

Southern California Chess Federation

Minutes from Zoom Board meeting
June 22, 2025

In Attendance

President: Ala'a-Addin Moussa

Vice President: -

Membership Secretary: Chris Roberts

Secretary: -

Treasurer: Frank Lee

Other Board Members: Dedian Guo, James Harrell, Jim Mennella,

Linus Eisenberg, Randy Hough, John Wright

Non-Board members: Dewain Barber

Board Members Not In Attendance

Chuck Ensey

Angela Lu (travel)

Melik Khachiyan (travel)

Agenda & Minutes

- The Zoom meeting was called to order by President Moussa with a quorum at 4:05 PM.
- President Moussa asked if there were any additional agenda items, no.
- President Moussa moved for the agenda to be approved. Harrell seconded. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Agenda unanimously approved.
- President Moussa moved for the May minutes to be approved. Wright seconded. Ayes 9, Nays 0. May minutes unanimously approved.

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

Financial Report

- Frank Lee reported the following account balances:
B of A checking: \$100.04,
Chase checking: \$18,074.04
Chase Savings: \$1,100.09
PayPal balance of \$21,126.84
Ror a total of \$40,401.01
- Frank also reported there is an estimated \$2,300 is an outstanding check(s) that will be paid from the \$40,401. And, \$13,900 in PSW entry fees that will be paid to Chuck Ensey after the PSW is held. This leaves a net SCCF balance of \$24,201.
- A notable transaction this month was a \$2,789 expense for the printing and mailing of the Spring R&F. 800 R&Fs were printed. About 750 were mailed and 50 were saved as extras.

- Frank Lee reported the Memorial Day Classic had revenues of \$39,641 and expenses of \$27,403 which yielded a \$12,238. Profit. President Moussa said this was a very successful event and that kudos goes to organizer and TD Randy Hough and TD Jim Harrell. All agreed the MDC was a great success this year.

SoCal State Championship

- Frank Lee reported the SoCal State Championship had donations of \$12,051 and expenses of \$12,743 which yielded a \$692 loss. President Moussa said this was a big success and kudos to FIDE Arbiter Randy Hough and DGT operator and photographer Chris Roberts. All agreed the SoCal State Championship was a great success this year.
- President Moussa added that all eight players felt the SoCal State Championship was very well run. And one of the eight said it was the best event ever.
- President Moussa expressed the hope that next year's SoCal State Championship can be a 9-round norm event.
- President Moussa stated that only one seat in the 2026 SoCal State Championship had been set and that was for Eduard Hakobyan because he won the 2025 MDC.
- John Wright shared that he recognized only one of the eight players and hopes SCCF can include up-and-coming players in the event. One suggestion was to include next year's SuperStates winner.
- President Moussa stated the Board will take up the issue of who gets seated in the 2026 SoCal State Championship in September when the new Board is set after the upcoming election. The only exception is if the current Board wants to add the 2025 SoCal Open in Glendale as a qualifier it can do so at the next Board meeting.

Membership Report

- Chris Roberts reported on the membership: 279 Regular, 452 Juniors, 19 Life and 4 Complementary memberships for a total of 754, a new post-Covid high.
- We are getting an influx of members from the Pacific Southwest Open that requires SCCF membership for all SoCal residents.
- Chris Roberts shared a membership chart that he has been maintaining since 2005. Highlights:
 - The peak membership in the last twenty years was 1,053 members in July 2016.
 - The current and Pre-Covid membership levels are 903 and 754, respectively. This represents a 16.5% drop.
 - The current and Pre-Covid Regular membership levels are 376 and 279, respectively. This represents a 26% drop.
 - The current and Pre-Covid Junior membership levels are 486 and 452, respectively. This represents a 7% drop.
- President Moussa stated he wants to target club players that are not currently SCCF members. And that ideally all SoCal USCF members should be SCCF members.
- Dedian Guo stated he believes the Intra-Club Team tournament was especially popular with Regular members. Others agreed.

- Chris Roberts stated he believes the US Amateur Team West events were also popular with Regular members and this might be a good event to bring back.

Rank and File

- The current issue of R&F is at Staples with an ETA of June 25.
- Winter issue:
 - Three or four of the SoCal State Championship players have annotated games for the next R&F.
 - Eduard Hakobyan annotated an MDC game for R&F.
 - We have lots of pictures of the SoCal State Championship taken by Chris Roberts.
 - President Moussa proposed that he work with Chris Roberts to write an article about the SoCal State Championship.
 - San Diego County Championships flyer
 - Dreaming King Open flyer

Upcoming Tournaments

- Dewain Barber shared that he was “extremely displeased” with the new US Chess Events Director. In part, this was because the “Grades” event was going to be held in Spokane, WA during the winter.
- Dedian Guo volunteered to help Dewain with attempting to bring major scholastic events to SoCal. Dedian and Dewain can collaborate on hosting new national events and bring developments to the board for further support.
- Dedian Guo asked if the popular Intra-Club Team event will be an annual event or could SCCF consider holding it more often. Yes, SCCF can consider that more frequently according to President Moussa. There was a discussion regarding the idea of forming a league championship that allows club club matches over an extended season in addition to the intra-club team championship held once a year.

Incorporating SCCF

- John Wright reported that a subcommittee of President Moussa, Chris Roberts and himself met to discuss draft articles of incorporation that John Wright had drawn up.
- One sticking point is that a requirement for incorporating is that the entity needs an “Agent” and a street address for the Agent. This is in case a party needs to serve a document on SCCF. Chuck Ensey told President Moussa that SCCF could use SDCC’s street address; however, President Moussa was unable to get a person associated with the SDCC to volunteer as Agent.
- President Moussa stated he would be the Agent but his new home lease document forbids such arrangements at his residence.

- Frank Lee volunteered to be the Agent and agreed to use his home address in the articles of incorporation document.
- With this sticking point resolved, the next step is for John Wright to prepare a resolution that needs to be signed by President Moussa and two other SCCF Officers. Once signed, the current SCCF Constitution is null and void. Then, SCCF has 90 days to file new Bylaws that will be a merge of the material that is currently in the then-defunct Constitution and the current Bylaws.
- John Wright clarified that only the members can change the Articles of Incorporation. And only the Board can change the new Bylaws. Bylaws talk about how to do things, e.g., how elections and Board meetings are run.

Roundtable

- Dewian Barber announced that there will be a new K-3 category in the next Invitationals. This means another person to sponsor with a stipend. Dewian will be contributing \$400 to this stipend, and Dedian Guo's ICEA will contribute \$800-1000 toward this stipend. The stipends are confirmed for this year but not in perpetuity.
- 2025 SCCF Board election
Chris Roberts wanted to make sure everyone knew we have eleven candidates for six seats in the upcoming election.
There was a short discussion about who can vote in the election. While there is no age limit, normally parents would e-Vote for young members. And we confirmed that the election will be "one member, one vote." Chris Roberts stated there were 41 email addresses used by 88 members. The highest number being six members associated with one email address.

Next Meeting & Adjournment

- The next meeting was set for Sunday July 20 at 7 PM via Zoom.
- The current meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM. Thanks to all for attending.