

Southern California Chess Federation

Minutes from online meeting on 08/17/25, 7 PM

In Attendance:

President: Ala'a Addin Moussa

Vice President: Melik Khachiyan

Treasurer: Frank Lee

Membership Secretary: Chris Roberts

Secretary: Chuck Ensey

Other Board Members: Linus Eisenberg,

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

So all the board members were present at this meeting.

Non-Board members in Attendance: Dewain Barber

Agenda Approved:

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

Minutes Approved:

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and a motion to approve was passed 12-0.

Financial Report:

Balances – Bank of America Checking: \$100.04; Chase Checking: \$4,881.36; Chase Savings: \$17,100.21; PayPal: \$5,278.30 = Total of \$27,359.91. This slightly less than the previous Balance on 7/20/25 of \$27,933.49, mainly due to MDC prizes still being paid out and a few other expenses, offset by membership fees that were collected.

Membership Report:

Chris Roberts reported on the membership: 281 Regular, 448 Juniors, 21 Life and 4 Complementary memberships for a total of 754, up from 746 last month. We have a lot of players joining or renewing, but also a lot who expire and fall off the lists. The Southern California Open has 182 entries so far and 20 of them need to renew, 32 need to join. Several board members will be at the SCO to help collect dues. We had plateaued at 550 but now seem to have plateaued at 750 members.

Membership Drive and outreach:

Angela proposed a membership drive and outreach program to give a free 1-year membership to low-income girls. Chris pointed out that this would have a cost of \$6,000 = 12 Board members * 25 free memberships each * \$20 opportunity cost for each junior membership. This cost is half the amount we raised last year for the SoCal State Invitational Championship. Ala'a made a motion to boost membership by

allowing each board member to give out 25 free 6-month memberships (2 magazines) to players who have never had a SCCF membership before. This was discussed and debated for some time before a vote was taken and the motion passed 7 to 3 with one abstention and one member temporarily absent from the meeting.

Motion by Ala'a, second by John: Launch a membership drive where Board members have a quota of (25) twenty-five free 6-month memberships they can award to any player who has never been a SCCF member.

Ayes: Angela, Ala'a, Randy, Mennella, Frank, Dedian, John

Nays: Chuck, Linus, Harrell

Abstain: Chris

Temporarily absent: Melik

Motion adopted.

After the vote, Chuck said he would like to donate his 25 free memberships to Angela who could maybe put them to better use than he could. SDCC will still have 25 that Jim Harrell can give out.

Membership options:

Another idea discussed was having an auto-renewal option. Chris Roberts will look into the feasibility of implementing that with a discount for whoever signs up. Chuck also mentioned he would like to see a 3-year membership option, he thinks we should go for 3 years instead of just 2, again with a discount of maybe \$5 to \$10.

Rank and File:

The Summer 2025 issue is being reviewed and updated before the final draft is made by Editor Angela Liu. It looks like another great issue we can all be proud of thanks to all the contributors and the Editor.

We are still getting magazines returned with seemingly more bad addresses with the Spring 2025 issue. Some are coming back quite a while after mailing. We are doing our best to correct any errors with Chris reaching out to each return. Sometimes it seems to be due to a bad postal worker, the address is correct but it still gets returned. Chris stated he is asking each renewal or join to verify their mailing address. This was not done in the past: Randy stated he only reached out to the ones he thought might need verification.

Delegates meetings:

Frank and Jim Mennella gave reports on the delegates meeting they attended.

Upcoming Tournaments:

The Southern California Open (8/29 – 9/01) this event in Glendale is progressing well and is already attracting a lot of online entries. The prize fund of \$50,000 is outstanding thanks to corporate sponsors.

The Chess For Cure SOCAL Open (9/20 – 9/21) in Monrovia will benefit cancer research at the City of Hope.

The San Diego Open (10/24 – 10/26) is at the Courtyard Marriott in Liberty Station in San Diego.

The Los Angeles Open (11/07 – 11/09) is a Goichberg event that used to be held earlier in the year but has now moved to this later date. It will be at the Hilton Orange County Airport.

The American Open (11/24 – 11/30) is traditionally held over Thanksgiving weekend and is organized by the Ong family.

Dewain commented once again about the USCF not working very well with Southern California to host events here instead of less desirable places in the West.

2025 Board Elections:

The elections this year are in progress and are strictly online.

Roundtable:

The issue of what to do with Out-Of-State addresses was discussed and it was agreed we should still mail them the Rank and File issue, but we should try to contact them to see if there is an in-state address that might be a better place to mail to.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting was set for September 14th at 7 PM and the current meeting was adjourned around 9 PM. Thanks to all for attending.