

SCCF Annual Membership Meeting and Regular Board Meeting on 9/05/10 3 PM

There were only a few members (Jack Peters and Phil Chase) who were present to attend the annual membership meeting. Most others were busy still playing in the Southern California Open tournament or with one of the scholastic events or just resting between rounds. It was decided to fold the annual meeting into the regular board meeting. Jack Peters and Phil Chase sat through most of the board meeting and offered a few comments here and there. Present at the meeting were President Elliott Landaw, Secretary Chuck Ensey and Board members Jim Bullock, Randy Hough, Steve Morford, Mike Nagaran and Anthony Ong. Auditor Mike Carr was also present and presented a financial report. Treasurer John Hillery was just outside the door but was still busy directing the tournament. Newly elected board member Isabelle Minoofar was also present. Missing were Vice President Ron Rezendes, Mick Bighamian, Jerry Yee and Yakashi Iwamoto. Ron Rezendes was in a pinball tournament in Irvine, but told me he could be reached by telephone if needed. Takashi may have still been playing his round 3 game. Randy said he thought Mick was coming, but he did not show up.

The results of the election were tallied and certified by Elliott Landlaw and Chuck Ensey. Winners were: Anthony Ong with 20 votes, Steve Morford 19, Isabelle Minoofar 18, Mike Belcher 14, Jim Bullock 14, Michael Nagaran 14. Takashi Iwamoto just missed being re-elected with only 13 votes. So Mike Belcher and Isabelle Minoofar are the new board members replacing Ron Rezendes and Takashi Iwamoto. Ong, Monford Bullock and Nagaran are re-elected to a new two year term.

Mike Carr delivered his annual gloomy assessment of the SCCF's financial situation. We have learned to take this with a grain of salt as it seems to me that the picture is not always quite as bleak as Mike likes to portray it, but that is his job to scare us into action. What action we should take is not always clear, as we have already raised dues and another raise is probably not advisable at this time or in the foreseeable future. Signing up more members seems to be the best path to prosperity, but this year membership is off by about 100 members. This left us with less income, plus money was also lost on tournaments, so a doomsday scenario is maybe not out of the question if we don't turn things around.

One of the main problems is that the Rank and File magazine has not been published for quite some time. The last issue was the January-February issue, so we are two and almost three issues behind. Renewal notices have therefore not been received by some members who might have renewed and some TDs may not be as strict about collecting dues, given the lack of a magazine. The reason for the delay in publishing is somewhat shrouded in mystery, but now we hear that Editor John Hillery has agreed to an indefinite leave of absence as Editor. The board voted 8-0 to appoint a committee to look into a solution. Randy Hough and Elliott Landaw were appointed to this committee. One name that surfaced as a possible new Editor was Larry Stevens.

The idea of saving money by publishing Rank and File online was brought up by Isabelle Minoofar. This has been discussed in many past board meetings (I believe Ron Rezendes was a big proponent). John Hillery eventually agreed to put Rank and File on the website so it could be downloaded by anyone. He says that very few people bother to do this. Randy Hough says we don't have the software or database capable of emailing to every member. It is hard to keep everyone's email up to date. Chuck Ensey says that he doesn't mind a partial list of online subscribers, but notes that the web based magazines are ephemeral and disappear over time as technology changes, where as hard copies last for many, many years. Isabelle proposed a short two page online version, but there is no one who has the expertise or the necessary time commitment to undertake such an offering. Eventually it would be nice to have some kind of online magazine like the USCF has, but for now, with our limited resources we don't have the manpower to do a good job. Of course, the SCCF does have a website with many features such as upcoming tournaments and even games posted, so we are not totally in the dark ages. For now the issue was tabled.

Financial matters were discussed further and it seems there were some small bank charges for some overdrafts, due funds that were deposited somewhat late, and to avoid this mishap in the future the Board voted 8-0 to move \$3,000 from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund. Next the strange case of the unpaid debt to David Argall was discussed. Argall seems to have no interest in collecting this debt so it has been carried on the books for many years. He is apparently a somewhat difficult person to deal with, although it must be said he has done a great job publishing and mailing the Rank and File for us. Chuck Ensey proposed sending him a \$6,000 check with a notice that if he thinks we owe him more, he should let us know and if not, then any past debts are considered cancelled and done with. This was voted down 6-2 with the notion to once again "let sleeping dogs lie".

Another issue taken up was next year's Southern California Open. Chuck Ensey offered to host it again in San Diego at the same hotel as last year, the Crowne Plaza. John Hillery had already agreed that this would be okay with him. The board voted 8-0 to approve this venue. Randy Hough suggested that an optional two day schedule might help boost attendance.

Next the issue of a State Scholastic Championship was discussed. Anthony Ong is unable to host it this year, so we will have to put it out to bid once again. A scholastic committee was formed consisting of Anthony Ong, Jim Bullock, Steve Morford and Isabelle Minoofar was formed to send out bids to likely candidates.

The appointment of officers was delayed until an email meeting as time was getting short before the next round was about to begin. Meeting adjourned about 4:30.

Submitted by Secretary Chuck Ensey on 9/12/10