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**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
U.S. Chess Federation
November 21-22, 2015
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, VA**

The following Executive Board members were present:

Gary Walters
Randy Bauer
Anjelina Belakovskaia
Allen Priest
Jean Hoffman
Mike Atkins
Mike Nietman
Ruth Haring

Open Session #1, Saturday, November 21, 2015

At 9 a.m. Saturday, November 21, 2015, President Gary Walters called the meeting to order. All Board members were present. A quorum was established. Mike Hoffpauir, Co-Chair of the Scholastic Council, was a guest at the meeting.

Officer and Management Reports

Executive Board President Gary Walters welcomed everyone and presented his report. He said the focus for this year is strategic vision. A strategic planning meeting will take place in Atlanta in January 2016.

Allen Priest, Vice President of Finance presented his report. The following matters were covered: October financials; cash position; impact of 2016 dues increase; the 2016 Olympiad and World Team financial needs; donations; 2016-2017 budget work; future plans for a rolling budget, FDIC insurable account limits and the LMA's request regarding Scottrade.

The meeting was briefly recessed.

Open Session #2, Saturday, November 21, 2015

Executive Director, Jean Hoffman welcomed everyone and presented her report. The following matters were covered: beginning with the end in mind; mission moments; becoming outcome oriented; proposed 2016 objectives; results of a planning study; and a focus on fundraising.

The meeting was briefly recessed.

Open Session #3, Saturday, November 21, 2015

Mike Atkins, Senior Committee liaison gave his report.

EB16-019 - Atkins - I move to accept the resignation of Mike Eberhardinger as chair and member of the Senior Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

Ruth Haring, Women's Committee liaison, presented a report prepared by the committee which generated discussion and the following motions.

EB16-020 - Haring – I move to accept the tournament name change suggested by the Women's Committee for the National Girls Invitational Tournament. Note: The new name will be the "National Girls Tournament of Champions (NGTOC)". **PASSED 7-0**

EB16-021 – Haring, Belakovskaia – Moved, that the Executive Board, in its continuing effort to support underserved communities, formally recognize the female chess population as an "Under Served Community". **PASSED 7-0**

EB16-022 – Haring – I move to accept in principle the offer of the Texas Tech University scholarship for the National Girls Tournament of Champions and asks the office to work out the details. **PASSED 7-0**

EB16-023 – Walters– I move that resignations of members at large of USCF committees do not require a motion by the Executive Board and will be administered by the office. **PASSED 6-1 with Mike Atkins opposed.**

The meeting was recessed for lunch.

Open Session #4, Saturday, November 21, 2015

President Walters called the meeting to order. All members were present. Ruth Haring finished her presentation of the Women's Committee report.

Member Acquisition and Retention Task Force liaison, Ruth Haring, presented the committee report, asking that it be referred to the office for further study and implementation.

Liaison, Mike Nietman, introduced Scholastic Council and Committee Co-Chair Mike Hoffpauir, who summarized key points of the proposed updates to the Scholastic Regulations. Nietman noted that the Scholastic Council was also revamping the Scholar Chess player process.

To include Mike Hoffpauir in the discussion, Allen Priest introduced agenda item 2b.iii, at this time. After discussion it was agreed that a motion would follow later in the meeting.

The meeting was briefly recessed.

Open Session #5, Saturday, November 21, 2015

Mike Nietman, College Chess Committee liaison, presented two motions from the committee.

EB16-024 – Nietman – I move that the Executive Board accept the recommendation from the College Chess Committee to add a new rule regarding electronic devices to the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships: Official Tournament Rules document. **PASSED 7-0**

EB16-025 – Nietman – I move the Executive Board accept the recommendation from the College Chess Committee to revise Rule 5 of section 2c of the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships: Official Tournament Rules document regarding player eligibility. **PASSED 7-0**

TDCC liaison, Mike Atkins, introduced a change in the TD certification rules.

EB16-026 – Atkins - Mike Atkins moves that the Executive Board accept this proposed change in TD Certification from TDCC.

32. Limitations.

A senior TD may not be the Chief TD of Category N tournaments and should not be the Chief TD of Category A tournaments or of any tournament or section of a tournament expected to draw more than 300 players. Computer assisted Senior TDs may be the Chief TD of a tournament or section of a tournament (excluding category A or category N tournaments) expected to draw up to 360 players with the aid of one assistant TD. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Atkins announced new members for the Anti-Cheating Committee. The scope and charter of the committee was briefly discussed.

The meeting moved into closed session.

Open Session #6, Saturday, November 21, 2015

President Walters called the meeting to order. The following motion came from closed session.

EB16-027 – Board –The Executive Board affirms the decision of the Ethics Committee in the case of Breeding vs. Moon and accepts the two year membership suspension for Kyle Moon effective Monday, November 23, 2015. **PASSED 5-1-1 with Ruth Haring opposed and Allen Priest recusing himself.**

(Note: Allen Priest's son was a TD at the event where this occurred.)

Anjelina Belakovskaia, Corporate Connections Task Force liaison, presented her report. The task force will work within the corporate fundraising strategy yet to be determined.

EB16-028 – Belakovskaia – I move to add Beatriz Marinello, Vladimir Naroditsky, Rodney Thomas and AJ Steigman to the Corporate Connections Task Force. **PASSED 7-0**

New Business

The Board then considered the following motions referred to them by the Delegates at the August 2015 meeting:

DM15-27 was withdrawn by its maker, Mike Atkins.

DM15-29 was moved to closed session for discussion.

DM15-30 was moved to the Budget process.

DM15-33 was referred to the Anti-cheating Committee for study

DM15-51 after consideration the Board declined to act. The motion will appear on the 2016 Delegates' Meeting advance agenda under Old Business.

DM15-52 after discussion the Board declined to act since the recommended action is already taking place. The motion will appear on the 2016 Delegates' Meeting Advance Agenda under Old Business.

DM 15-54 Ruth Haring will take this motion to the Women's Committee to garner their opinion and report back to the Board.

DM15-55 Jean Hoffman and Dan Lucas will work together to split the content of the Delegates' Call into two publications - an annual report and a governance document

DM15-60 Jean Hoffman will request Franc Guadalupe prepare a report on organizing a World Youth tournament.

DM15-61 Ruth Haring will contact Marshall Chess Club regarding the Fisher memorabilia and report back.

DM15-66 Ruth Haring and Anjelina Belakovskaia will take the motion to the Women's Committee for discussion and feedback. They will report their findings to the Board.

Allen Priest advised that DM15-25 required the Bylaws Committee to obtain a legal opinion regarding discrimination and as EB liaison had done so. That motion was currently being considered by the Bylaws Committee.

Suggested changes to the Membership Affiliate Program were introduced by Anjelina Belakovskaia. After discussion it was agreed that ED Hoffman will confer with Mike Nolan regarding system capabilities.

Allen Priest introduced the establishment of a National Event Advisory Committee.

EB16-029 – Priest – I move that the board create a National Event Advisory Committee. This committee is charged with:

- a. developing standard operating procedures for both the back room and the front side of national events;
- b. serving as an advisory committee to the Executive Director, National Events Director, Scholastic Council, Scholastic Committee, College Chess Committee, US Open Committee and The Executive Board as to issues with the implementation of proposed changes in events and with potential changes in the standard operating procedures;

- c. proposing changes in the standard operating procedures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of tournament operations to the advised groups; and
- d. serving as a general resource for the National Events Director as needed.

The committee will consist of a small group of National Tournament Directors with significant experience in the administration of national events and US Chess staff involved in tournament administration to include the National Events Director. They will ask for the advice and assistance of others as necessary. **PASSED 6-1 with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed**

Open Session #1, Sunday, November 22, 2015

At 9AM President Walters called the meeting to order. All Board members were present.

Anjelina Belakovskaia introduced the topic of support for FIDE senior and women's events. After discussion, Ruth Haring offered to start work on a comprehensive plan for tournament support and report back to the Board. Belakovskaia then made the following motion. After a motion to table failed, a vote was taken on EB16-030.

EB16-030 – Belakovskaia – I move to support the World Senior Championship and Women's World Senior Championship age 50 and 65 at the level of \$500 per event as long as the recipients play in the preceding US Senior Open. **PASSED 5-2 with Randy Bauer and Allen Priest opposed.**

Belakovskaia introduced the topic of Chess Scholarships. After discussion, it was agreed that scholarships and their solicitation will play an important part in the fundraising campaign.

The topic of obtaining STEM grants to study the benefits of chess in education was discussed. Belakovskaia will contact the Chess in Education committee for their assistance in this area.

EB16-031 – Belakovskaia – I move that the Executive Board ask the Chess in Education Committee to provide the status of the current state of published and peer reviewed research of the benefits of chess in education. **PASSED 7-0**

Agenda Construction was then discussed. It was agreed that Board members will provide a brief explanation to the Secretary of why an item is on the agenda.

President Walters moved the meeting into closed session.

Session #2, Sunday November 22, 2015

President Walters called the meeting to order. Members Randy Bauer and Anjelina Belakovskaia were no longer present. The following motions came from discussions in closed session.

EB16-032 – Priest – Members of the National Event Advisory Committee will be National Events Director Franc Guadalupe, US Chess team member Susan Kantor, National Tournament Directors Mike Hoffpauir, Alan Losoff, and Allen Priest. **PASSED 5-0 with Randy Bauer and Anjelina Belakovskaia not present and not voting.**

EB16-033 – Priest – I move that as the plan sponsor the board appoints the Executive Director as the 401K plan Trustee. **PASSED 5-0 with Randy Bauer and Anjelina Belakovskaia not present and not voting.**

EB16-034 – Priest – I move that the board recognizes the need to provide the lowest cost options and diversification for participants. The board adopts the investment options highlighted in yellow listed in the board meeting exhibit for the Vanguard 401K Plan. If the plan does not qualify for the Admiral Shares of the plans listed we approve the use of the investor class shares of those funds. **PASSED 5-0 with Randy Bauer and Anjelina Belakovskaia not present and not voting.**

EB16-035 – Priest – I move that the board commits to a sponsor review of the investment options every year. The sponsor review may be done by the Trustee, the Personnel Committee, or the Executive Board as deemed necessary by the Trustee. **PASSED 5-0 with Randy Bauer and Anjelina Belakovskaia not present and not voting.**

Allen Priest advised that the Scottrade information and a motion had been emailed to all Board members. He requested the vote be made via email.

In January a strategic planning session will take place in Atlanta.

Next meeting will be via conference call on February 20, 2016 from 10am-6pm Eastern time.

The meeting was adjourned.

Action Items from 11/21-22/2015 meeting:

Allen Priest and Jean Hoffman: make recommendation regarding banking accounts exceeding FDIC insurance limit.

Gary Walters: review Scottrade documents regarding a LMA brokerage account.

Franco Guadalupe and Judy Misner: as Women's Committee office liaisons, use the meeting discussions to construct a formal response to the Women's Committee report.

Jean Hoffman: add lists by age for girls mirroring the lists by age for boys on the US Chess website

Jean Hoffman: work with Texas Tech University regarding the scholarship for the National Girls Tournament of Championship.

Office: refer proposal 9 of the Women's Committee report to the Website Advisory Committee

Ruth Haring: submit to the Executive Board the name of a Women's Committee member willing to serve on WSAC.

Office: study and implement the Membership Acquisition and Retention Taskforce recommendations

Jean Hoffman and Dan Lucas: split the content of the Delegates' Call into two publications - an annual report and a governance document.

Jean Hoffman: confer with Mike Nolan about implementing an Affiliate click and link to the US Chess webstore.

Jean Hoffman: request Franco Guadalupe prepare a report on organizing a World Youth tournament.

Ruth Haring: contact Marshall Chess Club regarding the Fisher memorabilia and report back to the Board.

Ruth Haring and Anjelina Belakovskaia: take DM15-66 to the Women's Committee for discussion and feedback. Then report back to the Board.

Ruth Haring: take DM15-54 to the Women's Committee to garner their opinion and report back to the Board.

Budget Workshop: consider DM15-30

Ruth Haring: begin creation of a comprehensive plan for tournament support and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Jean Hoffman: contact College Chess Committee regarding an update of the current scholarships page on the website.