

Proceedings of the U.S. Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting May 17-18, 2014 Saint Louis, MO

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.

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Open Session 1

President Ruth Haring called roll. Executive Board members Mike Atkins, Randy Bauer, Gary Walters, Chuck Unruh, Mike Nietman, and Allen Priest were present. Executive Director, Jean Hoffman, introduced Debra Robison, USCF Chief Accountant, as a guest. A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order.

Officer and Management Reports

President's Report

Ruth Haring began her report by saying the USCF culture is improving. She thanked the Board members for volunteering their time and service and said she is looking forward to continued work on the key issues of 501(c)(3) transition and clarifying the federation's mission and purpose. Translating them into improved customer service and responsiveness is a task ED Hoffman has begun.

Executive Director's Report

Jean Hoffman thanked everyone for their time spent on the 501(c)(3) process, especially Allen Priest. She encouraged each to get familiar with and to start sharing their personal story of "How chess has changed your life" because it is critical to the success of the organization and is a powerful fundraising tool. Hoffman reported that both Board and Office committees had helped her check the charitable solicitation laws; gain USPS approval for use of non-profit standard mail prices; update the USCF's Guidestar profile; identify events to target for fundraising efforts; create an image library for fundraising; and draft a general fundraising brochure with plans for future versions specific to events and causes.

Hoffman commented on the National Events Director report which covered the three spring nationals and the issues which arose with players from alternate ratings system. After a lengthy discussion, the Board concluded that a more complete policy and implementation system was needed. Hoffman recommended additional input from the Scholastic Council, Ratings committee and other stakeholders in the policymaking process. It was agreed that incentivized compliance was important. Regarding the Publications Director's report, Hoffman announced that Chess Life and Chess Life for Kids now have mobile editions through a free online viewer link from Quad Graphics. She went on to report that preliminary results are in for the customer service survey; the membership pilot program has three state chapter participants; and drafts are being prepared for Life Member mailings.

At 10am the Board took a short break.

Open Session 2, May 17

President Haring continued the meeting requesting the Finance report.

Vice-President of Finance Report

Allen Priest reported progress on the preliminary budget; changes in accounting programs and administrative requirements; and having sent the last quarterly report to the Finance Committee for review. He said the numbers through April were very good and the year should end \$200,000-250,000 revenue over expenses. Because the 2015 Olympiad and the World Team will fall in the same fiscal year, Priest anticipates possible budgeting and cash flow problems. He credited a stronger national economy and political stability within the USCF for increases in the number of rated games; ratings fees revenues; memberships- notably the Young Adult category; and Chess Life subscriptions. He touched on changes resulting from the new 501(c)(3) status regarding tax information, charitable contributions, and the Chess Trust; and in the line of credit agreement. He summarized by saying "We're in a lot better shape than we were last year."

Committee Liaison Reports

Mike Atkins introduced a motion from the Senior Committee.

EB14-041 (Mike Atkins) Move to add William (Bill) L. Pursel to the Senior Committee. **Passed 7-0**

Mike Nietman brought a motion from the College Chess Committee.

EB14-042 (Mike Nietman) Move to add Constantine Anadiadis of Oberlin College to the College Chess Committee. **Passed 7-0**

Scholastic Council business was presented by Mike Nietman. Expanding the roll of coaches for international youth events; an update of the national invitational web page; unsettled fee issues; and a current proposal from the Scholastic Council regarding the World Youth coaching assignment process were discussed. Executive Director Hoffman urged the Board to act regarding the proposal. She will follow-up with the Scholastic Council and present a motion for Board consideration on Sunday.

The topic of the Three Month Membership was then introduced by Chuck Unruh. Board discussion touched on allowing the promotional 3-month membership to expire; replacing the 3-month membership with a 2-month version; survey results; pricing and cost to service a membership; experimental program possibilities; impact on scholastic events; differences between short term scholastic market and short term adult membership markets; financial ramifications; and block membership program.

President Haring then called for a break.

Open Session 3, May 17

The meeting resumed and discussion of the 3-month membership continued. Chuck Unruh asked for the expansion of the block program.

EB14-043 (Chuck Unruh) Move to create a two month membership priced at \$20 to include one printed copy of the current Chess Life magazine. The membership is a promotional membership to be implemented as soon as possible. **Passed 4-3 with Gary Walters, Mike Atkins and Mike Nietman opposed**

Gary Walters expressed concern over the passage of EB14-043. Additional comments were made by Walters, Priest, Nietman and Unruh.

Public Comments and Questions

Boyd Reed was present and posed several questions regarding promotional memberships. Walters, Unruh Bauer and Priest partnered in the response.

After a brief discussion regarding the implementation date for the new 2-month membership, Executive Director Hoffman agreed to prepare an implementation plan for the Board.

The board then took a break and resumed in Closed Session.

Open Session 4, May 17

President Haring called the meeting to order. Secretary Nietman brought two motions created in closed session to the floor for a vote.

EB14-044 (Randy Bauer) Move to create a Woman Chessplayer of the Year award. **Passed 7-0**

EB 14-045 (Board) The Executive Board names the following 2014 award winners:

- a. Distinguished Service Award – Jim Berry (OK)
- b. Outstanding Career Achievement Award – Gary Kitts (MI) and Harvey Lerman (FL)
- c. Special Services Award – Alan Kaufman (MI)
- d. Meritorious Services Award – Justin Morrison (GA), Daniel Fuller (MS), Dr. Rose Marie Stutts (AL)
- e. Committee of the Year - Senior
- f. Chess City of the Year – Brownsville, TX
- g. Koltanowski Award -Gold – Bill Goichberg and the Continental Chess Association
- h. Scholastic Service Award- Individual – Mitchell Denker (Posthumously) (NC)
- i. Organizer of the Year – The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis
- j. Frank J. Marshall Award – IM Greg Shahade (PA)
- k. Grandmaster of the Year – GM Alex Onischuk (TX)
- l. Honorary Chess Mate – Joan Priest (KY)
- m. Chess Club of the Year - Central Florida Chess Club
- n. College of the Year – Texas Tech University
- o. Tournament Director of the Year – Bob Messenger (MA)
- p. Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement Award – Denis Barry (Posthumously) (AZ), E. Steven Doyle (NJ), Thad Rogers (GA), Stephen Dillard (KY)
- q. Special Friend of the USCF Award – Harris Rosen (FL)
- r. Outstanding Player Achievement Award – Awonder Liang (WI)

- s. Outstanding Team Performance Award – Julia R. Masterman Laboratory and Demonstration School (PA)
- t. Woman Chessplayer of the Year Award – Tatev Abrahamyan (CA)

Passed 6-0-1 with Allen Priest abstaining

Haring recessed the meeting until a closed session beginning at 9am on Sunday, May 18.

Open Session 1, May 18

President Haring called the meeting to order stating the first order of business was to vote on motions from closed session.

EB 14-046 (Gary Walters) Move that William Mills, Jr. (TX) and Mike Eberhardinger (NC) replace Brennan Price and Jared Collins on the Website Advisory Committee. The Executive Board thanks Brennan and Jared for their service on this committee. **Passed 7-0**

EB 14-047 (Allen Priest and Mike Nietman) Move to accept Sunil Weeramantry's resignation from the Scholastic Council. The Executive Board thanks Sunil for his service on the Scholastic Council. **Passed 7-0**

Priest asked for clarification on the short term membership issue, stating a mechanism is still needed which would allow a TD to fix membership problems delaying the rating of an event. After a brief discussion, Executive Director Hoffman agreed to research the subject and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

Hoffman announced that the next Executive Board meeting will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL on July 31, 2014.

President Haring adjourned the meeting.

Action Item - Jean Hoffman: Prepare and present to the Board an implementation plan for new 2-month membership.

Action Item – Jean Hoffman: Research and make a recommendation for a mechanism TDs can use to fix membership problems delaying the rating of an event.