

# Southern California Chess Federation

Minutes from online meeting on 9/30/24

## **In Attendance:**

**Vice President:** Melik Khachiyan

**Membership Secretary:** Randall Hough

**Secretary:** Chuck Ensey

**Other Board Members:** Brian Glover,

Dedian Guo, James Harrell, Jim Mennella, Angela Liu, Linus Eisenberg.

Non-Board members in Attendance: Dewain Barber and Chris Roberts.

Board members not in attendance: Jonney Machtig and Guy Reams.

## **Agenda & Minutes:**

09/30/24 The online meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Moussa. All board members were present except Jonney and Guy. Also present were USCF Dean of Scholastic Chess Dewain Barber and SCCF Webmaster Chris Roberts. The agenda for this meeting was approved by all the board members and then the minutes from the last meeting were also approved.

## **Election:**

Randy Hough: 72 votes (50 eVotes/ 22 paper). Reelected for a 2-year term.

Jim Harrell: 66 votes (43/23). Reelected for a 2-year term.

Angela Liu: 62 votes (32/30). Elected for a 2-year term.

Frank Lee: 46 votes (28/18). Reelected for a 2-year term.

Jim Mennella: 35 votes (26/9). Reelected for a 2-year term.

Brian Glover: 32 votes (23/9).

Linus Eisenberg: 32 votes (17/15).

The totals were higher than we have had for several years at least, if not ever. There were 39 paper ballots cast in-person at the Southern California Open, and a successful online voting experiment yielded 73 e-ballots.

The results showed that Angela Liu was elected as a new board member with a very strong write-in candidate campaign. She also encouraged a lot of new members to join the SCCF so they could vote for her and the board thanks her for her tremendous efforts on behalf of chess in many different areas. She has also agreed to be the new Editor of Rank and File, so we have a new and very dynamic person on our board now! Moussa stated that the next election may be by e-Voting only.

Each year six board members are elected for two-year terms to fill the twelve-member board. In this election there was a tie between current member Brian Glover and a new candidate, Linus Eisenberg, for the sixth and final board position. To resolve the tie the current eleven board members voted unanimously to remove

Jonney Machtig. He has not attended at least the last 3 meetings and we have been unable to reach him by email or other means, so the decision to remove him follows long standing rules of the SCCF about attending meetings and SCCF Constitution Article XII Section 3. Brian Glover will remain on the board and we now welcome new board member Linus Eisenberg (along with Angela Liu). Linus' term will be just for one year since he is replacing Jonney.

The SCCF officers were all re-elected by the board to stay in their current positions as listed in the header to this report.

### **Hall of Fame:**

Dewain Barber proposed that the SCCF initiate a Hall of Fame. This was discussed for twenty minutes or so and it was approved by the board. A committee consisting of Dewain, Ala'a and Chuck was formed to study the issue and report back to the board next month. Randy Hough was mentioned as a likely inductee and it was proposed that the announcement could be made at the Dreaming King Open in January 2025 for a Hall of Fame inductee for 2024. All the details will be hashed out by the committee. It is possible more than one person might be inducted initially.

Moussa and Melik Khachiyani proposed two and ten initial inductees, respectively.

### **Financial Report:**

Treasurer Frank Lee submitted detailed financial statements showing the following balances - B of A savings: \$7,748.54, B of A checking: \$4,695.00, Chase checking: \$3,211.86 and a PayPal balance of \$1,056.03 for a Total of \$16,711.43, up slightly from last month. Frank reported there are \$800 in outstanding uncashed prize checks, and that there was an unauthorized \$100 ATM withdrawal - the card has since been cancelled. (Note: Chuck checked with Sean Manross who claimed that he was not the one who charged the \$100 in Lake Arrowhead - we had thought it might be him.) The board discussed and agreed to have Randy Hough close the Bank of America account down in person at the branch.

Frank proposed that we discuss 3 options for membership rates that had various impacts on the 2025 budget vs expenses.

Option 1: No change to membership rates. Expected shortfall = \$4,937

Option 2: Increase Junior to \$20, Regular to \$25. Expected shortfall = \$2,052

Option 3: Increase Junior to \$22.59, Regular to \$30.12 Expected shortfall = \$0

The board voted on option 2, to increase dues by \$5 to \$20 for juniors and \$25 for adults beginning January 1, 2025. The vote was all in favor except one member who opposed the motion. Linus felt a higher dues figure was justified to put us on sounder footing and Jim Mennella also expressed concerns about the budget deficit. Alaa'a and Chuck expressed assurances that fund raising could be done to cover shortfalls.

We will now run campaign to sign up players before the end of the year so they can get the old dues before they go up. Dues have not been raised in many years and it is very necessary if we are to put out a good magazine and do all the other things the SCCF needs to accomplish.

### **Membership Report:**

Randall Hough reported on the membership: 211 Regular, 322 Juniors, 14 Life and 5 Complementary memberships for a total of 552, up from 521 reported last month. Chuck and others ran a vigorous campaign to sign up or renew all players at the SCO who were required to be SCCF members. Chuck stated this campaign was worth the effort since it yielded about 50 memberships.

### **Rank and File:**

The "Rank and File" magazine was discussed; the new issue is well under way already with our new volunteer editor. Several articles are already submitted and a few more will be done shortly. We plan to have the next issue in the mail some time in December. Chuck mentioned that it might be possible to save on postage by using hand-delivery to the players by club representatives. He thought this might work for some of the bigger clubs. Postage is a very large expense for the Rank and File so reducing this charge could help the finances.

### **Super States:**

The Super States for next year were discussed. This will be held the weekend of March 28-30, 2025. A site has been picked in Los Angeles and contracts are close to being signed. A special meeting or possibly an email vote will likely be done in about one week to ratify everything. The Senior Championship (that qualifies for the Irwin Championship) will be held at the same time.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting was set for October 28th at 7 PM and the current meeting was adjourned around 9 PM, a little longer than normal once again, but many vital discussions were held. Thanks to all for attending.