

**US CHESS  
Minutes of Executive Board Meeting  
May 19-20, 2018  
Louisville, KY**

*This document is a summary of the proceedings of the meeting held at The Galt House in Louisville, KY. It includes motions made, action items accepted, and subjects discussed. Details of discussions, etc., may be obtained from the audio files online.*

**The following Executive Board members were present:**

Mike Hoffpauir, President  
Allen Priest, Vice President  
Chuck Unruh, Vice President of Finance  
Mike Nietman, Secretary

Anjelina Belakovskaia, Member at Large  
Hal Sprechman, Member at Large  
Lakshmana “Vish” Viswanath, Member at Large  
Carol Meyer, Executive Director

**The following US Chess members were present:**

Ryan Velez, KY  
Richard Williams, KY  
Ken Sloan, AL

**OPEN SESSION I, Saturday, May 19, 2018**

President Hoffpauir welcomed everyone and thanked Allen Priest for hosting the meeting in Louisville and the cultural tour on Friday. He conveyed that the EB has a very full agenda and called on Secretary Nietman to call the roll. A quorum was established.

President Hoffpauir brought attention to the Executive Board’s agenda for the May 2018 meeting which was made public on the US Chess website. The topics to be discussed are as follows: officer and committee liaison reports; Fabiano Caruana’s victory; variability and confidence level of player ratings; FIDE’s draft policy on broadcasting game moves; the budget; survey for Strategic Planning; committee charters; international reports; awards for the U.S. Open; and Advance Delegate Motions the Board may need to put forth. He commented there were no appeals to discuss. He made aware that the Board may be in and out of closed session at which time guests would be excused from the meeting.

**OFFICER AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

**President’s Report**

Mike Hoffpauir was able to attend the Jr. High and Elementary national events and extended a heartfelt thank you to staff, Tournament Directors and backroom room personnel for a job well done during what he described as a “very successful Scholastic National Spring”. He stated the operation flow was impressive and expressed a special thank you to Boyd Reed, Director of Events, for the organization and extreme efficiency of the tournament and to Pete Karagianis, our new Assistant Director of Events, for not only assisting Boyd but for bringing in fresh ideas. President Hoffpauir commented that he thought the Federation could do a better job communicating procedures in advance to parents as to what they should do if they have a problem, especially on how their kids will be handled and where to meet them after their games finish. He noted the overall feedback from parents, players and coaches was positive. Mr. Hoffpauir also acknowledged Fabiana Caruana’s victory and briefly touched on US Chess’ migration to the Cloud,

the 2018 voter registration extended deadline, the U.S. Open, and the U.S. Chess Trust agreement. President Hoffpauir called on Chuck Unruh to give his report.

### **Vice President of Finance's Report**

Chuck Unruh, Vice President of Finance, reported that the US Chess financial picture looks very solid. The following budget topics were discussed: revenue growth; memberships and voucher programs; savings and reserve funds; information system and database; filling personnel positions, payroll and employee benefits; contract employees and event staffing; Chess Life subscriptions; rating fees; tournament expenses and revenues; scholarship funds; LMA Trust; Life members; Olympiad and medal bonuses; conference call service; the 2018-2019 budget; and items to discuss for the 2019-2020 budget.

## **OPEN SESSION II, Saturday, May 19, 2018**

### **Executive Director's Report**

Carol Meyer, Executive Director, reported on how the new IT migration and new infrastructure implementation were proceeding. She also noted the possible need to design and build a new set of systems and communication capabilities in the future. She briefly commented on the allegations of cheating at the Jr. High national event. President Hoffpauir brought attention to an algorithm prototype he developed to highlight ratings irregularities among registered players. A discussion ensued among the Board about the use of this tool. It led to additional discussion about how US Chess might be more transparent about ethics and other cases being considered and/or decisions made by sanctioning committees.

She also conveyed her appreciation to the events staff who contributed so much during the Spring Nationals to help keep each tournament running smoothly and on time. Ms. Meyer expressed how much she has enjoyed speaking with the coaches, players and parents and visiting team rooms at the tournaments. She remarked how invaluable this has been for her as she continues to learn about the culture and game of chess. She reiterated President Hoffpauir's sentiments earlier in the meeting with respect to the need for better communication about tournament procedures in advance of national events.

Executive Director Meyer continued her report and brought attention to the precipitous drop in memberships for players from 16 to 20 years old and the need for creating an incentive to help retain players when they enter their expensive college years. Mike Nietman commented that the Chess in Education and College Chess committees have already started reviewing retention issues for these age groups. The Board will discuss this further in closed session.

Other topics briefly reported on were as follows: preparation for the 2018 Annual Delegates Meeting and production of the 2018 Delegates Call; the Alzheimer's Association Healthy Living Seminar; state chapters; and the development of the new Affiliates Committee.

### **Director of Publications' Report**

Dan Lucas, Director of Publications, did not attend the Executive Board meeting. His report was sent to the Board a week in advance and Mr. Lucas was available for comment via phone during the meeting as needed.

### **Director of Events' Report**

Boyd Reed, Director of Events, did not attend the Executive Board meeting. His report was sent to the Board a week in advance and Mr. Reed was available for comment via phone during the meeting as needed.

The Board discussed issues brought to their attention concerning the set up at some event locations and player behavior outside the tournament playing hall.

### **Committee Liaisons' Reports**

Committee liaison reports were not discussed during the open session.

President Hoffpauir moved to recess for lunch. All agreed.

### **OPEN SESSION III, Saturday, May 19, 2018**

President Hoffpauir reconvened the meeting. All Board members and Ken Sloan were present.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Hoffpauir opened the session with a discussion about variability and confidence levels of players' ratings and read the Ratings Committee's comments on this subject. Ken Sloan, a member of the Ratings Committee, was present at the meeting and added to the discussion. This topic will be presented again in the Ratings Committee workshop at the U.S. Open.

The Board discussed committees appointed by the Executive Board and considered the need for established guidelines regarding non-US Chess members serving on these committees in an advisory capacity. The Board will also consult with committee chairs for supporting rationale as to why a member or non-member should continue to serve on their committee.

FIDE's draft policy on broadcasting of game moves was reviewed. The Board was opposed to this policy as written and President Hoffpauir stated he will draft a response to FIDE on behalf of US Chess.

President Hoffpauir made a motion to recess the meeting until tomorrow morning at 8:00am. All agreed.

### **OPEN SESSION I, Sunday, May 20, 2018**

President Hoffpauir welcomed everyone to open session and called on Secretary Nietman to introduce the following motions discussed in closed session to be voted on at this time:

**EB18-067 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to adopt the following transgender policy as provided by legal counsel: Allow a person to identify as they choose, and allow each person one change to their gender identification. If an individual attempts a second change to gender identification, at that time the individual must provide US Chess a birth certificate, and the birth gender indicated on the birth certificate will be used to determine gender for US Chess purposes. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-068 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to submit the following ADM for 2018: Amend Article VII, Section 1 of the US Chess Bylaws to read: The Executive Board shall appoint an Executive Director. The Executive Board shall also give approval to the hiring of a chief financial officer and a communications director by the Executive Director. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-069 – Priest** – I move to accept the 2018-2019 budget as presented. The budget must be presented to the delegates for approval. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-070 – Board** – The Executive Board names the following 2018 award winners: **PASSED 7-0**

## 2018 US CHESS AWARDS

- a. Distinguished Service Award – Gary Walters (OH)
  - b. Outstanding Career Achievement Award – Jim Nickell (WI), Guy Hoffman (WI), Jim Eade (CA)
  - c. Special Services Award – Richard Reich (WI), Eduardo Bauza Mercere (NY)
  - d. Meritorious Services Award – Brad Phillips (WI), Fred Lange (WI), Randy Bubolz (WI), Jerry Neugarten (IL)
  - e. Committee of the Year – Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee
  - f. Chess City of the Year – Charlotte, NC
  - g. Koltanowski Awards
    - i. Gold – Dewain Barber (CA)
    - ii. Silver – Two Sigma, Richard and Barbara Schiffrin (PA)
  - h. Scholastic Service Award
    - i. Individual – Elizabeth Shaughnessy (CA)
  - i. Organizer of the Year – Sophia Rohde (NY), Glenn Panner (IL)
  - j. Frank J. Marshall Award – Viktors Pupols (WA), Franc Guadalupe (TX)
  - k. Grandmaster of the Year – GM Fabiano Caruana (MO)
  - l. Honorary Chess Mate – Bonnie Guadalupe (TX), Edith Just (IL)
  - m. Chess Club of the Year – Bay Area Chess, Inc. (CA)
  - n. Chess College of the Year – University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley
  - o. Tournament Director of the Year – Chris Bird (MA)
  - p. Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement Award – Erv Sedlock (FL)
  - q. Outstanding Player Achievement Award – Andrew Karklins (IL), GM Timur Gareyev (KS)
  - r. Outstanding Team Performance Award – 2017 US World Cadet Team
  - s. Woman Chessplayer of the Year Award – WGM Sabina Foisor (NC)
  - t. Special Friend of US Chess – Flynn Sign Co., Inc. (TN)
  - u. Accessibility and Special Circumstances Person of the Year – Michael Lenox (IL), Michael Aigner (CA)
- PASSED 7-0**

Secretary Nietman announced the next two Executive Board meetings will be held during the U.S. Open on Thursday, August 2, 2018, at 9:00am and Sunday, August 5, 2018, after the Delegates Meeting.

Mr. Nietman also introduced the following three motions during open session:

**EB18-071 – Nietman** – I move to add Andrew Schley and Jonathon Lee Singler to the College Chess Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-072 – Nietman** – I move to add Phillip J. Simpkins, Jr. Esq., Ret. (DE) (12409855) to the Chess in Education Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-073 – Nietman** – I move to change the name of the Website Advisory Committee to “Information Technology Advisory Committee”. **PASSED 7-0**

Allen Priest briefly addressed a question from a member regarding contributions in cryptocurrency.

President Hoffpauir moved to adjourn the Executive Board meeting. All agreed.