

Minutes of the MCA Board of Directors Meeting, July 9th, 2016

The meeting was held via Skype and was called to order by President Selden Trimble at 2:04 pm.

Board members present were: Jonathan Cannon, Bruce Cantwell, Bob Howe, Thomas Rehmeier, Martin Stahl, Selden Trimble and Ken Jones. Absent: John Sutton and Ken West.

The future meeting date was set for Sunday morning during the Missouri Open in St. Louis. This is expected to be October 2, 2016 and will be communicated to the Board as soon as possible. *(N.B.: The Missouri Open was later changed to a different date, but the Board meeting will still be held via Skype at 2:00 pm on October 1st.)*

Secretary's Minutes of last meeting: A motion to accept the minutes of the April 2016 meeting as submitted by the Secretary was made by Thomas Rehmeier and seconded by Bruce Cantwell. Approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted was made by Jonathan Cannon and seconded by Ken Jones. Approved by acclamation. [Report attached.]

Webmaster Report: Martin Stahl (Web Content Manager) noted that after Missouri Scholastic Championship, the number of unique visitors and views returned to average levels. The Webmaster report was accepted as submitted.

Membership Report: Thomas Rehmeier reported that the number of active MCA memberships had dropped by more than a hundred. The absence of tournaments that require MCA membership is the obvious root cause. Selden Trimble asked about the possibility of having an automatic e-mail being sent out when a membership expires and having the option of memberships being processed and paid for on-line. Jonathan Cannon volunteered to research if PayPal was an option; others noted that an outside company might be hired to do this at little or no cost.

Old Business:

Missouri Chess Bulletin: While the editor was not present, the Board noted that several new articles had been posted, as had the current list of Board members and officers. Selden Trimble pointed out, however, that the USCF Clearinghouse contained no listings. Tom Rehmeier agreed to send e-mails to organizers in Missouri and adjoining states asking them to contact us when they schedule an event so it can be added to the Clearinghouse. Additionally, the Region 1 board members were asked to contact the St. Louis Chess Club so that we could include their current tournament schedule in our Clearinghouse.

Missouri Open: Bob Howe reported that he is still finalizing the details, but it is probable that the Missouri Open will be held on the Saint Louis University campus the weekend of October 1-2, 2016. *(N.B.: Due to problems with site availability, the Missouri Open will now be held December 9-11, 2016, at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis.)* There will also be a scholastic event concurrent with the Open. A motion was made by Bruce Cantwell for the MCA to donate up to \$500 to the scholastic event

for trophies, medals, a guest lecturer, etc. Martin Stahl seconded; passed by acclimation.

Chess sets for 2017 Missouri Scholastic Championships: The 100 sets we ordered arrived; however, 3 sets of white pieces were missing. The vendor will be contacted for replacements. It was also noted that there were enough sets left over from this year's event that we could make them available for use at MCA events.

MCA tournaments in KC: Randy Merrell, who recently moved back to Missouri, has been contacted about organizing tournaments in the KC area. He is agreeable to the idea but needs to research sites. Selden Trimble remains optimistic that the Missouri Class Championships could still be held in KC before the end of the year.

New Business:

Selection of Missouri's USCF Delegates: Selden Trimble advised us that according to USCF rules, a state's USCF delegates remain the same in perpetuity until the USCF receives a notice of change; however, only Bob Howe is listed by the USCF as a current delegate. Bob is not available to attend the delegate's meetings during the US Open in Indianapolis this year. The Board was polled to see if anyone else could attend and Ken Jones volunteered. Thomas Rehmeier made a motion that Ken Jones be made one of Missouri's USCF delegates; Jonathan Cannon seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor (Ken Jones abstaining). Selden Trimble will notify the USCF about the change. Selden also noted that USCF rules allow a state's duly-elected delegate to fill a vacant second delegate spot with any USCF member. Ken is charged with finding and selecting an appropriate second delegate to represent Missouri at the meetings in Indianapolis. Selden also noted that the USCF requires a state's list of delegates *before* January 1 of the year in which they are to serve. Since only one Board of Directors meeting is scheduled before January 1, 2017, the Board should be prepared to select delegates during it.

Chess-related scholarships at Missouri State University (Springfield): Selden Trimble notified the Board that an endowment is being set up to give up to 4 scholarships a year to students attending Missouri State University (Springfield) who have achieved some level of chess ability (e.g., a certain USCF rating). While the MCA has no input on the amount of the scholarships or the requirements needed to be eligible, Selden believes it important that we partner with the University (and its chess club) and encourage them to hold at least one USCF (and MCA) chess tournament a year on their campus.

Future of the MCA: Selden Trimble noted that the MCA should be more aggressive in promoting chess by encouraging people not on the Board to organize tournaments. He noted that 3 individuals had recently moved to the state (Randy Merrell, Loal Davis and John Salisbury) who could help in this endeavor. The consensus of the Board was that a limited amount of funds could be offered each year to organizers who hold chess tournaments. Martin Stahl had already begun collecting ideas on MCA sponsorship and asked for input from the rest of the board. All were in agreement that in order to receive MCA funds, the tournament would have to be USCF-rated with MCA membership required. It would have to appear in the USCF's TLA's and be listed in the MCA's Clearinghouse. There would also be a minimum number of rounds (3) with a non-blitz time limit. Other requirements might be that scoresheets and a written report on the tournament be submitted for MCB publication. Discussion will continue at next meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Martin Stahl at 3:40 pm, seconded by Jonathan Cannon. Approved by acclimation.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Jones, Secretary
[Attachment: Treasurer's Report]

ADDENDUM TO THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF 7-9-16:

As previously established, the Board may conduct business via email. In an e-mail dated August 4th, 2016, Selden Trimble made the following motion:

“Every member of the Board of Directors of the Missouri Chess Association must provide to the editor of the Association’s website the following three things:

- 1) a mailing address,
- 2) an email address, and
- 3) a telephone number.

The editor of the Association’s website shall post these wherever appropriate on that website. In particular, this information shall be posted with the names of the directors on the webpage that lists current directors.”

The motion was seconded by Ken Jones on August 9th. In the discussion that followed, these points were raised:

Providing this information need not require a change in the by-laws; it should be standard operating procedure or a requirement for election to the Board;

Some members were concerned about using personal email accounts that could be collected by automated email harvesters, subjecting the Board members to email spam;

Although he intended it to be a by-law change, Selden did not state it that way, but made it a simple motion;

The current MCA by-laws do not expressly allow by-law changes to be made via email votes, as they do with motions.

After the allotted time frame of 7 days, the vote was 4 in favor (Selden Trimble, Ken West, Jonathan Cannon, Bob Howe), 1 against (Martin Stahl), with 4 abstentions (John Sutton, Thomas Rehmeier, Bruce Cantwell, Ken Jones). Lacking the required 5 votes in favor, the motion failed.

The Missouri Chess Association

Treasurer's Report: April 9th, 2016 - June 30th, 2016

Account Summary

Beginning Balance: \$ 14,346.17

Total Deposits: \$ 4,059.00

\$ 3,935.66 Columbia College Sponsorship

\$ 70.00 Memberships

\$ 33.34 Donation

\$ 20.00 Scholastic Affiliate

Total Expenses: \$ 1,011.20

\$ 942.64 Chess sets

\$ 25.48 Domain Renewal, 2 years

\$ 43.08 Website Hosting

Closing Balance: \$ 17,393.97

MCA Balance: \$ 5,842.39

MCA Scholastic Balance: \$ 11,551.58

Respectfully,

Martin Stahl

Treasurer