

**US Chess
Minutes of Executive Board Meeting
June 3 - 4, 2017
Tulsa, OK**

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:

Gary Walters
Chuck Unruh
Allen Priest
Anjelina Belakovskaia
Mike Hoffpaur
Mike Nietman
Jean Hoffman

The following guests were present:

Boyd Reed, Assistant Director of Events

OPEN SESSION #1, Saturday, June 3, 2017, Tulsa, OK

President Gary Walters welcomed everyone to Tulsa and called the meeting to order. All Board members were present. A quorum was established.

President Walters remarked on the multiple reports he received on the success of the Supernationals and conveyed he thought it was an absolutely brilliant tournament. He opened the floor for anyone that was at the Supernationals to comment on their experience and observations of the event. All comments were generally positive and suggestions were made for future Supernationals. The Executive Director, Jean Hoffman, expressed appreciation for all the hard work and organization done by the Director of Events, Franc Guadalupe, and Assistant Director of Events, Boyd Reed and the long hours put in by all, including the Tournament Directors and Chess Control as they provided quality customer service. She commented on the survey sent out after the event which received great feed-back and stated she will be sharing the results with the Executive Board later in the meeting.

OFFICER AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

President's Report

President Walters thanked Jean Hoffman and the Events staff for the great job they did on the Supernationals and remarked how the federation has "mastered" the putting on of the world's largest chess competitions. He furthered commented on the Supernationals describing it as "a spectacle to behold" and stated this was good for the federation and for the game of chess. Initial reports are showing this was an economic success as well as a chess success.

He announced the Executive Board was in the middle of an Executive Director search and they have received over one hundred (100) applications for this position. He also commented on the changes coming to the Board that will result from this year's Executive Board elections.

Gary Walters spoke about his trip to Saint Louis, Missouri for the US Championship. He stated it was a great tournament and remarked on the tremendous amount of youth, particularly on the women's side, and the amazing talent that was there.

President Walters talked about how US Chess continues to grow in terms excellence. He reminded everyone that US Chess is here to provide an infrastructure and to "cast an umbrella" over chess in this country – not to compete with other chess vendors and providers but to help grow the game of chess for the good of all. He stated that it is a good time for US Chess.

President Walters called on Vice-President of Finance, Allen Priest, to give his report.

Vice-President of Finance's Report

Vice-President of Finance, Allen Priest, reported on the following items: end of the fiscal year; 2017-2018 Budget approval and future budget revision; the engagement of the auditing firm; the Audit Committee report; professional/legal fees; payroll; 401K program; the reserve fund; magazine and mailing costs; membership and deferred revenue; event expenses and revenue; TLA income; Rating fees; World Team and travel allowances; hotel and vending contracts; and World Youth and World Cadet FIDE fees. He commented that membership revenue continues to be strong across the board with the largest growing area in youth and young adults. He stated we will finish the year much better than what we had budgeted. He also communicated the need to implement new changes for our financial statements regarding the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for non-profit organizations in the near future. A discussion ensued among the Board regarding LMA Trust, the reserve fund, and stock contributions.

Allen Priest introduced the following motions:

EB17-049 – Priest – We move \$250,000 into the reserve fund. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-050 – Priest – The Executive Board authorize the office to move all but \$250,000 of the Reserve Fund at Regions Bank to a newly established bank sweep account at Ameritrade/Scottrade with the same group of signatories as exist on the other US Chess bank accounts. **PASSED 6-0**

President Walters called for a brief recess.

OPEN SESSION #2, Saturday, June 3, 2017, Tulsa, OK

President Walters opened the meeting resuming with Office and Management Reports. He called on Jean Hoffman to give the Executive Director's report.

Executive Director's Report

Jean Hoffman reported on the following items: the Development Committee's focus group at the Supernationals and their drafting of a fund development plan in their next meeting; proposals for the website redesign and the Website Advisory Committee's reviewing process; the Director of Events report from Franc Guadalupe; the Director of Publications report from Dan Lucas; ballot deadline; events and Grandmaster exhibitions; and the changes in the Election Committee's review process with Publications. She brought attention to the action items and status updates from the last EB meeting in January 2017 with one action item recommending the Executive Board review the proposed revised changes to the invitational requirements during this meeting.

President Walters commented on how valuable and important the involvement of our Delegates and committees are to US Chess.

She called on Boyd Reed for any additional comments to the Director of Events' report. He noted the change in the U.S. Open Chief Tournament Director to be Christopher Merli this year. Further discussion of the Director of Events report will be in closed session. Jean Hoffman ended her report.

Gary Walters continued the meeting requesting Committee Liaison Reports. He called on Chuck Unruh as Executive Board liaison for Special Needs and Circumstances Committee to give his report.

Special Needs and Circumstances Committee (SNCC) Report

Chuck Unruh presented the proposals given to him by Janelle Losoff, Chair of SNCC, who asked for guidance from the Executive Board. An extensive discussion among the Board followed. The Board agreed they needed more understanding and clarification on the language of the said proposals and suggested a presentation by the SNCC to be done at a future Executive Board meeting or possibly at the SNCC workshop at the U.S. Open this year. After this discussion, it was suggested to change the name of the committee from Special Needs and Circumstances to Accessibility and Special Circumstances.

Chuck Unruh introduced the following motion:

EB17-051 – Unruh – Change the name of the “Special Needs and Circumstances Committee” to the “Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee”. **PASSED 6-0**

Gary Walters called on Anjelina Belakovskaia as Executive Board liaison to the Top Players Committee to report next.

Top Players Committee Report

Anjelina Belakovskaia reported on the following items: her discussion with the Top Players Committee regarding the World Senior Team Championship; the change in the Top Players Committee chair; and the Women's Chess Camp. The Board along with Boyd Reed discussed at length the requirements and how a team would be selected for the World Senior Team Championship, financial support for both the World Senior Team Championship and the Women's Chess Camp, contributions, and donation “buckets”. Allen Priest and Chuck Unruh expressed their concerns about the financial support. Gary Walters conveyed the need for a comprehensive plan for our international participation.

Anjelina Belakovskaia introduced the following three (3) motions:

EB17-052 – Belakovskaia – For US Chess to provide support for travel and hotel accommodations for the US Chess Senior Team participation in the FIDE World Senior Team Championship (ages 50+) in 2018 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. **PASSED 4-2** with Allen Priest and Chuck Unruh opposed.

EB17-053 – Belakovskaia – Accept Camilla Baginskaite's resignation as Chair of the Top Players Committee and name Robert Hess and Tatev Abrahamyan as new Co-Chairs. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-054 – Belakovskaia – Create separate ALL Female and ALL Male Coaches, TD, WGM/WIM, GM/IM lists and display them on the uschess.org website in order to increase public awareness of US Chess Top Female players availability to coach, TD, give lectures, simuls and other possible

participation in promotional chess activities and make it easier for the public to contact those players directly. **FAILED 1-5** with Anjelina Belakovskaia in favor.

President Walters called for discussion regarding Scholastic Council and the FIDE U16 Olympiad. Mike Nietman reported he had not received confirmation or anything in writing from the Scholastic Council.

Gary Walters moved to break for lunch.

OPEN SESSION #3, Saturday, June 3, 2017, Tulsa, OK

President Walters opened the session to discuss new business.

New Business

Gary Walters called for the review of the Scholastic Team Formation Criteria. Mike Hoffpauir lead the discussion concerning Home School Teams and Scholastic rules. Allen Priest, Gary Walters and Boyd Reed commented. The Board members also discussed the possible formation of a committee for FIDE events participation.

President Walters moved on to the next three motions read by the Executive Board Secretary Mike Nietman. EB17-056 and EB17-057 were passed by objections with no objections.

EB17-055 – Hoffman – I move that the Executive Board authorize Jean Hoffman, Executive Director of the US Chess Federation, 137 O'Brien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555, to execute whatever documents are required by our depository banks to add Kathleen Collins and remove Cheryle Bruce as a signer of checks. Bank accounts are at the Putnam County Bank and Regions Bank in Crossville, TN. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-056 – Hoffpauir – I move that FM Jon Jacobs be added to the Anti-Cheating Committee. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-057 – Unruh – I move that Michael Aigner, William Barela, Steve Immitt, Michael Lenox, Beatriz Marinello, Steven N. Morford, Mark Anthony Reyes, Sophia Rohde, Phillip Junius Simpkins, Martha Underwood become additional members of the Special Needs & Circumstances Committee in 5 days with no objection. **PASSED 6-0**

Gary Walters called for a brief recess.

OPEN SESSION #4, Saturday, June 3, 2017, Tulsa, OK

President Walters opened the session returning to item # a., ii., 1. on the agenda, the 2017-2018 Budget Approval. He called on Allen Priest to comment. Allen Priest stated we were pretty much on budget and the 2017-2018 Budget Approval will be presented to the Delegates for their review.

Allen Priest introduced the following motion and a vote was taken:

EB17-058 – Priest – Accept the 2017-2018 budget as presented. The budget must be presented to the Delegates for approval. **PASSED 6-0**

The meeting was adjourned by President Walters.

OPEN SESSION #1, Sunday, June 4, 2017, Tulsa, OK

Gary Walters opened the session stating they concluded the closed session for the June 3-4 Executive Board meeting and called on Secretary Nietman to read the motions originating from the closed session.

Mike Nietman introduced the following four (4) motions that were conducted in closed session which were voted on during this open session:

EB17-059 – Board – In the Ethics appeal of Steiner v. Camarda and Armenta, the US Chess Executive Board affirms the Ethics Committee recommendations of reprimands for Armenta and Camarda, with the proviso that upon a report from the Kansas Chess Association to US Chess of the abolishment of the Kansas Scholastic Chess Association rule that forbids Kansas students from attending any other event if there is a KSCA sanctioned event within 100 miles, the reprimands will be expunged from Camarda's and Armenta's records. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-060 – Board – The Executive Board approves the 2017-2018 event T-shirt bid from Northwest Designs. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-061 – Board – The Executive Board approves the 2017-2018 event bookstore bid from Wood Expression Inc. **PASSED 5-1** with Allen Priest opposed.

EB17-062 – Board – The Executive Board names the following 2017 award winners: **PASSED 6-0**

- a. Distinguished Service Award – Ruth Haring (N-CA), Mike Atkins (MD)
- b. Outstanding Career Achievement Award – Murrel Rhodes (IL), GM Larry Kaufman (MD), John Roush (WV), R. Mark Johnson (VA), FM Macon Shibut (VA), Ernest W. Schlich (VA)
- c. Special Services Award – Maureen Grimaud (SC), Tom Dart (IL)
- d. Meritorious Services Award – Jean Treadle (LA), Andy Rea (VA), Anand Dommalapati (VA), Ed Westing (WA), Ralph Mikell (DC)
- e. Committee of the Year – Ethics Committee
- f. Chess City of the Year – Franklin County, MS
- g. Koltanowski Awards
 - a. Gold – US Chess Trust
 - b. Silver – Two Sigma
- h. Scholastic Service Award
 - a. Individual – David MacEnulty (NY)
- i. Organizer of the Year – Judit Sztaray (N-CA)
- j. Frank J. Marshall Award – IM Walter Shipman (N-CA and NY) posthumously and IM Danny Kopec (NY) posthumously
- k. Grandmaster of the Year – GM Wesley So (MN)
- l. Honorary Chess Mate – Helen and Allen Hinshaw (VA)
- m. Chess Club of the Year – Hampton Roads Scholastic Chess Club (VA)
- n. Chess College of the Year – St. Louis University (MO)
- o. Tournament Director of the Year – NTD Korey J. Kormick (TN)
- p. Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement Award - NTD George M. Mirijanian (MA) and NTD Ernest W. Schlich (VA)
- q. Outstanding Player Achievement Award – IM Jay Bonin (NY)
- r. Outstanding Team Performance Award – 2016 gold medal winning US Olympiad team
- s. Woman Chessplayer of the Year Award – Nazi Paikidze (NV)
- t. Special Friend of US Chess – Sen. John Davison “Jay” Rockefeller IV

Gary Walters announced the next Executive Board meeting will be Thursday morning, August 3rd, 2017, in Norfolk, VA.

President Walters adjourned the meeting.