

2009 Annual Meeting of the Arizona Chess Federaton, Inc.

The meeting was held at the Mathnasium in Gilbert, AZ on Saturday, September 13, 2009. Thanks to Lynn Schucker for providing the site.

Eight Board members participated. Those present in person at the start of the meeting were Mike Fitch, Ramie Jimenez, Myron Lieberman, and Lynn Schucker. Kiki Huerta was connected by phone. Will Wharton joined the meeting in person at 12:34 PM and a quorum was reached. Kent Maneth arrived in person at 12:56 PM and Jennifer Shacter was connected by phone at that time. Marty Schneider, Spencer Lower, and Robby Adamson were not present. Rachel Lieberman was present as the Secretary's assistant.

As President Kent Maneth had not yet arrived, Secretary Myron Lieberman started the meeting at 12:18PM with a discussion of changes in Delegate selection procedures and the status of current Delegates for the 2020 meeting. No Delegate who resigned prior to the Delegates' meeting was replaced at the Delegates' meeting, so all current Delegates remain Arizona Delegates for the 2010 meeting. The complete text of USCF's letter which described the changes in procedure was read. The letter had been previously circulated to all Board members. Delegate selection will revert to the states starting with the selection for the 2011 meeting. The board will need to determine how, when and where to select Arizona Delegates. The term of office of a Delegate has reverted to one year but those elected in 2008 to serve in 2009 and 2010 are not affected.

ACFI must provide USCF with a list of Delegates and Alternates by November 1 each year for the following year's Delegates' Meeting. It has been suggested that ACFI revert to the procedure used in the past when the states selected the Delegates. That would involve an election being held at a specific time and place (usually at a major tournament). All ACFI members would have a chance to vote. They could request a mail ballot if they were unable to attend the meeting. There will also be an election in 2010 for the ACFI Board. It was suggested that possibly the ACFI annual meeting could be held in conjunction with a tournament or other chess event and that the election would take place there.

Kiki Huerta noted that he was planning to submit a bid for the 2010 Arizona Closed Championship to be held on Labor Day weekend and an Arizona Open Championship to be played on Memorial Day weekend in conjunction with the USATW. Myron Lieberman pointed out a State Championship on Labor Day weekend would be a good time to have the ACFI meeting and the elections. If that happens a Bylaw change would be needed to allow the Board vote to be done in this way. Current Bylaws require unanimous agreement of the entire Board to avoid the need for a poll of all ACFI members. A Bylaw change to allow a more practical super-majority of the Board should be proposed first and if it passes, the election procedure change would be possible. Will Wharton indicated a willingness to be on the Bylaws Committee and to lead the discussion on making the required Bylaw changes. Myron Lieberman moved and Ramie Jimenez seconded the following motion:

ACFI0909-01 – Lieberman – Moved, that Will Wharton coordinate the effort to make needed Bylaw changes and will be the contact on the Board for anyone who wants to suggest ideas. **PASSED 7-0-1** with Will Wharton abstaining.

Will Wharton suggested that a Nominating Committee be formed to nominate at least one candidate for each position on the Board (and preferably more). Myron Lieberman indicated a preference to have at least one committee member from each of Arizona's three regions. Will Wharton accepted that idea and the following motion was made:

ACFI0909-02 – Wharton, Lieberman – Move to establish a Nominating Committee which should include at least one member from each region. **PASSED 8-0-0.**

The Bylaws require a minimum of four committee members. The concept is to get as many candidates that are willing to serve, not to restrict candidates. Therefore there should be no conflict if a Committee member becomes a candidate. Mike Fitch expressed a willingness to serve on the committee. As the committee needed a chair, Myron Lieberman moved the following:

ACFI0909-03 – Lieberman – Mike Fitch is named the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. **PASSED 7-0-1** with Mike Fitch abstaining.

The Treasurer's Report had been sent to Board members by e-mail. Treasurer Jennifer Shacter answered questions from the Board. She indicated that the Arizona representatives to the Denker and Polgar tournaments have not requested their reimbursements. Kiki Huerta indicated he would send a reminder to John Williams of Facebook. Jennifer Shacter moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by Myron Lieberman.

ACFI0909-04 – Shacter – Move to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. **PASSED 7-0-1** with Jennifer Shacter abstaining.

Jennifer Shacter had requested authorization to invest up to \$1000 in a short term CD. She raised the issue and discussed what was available. She also answered questions about signatories. Kiki Huerta moved the following motion, seconded by Lynn Schucker:

ACFI0909-05 – Huerta – The Board authorizes the Treasurer to invest up to \$1,000 in a CD of her choice for a term not to exceed 13 months. **PASSED 6-0-2** with Jennifer Shacter and Will Wharton abstaining.

The next item discussed was the website. Myron Lieberman indicated that he is willing to continue with the current web host, who has been hosting the site as a favor, but if it is decided to go to a professionally designed site with its own webmaster, designer, and host he would not object. It would, however, be a significant expense. Please note that the expense is primarily in the design and the webmaster if volunteers can't be found. Today web hosting shouldn't cost over \$8 per month (about \$100 per year including domain registration). The highly advertised sites that offer hosting for \$200 to \$300 annually are out of line. As it stands currently, Myron posts information that is sent to him for posting. He cannot go from site to site to find material. He requested again that if anyone has promotional material, results, stories, or anything newsworthy or otherwise appropriate to post on the site they can send it to him for posting or he can get an account set up to allow others to post directly (with Board approval).

Myron Lieberman informed the Board (and the Nominating Committee Chairman) that it is his intention to not run for the Board in the 2010 election. He pointed out that today there are many active competent people who can really help the organization by being on the Board and he does not want to deprive them of a position. A variety of personal health and family issues have slowed both him and Rachel to the point where they need to limit their activity. They both indicated that they would still help in any way they can. Myron Lieberman has also cut back on his USCF obligations. Among the things they could do that do not require being on the Board would be providing advice, maintaining the PO Box, continuing with the website, interfacing with USCF, promotion, helping new organizations, and

other clerical tasks that do not involve time constraints. Please note: This could be done by contracting them as the ACFI office (at no charge) or by an emeritus position on the Board with the right to participate in discussion when they are present but without a vote.

Myron Lieberman noted that Facebook has become an important source for breaking chess news. One example he gave was the recent US Open. He was able to get news on Facebook faster than on the USCF site or the Mon Roi site. He suggested that organizers looking for publicity for an event should consider Facebook (if they are willing to join Facebook) and to contact Dan Lucas or Jennifer Shahade at USCF for consideration for "Chess Life Online".

Kiki Huerta asked how the recent State Championship went. Spencer Lower was a participant, so he was there all three days. Myron Lieberman noted that he and Rachel were there on two days. The site was good. He thanked organizer Joel Johnson and director Richard Smouse for a well organized and well run tournament and Pedram Atoufi for hosting the event at his Unity Chess Club, a full time chess club. The lighting was good and physical conditions were good. The only issue with the site was its far Northeast location. Tucson players did well. IM Levon Altounian took clear first, Leo Martinez took clear second, and host Pedram Atoufi finished clear third. Joel Johnson broadcast the tournament live on ICC and kept the Board informed daily of results and games. Thanks Joel.

There was one problem, however, and that was that three players withdrew. While this is not as big a problem as it would have been in a Round Robin, it takes away from the stature of a State Championship event. Whether or not penalties should be assessed for withdrawals in future State Championships was discussed. The question was raised as to whether the 12 player Swiss format worked. A 12 player Swiss with 6 rounds leads to strange and often anti-climactic pairings in the later rounds. A suggestion was made that possibly it could be expanded to 16 players. The issue was discussed. Will Wharton noted that a Round Robin structure would be much better. He also made the point that withdrawal from a Round Robin was a sin against chess. Discussion then turned to how players are selected and what leeway the organizer has in how to qualify players. Some sentiment was expressed against having the organizer include a "wild card" player in the field.

Michael Fitch noted that we were one organizer away from not having a tournament at all and a Swiss event with a "wild card" is better than no tournament at all. He suggested that comments on the event be put together and given to Joel as well as being posted on the website.

Kiki Huerta returned to his proposed events for 2010. He is considering an 8 player Round Robin and instead of a per player ACFI fee for organizers of qualifying events, there be a flat fee. Discussion of details followed. The proposal should be received soon.

Jennifer Shacter wanted to know if there should be any changes to the amounts set aside for the representatives to the Denker and Polgar events. Myron Lieberman pointed out that Dewain Barber chaired the USCF Denker Tournament Committee and Polgar Tournament Committee. This year, when the committees were named, the Denker Tournament Committee was renewed but there was no action yet on the Polgar Tournament Committee. This is probably due to legal issues. He suggested that the same amount as in the past be reserved for both representatives, but we won't know until later whether the Polgar Tournament will be dropped, replaced with a different girls' invitational, or if the Polgar Tournament will be held without USCF support (it still has Chess Trust support) in addition to a USCF national girls' invitational. That means we may have 0, 1, or 2 girls' invitationals to support. Until we know for sure, the amount reserved should remain unchanged.

Jennifer Shacter then asked about support for the Arizona Scorpions. Kiki Huerta suggested they should provide more details. Last year the Board provided one time support for the Scorpions to get started. It was specifically not an ongoing commitment. If ACFI continues to support the Scorpions at a similar level, what about other deserving individuals, organizations, or events? Kent Maneth said that we should have a policy on support. That should probably be in place before considering individual requests. Discussion continued.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 3:20 PM. Thanks to all who participated.