

**Minutes of Executive Board Meeting
US Chess
November 12-13, 2016
New York City, NY**

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
Mike Hoffpauir
Anjelina Belakovskaia
Jean Hoffman
Allen Priest
Mike Nietman
Chuck Unruh via telephone

The following guests were present:

Dan Lucas
Boyd Reed

OPEN SESSION #1, Saturday, November 12, 2016

President Walters called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. All Board members were present with Chuck Unruh participating via telephone establishing a quorum.

Gary Walters announced the resignation of Randy Bauer as Executive Board Vice President effective yesterday. He presented the Board with a resolution.

EB17-015 – Board – US Chess hereby thanks Randy Bauer for his long and honorable service to the United States Chess Federation. Randy has been central to the present good state of our Federation finances and has taken the leading role for several years in our developing the Federation’s strategic vision, as well as the transition to a charitable institution. We will miss Randy and wish him all the best. Resolved. US Chess Executive Board. November 12, 2016. **PASSED 6-0**

OFFICER AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

President’s Report

Gary Walters reported on the new Development Committee; the incredible talent and great volunteer power that is available to US Chess; the future of annual campaigns and forming committees to help us achieve our goals and strategic visions; the hopes that within the course of the next five years US Chess will be a major philanthropic organization; and celebrating gold of the Olympiad.

Vice President of Finance Report

Allen Priest reported on this year's financial statements; the challenge of cash flow related to World Youth and the Olympiad; payout of the technology financing lease of previous years to present; Rating fees, TLA and Chess Life revenue; payroll tracking; ISP's reliability to respond to issues; financial results of US Open; projected cash flow of SuperNationals; payroll tracking and budget position. He commented on the effects of membership renewal patterns, how location of events impact US Chess financially, and future changes in IT operations and staff.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Hoffman reported on the featured national news stories about chess in the United States; General Membership Services surveys; the new Development Committee; Life Memberships and mailouts; and presented the 2016 Advanced Delegates Motions referred to the Executive Board and office for study. She called for brief reports from the Events department and Publications.

Director of Events Report

Boyd Reed, Assistant Director of Events, reported on the December 2016 National K-12's advance entries; the May 2017 SuperNational's team rooms, TD and leadership teams, staff contracts; streamlining of Awards ceremony; the need for documentation of procedures and cross-training for Chess Control management and Back Room Chief; travel arrangements, costs and tracking; DocuSign and contracts; and International Events.

Director of Publications Report

Director of Publications, Dan Lucas, reported on Chess Life and the "shifting" of issues with coverage on the recent successes of the World Junior Championship, World Championship and Olympiad gold; the 2017 Annual Buying Guide; editorial retreat sponsored by Highlights magazine and his opportunities to network with possible cross-promotionals; K-12 and SuperNational programs; final event logo; advertising and mailing cost; the goal to reconfigure advertising programs by spring of 2017 and include an updated booklet with information and rates; staff operating concerns as advertising increases; and the success working with the office on Life Membership mailouts.

Executive Director Hoffman commented on the General Membership Services surveys stating that results indicated one of the top four primary benefits of membership was our publications.

President Walters proposed to the Board that as they vote on the following DMs presented by Jean Hoffman, they should assign an Executive Board member to each motion for the purpose of addressing that motion at the annual meeting.

Executive Director Jean Hoffman presented the first DM. A vote was taken and President Walters asked EB member Mike Hoffpaur to address the Quick Rating System motion at the annual meeting.

DM16-18/ADM 16-14 (DM 15-51/ADM 15-56) (Steve Immitt, NY) Resolved: For the calendar year 2017, USCF membership requirements shall be waived for sections of tournaments with time controls totaling 11 to 29 minutes (quick rated), if the tournaments are submitted online within seven days of the tournament's ending date. All players in these sections must have valid USCF ID numbers in order for the sections to be rated and the tournament must have a Chief Tournament Director certified at the appropriate level of certification according to the number of players in the tournament.

Rationale: Players rated under non-USCF rating systems, particularly in state and national scholastic tournaments, often make running such tournaments problematic. This would provide an incentive for players to achieve USCF Quick or Blitz ratings, especially if minimum rating requirements are desired for the national scholastics. The USCF Quick/Blitz ratings can be used to assign estimated ratings more accurately than some non-USCF ratings to players without regular ratings, for the purposes of pairing and prizes.

This also opens the door for some states and school districts which do not permit students to compete in activities which impose additional membership requirements in order to participate. Some of these players are likely to transition to playing in regular-rated, membership-required tournaments, especially if USCF promotes these events through emails and its website.

The Quick Rating System has historically been underutilized and this would help to promote Quick-rated events.

Removing membership requirements for a specific segment of USCF's services would help to underscore USCF's commitment to its mission as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD in 2015

REREFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 2016

EB17-016 – Board – The Executive Board has reviewed DM16-18 and while sympathetic to the spirit of the motion we do not find its implementation viable. The Executive Board voted on the motion as written and the motion was rejected by a vote of **0-5-1 with Anjelina Belakovskaia abstaining**.

Jean Hoffman presented the next DM. Chuck Unruh addressed the concerns and needs of a new Tournament of Senior State Champions including a state qualifying event and coordinator, funding for TDs and trophies, and location, date, and space. The Board members discussed how they could help “kick-start” the new tournament. Boyd Reed commented on his discussion with Bill Daly, Senior Committee Chair, about this tournament being held concurrently with the Invitational Scholastics at the US Open which would lessen the impact on staff and space. Chuck Unruh will contact the Senior Committee chair for further discussion. Gary Walters remarked that the US Open Committee will need to be contacted. The vote was deferred. Mike Hoffpauir and Chuck Unruh to report on the Tournament of Senior State Champions at the next EB meeting.

DM 16-67/NDM 16-11(NM2-F102 David Grimaud SC; as amended)

PROPOSAL FOR TOURNAMENT OF SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONS: A new "Tournament of Senior State Champions" shall be added as an additional event for future U.S. Opens beginning in 2017. This tournament shall consist of one senior U.S. Chess member (50 years of age or older) designated by each state affiliate as its champion. This motion is to be referred to the Executive Board for further study with power to implement.

RATIONALE: This tournament has several benefits: 1) It enhances participation of senior chess at the state level, and thus aids US Chess as a whole. 2) It brings the senior state champions throughout the US together into one competition. 3) It honors an important segment of our membership. 4) It likely increases the number of hotel room-nights at the US Open. 5) Finally, costs and efforts will be marginal to US Chess as this ground has already been effectively plowed by the Denker/Barber/National Girls tournaments.

REFERRED TO THE US OPEN COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Walters noted that EB Liaisons will need to be appointed to committees that were assigned to Randy Bauer at tomorrow's EB meeting.

The next DM was presented by Jean Hoffman.

DM 16-74/NDM 16-17 (NM10 David Day UT) The recently completed pilot program which allows a player to play in his or her first US Chess rated tournament without purchasing a US Chess membership shall be permanently extended with the following limitations:

This exemption shall not apply to a national event or tournaments of 6 or more rounds.

This exemption shall only apply to persons age 18 or older.

Further, this program will be open to all affiliates without the need of applying or registering with the office.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICE FOR STUDY

Jean Hoffman reported on the pilot program with comments from the Board. Gary Walters suggested the program be extended for another year rather than permanently. The vote was deferred until the next Executive Board meeting. Executive Director Hoffman to give another status update at that time.

President Walters called for a brief recess.

OPEN SESSION #2, Saturday, November 12, 2016

The meeting resumed with Jean Hoffman continuing her report. Future locations for the SuperNationals and other large national events were discussed including travel, hotel and space issues. Jean Hoffman and the Events department will update the Board as they continue their search for locations and facilities.

DM 16-62/ADM 16-60 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY; Bill Goichberg, NY) The Delegates request that alternative locations be selected after our contractual obligations with the Gaylord Opryland have been exhausted.

Rationale: While the Gaylord Opryland is one of a select number of places capable of hosting our annual large scholastics, it is certainly not the only one. The costs involved to go there can be very prohibitive—it can cost a family of four over \$2,000 depending on the airfare, for example. The airlines have apparently become attuned to a particular spike in a demand which is more noticeable in a smaller market the size of Nashville (as opposed to a market with a larger airport), and they respond with corresponding price increases. The lines are also very long for most of the food concessions, and the prices are very expensive. Even the sales tax in Nashville is over 9%!

While Gaylord Opryland may be one of the very few locations capable of hosting the SuperNationals, the sponsors believe that there are other suitable sites available for the National Scholastics in the other three years in between the SuperNationals.

Although the USCF was fortunate to enjoy a large turnout this year, that doesn't mean that other locations with more inexpensive access by plane would necessarily have drawn worse. Indeed, the high costs associated with Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, and the decreasing enthusiasm for re-experiencing the same details, might have resulted in an even larger turnout in an environment more cost-friendly, particularly to larger groups and families.

The sponsors understand that the USCF must honor its contractual obligations through 2021. What is less understandable is what appears to be the practice of extending this arrangement even further. If the rationale for continuing to schedule annual scholastics at Gaylord Opryland is because otherwise the room rates at future SuperNationals every four years would be even higher than they are currently, the Delegates feel that this is a sufficient reason to reduce the frequency of SuperNationals at Opryland in the future or even to stop holding them there completely.

The interests of the members and parents who continue to pay these costs would be better served by locations where the costs and air transportation limitations are less prohibitive. The interests of the members and parents who live near other large metropolitan areas with access to good air transportation are also better served with having the National Elementary Championship made more accessible to them

as well.

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE FOR STUDY

Jean Hoffman presented the next DM. She stated that our ratings system's use of the brand name "US Chess" is office policy and not "USCF". The office will continue to be consistent internally with marketing materials and the website with the use of "US Chess". She commented that they will not edit organizers and their TLAs for using "USCF" to promote their events or make it policy for them at this time. Remarks were made by Allen Priest, Gary Walters and Anjelina Belakovskaia.

DM 16-64/ADM 16-62 (Steve Immitt, NY; Bill Goichberg, NY) Resolved: The official name of our rating system shall be the "USCF Rating System." This designation shall also apply to the "USCF Quick Rating System" and the "USCF Blitz Rating System" as well. In all USCF publications, TLAs, advertisements, and articles which are submitted including "USCF" in reference to ratings, "USCF" shall not be changed to "US Chess" or any other name.

Rationale: 1) "USCF rating" is a brand name that is a major asset to the USCF, well known to hundreds of thousands of USCF members and former members, and chess players around the world. It has achieved a well-deserved clout and is widely accepted as representing a credible rating system. Abandoning this brand in favor of originating a new brand that at best will take many years to achieve comparable status would be a mistake.

2) Like many systems of chess and other games, it is significant that "USCF" when applied to ratings is a convenient abbreviation. That is why virtually all other chess rating systems are commonly indicated by 3 or 4 letters, such as CFC, FQE, FIDE, ECF, DWZ, NCFP, CCLA, ICCF, etc. Other games or sports no doubt consider abbreviations such as the following to be of great value: ACBL, MLB, NFL, NBA, NHL.

3) The use of "US Chess" supposedly will promote sponsorship because potential sponsors don't know what "USCF" stands for. Even if this is true, USCF can use "US Chess" on such things as letterheads, news releases, and the Junior Grand Prix; it is unlikely that a potential sponsor would be turned off by seeing "USCF" in a TLA or tournament ad (if they are reading these, they already know that the subject is chess).

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE WITH POWER TO IMPLEMENT

Executive Director Hoffman presented the following DM. Tournament Director seminars and expanding instructional opportunities for new TDs to participate in international events were discussed by Board members.

DM 16-63/ADM 16-61 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY) The Delegates are in favor of the idea of instructional Tournament Directing seminars, especially for those interested in directing National Scholastics.

Rationale: Much of the knowledge needed to be a successful TD at the Nationals is very specialized and uniquely acquired through practical experience. It is not something one can assimilate in a general orientation session the night before a major event with over 1,000 children. Hands-on personal experience is essential and also of great practical and lasting value.

The sponsors believe that US Chess members will benefit by having a more experienced and confident cadre of TDs, particularly at our flagship events. Events and activities which help to achieve this should be encouraged and actively promoted. This is especially important in light of the importance of the mandate brought forth at the 2015 Membership Meeting: to pass down the acquired wisdom of the current and previous generations of US Chess Tournament Directors to succeeding ones.

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE

Executive Director Hoffman presented the next DM reporting that the US Chess office contacted all programs listed on the scholarship web page for updated information. Updates were made to the web page on August 17, 2016. Mike Nietman stated he is waiting on a response from the College Chess Committee chair for any programs needing to be included. Anjelina expressed concerns about the prominence of scholarships on the website. Jean Hoffman will contact IT department about publishing announcements and commented that redesign and architecture of the website will also need to be considered.

DM 16-69/ NDM 16-13 (NM4-F116 Steve Immitt (NY) US Chess website should give current (updated) links, with details to colleges that offer scholarships (full or partial) for chess.

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE

The following DM was presented by Jean Hoffman. She reported that compliance with the Americans for Disabilities Act is still in review with council. President Walters deferred the vote until they heard back from the Executive Director and council.

DM 16-70/NDM 16-13 (NM5-F119 Andy Rea VA) All sites for US Championships are to be compliant with the Americans for Disabilities Act.

Rationale: This is in accord with 16-31.

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE

Jean Hoffman presented the next motion and reported she has contacted the Rules, TDCC, and Ethics committee chairs and members to ask for their recommendations. Comments were made by Gary Walters, Anjelina Belakovskaia and Allen Priest. The vote was deferred until they hear committee recommendations.

DM 16-60/ADM 16-58 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rhode, NY) Resolved: Under Rule 21L. Appeal to USCF, the following language shall replace Section 21L1. Procedure

21L1. Procedure. Appeals in writing must be postmarked within seven days of the end of the tournament to the USCF office. Appeals submitted after the seven-day deadline may be considered at the discretion of the committee hearing the appeal, provided that an explanation for the late submission of the appeal accompanies the appeal. Appeals may be submitted via e-mail, but the business office or the committee(s) hearing the appeal may require a signed statement. The office will refer an appeal to the appropriate committee(s) but may immediately reject obviously groundless appeals. Most appeals will be referred to the Rules Committee, but some appeals may be more appropriate for the Tournament Director Certification Committee or the Ethics Committee or the FIDE Events Committee.

Once an appeal has been accepted by USCF office, it must be followed by a \$250 administrative surcharge, before it is referred to the appropriate committee(s). The surcharge may be returned, in full or in part, at the discretion of the ruling authority, which shall make its determination based on the soundness, completeness, timeliness and accuracy of the appeal and the facts cited therein, regardless of the outcome of the appeal. However, in cases of unsuccessful appeals, the ruling authority may decide to forward all or part of the administrative surcharge to the successful party or parties in the appeal instead. Upon a satisfactory determination of financial hardship, the Executive Director may authorize a lower surcharge.

The USCF reserves the right to make final decisions concerning the rules and procedures that govern its competitions. See also 24A, Rules Committee; and 24B, Appeals to USCF.

Rationale: In the sponsors' opinion, there currently exists little disincentive against filing a groundless appeal to a Tournament Director's decision; the USCF Office can sometimes be seen to be a national process server for complaints against TDs. The same holds true if the appeal contains some incidental

merit, but is nevertheless substantially flawed or factually incorrect.

While the appeal is being considered, the Tournament Director remains under a cloud of suspected wrongdoing, based solely on an allegation which may be unproven or inaccurate. Due to the lengthy nature of the appeals process itself, this cloud of suspicion may continue for months, causing harm to the Tournament Director's reputation and his ability to be hired as such. This is often exacerbated by the very nature of the appeals process, *where the burden of proof is usually on the Tournament Director to prove he is innocent of wrongdoing*, instead of on the claimant to prove, instead of merely to allege, that the TD acted wrongly.

In order to complete a thorough and comprehensive response to an appeal, sometimes many witnesses must be contacted (and sometimes re-contacted), along with other Tournament Directors as well. It can take many hours to write up the details of a complicated dispute and decision correctly, especially if a general allegation has been made that the TD "violated the rules" and the TD must then explain in detail how the various rules were actually followed correctly.

In the real world, when one is unsuccessful in an attempt at litigation, the court costs are usually awarded to the winner. This is an incentive, it is hoped, for a litigant to proceed with more than just an allegation of wrongdoing, absent compelling evidence. In light of the amount of time and effort usually required to defend an appeal successfully, this same principle, reflective of the costs in the 21st century, should apply to the USCF as well— especially if it does not always result in "winner take all," but instead "winner is entitled to some compensation."

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH POWER TO IMPLEMENT

The following motion was presented by Jean Hoffman:

DM 16-75/NDM 16-18 (NM11 – Beatriz Marinello NY) The Delegates recommend that the FIDE World Junior U/20 for players with disability will be given the same benefits, advertisements and support of any other national events.

While this event is in the US it will be treated with the same respect and consideration as a national scholastic event.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH POWER TO IMPLEMENT

Concerning the above DM16-75, Jean Hoffman reported on her discussion with the Director of Events concerning the benefits different tournaments receive. She stated these benefits vary by national events depending on whether we're organizing the event or if it has bid out. They identified the following list of support generally provided to the organizers of national events and propose we provide the same for this event which would be:

- Free TLA
- Free rating
- One free email blast
- A listing of the event on the US Chess' website Events calendar
- Publication of US Chess news articles and potentially Chess Life or Chess Life Kids if space is available as provided by the organizer.

The question was raised as to whether the same benefits were given to the Continental Youth Championships. Boyd Reed will check on this. Jean Hoffman commented on the need for a general policy to be in place as to the benefits provided by US Chess for open national events being held on US soil.

Executive Director Hoffman announced these were all the DMs referred to the Board and the office. DMs referred to the committees were not discussed.

Executive Director Hoffman reported on the first meeting of the new Development Committee and their discussion on the following topics: review of the feasibility study at finding; focus on the need to develop a convincing case for support; the timeline for the potential of a small campaign in the spring and “gearing up” for an annual campaign in the fall; the development and review of a comprehensive Gift Acceptance Policy.

Jean Hoffman introduced the Gift Acceptance Policy. Board members discussed the editing of the Gift Acceptance Policy. Allen Priest moved to accept the policy as is.

EB17-017 – Priest – Move to accept the Gift Acceptance Policy as presented.
PASSED 4-1-1 with Gary Walters opposed and Anjelina Belakovskaia abstaining.

President Walters asked Mike Nietman to give the Scholastic Committee’s liaison report.

Mike Nietman summarized key points of the changes in the 2016 edition of the Scholastic Regulations and introduced those changes. He thanked the former chair of the Scholastic Council, Mike Hoffpaur, for assisting the council in preparing the changed document and summary. Executive Board members discussed the changes. Boyd Reed added to the discussion.

EB17-018 – Nietman – Move to accept the Scholastic Council’s recommendations for changes to the Scholastic Regulations document with the exception of section 12.4.2 where the 2016 language regarding using outside ratings for under and unrated sections will be retained.

PASSED 6-0 - Please Note: The Council’s recommendation was to use alternate system ratings in all sections including Championship sections.

The meeting was recessed for lunch.

OPEN SESSION #3, Saturday, November 12, 2016

President Walters opened the meeting. All Board members present with Chuck Unruh via telephone. Boyd Reed was a guest at the meeting. Gary Walters presented the new business for discussions.

New Business

The following new business was discussed: dues structure for disabled memberships; review of major tournament scheduling including Tournament Clearinghouses; publishing of tournament announcements on the US Chess website; special election; preliminary budget preparation, locations and scheduling for winter and spring EB meetings; emergency suspension powers; Chess Coach Certification program; restrictions of awarding additional scholarships at future events; Regional Women’s Championship; and the 2017 Chessathon proposal.

Discussion on stipend and expense allowances for the World Team was moved to closed session.

Tournament scheduling issues were discussed and Boyd Reed commented on the National Events Calendar along with FIDE events. Jean Hoffman was asked to contact the IT department on monthly updates of schedules to the US Chess website.

Allen Priest spoke on the budget preparation cycle and the need for scheduling time next year to discuss the preliminary and finalization the budget. Scheduling for the budget process and the 2017 Executive Board meetings were discussed.

President Walters announced the schedule for the winter EB meeting and budget workshop for January 20th – 22nd, 2017 in Atlanta, GA and the spring EB meeting June 3rd - 4th, 2017 in Tulsa, OK.

The meeting then went into Closed Session.

OPEN SESSION #4, Saturday, November 12, 2106

President Walters opened the meeting and introduced a motion developed in closed session.

EB17-019 - Walters – Move that the Executive Board direct the Elections Committee to hold a special election for the open Executive Board seat and the Executive Board urges the Elections Committee to run the special election concurrently with the next scheduled regular election. **PASSED 6-0**

Gary Walters noted he will communicate with the Elections Committee about the special election and the help they may need from the Board.

President Walters called on Allen Priest to address the emergency suspension powers for affiliate and individual memberships. The following concerns were discussed: if power should be given to the Executive Director or the Board; limitations of suspension; legal liabilities; and the safety of the US Chess organization and members. Allen Priest volunteered to write an ADM on emergency suspension powers to discuss at the next meeting.

Allen Priest introduced the next two EB motions. Extensive discussion ensued among the Board and votes were taken.

EB17-020 – Priest – Move to name the existing Scholarship money market account at Cumberland County Bank as the Scholarship Reserve Fund. This fund can be used without board approval to satisfy claims for scholarships awarded at US Chess youth events. The ED is authorized to make scholarship payments from this fund and to withdraw into the operating account any funds in the reserve in excess of the total amount of outstanding scholarships at any time. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-021 – Priest – Move that the Board creates the Financial Emergencies Reserve Fund. The Board designates the existing Regions Savings Bank account as the Reserve. The Board directs that the reserve fund be initially set at \$550,000 and directs the Executive Director to transfer additional funds from the checking account to Regions Bank to bring the savings account to that balance as soon as possible. **PASSED 5-1 with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.**

President Walters adjourned the meeting for today.

OPEN SESSION #1, Sunday, November 13, 2016

Gary Walters opened the meeting stating they would clean-up outstanding motions as well as vote on one motion that was made in closed session. All Board members were present with Chuck Unruh participating via telephone.

Votes were taken on the following open motions.

EB17-022 – Hoffman - Move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the proposed agreement with Francesca Butler. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-023 – Hoffman - Move that the Executive Board add Maret Thorpe to the Website Advisory Committee and name Anand Dommaalapti and GP Sinha as co-chairs for the Committee. **PASSED 6-0**

EB17-024 – Belakovskaia - Move that William E Perry III (ID #12394466) will become a member of the Corporate Connections Task Force in 5 days with no objections. **PASSED without objection.**

EB17-025 – Belakovskaia - Move that Eric Yussman of Louisville (ID #12478327) will become a member of the Clubs committee in 5 days with no objections. **PASSED without objection.**

Gary Walters called on Secretary Nietman to present the following motion from closed session.

EB17-026 – Board - The Executive Board moves that after a conference call today between Curtis Lee Simmons and the US Chess Executive Board relating to Mr. Simmons conduct on or about September 25, 2016, the Executive Board hereby suspends Mr. Simmons' membership and the affiliate named Rocky Mountain Chess for a period of time until December 31, 2016. Mr. Simmons will additionally be issued a letter of admonishment by US Chess. **PASSED 5-1** with Mike Nietman opposed.

President Walters reintroduced the topic of the Reserve Fund. Priest and Belakovskaia participated on the discussion that followed.

EB17-027 – Belakovskaia - Move that as soon as the amount of Financial Emergencies Reserve Fund exceeds \$600,000, the Board directs US Chess to open additional account at JP Morgan Chase Bank and allocate evenly the Financial Emergencies Reserve Fund into both accounts, to follow the best practices of reducing risk arising from FDIC insurance limits. **FAILED 1-3-2** with Anjelina Belakovskaia in favor and Mike Hoffpauir and Chuck Unruh abstaining.

Review of the Chess Coach Certification program was discussed including the purposes of the certifications for US Chess; creating new standards for the curriculum and examinations; updating resources and content including rulebook and Scholastic Chess guide; instructional videos; requirements of school districts; and the implementation and management of the program. Allen Priest suggested this be referred to the Scholastic Council for discussion. Jean Hoffman and Mike Nietman to confer with Jay Stallings and contact TDCC and the Rules Committee to review questions on examinations.

Allen Priest introduced the following motion. Policy on scholarship funds, requirements and awards was discussed.

EB17-028 – Priest – Move that US Chess national events are prohibited from awarding any scholarships as prizes unless the event sets aside the full amount of the scholarship awards from the event proceeds at the time of the event. The scholarship total is to be deposited in the Scholarship Reserve Fund within two weeks after the conclusion of the event. Any scholarships awarded must contain the following restrictions:

- A An expiration date of no later than the winner's 24th birthday
- B Payments can only be made directly to an educational institution upon proof of enrollment.

PASSED 6-0

Gary Walters called on Anjelina Belakovskaia to introduce the 2017 Chessathon proposal. The purpose, organization, marketing and cost of the Chessathon as a US Chess national event were discussed. It was decided that further research and development was needed.

A brief recess was called by Gary Walters.

OPEN SESSION #2, Sunday, November 13, 2016

President Walters opened the session calling on Anjelina Belakovskaia to introduce the following motion on the regional Women's championship. Issues were discussed including whether this should be a regional or national event. Executive Director Jean Hoffman expressed concerns for the need of this to go through our bidding process as a national event and the timeline it takes to develop a new program. Anjelina Belakovskaia presented ideas and initiatives discussed in the Women's Committee.

EB17-029 – Belakovskaia - Move for the Executive Board to approve the inclusion of annual Women's regional championships into the list of national events offered under the umbrella of US Chess, starting from January 1, 2017. The events will be organized and sponsored by local organizations. US Chess office to develop the requirements and approval procedure. **TABLED** on a motion by Mike Nietman.

EB17-029a – Nietman – Move to Table. **PASSED 5-0-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia abstaining.

New Executive Board liaisons were discussed and appointed to committees left vacant by Randy Bauer. The following motion was then introduced by Allen Priest:

EB17-030 – Priest – Move the following new Executive Board liaison positions: **PASSED 6-0**

Awards – Mike Nietman
Cramer – Chuck Unruh
Development – Gary Walters and Anjelina Belakovskaia
Prison – Chuck Unruh
Publications – Allen Priest
US Open – Mike Nietman and Mike Hoffpauir

President Walters presented the need to fill the Executive Board Vice President position for a term of ten months from November 13, 2016 until elections at the 2017 Annual meeting. Several Board members were nominated. A vote was taken and Gary Walters introduced the following motion:

EB17-031 – Board – The Executive Board moves to name Chuck Unruh as Vice President.
PASSED 6-0

President Walters moved that the meeting be adjourned. All Board members agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

Action Items from November 12th – 13th, 2016 EB meeting:

Mike Hoffpauir: Address the Delegates on the Quick Ratings System and membership requirements at 2017 Annual meeting.

Chuck Unruh and Mike Hoffpauir: Contact the Senior Committee and US Open Committee chairs for further discussion on a new “Tournament of Senior State Champions”.

Jean Hoffman: Report updates on the pilot program concerning membership requirements, affiliate registration and the burden to the office at the next EB meeting.

Jean Hoffman and Events department: Continue to search for other locations/facilities that can accommodate future large national events.

Jean Hoffman: Look in to expanding TD seminars and instructional opportunities for new TDs, especially for participation in international events.

Mike Nietman: Follow-up with the College Chess Committee for any new or omitted programs for scholarship web page.

Jean Hoffman: Contact IT department about publishing/updating announcements for scholarship programs and events on the US Chess website. Redesign and architecture of announcements to be considered.

Jean Hoffman: Continue to review with council compliance to the American Disability Act. Report to Board.

Jean Hoffman: Follow up with committee chairs and members (TDCC, Rules, Ethics) to review appeals process and administrative charges. Report to the Board.

Boyd Reed: Check to see if we offer the same benefits for the Continental Youth Championship as we do for other national events.

Jean Hoffman and Director of Events: To create a general policy of benefits US Chess provides to organizers of open national events held on US soil.

Jean Hoffman: To contact IT department on monthly updates for tournament schedules.

Gary Walters: Contact Elections Committee about special election.

Allen Priest: To write an ADM for emergency suspension powers by the next Executive Board meeting.

Jean Hoffman and Mike Nietman: Contact Jay Stallings to discuss in the Scholastic Council meeting the Chess Coach Certification program. The following topics are to be discussed: updating resources and examinations based on current rules and regulations; and the possibility of contracting or hiring someone to do this. The TDCC and the Rules Committee will also be contacted to review their part concerning questions on examinations.

Anjelina Belakovskaia: To further research and develop a concept for a chessathon and discuss at the January 2017 EB meeting.

Jean Hoffman: To review the procedures and feasibility on setting up a regional Women’s championship and to see if it fits into our “scheme” of events.