

**US Chess  
Minutes of Executive Board Meeting  
August 2, 2018  
Middleton, WI**

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

**The following Executive Board members were present:**

Mike Hoffpauir, President	Anjelina Belakovskaia, Member at Large
Allen Priest, Vice President	Hal Sprechman, Member at Large
Chuck Unruh, Vice President of Finance	Lakshmana “Vish” Viswanath, Member at Large
Mike Nietman, Secretary	Carol Meyer, Executive Director

**The following US Chess Delegates along with other members and guests were present:**

Myron Lieberman, AZ	Chris Kim, MD	Ken Ballou, MA
Rachel Lieberman, AZ	John Rockefeller, MD	C. M. Unruh, OK
Randy Bauer, IA	Steve Morford, CA-S	Kimberly Doo, NY
Ryan Velez, KY	Daniel Lucas, GA	Sophia Rohde, NY
Abel Talamantez, CA-N	Melinda Matthews, GA	Steve Immitt, NY
Judit Sztaray, CA-N	Kevin Pryor, FL	Sreenivas Alampalli, NY
Jennifer Vallens, CA-S	Ernest Schlich, VA	Sandeep Alampalli, NY
Dewain Barber, CA-S	Bob Messenger, NH/MA	Randy Hough, SC
Maureen Grimaud, SC	Garrett Scott, IL	Walter Brown, TN
Luis Salinas, TX	Harold Winston, IL	Shirley K. Herman, CO
Kenneth Sloan, AL	Alan Losoff, NV	Jon Haskel, FL
Charles Miller, MT	Hal Terrie, NH	
Debra Robison, TN	Alex Relyea, NH	

**OPEN SESSION I, Thursday, August 2, 2018, Middleton, WI**

President Hoffpauir welcomed everyone to the Executive Board meeting and called on Secretary Nietman to call the roll. A quorum was established. Secretary Nietman stated there were no motions to introduce from the Executive Board closed meeting earlier this morning. Mr. Hoffpauir briefly went over the agenda to be covered in open session. Topics to be discussed were as follows: Committee charters; US Women’s Open Champion Seeding into US Women’s Championship; World Senior Team Championship Support; World Senior Championship Support. There will also be a time for questions and comments from the members and Delegates present.

Beginning with committee charters, President Hoffpauir communicated the Board realized a need for all committees to have a charter defining the framework and direction from which a committee should operate. The charter will provide the following guidance:

- What the committee’s mission and objectives are
- How the committee is comprised
- Qualifications to be a member of the committee
- Budgeted resources, if needed

- How the committee should conduct its meetings

He stated the Executive Board liaisons are working with their committees to develop those charters and he will address committee charters in more detail at the delegates meeting.

President Hoffpauir called on Anjelina Belakovskaia to address the US Women's Open Championship Seeding and the US Women's Championship. Ms. Belakovskaia commented on discussions she had with top players, the Women's Chess Committee and organizers in developing a qualifying rated event and the addition of rounds for the US Women's Open Championship seeding into the US Women's Championship. Although overall feedback was positive, based on these discussions, a decision was made to postpone any action. Vice President Priest, Garrett Scott (IL) and Maureen Grimaud (SC) added to the discussion with Mr. Priest commenting that agreements with sponsors would also need to be considered in any future decisions.

Ms. Belakovskaia continued to address the World Senior Team Championship Support. She reported on the World Senior Team Championship in Germany stating there were 67 teams participating in the section of 50+. Our team was top seeded by combined rating, with five Grandmasters representing the United States. Ms. Belakovskaia commented on the recent successes of US Chess our gold medal Olympiad team and GM Caruana qualifying for the World Championship match. She expressed the desire to "be on the map" as a country of great chess players who have great potential. With that said, she stressed the need to continue to financially support our team to represent the United States for the World Senior Championships in the future and introduced the following motion. A discussion ensued among the Board with regard to funding and sponsorship of the US Chess Senior Team and future strategy and budget consideration. Mr. Hoffpauir called for a vote to be taken.

**EB18-078 – Belakovskaia** – I move to amend motion EB17-052 to read as follows: For US Chess to provide annual support for travel and hotel accommodations for the US Chess Senior Team participation in the FIDE World Senior Team Championship (ages 50+) and in the amount of up to \$3,000 per participant (up to 5 players), with the total amount not to exceed \$15,000. Players' selection criteria, invitational cut-off dates and other guidelines shall generally follow the same requirements as for Olympiad and World Team, and be added to the "US Chess Invitational Requirements" accordingly. Team Members shall actively contribute in identifying additional funding sources and help US Chess to advance the goal of growing the game, through providing free post-event article(s) about their experience with annotated games to our Publications Department and increase participation in promoting chess around the U.S. **FAILED 1-5-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia in favor and Lakshmana Viswanath abstaining.

President Hoffpauir also called on Anjelina Belakovskaia to address the World Senior Championship Support. She introduced the following motion. President Hoffpauir and Vice President Priest commented on this motion from a budget perspective. Vice President of Finance Unruh also commented he would like to see a balance between what we spend on chess excellence as compared to our mission supporting the educational benefits of chess. Mr. Hoffpauir called for a vote to be taken.

**EB18-079 – Belakovskaia** – I move to amend Motion EB16-042 by Allen Priest – to read as follows: US Chess to provide a \$1,000 travel stipend to the highest finishing US flagged players in US Senior Open in each of four categories – open age 50+, open age 65+, female age 50+ and female age 65+, as well as to the Winner of the National Senior Tournament of Champions. The travel stipend is only to be used to offset costs to participate in the succeeding World Senior Championship or Women's World Senior Championship. **FAILED 1-5-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia in favor and Lakshmana Viswanath abstaining.

President Hoffpauir invited Dan Lucas, Senior Director of Strategic Communication, to present an overview of highlights from the past year in Publications. He informed everyone that since he took on his new role as Senior Director of Strategic Communication (formerly Director of Publications), a new department called Communications was created. The new department includes two divisions: Print Publications and Digital Media. Melinda Matthews has been promoted to Publications Editor. She has the responsibility for all print publications, other than the Annual Report, in which most of her time is spent as Editor of Chess Life. Because US Chess has spent much of the time lately talking about women in chess and promoting that aspect of the game, Mr. Lucas pointed out that Ms. Matthews is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> editor in the 70+ year history of Chess Life to be a female editor. He brought attention to the following areas where he would be able to help committees and affiliates: developing, coordinating and overseeing programs; marketing communications, public relations, and positioning their activities; technical assistance and resource materials; provide counsel to affiliates and act as an internal consultant to bring attention to institutional priorities. He stated the bottom line was to keep US Chess on brand and on mission as a 501(c)(3) non-profit with an educational mission. He commented he would be working closely with the new Director of Development when that position is filled.

Mr. Hoffpauir called on Boyd Reed, Director of Events, to give a summary of the past year in the Events department. The following topics covered were as follows: reorganization of the events department; the success of Spring Nationals; future locations of SuperNationals and other national events; discussions with the U.S. Open Committee in possible format changes and space requirements for the U.S. Open; International events; and recent International titles won. He stated refining background checks and outreach and communications with parents and coaches will be further developed and implemented in the upcoming year. Mr. Reed and Vice President Priest answered questions from the audience and a discussion about future locations for events was further discussed in detail. Executive Director Carol Meyer added to the discussion and praised Mr. Reed for the tremendous job he has been doing since assuming the Director of Events role last year and for working very hard to create better geographic distribution for our events.

Mr. Hoffpauir opened the floor for general questions and comments from the audience. Questions on the following topics were addressed by the Board: the scholastic scholarship program; donations for various groups and players; funding of FIDE events; and communication and support for Grandmasters and other top players.

President Hoffpauir brought attention to the workshop and committee meetings schedule taking place during the U.S. Open and closed the meeting due to time constraints.