

2025 MCA Business Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2025 – Great Falls, MT

Attendees: 11

Status Report:

The 24-25 chess season saw a significant reduction in participation

- Every tournament drew less players than the prior year
 - Overall players down more than 10 per tournament
 - Members aren't travelling
 - Example: Billings only sent 6 players total across 5 non-Billings tournaments
 - All towns have players who don't travel
- Membership down by about 35
 - Additional 24 memberships expire on April 30th – won't know renewals until the fall
- Scholastic Championships will once again be held in Butte later this month.
 - Winners will have the opportunity to represent Montana in the National Tournaments of State Champions
- Thanks to Brent Downey for serving on the board but he is not running this year

Financials

- Bank balance down slightly more than \$500
 - Renewed website for 3 years, \$300 of which pays for future years so this explains part of the reduction
 - On a run rate basis balance is down by about \$200
 - Revenue down due to membership reduction
 - Expenses up due to Safe Play training reimbursements to TDs which were approved last year
- Finances impacted by membership rules
 - Memberships expire at the end of the month a year out.
 - Anyone who only plays their home tournament will only pay every other year
 - USCF memberships work the same way
 - (Example: Pay membership in November to play in Turkey. Membership expires at END of November the next year, so no renewal required to play in Turkey again)
- Bank balance still at \$2,700 due to positive financials each of previous 5 seasons so no immediate problem

Board Election:

Positions running unopposed: President Kevin Kuehnel, Vice President Wilton Strickland, new Secretary / Treasurer Dan McCourt, At Large Seats: Dan Mattson, Mike Muller – all unanimously elected

Submitted Agenda Items (Proposals):

Call for Delegates to USCF Annual Meeting

- No volunteers

Call for website administrator as Gary Solomon would like to step down. Thanks to Gary for building the updated website

- Brandon Arensmeyer has volunteered. He will also assist with social media in general.

Dan Mattson proposal to amend the Grand Prix rules by awarding Grand Prix Points to TDs as an additional incentive for sacrificing their own playing time.

- Discussion around awarding TDs an effective tournament score of 3 or 3.5 for Grand Prix Point purposes. On a vote of 9-2, it was decided to give each TD Grand Prix points as if they had scored 3 points in the tournament.

Location of Montana Open. Currently the Open cycles between 5 locations: Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Helena, Missoula. However due to rising costs and difficulties finding venues it is proposed to allow the board to determine the site of the Open without being restricted to a particular rotation.

- There was considerable discussion of the advantages of holding the Open in more central locations, especially as more members seem unwilling to drive longer distances. Motion to allow the board to decide the location of the Open Passed Unanimously

Member Items

Gary Solomon led a discussion about alternative models for qualifying for the championship tournament (Closed). While various options were reviewed there was no vote and the Closed will continue as it is for the 25-26 season at minimum.

Meeting Adjourned