

**US Chess**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**August 8, 2019**  
**Orlando, Florida**

*This document is a summary of the proceedings of this meeting. It includes motions made, action items accepted, and subjects discussed. Details of discussions, etc., may be obtained from the audio files online.*

***OPEN SESSION***  
***Thursday, August 8***

Executive Board members present:  
Allen Priest, President  
Chuck Unruh, VP of Finance  
Mike Hoffpauir, Member-at-Large  
Ryan Velez, Member-at-Large

Randy Bauer, Vice President  
Mike Nietman, Secretary  
Hal Sprechman, Member-at-Large  
Carol Meyer, Executive Director

The following guests were present:

Myron Lieberman	David Kuhns	Niel Dietsch
Rachel Lieberman	Kenneth Sloan	John Rockefeller
Dewain Barber	David Day	Joey Troy
Bob Messenger	Jeff Bulington	Frank Vogel
Korey Kormick	Harold Winston	Danny Rohde
Elliott Neff	Beatriz Marinello	Sophia Rohde
Hal Terrie	Tim Just	Steve Immitt
Alexander Lumelsky	Daniel Lucas	Guy Hoffman
Debra Robison	Geoff Isaak	Robin Ramson
Maureen Grimaud	David Grimaud	Larry Weston
Randas Burns	Daaim Shabazz	Kimberly Doo
Fun Fong	Rachel Schechter	Vish Viswanath

The Executive Board President called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The Secretary called the roll. A quorum was established.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

After mentioning that the bulk of his report would be given at the Delegates' Meeting, President Priest briefly drew attention to the monthly "Across the Board" column in *Chess Life* that addresses the strategic goals and objectives of US Chess and the actions the board has been taking on them.

**VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE REPORT**

- An overview of the financial progress of US Chess over the past year was provided, as well as the outlook for the coming year.

- Reasons were given for the establishment of the Reserve Fund.
- Attention was drawn to the likely financial impact of the technology upgrade expected over the coming year.
- The sources of income and expenses for the organization were presented.

*When the floor was opened for audience questions the following information was shared:*

- *The technology upgrade will begin with the database and a website upgrade will come afterward.*
- *Access to some historical information is limited to hard copies at the Crossville office.*

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Processes are under way to document and streamline work flows in the Crossville office with the expectation that some manual tasks could become automated with the technology upgrade.
- The office staff are in the process of scanning many documents so that they can be preserved and shared with remote staff members.
- The renewal cycle for background checks for scholastics staff has been changed from two years to three years.
- US Chess is beginning to focus more on reaching out to populations underrepresented in our membership. Positive developments include the generous donations of the Barber family toward scholarships and a partnership with US Chess Sales to donate chess sets to Title I schools.
- An international project is under way to connect US schools with schools abroad through chess.

*When the floor was opened for audience questions the following information was shared:*

- *A project to provide a complete and free archive of Chess Life Magazine is nearing completion.*
- *Doing specific outreach to established educational organizations is a role often played by state chapters, for example one state chapter has a presence at a regional teacher association gathering that is held in their state.*

### **DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION'S REPORT**

- The communications staff has begun doing more on-site reporting of events rather than hiring of freelancers.
- Upcoming articles in Chess Life that will address aspects the US Chess mission were mentioned. The communications department has created logos for use by US Chess affiliates.
- For the first time, the US Chess Rulebook has been self-published by US Chess and is available as an e-book.

*When the floor was opened for audience questions the following information was shared:*

- *Better notification was requested for when new items were available for public consumption.*

### **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT'S REPORT**

- A Case for Support & a Planned Giving Guide have been created.
- The need to create a broad base of support and the importance of small donations by members were affirmed as fundamental to a healthy development program.
- Corporate sponsorships are being cultivated.
- For the first time US Chess is giving away grant money to programs and there is potential for expanding that practice dramatically in coming years.

#### **DIRECTOR OF EVENTS' REPORT**

- US Open staffing requirements have been assessed.
- The locations and venues for future national events were announced.
- Factors affecting the scheduling of national events were presented.
- International events in the near future were previewed.
- Reducing the coach to player ratios for international events is a goal but is limited by the expense to US Chess of bringing on extra coaches.

*When the floor was opened for audience questions the following information was shared:*

- *There is little possibility of the US hosting an Olympiad due to both the financial commitment required and the diplomatic barriers to bringing in players from other countries.*

With the conclusion of reports, three motions from closed sessions held on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning were read into the record by Secretary Mike Nietman.

**EB19-087 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to overturn the TDCC decision in full in the matter of Tang vs. Voje. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Mike Hoffpauir abstaining as he was unavailable to hear the appeal.

**EB19-088 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to overturn the TDCC decision in full in the matter of Tang vs. Jackson Wahl. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Mike Hoffpauir abstaining as he was unavailable to hear the appeal.

**EB19-089 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to overturn the TDCC decision in full in the matter of Tang vs. Ned Wahl. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Mike Hoffpauir abstaining as he was unavailable to hear the appeal.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **SAFE PLAY GUIDELINES**

- Background on the development of the Safe Play Guidelines (SPG) was provided.
- Attention was drawn to the legal distinction between cases dealt with by the Ethics Committee and situations covered by the new SPG.
- The SPG applies not only to events run directly by US Chess but also to national events that are contracted out.
- US Chess is still searching for a training program that is not cost-prohibitive and that also addresses situations specific to chess.

*When the floor was opened for audience questions the following information was shared:*

- *When dealing with the behavior of parents as spectators, refer to the Spectator Code of Conduct in the Scholastic Regulations.*

The President concluded by highlighting the increasing role of members of the board of directors in US Chess development activities. Delegates were encouraged to think of themselves as outreach for the development functions of US Chess.

The next board meeting is scheduled to be held on August 11, 2019 in Orlando, Florida.

President Priest moved to adjourn the meeting.