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**SUBJECT: Minutes of the Executive Board Open Meeting on Thursday, August 1, 2024**

- 1) **Purpose.** This document is the minutes of the Executive Board (EB) meeting held in Open Session at 10 AM eastern time on Thursday, August 1, 2024, in Norfolk, VA. All times listed are Eastern U.S.
- 2) President Bauer called the meeting to order at 10 AM. Secretary Hoffpauir recorded the meeting.
  - a. President Bauer noted that all Executive Board members were present:
    - a) Randy Bauer (IA), President
    - b) Kevin Pryor (FL), Vice President
    - c) Chuck Unruh (OK), Vice President (VP) for Finance
    - d) Mike Hoffpauir (VA), Secretary
    - e) David Hater (GA), Member-at-Large
    - f) John Fernandez (MO), Member-at-Large
    - g) Lakshmana (Vish) Viswanath (TX) (not present for roll call but arrived minutes later)
    - h) Leila D'Aquin (LA), Member-at-Large (not able to attend this meeting)
    - i) Ranae Bartlett (AL), Executive Director
- 3) President Bauer asked if any board members had conflicts of interest to disclose. There were none.
- 4) President Bauer informed attendees that the EB had been in Closed Session earlier this morning at 8 AM and there were no motions from that meeting.
- 5) VP of Finance Chuck Unruh mentioned our audited financial report. He mentioned that the draft version would be discussed at tomorrow (Friday's) Finance, Investments, and LMA Trust Workshop from 1-3 PM. He noted that the audit is in its final stages and that we may have the final version of the audit in time for the Delegates on Friday. Chuck added that US Chess had excellent donations and investment income in the past year and that US Chess should end the 2023-24 fiscal year with a surplus of more than \$900,000. President Bauer added that US Chess changed audit firms this year in keeping with best practices of changing auditors every few years. He said the new company asked a lot of good questions and that they did a good job at a lower price than our previous auditor.
- 6) President Bauer opened the floor for questions from the audience.
  - a) Chris Prosser (TN) said, given US Chess's budget ending the year over \$900,000 to the good that the EB should strongly consider hiring a Scholastics Coordinator to deal with the state chapters and that it is much needed. His point was acknowledged by President Bauer as something the EB would discuss.
  - b) Mike Nietman (WI) noted that next year's schedule for the US Open is packed because we are shifting to the 7-day week instead of the current 9-day format. He said that the State Invitational events (Denker, Barber, etc.) end on Wednesday and that we should not schedule any committee workshops on Wednesday because of the invitationals. He also

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mentioned that the EB should consider moving its Thursday Closed Session (next year) to the evening so that the Delegates could use the time before noon for Committee Workshops. He further recommended that the Office look at the schedule for committee workshops as soon as possible so that decisions can be made early about in-person and on-line workshops for next year. President Bauer agreed this is a good idea.

- c) Caleb Brown (TX) asked about the Safe Play Appeals process for the appeals that are on the Delegates Agenda. Executive Director Bartlett provided an overview of the process. President Bauer added that legal counsel (for US Chess) also would be present.
  - d) Stephen Jablon (IL) said that there are a couple of errors in the States and Affiliates Report about the DC State Chapter committee and resolution process put in place by the Delegates at last year's Annual Meeting. He emphasized errors in the number of members who belong to the DC State Chess Federation (DCSCF) and the number of tournaments DCSCF has run. He asked whether a correction could be posted on the US Chess website to replace or amend the errant report. President Bauer said the report from the committee would not be changed, he encouraged Mr. Jablon to raise this at the appropriate time in the Delegates Meeting Agenda.
  - e) Frank DelBonis (MA) and Caleb Brown (TX) asked how the process would work during the Delegates Meeting for hearing the Ocean State Chess Association's (OSCA) challenge of the Rhode Island state chapter. Mr. DelBonis noted that OSCA has updated their Bylaws in the past few days to address the voting rights of OSCA members and that Delegates should be aware of this important change. President Bauer responded that the process would be the same as last year. Secretary Hoffpauir asked Mr. DelBonis to clarify when OSCA created their revised Bylaws. Mr. DelBonis answered that it was a recent update (e.g., after OSCA had submitted their Credentials). Secretary Hoffpauir informed Mr. DelBonis that he was free to mention the change during the discussion of OSCA's challenge, but that a new set of Bylaws would not be posted on the US Chess website because those Bylaws had not been submitted in accordance with the deadline for Credentials in the US Chess Bylaws.
  - f) John McCrary (SC) asked if there are statistics available on the number of tournaments and rated games held since imposition of the mandatory requirement for Tournament Directors to complete Safe Play training. President Bauer and Executive Director Bartlett noted that this information is readily available and would be presented to the Delegates.
- 7) With no further business to conduct, the Executive Board moved to adjourn at 10:18 AM.

Prepared by: Mike Hoffpauir, EB Secretary