

# 2024 MCA Business Meeting Minutes

## April 5, 2024 – Bozeman, MT

Attendees: 17

### **Status Report:**

The 23-24 chess season was a success with a number of milestones

- Turkey Open was the most attended Montana tournament in history
- MCA has a new website thanks to Gary Solomon
- MCA will be holding Elementary, Middle School, and High School Championships in Butte later in April. This is the first year with all the levels having a championship tournament.
  - Winners will have the opportunity to represent Montana in the National Tournaments of State Champions

### **Membership & Financials**

- Many young players joining while others move away or stop playing
- Membership fell very slightly and we have dozens of new members who have never paid dues due to unrateds getting their first year for free
  - 45 new unrateds joined but 50 players expired
- MCA has about \$3,100 – up about \$550 in 12 months
  - MCA prepaid \$185 in expenses the previous year, without which the balance would have gone up by \$365, so on an annualized basis, MCA revenue exceeded expenses by about \$30 / month

### **Board Election:**

3 Positions running unopposed: President Kevin Kuehnel, Vice President Wilton Strickland, Secretary / Treasurer Brent Downey – unanimously elected

3 candidates for the 2 At Large Seats: Dan Mattson, Mike Muller, Gary Solomon

Each of the candidates made a short statement (Gary's was read as he was unable to attend) and then the attendees voted for 2 by secret ballot. The 2 candidates with the most votes were Dan Mattson & Mike Muller, who will serve as At Large members of the board

### **Submitted Agenda Items (Proposals):**

Split the Secretary / Treasurer role into 2 positions:

- Motion Failed

Change the board meeting rules regarding order of agenda items

- Motion Failed

Compensate Active Tournament Directors for the cost of the new Safe Play training requirement (\$19). In order to define active, the vote was based on reimbursing TDs once they run a tournament after taking the training. It was pointed out that compensating TDs was the most selected option in the MCA survey on what to do with extra funds.

- Motion Passed Unanimously

Compensate Active Tournament Directors for the cost of annual Safe Play refreshers (\$9).

- Motion Passed Unanimously

Remove the distance multiplier for Grand Prix Points

- Motion Failed

Remove ½ point byes from Grand Prix calculation

- Motion Failed

Motion to start the chess season in October and add an additional tournament in the spring

- Motion Failed

Change the Montana Open to a fixed central location rather than rotating

- Motion Failed

Discussion of MCA Survey Data – 4 highlights

- Calendar – there was interest in adding a tournament – early December or January
  - Summer tournaments had much less interest
- Locations – central locations were generally preferred for tournaments, with the exception of Missoula which was rated as the top location, narrowly edging out Bozeman & followed by Helena and Butte (despite Butte having no formal club and virtually no MCA members)
- Spend – increasing compensation for TDs was the top choice on how to spend any extra dollars. (Reimbursing TDs for Safe Play training was the immediate result. In addition the TD Incentive will be \$40 next season)
- Increasing costs of attending tournaments (basically sleeping rooms) was highlighted as the biggest concern

As a result of the concerns over escalating costs it was proposed that MCA investigate ways of helping players to find others willing to share hotel rooms and rides

- Motion Passed

**Meeting Adjourned**