

Southern California Chess Federation

Minutes from online meeting on 11/16/25 at 7 PM

In Attendance:

President: Ala'a Addin Moussa

Vice President: John Wright

Treasurer: Frank Lee

Membership Secretary: Chris Roberts

Secretary: Chuck Ensey

Other Board Members: Julian Colville,

Dedian Guo, Jim Harrell, Randall Hough, Angela Liu and Jim Mennella.

Not in attendance at this meeting: Melik Khachiyan

Also joining this meeting: Dewain Barber and Brenda Nardi

Agenda Approved:

The online Zoom meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Moussa. A motion to approve the agenda for this meeting was made by Ala'a and it was seconded by Jim Harrell. All those present voted in favor, there were no nays.

Minutes Approved:

Minutes from the last meeting were also reviewed and a motion to approve by Ala'a was seconded by Chuck Ensey and it passed 11-0.

Financial Report:

Balances – Bank of America: this account has now been closed and the \$56 balance has been moved to Chase. Chase checking: \$3,392.59, Chase Savings: \$12,100.55, Pay Pal: \$8,883.93 for a total balance of \$24,377.07. This is up slightly from last month's balance due to a withdrawal of \$649.99 from a stipend of \$200 for the Membership Secretary for 4 months, a stipend of \$150 for the Treasurer for 3 months and \$299.99 for a website hosting invoice. There was also a credit of \$957.15 from memberships and other items.

Membership Report:

Chris Roberts reported on the current membership status: we are at 486 Juniors, 298 Regulars, 23 Life and 3 Complementary memberships for a total of 810, up from 766 last meeting. The San Diego Open brought in a lot of memberships and since this tournament was not held at this time last year, there were fewer expirations than usual. Chuck mentioned he had not sent in a check to the Treasurer yet for some of those memberships, since he was busy with paying out prizes and other duties, but will do so soon.

Hall of Fame:

The committee on this issue has recommended 9 names, including 7 people with ties to Southern California who are already in the USCF Hall of Fame. We wanted to get them in our HOF too. These names are: Larry Christiansen, Isaac Kashan, Jacqueline Piatagorsky, Diane Savereide, Herman Steiner, James Tarjan and John Watson. Two other names we have added are Anthony Saidy and Jeremy Silman. A vote on these names was proposed by Ala'a and seconded by Jim Minella. All board members present voted yes; no one abstained or voted no. The inductees will be announced at The Dreaming King Open, as we did last year. When we get closer to the DKO we will find out who can attend and receive a plaque, possibly 2 or 3 of these people who are still with us.

Budget and Tax Status:

The SCCF has been working hard to obtain non-profit tax favored status (501c3). John Wright has done most of the work on this with help from a committee that was formed to help him out. We are also getting some advice from Arcie Pragale, a chess playing tax advisor. We had a long discussion about all the things the IRS application requires, which mainly includes what percentages of both 1) time and 2) money we spend on our various activities. A 2026 estimated budget has been tweaked and discussed at length with some dissension on how much we should allocate to the State Championship. This will be discussed further at the next meeting, but for now John has a good outline of what we need to submit and will proceed to make a PDF file for final board approval over the next week or so. The IRS will back date our non-profit formation to 7/09/2025, that is when we incorporated earlier this year. There is a \$600 application fee.

Rank and File:

The next issue is being compiled by Editor Angela Liu with a deadline for submissions of December 31st and a publishing date sometime in January.

Upcoming Tournaments:

The American Open (11/24 – 11/30/25) is traditionally held over Thanksgiving weekend and is organized by the Ong family. They will NOT be requiring SCCF membership (they never have), but we are working to persuade them. They will allow us to set up a table there for players to sign up.

2026 High School Team Championship (1/11/26) at the San Diego Chess Club

The Dreaming King Open (1/17/26 – 1/19/26) is at the Sonesta LAX hotel, the same site as last year. \$20,000 in guaranteed prizes, online entry at scchess.com starting soon.

The Inter-Club State Championship (2/22/26) this event in San Diego is hoping to improve on the success we had last year. A new wrinkle is there will be two sections, each club can have an Open Section and an U1800 section.

The Scholastic State Championships (Super States) (3/21 – 3/22) at the Marriott LAX hotel. Dedian Guo filled the board in on all the details.

Senior State Championship (TBD) to be held in San Diego, sometime in April?

Next Meeting:

The next meeting was set for December 14th at 7 PM and the current meeting was adjourned around 8:45 PM. Thanks to all for attending.