TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
98th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

New York Marriott Marquis
New York, New York
March 1, 2014
8:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.

Reported by Debra K. Resling, RMR, CRR
**AGENDA**

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(Commencing at 8:00 a.m.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: If you can take your seats, please, we'll get started. If we can get seated in the back.

Thank you.

Welcome to New York and our terrific weather for the last 30 days.

I would like to start with all of us taking a Moment of Silence for those that we have lost in the game over the last year. So if you can stand, and we could take a moment of silence, please.

(Moment of Silence.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

Next go to the Pledge of Allegiance, which will be once again led by our vice-president, Mike Edwards.

Mr. Edwards.

(Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks, Mike.

We next move to Mr. Kepner with an explanation of the Credentials Report and a check on those credentials.

Mr. Kepner.

MR. KEPNER: Well, good morning.

Welcome to the grand city of New York. I'm sure you have had many other folks say the same thing to you as well.

It's always exciting to me -- exciting to all of you, I'm sure -- to join together in this grand meeting in which all of the members of the soccer world of the United States come together to make decisions, to take actions, to learn from each other, and to grow. And the same is true with the members of the Credentials Committee and the members of the staff that support the work of the Credentials Committee, and I want to mention those persons. Because what we do is we crunch the numbers, and it's important to do because the system that we use, and we have been using for a number of years, provides a balance and a level of shared responsibility that is important so that we're working together cooperatively; we, collectively here, can move forward in a positive fashion.

But the members of the staff really do all the hard work, and it's always important to -- for us collectively to recognize that and to say thank you. There are a whole bunch of staff members, and truthfully, I don't know all
of the names, but there are three persons in particular that I'm going to mention that serve as sort of a catalyst from the very beginning.

Those are Melissa Biniewicz, Marc Bahnsen, and Greg Fike. So I thank the three of them, in particular, but say thank you to all of the members of the staff.

And then the members of the Credentials Committee are Dimitrios Efstatiou, who is the newest member; we have Kathy Zolad; we have Darius Ejali; we have Greg Dalby, who was not able to join us this time. But their report is very important.

I will give you -- we used to have a roll call, but we're modernized, and the effects of the mathematical equation or the algorithm that we use to explain how we do what we do and to figure out how many votes we have, it's a system in which we have to have three councils that are equal in weight -- the Youth, the Adult, and the Pro. And they have to have the same mathematical effect in terms of the weighting.

The Youth Council has the greatest number of representatives, delegates, and so we use that as our base factor. And then the Adults have fewer. But we have to use the multiplier to multiply to have the mathematical effect exactly the same, and the Pro the same. And the Athlete Council, by the rules that we follow, has to really represent 20 percent of the total vote -- weighted vote of the entire body.

And so we are going to display the results. The registration that we use is you have to be here by 4:00. You have to register by 4:00 the day before this event, and so that's what we really use as a determination as to whether or not you are here, which is the reason that we don't actually through a physical announced roll call. So we're going to display the results.

First we will show the Youth Council. There's so many that it will be on two different slides. You can see we show the USYSA, which is the largest organization, the name, and then the number of votes. And each of those has a vote of 1, so that's Slide 1.

Slide 2 is next. You can see 219 USYSA votes. AYSO, 39. That's mathematically calculated based on the player registration.

U.S. Club Soccer, likewise, mathematically determined, and Youth Commissioners. The total Youth Council vote is 292. And in a very real sense, those are -- well, except for the mathematically AYSO and U.S. Club there, it's not calculated.

Now, we move on to the Adult Council. We have the USASA first, two slides. Second slide, the Adult Commissioners, the Adult Council, 190 votes. And we'll then be using a multiplier. We will display that a little later.

Next, we have the Professional Council. And the next, the Athlete Council, and then other members, other affiliates, national associations, disabled service, life members, Board of Directors, and past presidents.

Now, on the last three slides, each of those persons has a weighted vote of 1, one effect, and now we pull it all together into this -- obviously, a spreadsheet. We have 537 total votes, but then we have the multipliers that have the effect -- you can see down in the lower left-hand corner, that the voting strength is 292 for each of the larger councils, the Youth, the Adult, the Pro. And then the Athletes have to represent no less than 20 percent of the total weighted vote. So you can take that 228, divided by 13 -- 1137, and you would get 20 percent or higher. You can see the simple majority is 569; two-thirds majority, 758.

Now, one of the other things that we do is we want to make sure -- several years ago we began using the electronic keypads, and it's very important that you know how to use them. You will find in front of you a wireless keypad that we will use to vote throughout the meeting. The keypads have been carefully programmed with the weight of each vote. Please use only the keypad assigned to you.

Briefly, here is how the keypads work. Throughout the meeting, you will be asked to vote on a number of issues. The item to be voted on will appear on the screen. You will be asked to use your keypad to place your vote. Press 1 for Yes and 2 for No. When you press the button, the number you selected will show up on the LED box in the keypad. It will stay on for about a second, and the data will be sent to the computer technician, who will tabulate the results and display them on the screen.

Please do not place your vote until I
I have been giving you a problem each time, a competition, so to speak. And some years ago, the first one that we had, we had two time-honored athletes, Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse, oppose each other in a penalty kick shoot-out. And as I recall, Mickey Mouse beat Donald Duck. And my comment at the time was is that Donald is just not what he's quacked up to be.

Well, this time, we have a different kind of opportunity. History and opportunity do come together and can create some magical moments in life. All of us know that.

And I have pitted together, for the first time ever, a team of three against a team of one, or a competitor of one. The team of three is made up of some folks who were just outstanding on the pitch, but their experience and their prowess on the pitch is exceeded by their prowess in meeting rooms. And so I'm going to present the first team. I call it the Power Team. They're an outstanding twosome here, expanded by a grandson of the gentleman on the left. And you can see Sunil Gulati there saying, What are you doing this time, Bob? And he looks exciting. Very good.

Sunil, you never seem to win these shoot-outs.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you, Robert. Was that a weighted vote, Bob, or was that straight? All right. That was a weighted vote. We will wait another year for the next one. Thank you.

A couple of things before we get going. We're going to have -- barring any objections, have a change in the agenda. We will move a couple of the elections that we have earlier in the agenda. If there are no objections, we will do that. Thank you.

I want to next acknowledge our life members who are in the front row here. If you would all stand, please. Thank you for the service to the game. All of you stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. And a tradition of some years now, if we could have all of those that have been here for at least 30 AGMs, if you would stand and just remain standing for a second. 30 or more AGMs. There's a few more than just the life members, I think.
Stay standing for a second.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: And now those of you that are here for your first AGM. Those of you who are here for your first AGM, if you would stand, please. Welcome.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: You can have a seat folks. Thank you.

And lastly, and certainly not at the bottom in any way, shape or form, anyone who has represented the United States in an international competition or former national team players. Mostly, on the left, but not exclusively. Thank you all.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: A few other guests that I want to mention, very special guests that we have with us today; first Ted Howard, the Deputy General Secretary of CONCACAF, a U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame member, and a very, very close and dear personal friend for 30 years. Ted, where are you? Thank you. Ted is in back.

(Applause.)

Marco Leal, from CONCACAF, head of legal services. Marco is in back.

And one of the best people I know in international soccer, my counterpart from the Bahamas, Anton Sealey, the President from the Bahamian Federation.

Anton, where are you?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. Thank you for being here with us today.

Next on our agenda is the approval of the minutes from 2013 AGM.

Do we have a motion to approve the minutes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

PRESIDENT GULATI: We'll credit Mr. Edwards, because I can't see who it is back there.

Thank you. Any comments? We need a second, I suppose.

Mr. Monaco, are you willing to second?

MR. MONACO: Second.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. Do we have any comments? Concerns? Questions? Or anything else about the minutes?

Hearing none, we will approve those unanimously. Thank you very much.

Let's take a quick look at 2013 in pictures and video. If we could run that first video, please.

(Video shown.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Terrific. Thank you. That's what the soccer side of things looked a little bit like last year. Some pretty extraordinary moments as we have every year. Not all wins, but many of them. Abby Wambach becoming the leading female scorer of all time. And the Men's team having unparalleled success. The Women's team hasn't lost in two years.

But there is another side of what we do, which is finance those things. Reach out to consumers. And I want to let our partners in that part of what we do, the President, and Chairman of Soccer United Marketing, Don Garber, walk us through a little bit of that and talk about the landscape that we're facing every day in the commercial space and with our customers.

Mr. Garber.

(Applause.)

MR. GARBER: Thank you, Sunil.

We have a short presentation to make where we're going to lay out for all of you how we look at our fan base. I don't mean our fan base from the professional game, but our fan base as it represents soccer in America, because ultimately, all of those folks that are out, believing in the game, participating in the game, playing in the game, consuming the game, matter to each and every one of us. So whether we're an athlete that is doing a clinic or a bunch of young folks or one of the professional leagues that are trying to sell tickets or it's our Federation that is trying to drive attendance at national team games and getting folks to watch those games on television, the consumer really matters.

And for many, many years, as we get together with these meetings, we talk a lot about our membership, and we talk a lot about governance; we talk about rules and things that matter to each and every one of us as members of the Federation.

What we're going to do for about ten
minutes today is talk about the fan, to talk about that forward-facing aspect of what it is that all of us at every level, all of us in this room, need to start thinking about. How do we move from being an organization that is just focused on members, and how do we be forward-facing and start thinking about our organization -- not the league, but all of us -- start thinking about the consumer.

One of the things that's most valuable for all of us is the sport is growing dramatically, and our Chief Marketing Officer, Howard Handler, is going to run through some of those slides and also talk about what does that really mean to us collectively to generate revenue? All of these people care about us. They're different than the other pro sports leagues. They're different from the other grassroots fan followers, and as such, they represent customers who can buy sponsorships to your associations. They are folks that can buy product. They're folks that might have the capacity to be able to fund, from a fund-raising perspective, some of the things that empower all of our organizations.

are very bullish, the networks. Everybody knows that this will be one of the great events and a fantastic opportunity for all of us. And we're also privileged that both the U.S. Men's and Women's National Teams are ascendant and global powers.

I want to talk first about the growth of soccer in the United States. And as Don said, this is all soccer -- all leagues, organized, grassroots -- everybody that thinks about soccer. And I'm going to share a little bit of research, and then I want to bring a little bit more color and humanity to who this base is.

Firstly, we are seeing more fans than ever. This has been a steady growth process over the decades. But we're really seeing a great deal of acceleration in the last several years due to a lot of the efforts of the soccer federation.

What you see on this graph is a basic poll that tells you that there are 55 million adults, so it doesn't even count people under the age of 18 that consider themselves to be soccer fans. And again, we believe that the World Cup in '14, and then the Women's World Cup in '15 in Brazil will be one of the seminal moments in sports history in our country. We know that it will be an incredibly unifying event and draw core fans as well as many casual fans and people who didn't even know they were soccer fans to root for our country, certainly, but many countries, and to take part in something that connects all of us together.

It's in our time zone. Our partners Canada, is going to continue to accelerate this process quite significantly.

When we draw a comparison to soccer relative to some of the other sports, we see that our growth rates are greatest, so that's another great reason for encouragement.

It's also reflected in television viewership. Many of us know that soccer is one of the most popular sports on TV. There's its coverage of many leagues from many countries. And just to give you a sense that the "13 audience, when you tie it all together and you "cume" up all the viewership, is 340 million people, which is enormous; and, as you see from a growth rate, approaching 40 percent, extraordinary.

Now, getting a little bit deeper. Who are these people? Who are all of our fans? Firstly, our fans are younger than all the rest of the sports leagues that are out there and all the rest of the fans of the other sports that are out there. You see much younger average age than even basketball and hockey, which get a lot of credit for having a youthful vibe.

We also know that soccer fans are
millennials. 80 million strong millennials is a
group that is bigger than the baby boom and is
influencing almost everything that's going on in
media and in society. These are multicultural
boys and girls, men and women, 14 to 34. And you
see that we index head and shoulders above
everybody else that's out there.

Soccer fans are also very Hispanic
relative to the rest of the population, and this
covers the entire gamut. Certainly
Mexican-Americans, but also Cuban-Americans,
Ecuadorians, Nicaraguans, Hondurans, and so on.
This is the greatest game, and the biggest game,
in the world, and that carries over to all of
these folks in the United States.

We also know that by virtue of youth
and by virtue of generation, that soccer fans are
digitally native and digitally engaged.
Technology is something that they grew up with
and that they embrace and that shakes their
lives.

A couple of particulars. Very
specific point here is that we've noticed that
soccer fans love video streaming. And so as we
think about the future and watching soccer, not

celebration and of hope, and our message, our
signature line will be for club and country all
year long.

We have been working with our
athletes. We have been working with a lot of
different fans and support groups. And we've got
some very ambitious plans ahead of us, as we work
together with the Federation, to really make sure
that this is a phenomenal moment for all of us.

Corporate America plays a very big
role in all of this. As many of you know, Soccer
United Marketing, our affiliate company, has had
a deep and rich partnership with the Federation
for a number of years. One of the things that we
do is we gather commercial support, the support
of corporate America, to fund a lot of the
efforts that fuel what we do with the Federation.
The money is important, but the way that our
athletes and our brands are marketed by corporate
America in a World Cup year might even be more
important.

This is a great example of a program
that Pepsi is going to be executing where they
will be putting Clint Dempsey's image and the
U.S. Soccer Federation on hundreds of millions of
cans. So as we get closer and closer to the
month of June, you will see many companies like
Pepsi embrace U.S. Soccer, the Men's National
Team, and this great message of ours.

The last thing that I want to share
is a little bit on content and storytelling. We
really believe that the future and the great
growth of our sport over time will be driven by
taking the stories inside and outside the white
lines into people's living rooms and on to their
devices and creating a deeper emotional
connection with our players, the rivalries, their
stories.

And we've done some things with Major
League Soccer. We've established a great
creative team, and that same creative team is
going to be working with the Federation doing a
six-part series, a 30 for 30 series on ESPN that
will tell these incredible stories -- stories of
determination, stories of struggle, fathers and
sons -- again, not unlike -- and I guess if you
are a certain age, the snowy blustery day on
Soldier Field -- the great stories of NFL films.
This is the kind of notion that we're going for
to really help people connect much more deeply
with soccer and the U.S. Men's National Team.

So I'm going to close by showing a clip that gives you an example of some of the storytelling that we did with Major League Soccer. This will give you a really good feel for what we have to expect ahead of us for U.S. Soccer. So let's roll the clip.

(Video shown.)

MR. HANDLER: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you, Howard.

We'll move on to two sets of elections we have. I will run the first, and Mike Edwards, our vice-president, will run the second.

I say it at almost every annual meeting: One of the best things that we have done while I have been involved in terms of governance is we added independent directors in 2006, and they've served with us starting in 2007. And not only do we do that -- not only does it improve the way we govern ourselves and our Board operates, but we ended up with three extraordinary independent directors. It's rare when I have a meeting and don't mention the

none, we will close nominations.

And, Dr. Shalala, welcome back to U.S. Soccer's Board.

Thank you for your service.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Edwards.

MR. EDWARDS: Okay. It's that momentous moment, I will open the floor for nominations for the position of President of the United States Soccer Federation. Seconds are not necessary for nomination, but in the spirit of the body, we have always accepted them. So I will accept seconding speeches for nominations.

MR. GARBER: Thank you, Mike.

We, as an organization, have been incredibly fortunate to have consistent leadership of our organization for nearly ten years. And during that time, our sport has really experienced unprecedented growth, a tremendous connection between our youth organizations, our amateur organizations, our professionals, our referees, just about every constituency has come together in a way where we have a singular focus to grow this game and turn this country into a great soccer nation.

The vision behind all of this since 2006 has been that of Sunil Gulati. During that time, Sunil has taken this organization and, without doubt, with the strong management that he has in Chicago, with the very connected and aligned Board, has been able to turn U.S. Soccer into the leading National Governing Body in the United States, and an organization, a soccer association, or a football association that's respected around the world.

Fortunately, for all of us, Sunil has not only been our president, but also has been in positions of leadership at CONCACAF, giving us a voice within a shifting change in politics in our region that has put the United States in a role of influence, which is something that's important to us all, and then, probably most importantly, has earned the right through election to be sitting as a representative of the United States on the FIFA Executive Committee.

For all of those who know him and have worked with him for a long time -- and many of you in this room have been a friend of Sunil's for decades -- know that this is his passion in life. He serves as a volunteer, where many of us
serve as professionals. This is our job. With Sunil, this is his passion. This is what he gets up and thinks about every day and goes to sleep at night hoping that that day was another day that he grew the game for all of us who care about it here in this country.

Many of us consider him a great friend and have enormous respect for him. He's a terrific family guy, but somebody who has just tremendous grounded values in doing the right thing all the time.

So it's with great honor that I nominate Sunil Gulati for another term as president of the United States Soccer Federation.

I think I need a second.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

MR. GROFF: I stand before you to second this nomination.

In 1980, Sunil was a volunteer managing our national teams. At the same time, he was probably working on the ODP program in Connecticut. He is passionate. He has worked with every president that we had before him and with incredible success.

As president, he has led us to a tremendous warranty for another four years. Without them and without their support, as all of you know that are involved in the game, it would be impossible. So Marcella, Emilio, Sofia, thank you very much for being here and for various periods of time, starting at 18 years, 16 years, and 9 years, and I got those in the right order, I hope.

And then I want to -- of course I want to thank Don for his comments, but actually, for a couple other things. In the last two weeks we've dealt with a couple of issues. We dealt with the Ukraine issue -- not in the way that the Ukrainian people have had to deal with it or...
President Obama or President Putin is dealing with it -- but we were supposed to play in Kharkov, Ukraine, on Wednesday. And obviously things changed there. And then we were playing our -- we are playing our next game in Arizona, and as you-all know, Arizona has been in the news quite a bit in the last couple of weeks.

And I brought up both issues in consecutive weeks with a class I teach at Columbia Business School. First we talked about Ukraine and what we were thinking and what we were going through -- kind of a management exercise. And I did the same with the Arizona issue where we were playing -- and I've already sold over 30,000 tickets this past week -- and as you know, the governor made a decision. And I talked to my class on Wednesday and said, What would you do in this situation? Would you be sending a message? Would you do what the NFL did? The difference being, we had already sold 30,000 tickets.

And we talked about it a little bit.

And they said, Well, do you want to be sending a message? Should you be involved in those sorts of political issues and so on and so forth? And much for that, for many years in the past and many years to come.

Thirty years ago in New York, we had a change, a big change. Werner Fricker was elected president. Chuck Blazer was elected vice-president, and it was here in the city, and Sal and others will remember that. But we've come a very, very long way since then. We're not in Kansas anymore, for sure. And in thinking about that and looking back at it, we walked into that play last night -- and almost all of you went -- and I saw John Sutter and Jon McCullough and John Motta sitting next to each other. Three council chairs. And I had letters from a number of council chairs.

And I went over to the person in charge of ticketing, and I said, the night before, and what I'm hoping is an uncontested election with nominations possible from the floor, how can you possibly let these three guys who control 75 percent of the votes sit next to each other?

And she said, Well, I'm limited, in the scope of the show last night.

But we're not in Kansas anymore.
That's pretty extraordinary. Pretty clearly, we're not in Oz. While we're not in Kansas, we're also not in Oz. Pretty clearly, we're not in Oz. We've got better relations at the youth level. Yes, we've still got some issues in all these organizations, but better relations between the youth organizations, between the youth organizations and U.S. Soccer than we've ever been.

A revitalized adult organization. And thank you, Richard, for your service there. But while we're not in Kansas, we're also not in Oz. Pretty clearly, we're not in Oz. We've got relatively flat numbers in terms of participation growth -- a concern, and in some cases decreasing -- a concern for some of you and certainly for us. And while we've got a very strong professional division, we still have most of the teams in that professional division that are making investments, we'll say. They're not cash-positive.

That's true in a number of sports around the world and a number of soccer leagues. That's not the way it can be here. That's not a sustainable model. Because we don't have public authorities that are going to just bail teams out. That's got to get better. That's got to change.

While we are, as you have seen, expanding our presence in the commercial landscape of the United States and on TV more often, we are still a very small player compared to the NFL or Major League Baseball. Now, that's good and bad. It's bad because we're a small player. It's good because there's plenty of room for growth, but we need to seize that opportunity.

The health issue, in particular, the issue about concussions that have been in the front page of the New York Times in the last few
choose how to do that. They're buyers, they're partners, they're fans on certain days. They're critical of what we do. That's also okay. And the good thing is it's a much bigger landscape than we've ever had.

So where are we going? For me, that's not just about talking about can we get past Ghana? Maybe get a win or a tie against Portugal and get through the second round. That's certainly not going to be an easy task. That's going to be a very difficult task. We've got a tough group.

It's not only about the women playing in the World Cup final next year, and hopefully winning that, or the women being the defending champion or growing these numbers, because I don't think any of the folks that are on my left that have played for us in the World Cup -- they understand how tough it's going to be to beat Germany or Ghana or Portugal. I don't think any of them, when they dream about where the future of the sport is, dream about getting through the second round of the goal. No one dreams about finishing second.

And Jürgen Klinsmann, who came and spoke to my class on Thursday night, and he was asked what is it that makes this challenging for you in America? Why do you want to coach the U.S. team? And he started with, Because Americans want to be the first in everything. They never want to be second, I love that attitude.

Now, he didn't say that generally we don't end up being second very often. He was humble enough not to say that. And he understood the group we were playing in. So we dream big about these things and we dream about trophies in those presentations and we dream about millions of people being involved in the game.

And my guess is most of the people in this room, and virtually everyone up here, if not everyone, knows exactly where they watched the goal that Landon scored against Algeria to put us into the next round; that all of us know where you were or where you were watching, or you were really irritated that you missed Abby Wambach's goal against Brazil that put us into overtime and then penalty kicks.

And there's going to be another of those moments this summer, or a couple, and maybe

...
everyone in the room has a lot of heart about doing this.

I have absolutely no doubt we'll get this done. And whatever that is for all of you -- whether it's a highly successful women's league that's got role models, whether it's the Men's National Team winning the World Cup -- there, I said it. I don't say it in the media -- the U.S. Men's National Team will win the World Cup one day. I have no doubt about it. And the women will win again. And we'll have tens of millions of kids playing, and we are going to figure out a way to get those growth numbers up.

We've got a lot of good things going on. We'll figure out a way to do that. It starts with a collective will. I thank you for your faith and support, and I'm happy to share in that collective will and lead the effort over the next four years, but it will be a partnership.

Thank you very much.

(Presidential applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: We've got Officer Reports. Those are all in your book. The one that is also in your book, but I will ask him to
I should thank very much, Dan, your staff, led by Eric Gleason, our Chief Financial Officer, behind me. There's been a lot of work that's gone into developing this budget.

If we have no questions, I will propose that we pass the budget as presented, as was discussed at length by the Budget Committee last November.

MR. EDWARDS: So move.

MR. CORDEIRO: And approved by the board in December at our last Board meeting.

MR. EDWARDS: Accept.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Edwards' motion is to accept. Questions, comments on the budget?

Hearing none, we will approve the budget unanimously.

Mr. Cordeiro, Mr. Flynn, thank you for your efforts. Well done.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: We are on, then, to Life Member Nominations.

As you will know from your book, we have two: Mr. Rocco Amoroso and Mr. Francisco Marcos. We will take these individually. They have been unanimously supported by the Board. I won't talk too much about the candidacy or the honoree nominations.

Mr. Marcos, as you know, has been involved in every facet of the game, professional, youth. He's here with us today. So in the absence of any objections, we would welcome Mr. Francisco Marcos to the life membership group.

Do we have any objections to that? We'll do that by acclamation and applause.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Amoroso is here, yes.

MR. AMOROSO: Here.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Yes. So we actually need to mention the fact that Mr. Amoroso is here. It's taken us a little longer to award him this life membership.

I met with the gentlemen, the leadership of New York, last night. They told me that Mr. Amoroso had some medical issues as of yesterday, and they advised him not to come, not to be here, and everything you need to know about Rocco is the fact that, contrary to medical advice, and contrary to something I would never do, which is not taking instructions from Sal Rapaglia, Rocco is here. And it really gives me great pleasure, along with you, to welcome him to Life Membership status on behalf of U.S. Soccer.

(Standing applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Rocco, we're going to break with protocol. We don't generally have life members make speeches, but I'm sure you're going to want to address the group later on in the Good of Game, and if you would prefer to do that now, we'll let you do that now.

(Applause.)

MR. AMOROSO: Yesterday I was in St. Joseph's Hospital in Plainview, New York, and they wanted to postpone a procedure. I said no, you must; you must perform this procedure because I must attend the meeting. And fortunately, the procedure turned out to be okay. I'm a little weak, but I'm strengthened by being here this afternoon -- this morning.

I'm going to combine my remarks usually for the Good of the Game at the end, I'm going to combine my remarks, first of all, for the Good of the Game.

I would like to salute Mr. Gulati for his leadership, and I know shortly he will be unanimously -- unanimously -- reelected.

All I can say is that Mr. Gulati, may God sustain you in health. May he sustain you with the great power that you possess, because we need you, and I know with all your accomplishments that you have performed for this game, you will continue to be successful. And we owe you, all of us, a tremendous, tremendous debt of gratitude.

May I congratulate you; the best.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

MR. AMOROSO: Obviously, I'm very moved to be a life member. Life has given me a number of abundance of good things. First, I have a deep faith in God, a beautiful family -- four children, six grandchildren. I love this country. I love soccer. I love soccer, especially, not only in the game, but the people, the people here, the people that I have met, the friends that I have met all throughout the years. These are invaluable treasures, always, always will be in my heart.
Being a life member, what you have done -- usually, once someone is awarded, you remove yourself from the scene -- no, what you have done for me this morning, you have reenergized, you have made my spirit to continue to do what's good for the game, especially, especially as an ambassador of sportsmanship, as an advocate of sportsmanship, and above all, as a champion of fair play. This has always been my feeling, my contribution, and what more can I say for myself, what more can I ask of God. I seek no greater riches. Thank you very much for this thing. May God bless you all.  

(Applause.)  

(Standing ovation.)  

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. And congratulations to both. We will do the official ceremony at the end of the meeting. We are on part of our meeting where we have our rules amendments, our bylaw amendments. As it turns out, all five bylaw amendments are being proposed by the same person, Mr. Edwards, which generally means they are on behalf of the administration, but no one from the administration was wanting to put their name on them, other than the Vice President, and he was directed to do so. So thank you for that, Mike. We will take these one by one, as I understand it. At least one of these is being withdrawn, but the first one is Bylaw 231. It's my understanding we are going to have a substitute amendment from what you have in your book. That was available to you when you registered, and we've got some comments on that. So Mr. Edwards is moving that amendment, and then Mr. Monaco has got some comments.

MR. MONACO: I have just, I think they call them, clean-up amendments. Section 1 talks about granting life, the title of life member, which sort of implies that you are granting honorary membership. And I talked with Mike, and he agrees, that's not what he meant. So what I would suggest, if you look at the first sentence, "The Board of Directors" -- subject to, and here I'm reading from the substitute -- "The Board of Directors of the Federation, subject to approval of the National Council, shall be authorized to nominate an individual to be a life member." And strike out "...the title of," and then go on, "...as an individual to be a life member who has..." and go, complete that sentence, and strike out the last clause about the title of life membership.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Edwards has confirmed that he will accept that as a friendly amendment.

MR. MONACO: And then in the next sentence, where it starts out, "The title of life," just change that to "Life Membership shall be..."

PRESIDENT GULATI: Also accepted.

MR. MONACO: And down in Section 3 where there's a cross reference to Section 2, it should refer to Sections 1 and 2.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. Accepted.

MR. MONACO: And if there is no objection, a technical one, Section 4, where it's (a), (b), (c), and (c) ends in a period, that should be semicolon; or.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Edwards is not willing to accept that. He believes he's got to have a spine on this particular issue.

MR. MONACO: And on the next page, Mike --
Again, that's passed unanimously.

Thank you.

(Motion passed.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: We're on to Bylaw 302, composition of voting. Mr. Edwards is again making a motion to accept that.

Any comments? Questions on this?

Hearing none, we will close the comment period.

All in favor of accepting the amendments to 302, say aye. Thank you.

And opposed?

Approved unanimously.

(Motion passed.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: We are on to Bylaw 303.

Mr. Edwards is again moving the acceptance of Bylaw 303, meetings and mail vote.

Any comments? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye?

Opposed?

(Motion passed.)

MR. EDMONDS: We are withdrawing Bylaw 707 for further consultation.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Bylaw 707 is being withdrawn for some further consultation. There are some concerns on that, there's some legal issues, so we will look at that and bring it back to the council a year from now.

I think those are all the bylaws.

Thank you for your patience on those.

We are then to Affirmation of Policies Adopted since 2013. Those are in your book, and here, the council is -- there's only one of those, or two of those, approving what the Board has already approved.

Any objection to that?

We will do that unanimously. Thank you.

(Policies passed unanimously.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. We are then on to informational -- information regarding our next annual meeting. And as information in 2015 AGM -- 2015 AGM will be in San Francisco, in the period February 13 through the 15th, which, if I recall, takes into account February 14th. So bring your sweetheart to San Francisco. February 13 to 15 in San Francisco. We'll get you details on that pretty shortly.

With that, we go to another video, if we can do that.

(Video shown.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: As we start the final part of the meeting, the Good of the Game,

I want to take the opportunity to make a couple of comments before we open it up more generally to the floor and for comments.

We are having two changes in Board members, as I mentioned earlier, and I want to briefly say a couple of words about them and also the people they've served, so to speak.

Richard Groff, as you know, is stepping down as chairperson of USASA. Richard and I have spent 25 years or so in different capacities working together, and I will talk a lot about Richard tonight, since he's receiving the Federation's highest service award, the Fricker Award, at our Anniversary Dinner. But he's worked in every part of the game in an unselfish way for a long time at grassroots level, at professional level, at our Board, as an officer -- whether it's selling tickets or supporting the Women's National Team, just about every walk of life, and I will talk a lot about him this evening.

So I want to thank you, Richard, for your service in every capacity.

And also welcome Arthur Mattson, who will be joining the Board with a little bit of musical chairs. John Motta moves into the seat that Richard had, and Arthur joins the board. So welcome Arthur and welcome John in the new role.

The other Board member that we're losing, who has been on our Board almost consecutively for the last 20 years, Kevin Payne, and was a senior officer in the organization, as an employee before that, one of the founders of Major League Soccer, long time involved in MLS and the commercial side of the game with U.S. Soccer prior to that, and a very, very dear friend for many, many years.

So, Kevin, thank you for your service to the game. And I know that in both cases, and more formally in Kevin's case, that won't be ending. Kevin will be continuing in a number of areas involved in the game, as I know Richard will be as well.

And I would like to welcome from Portland, Merritt Paulson, the owner of the
Portland Thorns, and apparently they have a men's team as well as the Thorns called Timber or something. So thank you, Kevin, and welcome, Merritt.

I also want to mention the three people that they and many of us have served. There aren't many people that have stood in the position I'm standing in now, or the seat, I guess, that Dan is sitting in, but three of them are here with us, and they're all dear friends, and they've all been extraordinary leaders of the organization prior to Dan and I being in those positions.

Hank Steinbrecher is here. All of you know Hank. All three are life members. All of you know Hank in every which way, and he does many, many things extraordinarily well, and maybe the most important of those is what he does as a friend along the way. So thank you, Hank, for everything you've done.

Dr. Contiguglia has stood at this podium many times for USYS, for U.S. Soccer, continues to be an extraordinarily important and valuable and loyal member of the U.S. Soccer Board, and a big supporter. And not only a supporter, but a leader in many ways, in our medical areas, and I'm certainly going to be looking to him to be involved as we continue our discussions, our investigations, and hopefully our informative analysis on the concussion and other areas.

And then, of course, Alan Rothenberg, who has been a very, very dear friend for a long time, is the person that convinced me to do this more than full-time, which is what I was doing when he asked me to double down those efforts and taught me a lot about the game and a lot about a lot of things, and a life member and a Hall of Famer, and great family friends for a long time. I'm glad Alan could make it.

Every year, Hank, Dr. Bob, Dan and I get together, and I told Alan that, and he said, Why don't you guys invite me? And I said because we spend most of the time telling stories and making fun of you, which is the case, and you're not getting invited next year either, Alan.

So with that, I will open it up for the Good of the Game.

Thank you all for your service across the Board. And now I'm going to let others weigh in here.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Pinori.
MR. PINORI: Yes.
PRESIDENT GULATI: Yes, please.
MR. PINORI: You put us all the way down there, so I can't see anybody.
PRESIDENT GULATI: That's only because the room was so big that I couldn't get you on the other side of the doors, Peter, but go ahead.

MR. PINORI: I appreciate that. Anyway, the reason I'm here is, first of all, I want to welcome each and every one of you on behalf of our two great presidents, Mr. Richard Christiano from the Youth, and my eternal friend, Mr. Sal Rapaglia, and the boards, to the greatest city in the world, Eastern New York, Manhattan.

I think that the committee with Dan Flynn, and I want to mention Linda Cardenas, who is the best in everything she does, did a great job of giving us a flavor of Manhattan.

I mean, all of you were at "Wicked" last night. And we are staying in Times Square. I mean, you could walk anywhere from here. And many of you are going to be off this, after the meeting, so enjoy the city. Just be careful that you are in a big city, and you should always be checking your surroundings, okay? So that's one thing I want to say.

Secondly, and I hope I'm going to be able to do this without breaking down, but I want to thank Mike Edwards, Sunil, the Board, and all of you, for giving Rocco the presentation you did. I appreciate that.

Secondly -- or thirdly, I want to say all of you know the USA, of course, is going to beat Brazil, and I believe that we are going to pass the group, and we're going to go further. I strongly believe that. I believe that we're going to beat Ghana and at least tie or win against Portugal. And then we'll move on. So I wanted to say that. I'm hoping.

And lastly, Sunil, a personal message. New York is great at this time of the year, and San Francisco will be wonderful too spending it with our wives. But I think -- and Sunil knows exactly where I'm going here -- I think that two years from now, we should be going back to Hawaii, because it's a great time of the
year for Hawaii.

(Mark Edwards)  

MR. PINORI: And with that, Mr. Sunil -- I believe Marcello wants to come in a couple of years. So with that, I will close. Thank you very much. Enjoy the city. God bless.  

(Presidential Gulati)  

PRESIDENT GULATI: Peter, I'm told by the parliamentarian that any motion regarding location of annual meetings needs to be done by electronic ballot, so we'll do that in a little bit.

Yeah.

MR. AVEN: Good morning. My name is Bill Aven. I'm the president of the Oklahoma Soccer Association. We don't ask for help very often, but the Federation and U.S. Youth came through great for us last year. We lost two soccer players in the tornados. Excuse me. You all helped raise $49,963.86. That was distributed to 42 families across the state who greatly appreciated your help.

It was extraordinarily generous of you to announce and ask for a moment of silence.

Pretty smooth here this weekend. I got in Wednesday night, and I spent most of Thursday hanging around the staff command center getting in the way and generally interfering to demonstrate that national officers can really be helpful.

If you noticed last night, the staff was all bundled up, looking like they were getting ready for where we're really going to have the next AGM, in January in Nome, Alaska, standing down there to get you over to the theater. That guy standing out there about halfway with the blue nose that said, "keep going this way," that's Ryan Mooney. He runs the referee and coaching department, but for the AGM, everybody is the same employee. There's somebody from U.S. Soccer that makes sure that this meeting comes off, and Dan, Brian, Linda, Amy, Michelle, Ryan -- I will leave out some names -- but the reason this happens so smooth, when I tell you something, they were here until midnight setting up this room to make sure it went right, and they were back downstairs at six this morning, making sure it went right.

They come in; did a fantastic job.
people. And as we do that, our greatest strength remains our volunteers. And I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each of them, past, present and future.

And along with the remarks that you made, the future for us and for all of soccer, we agree it looks so bright, and we look forward to embracing that future as part of the Youth U.S. Soccer family. We appreciate that.

On a personal note, my dear friend, Bob Black, sends his regards, and those of you that know him know that he very deeply regrets not being able to attend the AGM in person. And he does look forward to the day when he will be able to attend and join you once again. And he appreciates the thoughts that you send his way.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you, Kevin.

MR. PAYNE: I would just like to thank the membership for having had the opportunity to serve you on this Board for quite a while. I'm not going away. I will still be involved in the game and still be involved in the Federation. You will still be seeing me at these events.

I actually want to say a little more about Richard. And I'm going to have some comments also tonight in the video about Richard when he's honored with the Werner Fricker Award. But just a quick comment or two.

That I think it's very appropriate, from my point of view, that as Richard and I leave the Board, Sunil is reelected to another term. The three of us formed a -- kind of a trio back in the days when the Federation really did not have a lot of money and was really constrained in many ways in what we could do. When I joined the Federation, I think our budget was somewhere around $7 million -- the total budget to do everything that we did. We were running a national team program out of a personal line of credit that Werner Fricker was on the book for out of a savings and loan in Pennsylvania which probably doesn't even exist anymore. And Richard, you know, fresh off the success of the U.S. Men's National Team game against Dpner in Philadelphia, was running around the countryside trying to figure out ways to make money. He was also serving at the time as President of the EPYSA, if I remember.

But it was a different time. It's incredibly satisfying to see how far we've come in a relatively short period of time. Our budget next year will approach $100 million, and the reserves that we have on hand, the ability to make strategic decisions and move on them in an aggressive way, is quite remarkable.

We've come a long way. And one of the people that really helped us make that journey is Richard, and I wish Richard all the best.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you, Kevin.

Mr. Garber.

MR. GARBER: Let me just start, Sunil, on behalf of all of your friends in the professional game, and I think everybody in the room welcomes you back for four more years, and we look forward to going to bigger and better places with our sport and with all of your members.

Let me, if I can, just take a brief moment and share a story that I can remember very well, which was the first AGM that I attended in 1999. And at that time, there wasn't a great relationship between the professional game and the way we were structured and the membership. And at the end of that meeting, a state president came up to me and introduced himself, and then he took the season tickets that he had purchased from the MLS team and he tore them up in front of me, and said, I have no interest, and nor does anybody in my state have any interest in supporting your club.

And I went back after that and I spoke to our guys, and I said what is it that's happening that we have a dynamic -- at that time, this was 15 -- almost 15 years ago -- when the league was not connected to membership. And there was all sorts of political stuff. And I remember we went back, and said, collectively, we need to earn the respect and earn the engagement that we, as professionals, at all levels need to have with all of the leaders of the sport that can help influence all the people that you touch, to turn them from being great participants into being fans of the game.

And in the last 14 years, there have been a number of different iterations of the
leagues. But now with Major League Soccer, a growing and thriving group AYSO and USO that continues to grow, and now, thankfully, a growing and increasingly popular women's game, we have dozens and dozens of professional teams that are playing games all over the country, and in Canada as well, with almost all of our leagues.

And our goal is to try to do everything we can to entertain and grow the game from participant player/developer perspective to get people to care about the sport at the highest level and to have all of our athletes that you have helped create be great corporate citizens and great community citizens, and all of us speak with great pride to all of the great programs and all the great contributions that these athletes make in your communities.

But we still need your help to turn all of the people that you touch into being engaged fans of the sport, because at the end of the day when people are celebrating and people are going home and really caring about one of these clubs, wherever they are, that ultimately is what's going to help take this game higher.

Put more money into the game so it can be invested into programs like yours and, ultimately, go into player development, so that we continue to win World Cups with the women, and hopefully we'll win a World Cup with the men.

So I pledge on behalf of all of our leagues that we will do our part, and I ask for your support and hopefully, I believe, now we have earned your support.

Lastly, I want to say a couple of things about Kevin. All of you know him, you've probably known him a lot longer than many of us at Major League Soccer, he's been involved in this board for 30 years. He was a great Board member, very engaged, very focused, took off his pro hat and really thought about what it is that he can do to try to grow the game. Kevin, we miss you in Major League Soccer. We will miss you as a member of the Board, but I know you will be involved for many, many years to come.

Lastly -- two "lastly's" -- Donna as an independent member is a great addition to our Board. Donna is one of the great educational thinkers in our country. She happens to be a fanatic sports fan and owns a couple of sports teams that are almost larger than most pro teams as being a leader in the movement of the disabled athletes and being ahead of our time.

Ten years ago, we established a disabled standing committee. In addition, we have taken a step forward to get our U.S. Paralympic Soccer Program in hiring a new head coach. His name is Stuart Sharp.

For the Good of the Game, I do look to you, the delegates from every state, to reach out and discover what this program is in our quest to have a team qualify and return to Brazil in the 2016 Paralympic and Olympic games. So in the Good of the Game, I do want to recognize the support of soccer in the development of athletes with physical disabilities. Thanks.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks, Jon. (Applause.)

MR. MC CULLOUGH: First of all, Sunil, I would like to, on behalf of the Athletes Council, we want to congratulate you and again say how much we're looking forward to working with you in the next four years.

The next thing I want to talk about too, I want to point out that next week the third-largest sporting event in the world will start. It's the International Paralympic Games. These are games that are for events, that include events for athletes with elite physical disabilities. This includes disabled athletes that are our veterans, who used the sport of soccer in their rehabilitation and are once again able to represent our country.

It is with a great deal of pride, as a disabled veteran, that I recognize this sport...
saying that you honor the position.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

Ms. Gill, and then we'll go to Mr. Rapaglia.

Evelyn.

MS. GILL: I would just like to mention for those of you who don't know that there is a Supporters Club -- a U.S. Soccer Supporters Club. For those of you who may have children, family and friends, and you don't know what to get them for gifts, it's a great gift to give someone. There's all levels of participation. So think about it. I know I gave it to my two sons, and they are very happy to be members of our Supporters Club. So think about doing that when you are thinking, what am I going to buy them this year.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Rapaglia.

MR. RAPAGLIA: Mr. Gulati, we have additionally heard from your state in New York City, anyway, you used to play with the Klinsmann -- already a USA coach -- his name is actually Orlando. And like I said, I spoke to you already, but I wanted to say, but anyway,

Let's run that video.

(Video shown.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: As we look at that second game on there, U.S. versus Portugal, and we look back at that video, I see we've got John O'Brien, who scored that goal you saw. Let's hope we get a couple more of those this summer against Portugal, John. Thanks for that goal.

If we could have Mr. Amoroso and Mr. Marcos come down. And just stay in your seats for 30 seconds, the rest of you. We will get a picture with them, and present them with their entry to Life Membership. Rocco and Francisco, come on down.

(Photos taken.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: With that, ladies and gentlemen, we'll take a motion to adjourn.

MR. NUNEZ: So move.

PRESIDENT GULATI: So moved by Mr. Nunez.

The meeting is adjourned. Thank you all for your participation. Enjoy the rest of the day.

Safe travels home. We'll see you in San Francisco. Tonight's dinner first, yes. We'll feed you before we send you home.

(Adjourned at 9:50 a.m.)

Angelo Robbins is here. I would like to welcome him to New York.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Welcome, Angelo.

Great to have you here with us.

MR. RAPAGLIA: Angelo used to be a teammate, and we used to room together with our Russian coach, Klinsmann.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

Anyone else?

So before we show you the video, the last video, and then adjourn, I think the two pieces of advice we have about New York activities, if you are engaging in those the rest of the day, Mr. Edwards advises that if you see Ryan Mooney or anyone with a U.S. Soccer jersey or jacket on, feel free to follow them.

Mr. Pinori's advice is if you see anyone in a long coat that's not a U.S. Soccer person, don't follow them.

Thank you all very much for coming. We've got a closing video that should get you a little bit excited about what's going to happen this summer in Brazil. And then I would ask the two new life members to come down afterwards. We will honor them formally, and then we will be adjourned.
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, DEBRA K. RESLING, RMR, and Certified Realtime Reporter appointed to take the meetings of the U.S. Soccer Federation, do certify that the within proceedings of the National Council meeting were taken by me stenographically in New York City, New York, on March 1, 2014 then reduced to typewritten form consisting of 82 pages herein; that the foregoing is a true transcript of the proceedings had.

In witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of March, 2014.

_______________________________
Debra K. Resling, CSR, CRR, RMR
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My commission expires February 28, 2017
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