

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Executive Board Open Meeting, Tuesday, June 11, 2024

1. **Purpose.** This document captures the minutes of the Executive Board (EB) Open Session Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. All times listed are Eastern U.S.
2. Vice President Pryor called the meeting to order at 8:07 PM on behalf of President Bauer. Executive Director (ED) Ranae Bartlett started the Zoom recording.
 - a. VP Pryor called the roll and the following board members responded:
 - Randy Bauer (IA), President (not able to attend the meeting)
 - 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 (AL), Executive Director
 - b. Vice President Pryor asked the members present whether they had any new conflicts of interest to disclose. There were none.
3. **Finance and Operations Report.**
 - a. VP Finance Chuck Unruh gave a summary of the organization's financial status. Chuck began by noting that US Chess's net worth has continued to rise and is doing so at about the same pace since we became a 501c(3) in 2013. He said that our draft financial report for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2024, shows a growth in the US Chess net worth of approximately \$1,135,000 this year. Membership also has grown by 2% but he observed that 'the post-Covid increase' in membership appears to have ended. He said that most of the fiscal year 2023-24 growth for US Chess comes from \$744,000 in restricted donations, over \$300,000 in unrestricted donations, plus \$386,000 from our investments. Operationally, Chuck observed that all expense areas, except Information Technology, came in less than the expenses we had forecast in the budget. He expressed concern about the rising costs of our National-level tournaments, not only for US Chess from an operational perspective, but also for our members who travel to attend our events. He noted that inflation has been about 20% in aggregate over the past 5 years, so "everything just costs more for US Chess and for our members."
 - b. Executive Director Ranae Bartlett reported that we have ended the year strong and maintained a 6-month Operating Reserve. She echoed Chuck's concerns about the costs of our national events and that she is re-examining the entry fee structure because it is not getting cheaper to run these tournaments. She added that the office is in the process of 'closing the books' for the fiscal year and is working with our auditing firm to do so. ED Bartlett noted that June 1 was the cutoff date for US Chess Tournament Directors (TDs) to complete their Safe Play training from Safe Sport. As of this evening's meeting there are

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six (6) tournaments submitted to US Chess for rating where the tournament staff has not fulfilled the Safe Play certification requirement. Those tournaments will not be rated until all TDs in the Rating Report have completed Safe Play training. The Chief TDs of those events have been notified.

4. The Executive Board went into Closed Session at 8:23 PM.
5. The EB reconvened in Open Session at 10:02 PM. There were three (3) motions that emerged from the Closed Session.
 - a. **EB24-089 - BOARD:** The Executive Board moves to confer the Dan Heisman Award for Excellence in Chess Instruction to Tim Tusing (FL). **Motion Passed 7-0.**
 - b. **EB24-090 - BOARD:** The Executive Board moves to accept the generous donation of Dewain R. Barber and Susan R. Barber to endow the GM Arnold Denker National Tournament of High School Champions. **Motion Passed 6-0.**
 - Note: When the EB voted on this motion it originally stated that the period of endowment was for 10 years, which EB member David Hater noted is not correct because the endowment has no specified end date. The motion as written above is the corrected version that was re-voted upon by the board. EB member Lakshmana Viswanath (Vish) had dropped from the call when this matter was re-voted.
 - c. **EB24-091 - BOARD:** The Executive Board moves to revoke the US Chess membership of James Penisten (US Chess ID 30659818) for violations of US Chess Safe Play policy. **Motion Passed 7-0.**
6. With no further business to conduct, the Executive Board moved to adjourn at 10:11 PM.

Prepared by: Mike Hoffpauir, EB Secretary