

Southern California Chess Federation

Minutes from Zoom Board meeting

July 20, 2025

In Attendance

President: Ala'a-Addin Moussa

Vice President: Melik Khachiyani

Membership Secretary: Chris Roberts

Secretary: -

Treasurer: -

Other Board Members: Dedian Guo, James Harrell, Jim Mennella, Linus Eisenburg,
Randy Hough, John Wright, Angela Liu

Non-Board members: Dewain Barber

Board Members Not In Attendance

Chuck Ensey

Frank Lee

Agenda & Minutes

- The Zoom meeting was called to order by President Moussa with a quorum at 7:05 PM.
- President Moussa asked if there were any additional agenda items:
Yes, need to talk about the 2026 MDC.
- President Moussa moved for the agenda to be approved. Harrell seconded.
Ayes 10, Nays 0. Agenda unanimously approved.
- President Moussa moved for the June minutes to be approved. Wright seconded.
Ayes 10, Nays 0. June minutes unanimously approved.

Chris Roberts agreed to take minutes in the absence of Secretary Ensey who did not show.

Financial Report

- In Frank Lee's absence President Moussa reviewed the financial report email Frank sent out for this meeting. Account balances as follows:

B of A checking: \$100.04,

Chase checking: \$6,088.36

Chase Savings: \$17,100.10

PayPal balance of \$4,644.99

For a total of \$27,933.49

- Frank's email stated there were a few MDC prize checks that have not yet been cashed.
- Frank's email stated there were minor banking fees (monthly + stop payment) he will follow-up on to try and avoid in the future.

- A notable transaction this month was a \$26,450 to Chuck Ensey for the Pacific Southwest Open entries paid via PayPal. These cover the prize checks he wrote.
- John Wright asked what SCCF's financial situation would look like when SCCF filed for tax exempt status in the next couple months.
- There was a brief discussion of what liabilities the current bank balance funds would need to cover. Primarily, we believe those would be 12 months of R&F printing and mailing costs, i.e. 4 issues at about \$3,000 per issue or \$12,000. Leaving a net of \$15,933.49 for SCCF.
- There was a question about how much revenue SCCF would realize from the 2025 SoCal Open in Glendale. Answer: none beyond SCCF dues for SoCal residents required to join or renew.

Membership Report

- Chris Roberts reported on the membership: 278 Regular, 445 Juniors, 19 Life and 4 Complementary memberships for a total of 746.
- So, membership is down 8 members from last month. This is a net result of (1) an influx of members from the Pacific Southwest Open that required SCCF membership for all SoCal residents, and (2) 95 members that expired in the last 90 days.
- A lapse reminder was sent to those who had expired in the last 90 days. This reminder resulted in seven renewals.
- Chris Roberts reported that the PSW team got all PSW entrants that were obligated to join or renew for the PSW. Three unrated players had this requirement waived. Great work by Chuck and his PSW team.
- Chris Roberts reported all 12 Board members have a current SCCF membership.
- Chris Roberts reported he is reaching out to every member who joins or renews to confirm their mailing address to minimize bounced R&Fs. When members respond this confirms the address and a good email address.

Rank and File

- Summer issue schedule:
 - All material preferably due by Aug. 15 although Spring issue stated August 31st deadline.
 - Publish and mail early September
- Summer issue contents:
 - Melik will annotate a couple games from the US Senior Championship.
 - President Moussa will work with Chris Roberts to write an article about the SoCal State Championship. Three or four of the SoCal State Championship players have annotated games for the next R&F. And, we have lots of pictures of the SoCal State Championship taken by Chris Roberts.
 - Eduard Hakobyan annotated a MDC game.

- National Tournament of State Champions, Angela will coordinate with all representatives for a single article
- San Diego County Championships flyer
- Dreaming King Open flyer
- Clubs contributions: possible contribution from LPCC (Randy Hough).

Upcoming Tournaments

- Dewain Barber shared that USCF Delegate Motion #27 requires player that represent the U.S. to be a U.S. citizen. This will likely impact next year's events.
- A question about when the SCCF stipends would be paid. Dedian Guo is handling these.
- SoCal Open Championship in Glendale tabled until next meeting because Armen is out of the country.
- There was a discussion of whether the SoCal Open in Glendale will be seeded in the 2026 SoCal State Invitational. This issue needs to be resolved now because the SCO will be held before the new Board is voted in.

MOTION: To seed the winner (if SoCal resident) of the SoCal Open in Glendale into the 2026 SoCal State Invitational.

Moved by: President Moussa. Seconded by: Linus Eisenburg

Ayes: 10; Nays: 0; Abstentions: 0

Result: Motion approved unanimously

New business: 2026 Memorial Day Classic

- Randy Hough reported we can get the same hotel if we want it for the 2026 MDC. But, we need to act now to secure the contract.
- Anthony Ong will be replacing Randy as the primary MDC organizer and Tournament Director.
- The 2026 MDC will still be run as a SCCF-organized tournament.

MOTION: To hold the 2026 Memorial Day Classic at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys.

Moved by: President Moussa. Seconded by: Randy

Ayes: 10; Nays: 0; Abstentions: 0

Result: Motion approved unanimously

Election

- Chris Roberts reported that the 2025 e-voting app was coming along nicely. Will be ready for a few others to help test the system.
- e-Ballot:
 - Has 11 candidates now

- Prevents voters from casting more than six votes
- Prevents voters from voting more than once
- Prevents NorCal or Out-of-State members from voting
- Ala'a previously asked for a Mailchimp email blast to plug the SoCal Open and give members another heads-up that the e-voting is coming Aug. 1.
- Chris Roberts noted that next there will be an election integrity issue if he is running the e-voting election app and running as a candidate for the Board. Ala'a suggested this should be addressed in the new Bylaws.

Incorporating SCCF

- SCCF received official confirmation from the California Secretary of State that its application to incorporate was approved. So, it is official: as of July 7, 2025 SCCF is incorporated and is SCCF, Inc.
- The former SCCF Constitution and former Bylaws are now null and void.
- The newly incorporated SCCF has 90 days to file its Statement of Information (which just lists the main officers) with the California Secretary of State.
- John Wright reported that a subcommittee of President Moussa, Chuck Ensey, Frank Lee, Chris Roberts and himself met a second time to draft new Bylaws. These new Bylaws will use the former SCCF Constitution and former Bylaws as a starting point.
- Once SCCF has its new Bylaws, it can file with the IRS for tax exempt status.
- Tax exempt means member dues, donations, entry fees are not considered SCCF revenues aka not taxable. It also means SCCF will have 501(c)(3) status and donors can write-off donations e.g. for the SoCal State Invitational Championship.

Roundtable

None

Next Meeting & Adjournment

- The next meeting was set for Sunday Aug. 17 at 7 PM via Zoom.
- The current meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Thanks to all for attending.