

2026 MCA Business Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2025 – Bozeman, MT

Attendees: 11

Status Report:

The 25-26 chess season saw an uptick in attendance (+24 across 6 tournaments)

- Most of the increase came from the Turkey and the Open
 - Attendance still down vs 23-24 by about 40
 - Many members still aren't travelling
- Membership down again by about 30
 - With expected renewals at the Open, membership will be at 92
 - 35 of those are free memberships for unrated players
- Scholastic Championships will be held in Belgrade in early May.
 - Winners will have the opportunity to represent Montana in the National Tournaments of State Champions
- After many years promoting scholastic chess in Montana, Eric Walthall has decided to reduce his role going forward, so we will be looking for a new Scholastic Coordinator. Thanks to Eric for all his previous work and he will still be doing scholastic & Grand Prix events in Missoula.

Financials

- Bank balance up about \$240
 - An increase was expected since we prepaid the website fees for this year
 - On a run rate basis balance is up about \$90
 - Revenue (including expected renewals at Open) - \$855
- Bank balance back over \$2,900

Board Election:

Positions running unopposed: President Kevin Kuehnel, Vice President Wilton Strickland, 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 at the meeting but Richard Hobbs has agreed to be our delegate

Call for Scholastic Coordinator

- No volunteers at the meeting but Jim Hamilton has agreed to take the role

Should we change the expiration rules for memberships to expire not later than the same tournament the next season ?

- The discussion revolved around players who only attend a single tournament per year. Due to membership renewal rules, if you only play the same tournament each year you only pay for a membership every other year. (Example: you pay for a membership to play in the Turkey. Since your membership expires at the end of the month the following November, you can play in the Turkey again without renewing). This reduces MCA's revenue by a noticeable amount.
- Note that our renewal rules mirror the membership rules for USCF.
- **After discussion, the proposal was withdrawn**

Should we eliminate the free year of MCA membership for unrated adults ?

- MCA has historically provided unrated players with their first year membership for free.
- Many states offer kids a free year, but it is unusual to offer a free year to adults.
- This cost MCA \$225 in lost revenue in the current season.
- There are always adults who do not renew after their free year and therefore contribute nothing from a financial perspective to MCA
- **Vote to eliminate the free year for unrated adults passed: The first annual MCA dues will still be waived for an unrated player who is under 19 at the start of their first tournament.**

Should we introduce a family membership option ?

- MCA has historically only offered individual memberships.
- USCF offers family memberships.
- **Vote to add a family membership for \$40 passed, covering all adults and children under the age of 19 living in the same household.**

Meeting Adjourned