

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Executive Board Open Meeting, Saturday-Sunday, March 16-17, 2024

1. Purpose. This document captures the minutes of the Executive Board (EB) Open Session Meeting held at the U.S. Chess office in St. Louis, MO, on Saturday and Sunday, March 16-17, 2024.
2. President Randy Bauer called the meeting to order at 9:01 am Central Time. The meeting was recorded using the Zoom meeting platform. He called the roll and the following EB members were present:
 - Randy Bauer (IA), President
 - Kevin Pryor (FL), Vice President
 - Chuck Unruh (OK), Vice President (VP) for Finance
 - Mike Hoffpauir (VA), Secretary
 - David Hater (GA), Member-at-Large
 - John Fernandez (MO), Member-at-Large
 - Lakshmana (Vish) Viswanath (TX), Member-at-Large
 - Leila D’Aquin (LA), Member-at-Large
 - Ranae Bartlett, Interim Executive Director
3. President Bauer asked the members present whether they had any new conflicts of interest to disclose. There were none.
4. VP Chuck Unruh provided a very positive financial update to the Board. He began by noting that membership revenue was up 8.3% in January, which when coupled with donations, points toward a current budget surplus of nearly \$1 million. He added that upcoming expenses to upgrade the US Chess Rating System will reduce the surplus, but that this was in our forecast. Bauer observed that this is good news because it puts the organization in position to end the fiscal year with a strong surplus.
 - The 3rd Quarter was good for US Chess, with membership above this time last year—about 7% above our forecasted membership growth. We anticipate a slight increase in membership over the next quarter due in large part to the US Chess’s series of Spring Scholastic National events.
 - US Chess received a \$250K endowment from a donor in the current quarter. Another endowment was received due to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Dewain Barber. These donations and others, coupled with membership revenue and investments, represent a \$1M surplus. After considering forecasted projects and program support, VPF Unruh projects a \$250,000 surplus at the end of the business year. President Bauer echoed VPF Unruh’s comment that there also are unforeseen events that can quickly erode our gains. He observed that the positive revenue gives US Chess flexibility to provide additional support to existing programs and to consider supporting new programs—which would have the effect of reducing the surplus. President Bauer also noted that inflation is impacting

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everyone, including US Chess. He said that this Executive Board may need to consider an increase in membership dues.

- IED Bartlett reported that US Chess has a strong 6-month operational reserve.
5. President Bauer summarized the Executive Director selection process. He noted that there were more than 50 applicants. After evaluation by the Executive Board this field was reduced to 17 candidates who were then interviewed by members of the Board, a process that narrowed the list to four. On March 15, 2024, the Executive Board interviewed the four finalists in person at US Chess headquarters in St. Louis, MO. The Board selected Ranae Bartlett, who accepted the position.
 6. The Executive Board went into Closed Session from 9:17 AM Central until the EB recessed for the day at 4:45 PM. President Bauer reconvened the EB in Closed Session at 9:10 AM Central on Sunday, May 17, 2024.
 7. The EB reconvened in Open Session at 9:26 AM Central on Sunday, May 17, 2024. There were thirteen (13) motions that emerged Closed Session.
 - a. **EB24-057 – BAUER** – Effective March 16, 2024, the Executive Board moves to appoint Ranae Bartlett to the position of Executive Director, US Chess Federation. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
 - b. **EB24-058 – BOARD** – In support of DM23-35 (Avoiding Duplicate US Chess IDs), the Executive Board moves to establish a working group consisting of VP Kevin Pryor (FL) and EB members Leila D’Aquin (LA), David Hater (GA), Mike Hoffpauir (VA), and Lakshmana Viswanath (TX) to work with the office and the website development team. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
 - c. **EB24-059 – BOARD** – In support of DM23-50 (Establish DC State Chapter Committee), the Executive Board moves to convene a Special Delegates Meeting on June 1, 2024, to hear the report prepared by the committee formed by the DM. Meeting materials provided to the Delegates for this Special Meeting will include the report prepared by the committee, enabling the Delegates to take further action as appropriate regarding the new state chapter. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
 - d. **EB24-060 – BOARD** – The Executive Board moves to remove, effective April 30, 2024, the temporary change to US Chess Grand Prix rules implemented during the Covid-19 Pandemic and to return to previous Grand Prix requirements. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
 - e. **EB24-061 – BOARD** – The Executive Board moves to allow tournaments limited to seniors, juniors, women, or college students to be eligible for the US Chess Federation Grand Prix, provided they satisfy the other Grand Prix requirements. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
 - f. **EB24-062 – BOARD** – The Executive Board moves to approve the Certificate of Incumbency requested by the Estate of Bernard Goodman. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
 - g. **EB24-063 – BOARD** – The Executive Board moves that the top woman finisher in the US Senior Open (using tie-breaks if necessary) shall receive an invitation to the US Women’s Senior Championship beginning in 2024. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
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- h. **EB24-064 – BOARD** - The Executive Board moves to adopt a Paid Family Leave Policy for its employees. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
 - i. **EB24-065 – BOARD** – The Executive Board moves to place a flag on the official record of former US Chess member Logan Moore, US Chess ID #30203399, to prohibit his ability to renew his membership or otherwise rejoin US Chess until such time as he is cleared of the criminal charges against him. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
 - j. **EB24-066 – BOARD** - The Executive Board moves to re-appoint David Hater as the US Chess Federation Delegate to FIDE. The term of this appointment is through the end of the 2026 FIDE Olympiad. **PASSED 7-0, with David Hater abstaining.**
 - k. **EB24-067 – BOARD** – The Executive Board moves to establish parity in the appearance fees offered to the Open and Women’s Teams officially representing the USA in the Senior World Team Championship and the Senior Women's World Team Championship. The level of funding shall be set by the EB annually. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
 - l. **EB24-068 – BOARD** – The Executive Board moves to provide a total of \$15,000 in appearance fees to the Open Official Representative (OR) team (50+) or teams (50+ and 65+) and \$15,000 in support to the Women’s OR team (50+) or teams (50+ and 65+) for the 2024 World Senior Team Championships. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
 - m. **EB24-069 – BOARD** – The Executive Board moves to suspend indefinitely the ability of US Chess Tournament Directors and Affiliates to advertise or organize US Chess rated tournaments to be held or hosted in the US Virgin Islands (USVI). This policy shall be reviewed annually or when necessary for continuation, change, or removal. **Motion Passed 8-0.**
8. With no further business to conduct the Executive Board adjourned at 9:39 AM, on Sunday, March 17, 2024.

Prepared by: Mike Hoffpauir, EB Secretary