

Proceedings of the U.S. Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting July 31, 2014 – Orlando, FL

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.

Open Session 1 – Thursday, July 31, 2014

At 9am Mike Nietman, USCF Secretary, announced the meeting. President Ruth Haring brought the meeting to order and called roll. Board members, Gary Walters, Mike Nietman, Allen Priest, Chuck Unruh, and Randy Bauer, were present which created a quorum. Executive Director, Jean Hoffman was also in attendance. Board member Mike Atkins was a couple minutes late and then joined the meeting.

Officer and Management Reports

President Haring welcomed everyone to the meeting. She announced that USCF had a very good year last year with a lot of positive financial news. Saying she had a multi-media presentation about membership prepared for the Delegates' meeting and didn't want to be repetitive, Haring asked VP of Finance, Allen Priest, to give his report.

Priest compared May 2014 to May 2013 citing changes to the office staff, revised deferred revenue accounting procedures, a very conservative budget and increased membership, as factors contributing to a phenomenal year. In response to a question about an area of greatest risk, Priest named tournament attendance, continued membership growth and FIDE events.

President Haring introduced Executive Director, Jean Hoffman.

Hoffman thanked everyone for the warm welcome she received coming into the organization. She reserved her reports on the strategic planning process and the membership survey results for the Delegates' Meeting. Hoffman then introduced the Interim Director of Events, Franc Guadalupe.

Guadalupe reported that overall USCF national events did very well in 2013. He said that the positive publicity about national events and the creation of local heroes through national championships is good for all chess. Guadalupe listed the dates and locations of future national events and sites under consideration. He also commented on the U.S. teams at the 2014 Chess Olympiad just starting in Tromso, Norway and the 2014 World Youth Chess Championships in Durban, South Africa. When asked about the possibility of bringing the Olympiad or World Youth to the U.S., Guadalupe said it is very expensive but has been discussed.

Jean Hoffman called on the Director of Publications, Dan Lucas, to give his report. Lucas began by listing the many publications his department produces. He commented on the retirement of Pal Benko and Daniel Naroditsky's new column; long form journalism and the struggle to remain relevant; goals for Chess Life, Chess Life for Kids and Chess Life Online which will promote the new USCF mission statement; USCF's social media presence; the new enhanced online viewer made available through our printer; and a fundraising project for the USCF he has undertaken.

Executive Director Hoffman continued her report by stating that all new equipment purchased by the IT Department in the last fiscal year had been installed and was being tested; Floating Point changes

will be in effect between October 15 and November 15, 2014; and testing for online play with ICC is complete and play should be available in two weeks, thus completing two action items. Responding to a question from the floor about donations and the Chess Trust, Hoffman said the USCF and U.S. Chess Trust are both committed to promoting chess and to working together. Harold Winston, Chairman of the U.S. Chess Trust, voiced his agreement. After comments from Allen Priest, Hoffman explained the work of the In-house and Board 501(c)(3) Transition Committees. Answering a question regarding the top three areas needing work, Hoffman named communications; staying focused on the mission; and having understandable, easily communicated policies. She has also been working with the Website Advisory Committee creating a new 501(c)(3) website which is part of the website redesign plan.

Agenda item 3a, Ratings Committee Conversion, was postponed.
Item 3b, FIDE GA, was moved to closed session.

Jean Hoffman presented the report required by DACI's 6 and 16, saying DM13-21, international addresses, was still being worked on and all others were in compliance. She then answered questions from the audience.

The next agenda item, Volunteer Retention and Recruitment, was delayed.

Questions from the audience were procedural.

President Haring thanked everyone for attending. The meeting went into closed session.

Open Session 2 – Thursday July 31, 2014

Secretary Nietman announced the meeting. President Haring said all Board members were present and introduced a motion from closed session.

EB 14-055 (Randy Bauer) Move to accept the 2014-2015 budget as presented. **PASSED 7-0**

Rating conversions generated an in-depth discussion. Hoffman's suggestion of forming a committee of stakeholders to collaborate and make recommendations to USCF on how to implement DM12-27 also drew many opinions.

EB 14-056 (Jean Hoffman) Move that the USCF office create a committee with representatives from, including but not limited to, the Scholastic Committee, Ratings Committee and TDCC to make recommendations on the creation of policy and implementation of DM 12-27. **PASSED 7-0**

President Haring adjourned the meeting.