

**FPUSA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Friday July 24th , 2009, Albright residence, Lafayette, California**

Present:

Joe Martin, President	Northwest Counselor, Christine Cragg
Mary Albright, Vice President	Southwest Counselor, Terry Bond
Max Legrand, Treasurer	Southwest Counselor, John Harris
Frank Pipal, Secretary	Southwest Counselor, Polly Starkey
Ed Porto, National Sport Director	

Represented by proxy:

Proxies held by Joe Martin: Southeast Counselors; Jim Butler & Barbara Olschner, Midwest Counselor Dan Danielson, Northeast Counselors; Brian Walsh & Jean-Pierre Subrenat, Northwest Counselor Philippe Agnesse

Proxy held by Mary Albright: Northwest Counselor Jose Gonzalez

Absent not represented by proxy: Northwest Counselor Kevin McGill

Also present by invitation: Tim Channell, FPUSA Newsletter Editor

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:00

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Max delivered the Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet and passed out copies (attached) and explained the current numbers. It is accepted by consensus. Max notes that this is not the annual report, rather a mid-year snapshot and should not go beyond the Board in this form. There is agreement that when the final report is made there should be a summary for distribution that would have sensitive information such as account numbers excised.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Frank reports the current membership numbers: 1333 members of whom 457 are female and 46 are under-eighteens. There are 222 members new in 2009 and 264 who have not renewed from 2008. An ensuing discussion on possible renewal incentives is cut off by Joe who points out that it would be appropriate to explore options under item 2 of new business.

#### **SPORT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ed begins with a review of the 2009 tournament calendar. Northwest and Southeast regions lead with all slots filled. The current Umpire roster is passed out. Three exams were given during the afternoon and Ed comments on the success of the program and the interest that is demonstrated by the new candidates.

The 2010 Calendar will be out for bidding to the clubs soon. The program will follow that of 2009. Regions have broad flexibility to tailor the specifics to their constituencies. Changes coming to the World Championships by FIPJP directive are summarized: Seniors', Women's and Juniors' will all be on a biennial schedule. Future participation will be limited and qualification will be required on a continental basis: FPUSA is part of a hemispheric Americas Confederation which includes all of North, Central and South America.

**Motion:** That the “90-day rule” regarding participation in FPUSA National and Regional Title Tournaments—FPUSA Bylaws/Article VIII/II/B—be changed to thirty (30) days which would make it the same as the requirement for new members. FPUSA Bylaws/Article VIII/I/A—the requirement for participation in World Championship Qualification Tournaments would remain unchanged. Effective immediately.

Discussion to the effect that the 90-day rule may be an impediment to participation, that late-renewing members are already penalized by the late-fine. Ed tells the board that there is a short list of members (less than 20) who would possibly be eligible to play the following day if the motion were to pass effective immediately, and that in the interest of maximum participation it is his intention to allow that. Others raise the point that it might appear that this was being done as a favor to someone caught out by the rule.

**Moved: Porto, Second: Cragg. Aye: 2 Porto, Pipal Abstain: 1 Albright Nay: 13**

The Motion is amended to take effect after the present tournament.

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**Moved: Porto, Second: Cragg. Aye: 16 Unanimous**

A three-page document is passed out (attached) which contains recommendations by the Sport Committee for clarification of a number of items from the rules of the game. These will be adopted either as instructions to Umpires or changes to the wording of the printed rules when possible and appropriate.

**Motion:** To adopt the Sport Committee rule clarifications as presented for 2010 implementation.

**Moved: Porto, Second: Cragg. Aye: 16 Unanimous**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Terry describes the efforts of the rapidly growing Fresno PC to acquire adequate facilities. An FPC member who is an attorney has been looking into the rules that govern the club’s ability to accept donations: specifically whether deductibility can be offered donors by the establishment of a new nonprofit organization that would claim FPUSA as a “supporting organization”.

**Motion:** To establish a committee to explore this possibility and report their findings to the Board within 45 days. Committee to include Terry Bond, Joe Martin, Frank Pipal and FPC member Jim Demsey.

**Moved: Bond, Second: Martin. Aye: 16 Unanimous**

2. Joe passes out a sheet which presents a motion to establish a committee tasked to explore and develop practical measures FPUSA can take to help clubs attract and grow membership.

**Motion:** In accordance with Article V of the FPUSA bylaws, a special committee called the “Club Assistance Committee” is established to explore the ways that FPUSA can help its member clubs add to their player base and/or encourage formation of new clubs. The committee may consist of up to five board members or FPUSA players selected by the chair (either the President or a designee). The committee’s term of existence is for the remainder of 2009, unless extended by the President. A budget amount of \$1000 per year is to be used by the committee in formulating proposed expenditures. Committee recommendations will be submitted to the board for approval before any funds are expended, except for minimal postage and printing expenses necessary to conduct the business of the committee.

**Moved: Martin, Second: Harris. Aye: 16 Unanimous**

3. Ed introduces the idea of a high-quality calendar that would be sent to each FPUSA member household before the end of the year. He passes out a sample that he produced for a business client and much discussion ensues. The motion does not come to a vote, rather the idea is recommended for inclusion in the agenda of the “Club Assistance Committee” established by the motion approved above.

4. Frank seeks Board guidance on implementing the Independent membership described in the bylaws. The bylaws say the category exists for those “too distant” from an affiliated club. Joe suggests eliminating all such memberships and allowing Independent members to choose some club—any club—to join, thereby boosting club memberships. A compromise “100 mile” policy is mooted which would reinforce club-joining but not burden outlying members with a club’s annual dues over and above their FPUSA dues,

**Motion:** As a policy when issuing Independent memberships in 2010 and beyond, 100 miles will be the distance used to determine what is intended by “too distant” in the words of Bylaws/ Article II/Section B/1.

**Moved: Cragg, Second: Bond. Aye: 15 Nay:1 (Bond)**

At this point Joe remarked that our time had run out, and the remaining agenda items would be sent out to the Board for e-mail discussion and voting.

The meeting is adjourned at 9:00 p.m

Minutes submitted by Frank Pipal