

Minutes of the MCA Board of Directors Meeting, December 11th, 2016

The meeting was held at The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis during the Missouri Open. Board members present were: Bob Howe, Thomas Rehmeier, Selden Trimble, Ken West and Ken Jones. Joining by Skype were Jonathan Cannon, Bruce Cantwell and Martin Stahl. Absent: John Sutton.

The next MCA BOD meeting date was set for Sunday, April 2nd at 2:00 pm via Skype. No back-up date was suggested.

President Selden Trimble directed the Secretary to send The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis a thank-you letter for allowing the MCA to hold the Missouri Open at their facility.

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

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

Bulletin Editor: Ken West reported several articles underway. He and Martin Stahl also discussed the possibility of uploading .pgn game files so they could be viewed on the website. Their discussion will continue after the meeting.

Webmaster Report: Martin Stahl (Web Content Manager) report stated that we had 2409 website views and 895 visitors. He also noted that he is investigating a free plug-in that will allow the MCA to send out automated membership renewal reminders. The Webmaster report was accepted as submitted.

Old Business:

MCA's PayPal account: Bob Howe reported that approximately 50% of the pre-registrations for his last two tournaments have used MCA's PayPal account. The PayPal fees have been less than the usual credit card fees because many people use the "friends and family" PayPal option, which costs the MCA nothing. He also noted that using PayPal necessarily creates more work for the MCA Treasurer because account access is limited.

MCA partnership with Westminster College: It was reported that discussions are still underway with Westminster College in Fulton to determine the extent of their interest in partnering with the MCA in promoting chess in Missouri, although it was likely that they will not offer the \$5000 annual donation we had received from Columbia College.

Endowment fund established at Missouri State University: A \$200 annual scholarship has been established at Missouri State University in Springfield, with a minimum USCF rating of 1600 necessary for eligibility. The MCA will also partner with the University in running an annual Missouri State University Open. Selden Trimble suggested the MCA use due diligence to insure the scholarship is being properly administered.

Establishing 503(c) tax status for the MCA: Selden Trimble again emphasized the need for us to establish this tax status to encourage donations to the MCA. He and Martin Stahl will begin to assemble the required IRS paperwork.

MCA Events in 2017: Bob Howe noted that, by rotation, the Missouri Class Championships should be held in St. Louis (summer time-frame) and the Missouri Open should be held in Kansas City (late September-early October). He can organize and direct the Class Championships, but asks that the Region 2 Board members assist in organizing the Missouri Open (site and/or hotel information); a TD will be found for it at a later date.

New Business:

Election of officers: A motion to retain all MCA Officers in their current positions was made by Jonathan Cannon and seconded by Martin Stahl. The motion passed unanimously. Current terms expire August 31, 2017. (*As a side note, Selden Trimble stated that he intends to step down from the Board after the completion of this term.*)

Call for nominations to the MCA Board: The next election of the MCA Board of directors is in 2017 with the Board being seated September 1. It was agreed that notice of this should be given as soon as possible so that interested candidates may submit their names in nomination to election commissioner Ed Baur. The general membership will be so informed sometime in January, with a follow-up notice in March. **[Secretary's note: As stated in the Bylaws, a member must communicate in writing to the election commissioner no later than April 15 to be placed on the ballot. Ballots must be mailed to each MCA member in good standing no later than June 1 with the votes being tallied no later than June 30.]**

Removal of current MCA Board Member from Region 2: It was noted that John Sutton, who was elected as a Region 2 Board Member for the term beginning September 1, 2015, has not attended any MCA Board meetings from that time to this (six in total) and has not communicated to the Board to explain his reasons for absence. As allowed in the MCA Bylaws (Article V, Section 3), a motion was made by Selden Tremble (seconded by Ken Jones) to declare his seat vacant by absence without just cause of two consecutive Board meetings. The motion passed unanimously. The other Board Members from Region 2 (Bruce Cantwell and Ken Jones) were charged with finding a replacement (per the requirements for service given in Article V, Section 4) to serve the remainder of his term. **[Secretary's note: On January 17, 2017, Randy Merrell agreed to fill the vacant Board Member seat in Region 2.]**

MCA tournaments in the Kansas City area: With former resident Randy Merrell having returned to Missouri, a motion was made (Thomas Rehmeier, seconded by Ken West) to have Selden Trimble act as MCA's liaison and discuss with Mr. Merrell his willingness to organize and direct an MCA tournament in the KC area during the first quarter of 2017. If the tournament format was acceptable to the Board, Selden was authorized to offer Mr. Merrell a guarantee against financial loss of up to \$400. Passed unanimously.

Purchase of chess sets and boards for Missouri Scholastic Championships: A motion was made (Thomas Rehmeier, seconded by Ken Jones) to purchase up to 100 sets and boards for use in the Missouri Scholastic Championships, pending an inventory of what is currently on hand. It was noted that this would allow us to provide equipment for every participant other than the high school players (who are more likely to bring their own.) It

was also noted that this will probably be our last such purchase, given our current income level. Passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Thomas Rehmeier at 9:34 am, seconded by Jonathan Cannon. Approved by acclamation. Immediately after the Board meeting, a general membership meeting was held, led by President Selden Trimble. Approximately 15 people were in attendance. Selden outlined some of our current activities and future goals. There were several individuals interested in our mission of promoting chess in Missouri and contact information was shared.

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

ADDENDUM TO THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF 12-11-16:

On January 12, 2017, Selden Trimble made the following motion via email:
“The MCA shall reimburse Bob Howe \$806.26 for his personal loss taken in running the 2016 Missouri Open for the MCA.” Later that day, Bob Howe noted that there was an error on the tournament financial report he submitted and the actual loss was \$686.26.

On January 13, 2017, Bruce Cantwell suggested we amend the motion:
“I propose Bob Howe be reimbursed \$686.26 as new information was provided.”
It was seconded by Thomas Rehmeier on January 14, 2017.

After the required 7-day window to act, the Secretary recorded the following votes:

In favor: Ken Jones, Jonathan Cannon, Bruce Cantwell, Selden Trimble, Thomas Rehmeier, Martin Stahl
Opposed: (none)
Abstaining: Bob Howe, Ken West.

The motion passed 6-0-2.

The Missouri Chess Association

Treasurer's Report: October 1st, 2016 - November 30th, 2016

Account Summary

Beginning Balance: \$ 16,993.97

Total Deposits:

\$ 200.00 Scholastic entry from State
\$ 95.00 Memberships
\$ 1.00 PayPal testing

Total Expenses: None

Closing Balance: \$ 17,289.97

MCA Balance: \$ 5,938.39

MCA Scholastic Balance: \$ 11,351.58

Respectfully,

Martin Stahl
Treasurer