

July 8, 2025

**SUBJECT: Minutes of the US Chess Federation Executive Board Monthly Meeting,
Tuesday, June 10, 2025**

- 1) **Purpose.** This document captures the minutes of the Executive Board (EB) Meeting held on the subject date. This meeting was held virtually using the Zoom platform. All times listed are Eastern U.S.
- 2) **Call to Order and Roll Call.** President Kevin Pryor called the meeting to order at 8:06 PM. Executive Director (ED) Ranae Bartlett recorded the Open Sessions of the meeting.
 - a. President Pryor called the roll and the following board members responded:
 - a) Kevin Pryor (FL), President
 - b) John Fernandez (MO), Vice President (VP)
 - c) Chuck Unruh (OK), Vice President for Finance (VPF)
 - d) Mike Hoffpauir (VA), Secretary
 - e) Randy Bauer (IA), Member-at-Large (not present for Roll Call but joined around 8:15)
 - f) Leila D'Aquin (LA), Member-at-Large
 - g) David Hater (GA), Member-at-Large
 - h) Lakshmana (Vish) Viswanath (TX), Member-at-Large
 - i) Ranae Bartlett, ED
 - b. President Pryor asked board members whether anyone has a new conflict of interest to disclose. There were none.
- 3) **Financial Update.** VPF Unruh opened his remarks by noting, “the finances of US Chess have been challenging.” He said our actual loss on the bottom line as we went into May 2025 was \$129,000, which he projects to be \$238,000 by the end of the business year. VPF Unruh noted that on paper, we are ahead of budget by \$701,000—which raises the question of “why do we have a cash burn problem”. He said the answer is that almost all the \$701,000 is in restricted funds (donations and investments). Another factor contributing to the cash burn issue is our spending of about \$500,000 to upgrade our Rating System. Overall, VPF Unruh said that the capital expenses (Rating System upgrade) and event losses suggest US Chess will be “about \$900,000 to the negative in net worth as far as cash” at the end of the budget year (end of June 2025). He added that we have about \$832,000 in cash that is available to US Chess operations, which should see us through the 1st Quarter of the next business year (July-Sept of 2025) without a need to borrow. He characterized our event losses as “a perfect storm” that was worse than we projected but noted that “we are landing on our feet because other parts of the mission are doing well.”

VPF Unruh’s position is that US Chess’s cost controls remain strong, with Payroll, Expenses, General and Administration, and Travel all well within budget. ED Bartlett added that the once projected losses from SuperNationals VIII (SN8) are nowhere near what was expected. In fact, she noted that with one bill still due out from the Rosen properties she projects a small profit. She commented that a cost control measure that helped reduce SN8 expenses was fine-tuning the size of the Tournament Director staff requirements when it became apparent that player registration numbers were not going to be near the original projections of 6,000-plus.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Executive Board Open Meeting, June10, 2025

VPF Unruh concluded his report by saying, “It will be all about our events next year. There are some things we just cannot control such as the number of people that will attend our events.” He characterized membership revenue as a similar budget projection problem, noting that we will not achieve the 2% growth that was projected in the current year’s budget.

President Pryor asked, “With regard to the shortfall in membership, to what degree is this attributable to the increase in membership dues?” VPF Unruh does not see this as a significant concern, though it may have contributed. He sees membership continuing to be strong in the next year. He noted that our current membership numbers are around 113,000 and that he expects some growth, but probably not at the rate of 2% that was projected for this business year. President Pryor said that in the next year’s budget we need to include membership growth numbers that we believe are achievable.

Member-at-large, Randy Bauer said that our membership dues are not indexed to the cost of living and are not adjusted every other year or so as part of US Chess’s standard practices. As a result, when members see an increase in the cost of membership many members do not realize how that increase aligns with an increase in the cost of living as it relates to inflation. He observed that our most recent membership increase (Jan 2025) is in line with the higher cost of living. VPF Unruh agreed.

- 4) The Executive Board went into Closed Session at 8:21 PM and reconvened in Open Session at 10:19 PM. There was one (1) motion emerging from the evening’s Closed Session.
 - a) **EB025-055:** The Executive Board moves to approve the Qualifications, Schedule, Eligibility criteria, and Rules for the Ashley Tournament of K-3 State Champions beginning in August 2026. **Passed 8-0.**
- 5) With no further business to conduct, the Executive Board voted to adjourn at 10:22 PM.