

Southern California Chess Federation

Minutes from online Board meeting on 8/19/24

Online meeting called to order by President Moussa, at 7:00 PM. All board members were present except for Jonney Machtig. Present: President: Ala'a-Addin Moussa, Treasurer: Frank Lee, Vice President: Melik Khachiyani; Membership Secretary: Randall Hough Secretary: Chuck Ensey; Other Board Members: Brian Glover, Dedian Guo, James Harrell, Jonney Machtig, Jim Mennella, Irina Nizmutdinova and Guy Reams. Chris Roberts and Dewain Barber also attended.

The agenda for this meeting and the minutes from the June meeting were submitted and approved. There was also a meeting in July, but we did not have a quorum so no minutes were taken, but there were discussions about the usual topics.

Treasurer Frank Lee submitted financial statements showing the following balances - B of A savings: \$7,748.54, B of A checking: \$5,395.00, PayPal: \$2,858.00, Chase checking: \$2,312 for a Total of \$18,314.54, however there are \$2,292.86 in outstanding checks and expenses which brings the projected Total to \$16,021.

Randall Hough reported on the membership: 191 Regular, 307 Juniors, 17 Life and 6 Complementary memberships for a total of 521. There followed a long discussion on how to increase memberships. Holding tournaments sponsored by SCCF seems to be the best method by far. We can't really expect local clubs to require memberships if there is no tangible benefit for them, but it was suggested that we partner with some of the bigger clubs to hold "joint" tournaments in their area. Temecula might be a good place to start, there is a nearby winery that might be a great location according to Guy Reams.

The upcoming elections were discussed and the online option seems to be going well with around 40 votes so far, more than we often get. We do have more than 6 people trying to get elected, plus a write-in campaign from Angela Liu who was very interested in being on but was too late to get on the ballot. Voting will wrap up at the Southern California Open and results will be reported at that event.

The U.S. Open, National Tournament of State Champions and the delegates meeting in Norfolk Virginia were discussed. "Safe play" training is required for all directors.

The "Rank and File" magazine was discussed at length. The Summer issue is out and looks great. It is getting expensive to keep doing the magazine so the finances for it were discussed at length. A suggestion to give it up and go online has been floating

around for years, but several board members are strong supporters of the magazine. For instance, Chuck Ensey offered to do fund raising if needed. We might also consider raising membership dues. However, after an informal vote, it was apparent everyone present at the meeting was in favor of keeping the magazine going because it is the only real benefit many members see. It keeps our name and agenda in front of them. Some members may not read it or care, but many others really like it. Some have collections going back many years. There is a very long history here and it would be a shame to let it lapse. Online editions are ephemeral and often cannot be found after a few years due to changes in technology, whereas printed editions are always there.

The Super States for next year were discussed and plans seem to be moving along nicely. Dewain Barber again mentioned the importance of the scholarships in attracting lots of players to the Super States. He also stressed how having the “school of choice” for the recipient was crucial, instead of offering them a just single choice in Texas or wherever. Many students want to have this choice and it is great that Dewain and some others have made this possible. We are lucky to have some very generous benefactors.

The next meeting was set for September 30th at 7 PM and the current meeting was adjourned around 8:50 PM, a little longer than normal, but many fruitful discussions were held. Two members had to leave early but everyone else hung on until the end.