

Proceedings of the U.S. Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting February 22-23, 2014 - Conference Call

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 sound files online.

Session 1 Saturday, February 22, 2014

President Haring called the roll. All Executive Board members, Gary Walters, Allen Priest, Mike Nietman, Mike Atkins, Chuck Unruh, Randy Bauer and Executive Director, Jean Hoffman, were present. She then called the meeting to order.

Officer and Management Reports

Speaking from USCF headquarters in Crossville, President Haring welcomed everyone saying she looked forward to a weekend focusing on fundamentals and using the newly formulated principles and vision to help guide the Board through discussions and decisions. She commented briefly on finances; IT plans; the Olympiad; fundraising and 501(c)3 status; and a need to improve communication with our members.

Allen Priest, Vice-President of Finance, reported on the completion, distribution and posting of the financial statements; revenue trends; improvements in revenue over expenses; line of credit status and collateralization; compilation of World Youth costs; and preparations for the new budget. He then answered questions from Chuck Unruh.

The Board then went into Closed Session.

Session 2 Saturday, February 22, 2014

Board members Unruh, Bauer, Nietman, Atkins, Walters and Priest rejoined President Haring and Executive Director Hoffman on the call and the meeting resumed. Secretary Nietman presented a motion from closed session.

EB14-025- Board -The Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to settle the 2014 US Open contract between it and the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis for a payment to the USCF of \$20,000, with the understanding that the ED will attempt to bargain for an earlier payment date than the "within 90 days" period currently being offered. **Passed 7-0**

Executive Director Hoffman covered Department Reports, presenting overviews of the National Events, Publications and IT reports and answered Board member's questions. She also reported on upcoming Beta-testing of online play and the online Blitz/Quick rating system; improving USCF's social media presence; a logo redesign; including the office in the strategic planning process; and the pay-for-play pilot program.

Next on the agenda were Committee Liaison reports. Hoffman recommended a member change on behalf of the Website Advisory committee.

EB14-026 – Hoffman – I move the EB replaces Robert McLellan with Jennifer Shahade on the Website Advisory Committee. **Passed 7-0.**

Mike Atkins reported for the FIDE Events committee.

EB14-027- Atkins-With John Donaldson leaving the FIDE Events Committee, Mike Atkins moves that IA Sophia Rohde be added to the FIDE Events committee. **Passed 7-0.**

Mike Atkins reported for the Tournament Director Certification Committee presenting two motions.

EB14-028 – Atkins –I move that the TDCC Certification in #21 – Category T be changed as follows:

As present:

21. Category T

A USCF-rated team-vs.-team, or scholastic individual/team, Swiss system tournament involving at least twelve teams of four or more players. It is strongly recommended that for these types of tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or “floor,” problem solving procedures.

Change to:

21. Category T.

A USCF-rated team-vs.-team, or individual/team, Swiss system tournament involving at least fifty players. It is strongly recommended that for these types of tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or “floor,” problem solving procedures. **Passed 7-0.**

EB14-029 – Atkins- Move that the TDCC will expand its recommendations for TD – Lifetime Achievement over the next 4 years to be:

2014 and 2015 – 4 picks

2016 and 2017 – 2 picks

It will return back to one a year starting 2018.

Passed 6-1 (with Allen Priest opposed)

Atkins then introduced a motion to establish National Chess Day annually and specify the scope of the program.

EB14-030-Atkins - I move that the USCF will celebrate National Chess day each year on the Second Saturday of October, this year being Oct 11. The office will put the program below into effect each year. And be promoted in Chess Life and CL Online by a program of free TLAs for tournaments with National Chess Day in the title and free rating fees as established in a recent motion. National Chess Day 2014 will be Saturday, October 11th. In order to promote National Chess Day as a day for special activities and promotion of chess throughout the country, the following is proposed:

a. Any Rated Beginner Open that includes "National Chess Day" in its TLA title gets both a free TLA and free rating fees.

b. Any 1-day event for Oct 11 which has "National Chess Day" in its TLA title gets a free TLA

c. Any 2-3 day event held over a period which encompasses Oct 11-12, which has "National Chess Day" in its TLA title, will get a free TLA and free rating fees

d. For organizers/affiliates, In the TLA, be sure to mention National Chess Day in the title and that it actually happens on Saturday Oct 11, and then expect to receive an e-mail from the office explaining how to get the free rating fee.

e. Organizers are encouraged to submit articles and photographs for publication for Chess Life Magazine and Chess Life Online. Affiliates are encouraged to plan a tournament or an event of any kind in order to promote chess on National Chess Day. The USCF will send out at least one e-mail blast to all TDs and Affiliates before April 1 to enable organizers to have multiple weeks to plan events before the June 10 TLA deadline for getting Chess Life TLA's in August and September.

Passed 7-0.

The meeting went into closed session at 3:15pm for the remainder of the day.

Session 3 Sunday, February 23, 2014

Secretary Nietman presented the motions from Saturday's closed session.

EB14-031-Board - The Executive Board upholds the decision of the Ethics Committee in the Xue (Li) vs Harper case. **Passed 7-0.**

EB14-032- Board - The Executive Board upholds the decision of the Ethics Committee in the Gray vs. Censore and Ozbek case. **Passed 7-0.**

EB14-033-Board -The Executive Board upholds the decision of the TDCC in the Constance vs. Tulman and Coleman case. **Passed 7-0.**

EB14-034 Atkins - I move that the bonus threshold in the Rating System be increased to B=10 from the current level of B=8. This is being proposed by the Ratings Committee to help ratings get back to the point they were in 1997 before serious ratings deflation began. **Passed 7-0.**

EB 14- 035- Haring- I move that the EB accept the recommendation of the Top Players Committee to remove Peak Rating Bonuses, Medal Bonuses, and Junior Bonuses from Invitational rules. New invitational rules effective 1 Jan 2015. **Passed 7-0.**

While waiting for wording on a motion from Atkins, President Haring announced that the next meeting will be held May 17-18, 2014 in Saint Louis. A finance workshop will be held on Friday, May 16.

EB14-036 - Atkins – I move that the USCF Rating System will be computed using floating point values as recommended by the Ratings Committee. Ratings will be stored internally with floating point accuracy to at least two digits after the decimal place but published to the nearest whole number. Members will be able to click on a button on their MSA page in order to see the actual rating rounded to the hundredths place. The system is to be implemented as soon as the office can implement it. **Passed 7-0.**

The meeting was adjourned.