

Southern California Chess Federation

Minutes from online meeting on 04/08/25

In Attendance:

President: Alaa Addin Moussa

Vice President: Melik Khachiyani

Treasurer: Frank Lee

Membership Secretary: Randall Hough

Secretary: Chuck Ensey

Other Board Members: Linus Eisenberg,

Dedean Guo, Jim Harrell, Angela Liu, Chris Roberts. Not here at this meeting: Jim

Mennella and Guy Reams.

Non-Board members in Attendance: Dewain Barber and John Wright. Jeremy Alexander also came in after the meeting started.

Agenda Approved:

The online meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Moussa. The agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

New Board Member Appointed:

Guy Reams has not been able to attend our monthly meetings so President Moussa had a good discussion with him a few days ago and he agreed that it would be best if he stepped down with the understanding that we greatly appreciated all his work done for the board, especially with regards to the State Championship and other financial matters. He said he would be willing to join the board again at a later date if we felt we needed him.

Alaa nominated John Wright to replace Guy Reams. John has been attending meetings recently and is certainly well qualified. No other nominations were suggested by other board members so everyone seemed happy to let John be appointed to the board. A vote was taken and he was unanimously approved. After his approval Chuck asked John for a brief summary of his history with chess. He said he had been playing tournaments in the 1970's and 1980's. He became a Nation Master in 1992.

Alaa mentioned that we may need his legal expertise in regards to two items:

- 1) the idea of the SCCF becoming a 501c (3) and
- 2) a review of SCCF's By-Laws and Constitution since they are somewhat old.

We had a fairly long discussion about incorporation and various ways we could go. John said he has reviewed SCCF's Constitution and By-laws and it all seemed very well done. John and Chuck stated that their clubs were 501c (7)'s which are for social clubs (like bridge and gun clubs). We are not sure what is best for the SCCF which is not a 501c (3), it is currently an "Unincorporated Entity".

Liability Insurance

John stated that SGVCC has liability insurance for such things as slips and falls at the club and to protect the board members in case it is ever sued. SGVCC pays about \$700 a year for this. Alaa felt SCCF should have this coverage too. Randy stated that he thought SCCF had insurance coverage but he has no paperwork on that. Alaa and Frank said they didn't recall ever seeing such paperwork or premium payments for this.

ACTION ITEM: We need to follow up on getting liability insurance for the MDC event and for the board members if we don't in fact have it already.

Minutes Approved:

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Alaa put forth the motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Randy Hough. It passed 10-0.

Financial Report:

Balances - B of A checking: \$100.04, Chase checking: \$10,156.09 and a PayPal balance of \$11,423.45 (reflecting MDC entry fees and donations for the State Championship) for a total of \$21,679.58.

Membership Report:

Randall Hough reported on the membership: 255 Regular, 412 Juniors, 18 Life and 6 Complementary memberships for a total of 691, up from 675 last month. Alaa stated that each Board member should be promoting SCCF memberships at their club.

Rank and File:

The Winter issue has been received by most members and only two have been returned for bad addresses (so far). Some issues may not have made it to the intended recipient, but we think our mailing list is much more accurate these days. Our Editor Angela had some new ideas for R&F:

- 1) A "SoCal Connections" section that would have interviews with some of the top young players or other interesting players.
- 2) Fundraising from ads from entities like Chessable.

Several articles have already been submitted for the next issue and we think we are on track for a timely delivery. Articles should be sent to Angela before the MDC since the estimated mailing date of the next edition is early June.

Completed Tournaments

Dedian gave a short report on the Super States. Many lessons learned since this was first time ICEA organized. All the winners have confirmed participation in the national tournament of state champions in Wisconsin. Alaa mentioned that he thought the use of

WhatsApp for parents to communicate with the organizers and each other was very effective and a group should be setup for board members to communicate. The pros and cons of running a separate girls section next year was debated, and the recommendation is for Dedian to survey top rated girl participants in K-12 to get a sense of their perspective.

Upcoming Tournaments:

The Memorial Day Classic (5/24 – 5/26) this event is also progressing well and is already attracting a lot of online entries. **The State Championship Invitational Event** will be held alongside the MD. Chris reported that \$6,600 has been already been donated to fund the State Championship and more donations are on the way.

Also, Dewain wants SoCal to host another **US Open**. In 2022, it was organized in Rancho Mirage during the heat of summer which was not ideal. We have discussed many times in the past how the USCF needs to work with the people here to get the best outcome instead of just dictating the way they think it should be done. We will discuss this much more at the next SCCF board meeting to determine what we can do to try to influence USCF plans for future US Opens

2025 Board Elections

The election process for six board seats needs to be completed before the So Cal Open which is being held in Glendale this year on August 29 – September 1. This year's election will be done by eVotes again (but no paper ballots this year!) We need a one-month window for voting, so we expect it to go live between July 27 – August 27. Candidates who want their statements in the next Rank and File need to get them in by mid-May.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting was set for May 13th at 7 PM and the current meeting was adjourned around 8:50 PM. Thanks to all for attending.