
- There was community and rapport between the girls. Watched for contact and cell phone exchange for bonding and retention among players. Leila noted players mingled with one another and all seemed to really enjoy themselves.
- Maria Carolina Blanco Acevedo, WIM from Atlanta, provided chess game analysis, puzzles, simultaneous exhibitions and volunteered wherever needed.
- At the Women's committee table, Kimberly Doo McVay received roughly 30 parent surveys and 30 player surveys along with contact information.
- US Chess donation brochures were handed out at both table and club room. Emphasis was on asking for general donations for US Chess as well as general women's activities.

PAN AM INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

DECEMBER 27-30, 2016

HILTON HOTEL, KENNER, LOUISIANA

Jean Troendle, tournament organizer of Cajun Chess, hosted the 2016 Championship, which had a 40 percent increase over last year's numbers. Fantastic! The Women's committee recognized Jean and her team for doing an outstanding job of hosting a great opening reception, opening and closing ceremonies, and a well-run tournament. The bookstore also had a great variety of merchandise catering to female players and female customers. Thank you!

There were approximately 15 college girls playing. Although it was disappointing because it was roughly the same number as the year before, it is something the committee needs to continue to work on. The Women's committee was able to get 10 female player contacts. All 10 indicated they were interested in giving back in the form of a potential Big Sister/Little Sister program. The committee will work towards creating this activity.

Claudia Munoz, member of the Women's committee, competed on Texas Tech University's all-female B team. We were glad to see her participating and representing her team well. As a freshman at Texas Tech University majoring in math, Claudia will be working on a documentary project with Director Karney Hatch, "The Capablanca Variations." The film will involve a trip to Cuba for the Texas Tech team to play in the 2017 Capablanca Memorial in Matanzas, Cuba. Congratulations Claudia and the Texas Tech chess team.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2017-18

- Chess Girls DC is looking at hosting a regional all girls' rated chess tournament for 2017-2018. This would include Delaware, West Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, and northern Virginia. Chess Girls DC is a one-of-a-kind program solely dedicated to promoting and teaching the game of chess to girls. Open to K-12 grade girls in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, their main focus is attracting girls from under-represented minority groups and/or families with limited resources. Chess Girls DC is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that instills in its participants that women and girls can intellectually challenge the world and there are no boundaries in what they can accomplish. Programs include weekly chess classes throughout the year, field trips, featured speakers and participation in regional and national chess tournaments.

- **The Women's Western States Regional Championship:** In order to encourage greater competition and excitement among women and girls, and in compliance with the US Chess mission statement to "increase chess opportunities for under represented segments of society," the Berkeley Chess School (BCS) will run a Women's and Girls' Western States Regional Championship for players in northern California, southern California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii.

The tournament will be held in Berkeley, California in 2017-18. The format will be a five-round Swiss. BCS is taking entire responsibility for the tournament, including financial responsibility. We are currently soliciting sponsors and expect the prize fund to be in excess of \$2,000. In addition to cash prizes (first through third plus class prizes), there will be an award for the state with the highest four individual scores, and this state will be declared "Regional Champion." The tournament will rotate between the states in future years allowing each one to showcase its state. The default, should no state wish to run the tournament in future years, will be the Berkeley Chess School in northern California. In September 2016 we contacted the boards

of US Chess affiliates in each state to support the concept of this tournament and got positive feedback from five of the states. We will reach out again to all of the states to encourage them to bring their players to this tournament.

- **All Americas Chess Women's Youth Championships:** The tournament is set for November 18-19, 2017, at the Sheraton Chicago O'Hare Airport Hotel. Larry Cohen is the tournament organizer who created this event because he saw there was no current girls' junior open event and wanted to capture the middle school-aged scholastic group as well as young professional women. The tournament will be in three sections: under age 25, under 18, and under 12 with a free pizza buffet Saturday evening. Larry is currently collaborating with David and Sheila Heiser to work through arrangements.

- Looking to fill in the rest of the regions for 2017-2018.

MISSION AND VISION FOR 2017-18

- Complete the state chess female coordinator's list and create a form letter for the state associations to place on their annual meeting to select a women's coordinator.

- Get all 50 states to participate in the NGTOC.

- Get Women's committee activities on the SuperNationals agenda.

- Update FIDE rules for NGTOC.

- Create Facebook page for Women's committee.

- Update NGTOC website.

- Hold town hall meetings to get girls and their parents more involved in the chess world.

- Get women's and girls' regional tournament set up to start 2017-18.

- Plan activities program for the girls' club room at SuperNationals: have guest speaker and invite guests at set times so more visitors can see the guest speaker (not during rounds), and encourage getting more skittles families for the girls' club room.

- Recommend free beginning chess lessons open to anyone, including family members, siblings, and supporters who are waiting on rounds at national tournaments. This would also include state and local level tournaments with organizer's consent. Suggest volunteers who can teach basic chess and give flex time to play so attendees can leave to pick up their players.

- With US Chess, state associations, and local permission, recommend having US Chess brochures and US Chess membership applications accessible and brochures on hand to help increase potential membership and donors in all areas of the chess community as well as women's activities. Suggest and encourage when they return home from tournaments to continue playing by joining local clubs, chess school, and/or take private chess lessons to help out local chess organizations and businesses. Provide a list of coaches, schools, events, and clubs that new players can go to further their love for chess.

- Big Sister/Little Sister program that includes women/college mentoring and bonding with scholastic players.

- Create top 10 female chess camp program.

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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 2011), edited by Henry M. Robert III, Daniel H. Honemann, Thomas J. Balch, with the assistance of Daniel E. Seabold and Shmuel Gerber, Da Capo Press, 208 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0306820205 (List price \$9.74 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 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.

Schedule for 2017 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 2	Forum	Accessibility and Special Circumstances	FIDE Events	LUNCH	States	Outreach	TDCC	TDCC / Problem Solving
	Denker H.S. & Barber K-8	College Chess			Women's Chess	Scholastics		
	FIDE Arbiters' Seminar				FIDE Arbiters' Seminar			
THURSDAY August 3	Executive Board CLOSED	Executive Board OPEN		LUNCH	Chess in Education			Chess Trust
					Rules Workshop		Ratings	Clubs
	FIDE Arbiters' Seminar				FIDE Arbiters' Seminar			
FRIDAY August 4	Bylaws		Ethics	LUNCH	Website Advisory	Finance	International Affairs	Staff Forum/General Membership Meeting
		Seniors	Correspondence		Publications	CJA	Audit (closed)	
	FIDE Arbiters' Seminar				FIDE Arbiters' Seminar			
SATURDAY August 5	Delegates Meeting			AWARDS LUNCHEON		Delegates Meeting		
SUNDAY Aug. 6	Delegates Meeting							

SATURDAY, July 29, Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, and the National Girls Tournament of Champions **Opening Ceremony**

FRIDAY, August 4, **Executive Board Reception 5:30 PM**

US Chess Awards Luncheon, Saturday, August 5, 2017 Noon

SUNDAY, August 6, **Executive Board Meeting (CLOSED) 3 PM** and **Executive Board Meeting (OPEN) 6 PM**

****Schedule Subject to Change - Check www.uschess.org for updates****