

Minutes of the MCA Board of Directors Meeting, October 1st, 2016

The meeting was held via Skype and was called to order by Vice President Bob Howe at 2:02 pm.

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

The future meeting date was set for Sunday morning, December 11th at 8:30 am during the Missouri Open in St. Louis. Should this prove not to be possible, it will be held via Skype at 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 17th.

Secretary's Minutes of last meeting: A motion to accept the minutes of the July 2016 meeting as submitted by the Secretary was made by Bob Howe and seconded by Jonathan Cannon. Approved by acclimation.

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

Webmaster Report: Martin Stahl (Web Content Manager) reported that website visits had returned to average levels. The board also gave positive feedback on the updated MCA Officers page and it was agreed to keep it. Martin also reported that he had updated a plugin to make the Clearinghouse easier to use and had added a few tournaments to it. The Webmaster report was accepted as submitted.

Membership Report: None submitted.

Old Business:

Missouri Chess Bulletin: There have been several new articles and games submitted. Editor Ken West suggested more articles about scholastic players in the KC area, which could only increase our presence in this region. It was offered that Ron Luther might know some suitable candidates as he is a coach.

Missouri Open: By rotation, St. Louis is due to host the Missouri Open this year. It will be held at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis from December 10-11, with a blitz tournament being held during the evening of Friday, December 9th. Kansas City is scheduled to hold the Missouri Open in 2017.

Grand Prix events: A tentative schedule for 2017 MCA Grand Prix events was discussed. Most of the major metropolitan areas would be a part of it:

Missouri Class Championships / St. Louis / June-July
Missouri Open / Kansas City / September
Springfield Open / Springfield / late October
Columbia Open / Columbia / December? organizer unclear

Of course other events that want to be held with MCA backing would be possible as well (which brought up the issue of paying a TD to hold MCA events). It was proposed that for 2017, free entries to the 2018 US Open in St. Louis would be awarded instead of

cash prizes for the Grand Prix winners. Ken Jones will try to provide the rest of BOD other ideas on its structure in advance of the next meeting.

(Secretary's update, 11-3-16: Although it was stated at the Delegates meeting that St. Louis was to host the 2018 US Open, the US Chess website indicates it is to be held in Middleton, Wisconsin. While this does not negate the idea of an MCA Grand Prix tournament circuit, the prospect of a free entry into the US Open would be less of an attraction if it is not held in Missouri.)

New Business:

Selection of Missouri's USCF Delegates: Ken Jones had emailed the BOD with a report on the Delegates meeting in Indianapolis and there was some minor discussion on it. He noted that the 2017 US Open is to be held in Norfolk, Virginia (July 29-August 6). Bob Howe asked if any of the Board would be available to attend the Delegates meeting there; Ken Jones said it was probable that he could. A formal Delegate selection should be held at the December meeting (i.e., before the US Chess deadline of January 1, 2017).

Tournament of US Senior State Champions: Ken Jones reported that during the US Delegates meeting, a motion was made to hold a tournament for players aged 50 and above, with one representative from each state. It would run concurrently with the Denker & Barber scholastic championships during the first few days of the US Open. While the motion was deferred to the Policy Board for further study, it stands a good chance to be implemented in time for the 2017 US Open. Since Missouri does not hold a Senior Championship, it was decided that our representative would be the highest-rated Missouri resident over the age of 50 who accepted the invitation. Ken Jones will send the BOD a proposed selection guideline prior to the next meeting.

2017 Missouri Scholastic Championships: The tentative date is set for March 18, 2017, pending verification that the usual site in Columbia is available. It was noted we had a request (from John Salisbury) to add a separate class of K-1 to this event. There was no immediate information available on how many players from last year's event were from these two grades, or a consensus that attendance would grow if players had the opportunity to compete for prizes in this new class. The BOD agreed to defer the matter to the event's TD, who may poll scholastic coaches for their input as well.

Future of the MCA: Selden Trimble sent an email mentioning the importance of using of 503(c) tax status as an aid to long-term financial stability. Also, while we will no longer receive annual funding from Columbia College, the administrator who worked with us there has now moved to Westminster College in Fulton, so there is at least a possibility of a similar partnership with them.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Martin Stahl at 2:57 pm, seconded by Jonathan Cannon. Approved by acclamation.

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

The Missouri Chess Association

Treasurer's Report: July 1st, 2016 - September 30th, 2016

Account Summary

Beginning Balance: \$ 17,393.97

Total Deposits: None

Total Expenses: \$ 400.00

\$ 400.00 for All-Girls Representative stipends for 2015 and 2016 *outstanding as of 9/30/16

Closing Balance: \$ 16,993.97

MCA Balance: \$ 5,842.39

MCA Scholastic Balance: \$ 11,151.58

Respectfully,

Martin Stahl
Treasurer