PROCEEDINGS

UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION
100th NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter
San Antonio, Texas

February 27, 2016
8:00 a.m. - 10:04 a.m.

Reported by Debra K. Resling, RMR, CRR
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(Commencing at 8:00 a.m.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Could you find your seats, please. Grab your seats and we'll get started.

Welcome to San Antonio. My guess is most of you were here before I was -- you should be -- the three of us that flew in, the four of us, five of us that flew in -- but welcome to San Antonio.

They've asked me to wear this throughout the meeting, but I'm going to decline, although I guess a number of you were wearing that even before you had a beverage yesterday. So it sounds like yesterday was a good time. I'm glad that worked out, and there's pictures of lots of you that we've all been looking at this morning.

So welcome to the Annual General Meeting. We've got, not a long list of items to cover, so it will give you plenty of time to see the rest of San Antonio and obviously a lot of activity tonight. But we do have a number of important business points to go through,

Before we get started with any of
that, if we could take a moment of silence, stand
and join me in a moment of silence for those
members of our community, soccer community, that
have been lost over the last year.

(Moment of silence.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. You
may be seated.

We'll next conduct the Pledge of
Allegiance. Mr. Mike Edwards. The up and down
is part of the calisthenics...

(Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: We then go to
Mr. Kepner for a roll call explanation, and then
the roll call will be done digitally, and then
followed by the Credentials Committee Report, all
of which will be handled by Mr. Kepner.

MR. KEPNER: Good morning.
I'm absolutely confident that the
vast majority of you in the room are familiar
with the procedure that we follow in developing
the voting framework. We have four councils and
there needs to be an apportionment of votes among
them.

Three of the councils have equal
weight with the largest of those three, the Youth
Council, being the governing number, and that was displayed shortly up above with 291 votes. It's not necessarily individuals, but votes.

Then the next is the Adult Council, which had 191 votes, but that has to mathematically be equivalent to the 291. So there's a multiplying factor, and we will see that displayed on the last slide.

Next is the Professional Council. There were 14 votes. And then that, using the multiplier, has to be made equivalent to the 291. We'll see the multiplier again.

The next is the Athletes Council, four votes. Now, with the athletes council, by our bylaws and standards, the athletes must represent no less than 20 percent of the total vote capable in the entire voting process, so there is another multiplier that brings that about.

And then in the last slide, we have other members -- this is the next-to-the-last slide -- we have other members. We can see those identified. We will go on. We have Life Members, and the next one, Board of Directors.

All of those, those last three, have
one vote each. We go on.

And then now we have a total number
of votes, 291,534, but then when they're
weighted, you can see the 291, 291, 291, the
athletes, which is 20 percent of the entire
voting strength, minimum of 20 percent, and we
hit very close, and the other members, total
voting strength of 1135. You can see the very
small multipliers on the right-hand side with the
simple majority being one more than half of 1135
is 568. Two-thirds majority, if it were needed,
would be 757. I will ask for a motion to accept
the Credentials Report.

MR. EDWARDS: So move.

MR. KEPNER: I hear a motion over
here to my left.

MR. SCHERER: Second.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

MR. KEPNER: And I hear a second here
and a second in the back. All those in favor,
please say aye? Opposed, please say no? Motion
carries.

(Motion passed.)

MR. KEPNER: Now, you know that we
also historically have a little bit of a test
question. We happen to be in San Antonio.

Historically, most of you think that soccer got started in terms of World Cup in a different part of the world than this, but the fact of the matter is that the first World Cup was played in 1836. This was the goal that was used.

Now in order to be able to score -- you see that little window up there on the top? That's where you had to kick the ball.

Now, there were three players, there were three players on the original team, and they are going to compete today with you doing the voting, to see whether or not one of those is still able to function well as a penalty kick shooter. Those three are Davey Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier; Juergen Klinsmann, and Jill Ellis.

So, you know how to use our little keypads there. Those are 1, 2, and 3. Most of the keypads should have been turned on already, but if yours doesn't have a display in front, just push the lower right-hand button. Just hold it for a moment, lower right-hand button, and the display will come on.

Okay. We'll go ahead and start
voting now, 1, 2, or 3.

(Votes being cast.)

MR. KEPNER: He still has it, Mr. Crockett. Of course, you know probably he had a little bit of an advantage. He was the only one with a rifle; therefore, who is going to win the shoot-out? The man with the rifle.

One thing that I'm going to ask is that if you are aware that somebody is not present and there's a keypad in front, a member of the Nominations Committee, not the Nominations Committee, the Credentials Committee, will stop by and pick up those keypads and take them over to that side of the room. When they show up, they may pick them up there.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks, Bob.

At yesterday's FIFA Congress, they do the same thing. They have a test question, and they thought the obvious test question they should use was Will the next World Cup be played in Russia? It was a little bit dangerous, because of the serious chance that the majority might not vote that way, but in any case, Davey Crockett is a safer bet for sure.
Next -- we've done the roll call, we've done the Credentials Committee, and we've done the test question. It's been my great pleasure to acknowledge a couple of special groups that are here. If the life members could stand. The life members, where are you? Where is that group? Just stand for a second. Remain standing.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Those of you that are at the first Annual General Meeting of U.S. Soccer, Soccer, the first AGM, please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Anyone in the over 40 -- not you are 40 -- but 40 AGMs or more. 40 AGMs or more.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Rapaglia from Eastern New York is missing, unfortunately, with an injury.

Those of you who have represented the U.S. National Team Program at any level, stand, please. U.S. National Team Program.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Those of you that
dreamt of representing the U.S. National Team?
Well, you guys would still be in that group; the
rest of us would too, John.

Okay. Thank you.

Next on the item is Approval of the
Minutes. You have the minutes from the 2015,
sorry, 2015 AGM. Do we have any comments from
those, or someone that moves that we adopt them
or approve them, I should say.

MR. BORRONI: Move to approve.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Borroni, thank
you. There's a second.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Any comments?

Edits? Hearing none, we'll approve those
unanimously. Thank you. The minutes from the
last year's AGM are approved.

(Motion approved.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: We will then move
on to a quick video, highlight video from
twenty-five -- 2015 -- did I say twenty-five? If
we could run that video, please.

(Video shown.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: My guess is that
all of you in this room, at various times in your
soccer activities, there are days or weeks,
hopefully, not months, but there are certainly
days when you wake up, and you ask, Why am I
doing this? Almost everyone in the room is a
volunteer in the sport, not everyone, but almost
everyone, and there's been a bad experience, or
there's been a loss, or there's been a kid who
didn't appreciate it, or there's just a spouse or
a child that you are not spending time with, and
you say, Why am I doing this? I don't need to do
this.

Over the last ten months, I have had
more of those days than I can care to remember.
It's been a long year. And not just because of
some of the legal issues around the world, but a
long year in many ways. And then I thought about
it as we were coming here yesterday. And I was
thinking about the comment made by a member of
the FIFA Executive Committee, not to me
personally, but there was a colleague of mine
that was pushing very hard for more gender equity
issues to be put into the FIFA statute reforms,
and she brought it up at the meeting again on
Thursday. And I fully agreed with her on the
need for that inclusion. And he let her have it.
And I couldn't understand why he was so upset.
The meeting finished. And I went to him, and we talked about it. And he said essentially the following: These are western problems -- we were talking about allocated seats at the executive committee, increasing that participation -- these are western problems. High class, exact terms, high class western problems. And the rest of it was essentially, I have difficulty getting sheets to allow little girls to play soccer, and you are talking to me about seats, allocated seats of the FIFA committee? We have got very different issues.

And I understood that. I understood his point. We've had a lot of grown-up problems in the last year, and lots of other problems that we have had for a long time, and I will talk a little bit about those, but they're grown-up problems, and many of those are problems that are beyond our control.

Last May -- none of this is news to you -- we had a series of arrests, none of our people, but arrests of all the CONCACAF officials, FIFA officials; more of that happened
later on, more of it happened with investigations and suspensions from FIFA, more of it happened in December, and if the Attorney General of the United States can be taken at her word, and I think we can take her at her word, there will be more coming.

So it's been a pretty painful year, because we have gotten caught up in a storm. None of that has been directed at us, or were members of CONCACAF, or members of FIFA, we have known many of the people who have been involved. In many ways, our people and our companies, and our partners, have had to help clean up, but it's been a painful process.

Soccer has been on the front page, not in a way that any of us particularly would have wanted. So starting in May, literally, in a hotel that I was staying at, multiple people were arrested. This wasn't for doing just bad things. This was criminal activity, allegations of criminal activity, and in some cases, confirmation of that because people have plead guilty. That's not the reason any of us got into this. And we have different examples at different levels, but there's been more than a
few days in the last ten months when I thought about, what am I doing here? And why am I doing this? This doesn't make a lot of sense. And I can assure you, people in my family have asked the same question. But in a way, that's no different than many of you that have asked that question.

And then there's days where you get the answers to those questions, and you know what, it didn't take that long. You saw some of the highlights from the Women's World Cup. Wow. It does not get any better than that if you are involved at the level I'm involved at, and that's no different in terms of the pure joy of watching a kid score a goal in a local game, in their eyes, and their parents, and everything else. Pretty incredible.

I can't think of too many things that I have done in the game that were bigger highlights than putting medals around our players in Vancouver in front of a full house, 25 million people watching them score in the U.S., and some of the things that's led to. And two days later, an extraordinary ceremony in Staples Center in Los Angeles, and three days later in my hometown,
a ticker tape parade for the Women's National Team in soccer, that the mayor, and Soccer United Marketing, and Major League Soccer, and others, managed to put together in four days, because they hadn't planned on it. We always planned on winning it, but putting that together, and a million people in a ticker tape parade, and Abby Wambach addressing the crowd, it doesn't get any better than that, if you're involved in the game. And that's not just me, all of you, I'm sure, got caught up in that, I'm sure, in one way or the other. Pretty incredible, and the messages that that sent.

Then most of the days where you are wondering why you do this, but we still got caught up in a whole bunch of issues during the course of the year, grown-up problems. And frankly, in some of these cases, we have been unprepared to deal with grown-up problems.

So, what are some of those grown-up problems? The NFL has had some grown-up problems. And they've been around a long time, with hundreds of staff people and billion dollar budgets, and some player off-field behavior issues.
We had one of those. We might have dealt with it differently from ten years from now or ten years ago, I don't know, but we weren't fully prepared to deal with that. We dealt with it in retrospect, in almost the best way we could have, but we weren't fully prepared to do that, to deal with that, but FIFA itself, CONCACAF, no one is prepared to deal with that.

Dan never expected that he would be at a Senate hearing, or having to answer why I wasn't at the Senate hearing. Got caught up in a lot of that. I'm not sure that being in the news, that all news is good news, and any coverage is good coverage. I'm not quite so sure about that.

On the field, there was other good news, and some bad news. The men's team didn't have a successful year by any measure -- great to win in Germany and Holland back-to-back games against two of the best teams in the world, and trying to attack at the end of the game. That was the Gold Cup. It was a disappointment by any measure. And we got outplayed. No referee issues, as far as I'm concerned. There were some referee issues, that's not what cost us the
tournament. And we lost the playoff game against
the Confederations Cup and lost two games in a
row.

Our Under-20 team might have been in
the finals, but, in fact, lost in the quarter
finals on penalty kicks to the eventual champion.
Not quite sure how to evaluate that.

So there's been some ups and downs
for sure, but in a way, other than the success of
the Women's team, this has been a year of
off-field issues dominating on-field issues. We
will have other people that will talk about some
other things, with tremendous success of all of
our professional leagues, that's immensely
positive, MLS celebrating its 28th year and the
NASL having continued expansion, same for the
USL.

The NWSL will set a record in a few
weeks when it starts its fourth season. That's a
record for Women's Professional Soccer in the
United States, having a fourth season.

That will be a good thing, giving our
national team players an opportunity, but as
you-all know, there's been off-field issues
there. Grown-up problems. We're in litigation
with the National Team Players Association, litigation that we initiated -- still love the players, still love the team -- so this is fairly a legal matter, and we'll get through that, I'm sure. But when I say bargaining agreements, match-making issues -- not in our games, but they're out there, drug testing -- these are all the grown-up problems. Baseball and basketball at the league level has dealt with these for many years. We've never had these. We're still trying to figure out what do we tell our national team player on the women's side. And if the men qualify for the U-23 level for the Olympics, what are you going to do to make sure we're safe in Brazil? This time we're not talking about security issues. That's always an issue. But now we've got the Zika virus, and water quality. And the U.S. Olympic Committee, now, I'm told, will be having a Senate hearing in the next few days. I talked to the head of the U.S. Olympic Committee yesterday, and they're facing those same sorts of questions. Grown-up problems for sure.

And the grown-up problems that all of you have are the big grown-up problems a lot of
you have been talking about, some of you have been writing to me about grown-up problems, about how to deal with young kids, age deferred across the country, and this age change. And we've been looking a lot at that. And we'll continue to look at that, and how do we change these fields to smaller size, things that we think are in the best interests of the game long term, but certainly cause some dislocation in the short term.

Grown-up problems. These are pretty important grown-up issues in the video, and maybe the most recognizable, in many ways, the player in the history of the Women's game, and Abby Wambach is beyond the game in so many ways in what she's done for this sport, as a role model, as an outspoken person and player, and she retired.

And one of the highlights of the year is certainly watching her at the Women's World Cup Final, a trophy in her hand, going over to see her partner at the end of the game, and watching her, after she was told specifically by the head of security, Do not do this, asking for a selfie with the President of the United States,
and the entire team, and he was happy to do it, and she managed to take a selfie without getting herself in it. That wasn't a grown-up problem. That was a kid's problem. That was pretty good.

And then we had the last few weeks where FIFA had a Congress, and CONCACAF had a Congress, and the year buzz word for the last six months, last 12 months, has been "reform." We reformed a lot, reformed the statutes, trying to change the statutes of those organizations to bring them, frankly, into compliance with, in one way, modern practices. Most of those things we've had for many years. So if some of the things that didn't exist in either of those organizations, publication of compensation, term limits, we'll talk about some of these things in the next 12 months for ourselves, but any compliance issues, and so on, things that are normal here, things that are required, in some cases, by American law, and over the last 72 hours, CONCACAF has changed their statutes. FIFA has changed their statutes, so, to name but a few, both organizations, now, will have term limits for their equivalent of their board. They'll be called something different, councils.
Both organizations will have integrity checks for all candidates that are seeking office on council at the executive committee level or on committees. Both organizations will have compliance officers, and on and on and on. Full disclosure of compensation for board members and senior executives, which we have by American law, and many other things, and most of those got passed, in CONCACAF's case, unanimously. CONCACAF also added for the first time, there was no other confederations that's done this, added independent directors. And I've said at the CONCACAF meeting, and I've said at the FIFA meetings, and I've said many times at this meeting, one of the best things we've ever done is add independent directors. We got halfway there with CONCACAF. They added them, but nonvoting. It will take a little longer to make that next step.

So CONCACAF and FIFA came a long way in the last few days in terms of their statutes in almost all cases, the things that we already have. A few things that we will move forward for next year, like term limits, and others, that the
Rules Committee is still looking at. We have a long set of proposals, that the board and the Rules Committee will work on and bring back a full package for next year.

But even with all the rules that we've had in place, and I think, good governance, generally, we need to do better. And not just because of things that happened last May, but more generally, we've been taking a very good and strong look at ourselves, and not doing it only internally. We have asked two important groups to look at us externally.

So we asked Latham Watkins, which is our outside counsel, to do an internal compliance review. And they've come back with a series of suggestions about finance, about having an internal compliance officer, and having independent people on our audit and compliance committee, about having a governance committee, all of those sorts of things.

Some of those we'll put into motion immediately, and we did. We had generally good marks from them, because we're in pretty good shape on those things, but not A plus, not an A, so we'll do that.
And separate and apart from that, we've had McKinsey, a highly reputable consulting company look at us in even a broader way about how do we manage the Federation? How do we manage the board? How do we manage our relationship between the board and our constituents? And the first piece of that is the board dynamics.

So I had asked McKinsey to come in and take a good look at us, and said, no holes barred. Lots of criticism? We want to know about it. Consider the iterations of how we should do things differently at the board level or at these meetings, let's hear about it. And these things are expensive, but well worth doing. And it's not only well worth doing, we have the finances to do it.

So it's not all, let's look at ourselves, in the bad news from the world. From the financial side of things, we are in the best shape we've ever been -- by a country of miles, or maybe, expressed to me, by a country of a 100 million miles, because that's roughly where we are.

In a very short period of time, our
budgets have expanded dramatically. And that's primarily due to two commercial agreements with Soccer United Marketing, and with Nike, and an increase in our National Team games, and the Women's games now picked up as well.

So you have got to ball park it, ball park it -- and you've got budgets, so you won't need to ball park it -- you'll get exact numbers, $100 million budget, and the ball park is $100 million in reserves. That's a long way in looking, Hank, from where you were. So as soon as we got retained, these things happened.

While he was trying to deal with the resources that Hank had at his disposal, there was nothing like this, and they certainly weren't, when we were in the '80s, or when some of you were involved even before that. That's extraordinary.

And yesterday, we had the FIFA meeting, and some of the candidates were saying, This is your money, and we're going to give it all back to you, but part of that was the election year. Well, we're going to be going the same way. Luckily, I'm not up for election in 20 minutes, we're not doing it because of that. I
have already written to our Board. We have a lot of money in the bank. That doesn't mean that we're going to distribute all of that. We need a healthy set of reserves because those games don't always go well, and we've got enough litigation to keep two or three law firms busy forever, which isn't a fun thing, and it's very expensive, but we want to see how we could get some of that money back out to grass-roots development or maybe to professional referee development. We don't know.

In the note I sent to the board is, at our next meeting, we will start a process to talk about that. We don't need $100 million in reserves, and I would think by the end of this year that number will increase. Why? Because we have got a phenomenal event coming this summer. The Centenario. COPA America, 16 teams, ten best -- well, not 10 best -- well, I guess it is the ten best, all ten teams from South America, and 16 from CONCACAF. Out of those 16, eight of them played in the second round of the World Cup. We put tickets on sale, and to say that they are moving briskly would be an understatement.

Jay Berhalter, who is the CEO of that
project, my guess is at the end of that
tournament, the little tournament that we're
putting on, will outdo the Euro in terms of
average attendance, because we've got bigger
stadiums than they do, which is a great thing.
And we'll have done it on seven months. Why?
Because we planned this a year and a half ago,
and then virtually everyone that had signed the
document or was responsible for it with some of
our partners, not on our side, wasn't in a
position to attend the tournament.

So we had a series of arrests with
the leadership of both CONCACAF and CONMEBOL, and
we had, I don't know how many calls with our
board, should we do this thing? This makes no
sense. The counter parties, and it was shown,
the allegation is that the tournament itself, not
in a creative sense, but that the number of
people who agreed to the tournament had been
incentivized, so, in legal means, paid off. Do
we really want to do this? Do we want to put our
name on this tournament?

And for much of last summer, I would
have said, we wouldn't have agreed to that -- I
mean I would have agreed to it -- but the Board
said, we don't want to go near this; some dissenting views. And as time went on, we got more comfortable with the possibility, not because we needed the money, our partners, CONCACAF and CONMEBOL, certainly need the money, not because Soccer United Marketing was pushing us too, and Nike, they were saying, you guys shouldn't go near this.

The whole thing had been about marketing companies providing illegal kickbacks to federation presidents and confederation presidents. But in the end, we decided to do it. We got all of the bad actors out of the middle. We got everyone to agree that all of the funds would come into the segregated account in the United States, and we would control all funds, and none would be disbursed until we said it was okay.

And part of that, those processes, "We," means making sure that the Department of Justice says it's okay. That's not a normal thing that we deal with -- making sure if we're really seeing profits. So those are new things, but this tournament will be a fantastic tournament, and I have no doubt that it will be
economically successful.

Tickets are going very rapidly. We will open up different forms of tickets down the road. We had a world class event this past weekend, starting the week of activities, FIFA draw in New York, with the Hollywood website draw, in terms of what is a relatively simple, straightforward draw into TV production that Univision put on live, as well as Fox Live, so that will be a big hit. They've done ten markets across the country, and a couple of markets were already over 30,000 tickets sold, and you have to buy three tickets, which means essentially there are 100,000 tickets sold because you buy three tickets for three separate games which is extraordinary.

It will certainly be the biggest men's event here since '94, and I always say the biggest men's -- the biggest event -- we had a pretty good event in 1999 as well, on the women's cup side.

So we will have the financing and we'll figure out ways to run programs in conjunction with you, and maybe even with the councils, and we should get the councils working
together, especially with the youth side -- a little bit different dynamics with the adult. The Pros have some other constraints in legal terms, and maybe there's a referee program we can put together, there's resources available. We need to figure out a way to best use those, and we will do that over the weeks and months to come.

That's kind of the past, and a little bit about the future. Let me tell you a little bit about the present, and then I will have Commissioner Garber chime in on part of this.

We were in Zurich these last three days, and Arthur Mattson was with us, John Collins was with us, Don Garber was with us, Carlos Cordeiro was with us. They came back early. They were our delegates at the FIFA and CONCACAF conventions -- and I was there for all of it, but I was a member of the relevant committees, I wasn't one of our delegates -- and a lot of people coming and talking to us about the elections that were there, about the statutes. The statutes were passed unanimously. And then yesterday was quite an interesting day.

The day before, we met with all five
of the candidates. My guess is that we may be
one of the very, very, few federations around the
world that had multiple board members at formal
meetings meet with all five candidates. And we
did that on Thursday night and made a decision,
and the election was yesterday. And I will let
the Commissioner talk a little bit about the last
48 hours, and when we got here -- do you want to
do it from there Don, or do it from here?

MR. GARBER: I will do it very
briefly. I think everybody has probably read or
heard or seen some of the things that took place
over the last 24 hours.

What I think was lost in all of this
was the governance changes at CONCACAF, which
were dramatic. I'm sure Sunil will talk a bit
about that, but I think we're all looking forward
to being part of a confederation that we can be
proud of. And the massive amount of work that
was done by that organization, and their
consultants, to come together and reform, in many
ways, how decisions are made, how they're
represented, how to deal with gender equity and
the like, and I think that was really one of the
great stories and outcomes for U.S. Soccer and
that were an important part of the confederation.

But what was really remarkable yesterday, and it was really only a few hours ago, is that, we, for the first time, had all the councils represented at the congress as part of a presidential election led by Sunil; Arthur representing the amateurs, and John Collins representing the youth, Carlos representing the independents, and myself representing the professionals. And it has not been easy to be an American in the world of international futbol or soccer over the last year or so.

For reasons that you wouldn't be surprised, we were viewed as being responsible for all the things that we very much believed were very positive in terms of the changes and the reforms that the entire sport was asked to approve yesterday. But I will say on behalf of our guys, I was proud to be an American yesterday, and I was proud to be a member of this Federation, and proud to have Sunil as our president, who after decades of being part of this organization and coming up through the ranks, he has, as many of you probably know, worked the floor. And in my view, and I think,
through Arthur, and John, and Carlos, helped deliver the election to a new president that we feel very strongly about.

And that's not the way things were in the past. A lot of that has to do with just the changes that are going on throughout the world of FIFA, and the fact that the United States is looked at now as having more influence in representing things that are a big part of our character, and things that drive our moral compass. But to see it happen on the floor yesterday, as you probably, many of you might have been watching on television, I don't believe Gianni Infantino would be the president if not for the relationships that Sunil was able to develop and earn over the last number of decades.

So Sunil, I'm going to say to you, I probably would have saved this for the end, on behalf of all of us, thanks for everything that you did yesterday. Thanks for what you have done, for the countless days and months and years to earn the trust and the relationships that you were able to create over almost a lifetime of being involved in the sport. And it is a new day for all of us. And we're all very excited about
what that new day will bring for every member of this organization, and, hopefully, the entire soccer community.

So thank you very much, Sunil.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks. Thanks, Don. That's not exactly what you said you were going to say when I gave you the microphone, but I appreciate it very much.

A couple of last things, and then we'll move on, as we look forward.

We talked about the finance, some things we're going to do. You're going to continue to see us take actions in trying to get the underserved communities more involved, continue to take actions on gender equity, which, by the way, from our board, which I had more involvement in yesterday's FIFA elections than any board has had, certainly in our history, and the two things that were highlighted by our board, which we made it very clear to the five candidates, as well as to the New York Times when they asked, what governance issues, obviously these days, and gender equity issues, and I think they understood that and will continue to be
leaders in that area.

I said yesterday in an interview with Fox, they asked about the 2026 World Cup, and I said, you know, it was too early to start talking about that, but we had talked about qualifying the candidates the previous day, so maybe it was not too early then, but that's certainly something we want to see come back, the World Cup, whether it's the men's, the women's or both, and so that's part of our future.

Part of our future is getting more prepared to deal with some of the issues that we have not dealt with as well as I would have liked, or many of us would have liked, but we'll continue to put, update events, but we also -- and I certainly also appreciate that a great part of what we do is done by the people here, and the people around the country.

Because we've got millions of members, 99.999 percent of which none of us here deal with directly. And obviously, 99 1/2 percent, none of you deal with directly. But you run programs, whether it's professional programs or adult programs or entry programs or Special Olympic programs, or whatever it might be, that
do that every day, and that's the basis, and
that's the heart of what we do, what U.S. Soccer
does.

Yesterday, you saw it on TV. But we
know that the millions of kids, and the hundreds
of thousands of adults, and the hundreds of adult
professional players are what make this game
great, and the hundreds and thousands and tens of
thousands of referees, and the same on the
coaches side, and our job is to make sure they
all have a better opportunity and an access to
get better, whichever part of the game they're
in.

We end up focusing on 11 men and 11
women, probably 18, 20, 100, but they're on TV a
lot, but we understand and appreciate, understand
and appreciate everything you do. So, sorry it
hasn't been quite as great off the field as we
would have all liked.

We will all work better and harder at
that to make it better, but I want to make sure I
end by thanking you for everything you do for the
sport, and I will talk about my affection for the
staff later on, but this is really about the
people on the other side.
So thank you for everything you do.
And we will move on to the next item. But thanks again.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: I'm going to thank the officers and committee members, who wrote reports for their reports, and then thank them again by not allowing them to speak beyond their reports. So you have got the reports. Generally, we have one or two of them speak. We're not going to do that today since you've got very detailed reports.

Normally, we have Dan speak as part of the General Secretary's report. I understand that he had a town hall meeting which many of you attended. So we're going to move past that as well, and did a full presentation from Dan and the staff, and covered a number of things and had lots of questions, so we're going to skip that.

And we are on to new business.

Mr. Flamhaft?

MR. FLAMHAFT: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Do you have something that you would like to bring up under new business?
MR. FLAMHAFT: No, sir.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

We are then on to, proposed budget, Mr. Cordeiro. Proposed budget for 2017. Carlos.

MR. CORDEIRO: Thank you. Good morning.

Let me first thank U.S. Soccer staff, and the Budget Committee for their efforts in preparing the review of the proposed fiscal year '17 budget. You all have a copy of the budget in your book. Yesterday, we met with a handful of council members at our Q & A session, which I hope addressed any outstanding questions.

As Sunil has already said, today U.S. Soccer finds itself in an exceptionally strong financial position, due to a growing fast sport and increasing institutional sponsor interest in soccer in our country. In less than a decade, we have gone from annual budget deficits to adding a surplus, grinding the Federation for continued investment in the development of our sport.

In the current fiscal year, which ends next month, March, we had budgeted where it break evens itself, but can now project a surplus of 17.7 million, driven almost exclusively by the
extraordinary success of our Women's National Team. Never before had we seen a gate of a million dollars for a Women's Friendly, let alone ten games of a million dollars with a handful receiving 2 million.

Our positive position is expected to continue with the fiscal year '17 operating budget surplus of 2.6 million, and an overall surplus of 19.8 million. This includes, as Sunil said, an extraordinary nonoperating income item of 15 million related to hosting COPA America 2016 this June. This one time boost is otherwise offset by continued expansion of our player development and strategic initiatives introduced across the technical spectrum.

Looking beyond fiscal year '17, we should see a normalization of the revenue expense relationship driven by the commercial deals included in 2014, and fully expanded technical investments in the game. From referees to coaches, and, of course, to our most highly profile product, the athletes. That said, and again, as Sunil has already said, we clearly have the means to support the initiatives.

Working in conjunction with our
councils, we have the resources to invest in new programs to support our grass-roots efforts. This is something that my committee and I whole-heartedly endorsed this morning.

We met in November to discuss the '17 budget, which was then sent to the Board of Directors in December. The only change suggested by the Board was the inclusion of the extraordinary item relating to COPA America. The materials presented in your book reflect this addition, and this is what we are recommending, this is what the Board is recommending for your approval.

If there are no questions, I would ask for a motion to approve the budget.

MR. EDWARDS: So move.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Edwards has moved. Do I hear a second?

MR. SCHERER: Second.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Second. Thank you. Any questions, comments, regarding the budget?

Seeing and hearing none, we will approve the budget for fiscal year 2017 unanimously. Thank you.
From that, we will go to a quick video, which will be a part of this extraordinary item that will be on the budget at some point, which is for Centenario. This is a cash flow statement. It's a little video about tournament.

(Video shown.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: There will be lots more highlights like that. As was mentioned, some of you read, the Argentine coach, has confirmed that Lionel Messi will be at this tournament, and we met with the Brazilians this past week, and it would be too early for me to confirm, but he has confirmed that apparently they're going to bring a full team including some players from Barcelona, who we shouldn't put that in the news yet, but he'll be here. Buy your tickets quickly. Lines are open as we speak.

So should we take a quick break, as you reach for the cell phones? Excellent. Okay, we will move on then from New Business.

Proposed amendments to the Federation bylaws. Bylaw 213 which has been forwarded by Mr. Motta. Mr. Motta would you like to speak to that?

MR. MOTTA: John Motta, Chairman of
At this time, I would like to withdraw the proposed amendment, based on the fact that U.S. Soccer will be doing some bylaw rewrites in this current year and, hopefully, we will have this back on the table for next year's AGM. Thank you.

MR. BUSCH: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT GULATI: Can we make that mic live?

MR. BUSCH: It is live, sir.

Mr. President, members of the committee, and the National Board of Directors, Tim Busch. I'm a member of the Adult Commission and President of the Washington State Adult Soccer; in 2015, became intimately involved in a situation where our state association was challenged.

And while we prevailed, I think it's probably a reflection that when you are successful, people challenge you. There's been a challenge to Cal South Adult as well. We find that while the process, in terms of how it was handled by the committee was excellent, there is no provision currently in the bylaws to ensure
that there's sufficiency when people make an application. And so I understand, and from our perspective, it's unfortunate that we go another year with the ability for anybody to make the claim they can do a better job as our state association.

And so we would sincerely ask that the Board take seriously doing some revisions in that area. Thank you.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. Thank you. So that's withdrawn.

Bylaw 802, Mr. Flamhaft, is that being withdrawn?

MR. FLAMHAFT: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Bylaw 802, Mr. Flamhaft has withdrawn his bylaw. There are no other bylaws.

We now are on to two policies, 601-6 regarding international clearances, and policy 102-4-1, regarding the Lamar Hunt Open Cup, and this is a combination of policies or decisions made by the Board; is that correct?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.

PRESIDENT GULATI: We can take those together unless there's an objection. Make a
motion to confirm those collectively.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

MR. EDWARDS: So move.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Seconded.

MR. CHRISTOFFERSEN: Second.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Any comments on that? We'll approve those or confirm that approval unanimously. Thank you.

(Motion passed.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: We are on to U.S. Soccer Vice President nominations. We have election year, the position of Vice President is open. Mr. Edwards' four-year term is at a conclusion. So with that, we will open up the floor for nominations for Second Vice President of the United States Soccer Federation.

And before you start, what we've agreed is people can have a nominating speech, a second, if they choose, they're not required to do that. We will give all three candidates, announce the candidates, an opportunity to speak; if there was a fourth or multiple candidates, we will give them an opportunity to speak as well for up to five minutes. And we determined that order for those that were preannounced.
One of the things that we will do in the future is have a nomination period, so we can do the same things that everyone else does which is run background checks and so on, on nominees. That's not where we are on now. Please.

MS. GARCIA: Good morning. Yvonne Garcia, Vice President of the New Mexico State Soccer Association, Adults.

I would like to nominate Mike Edwards to continue in his role as Vice President of U.S. Soccer. Mike has been a good friend and mentor to me and many of my NMSA Board members for many, many years. His passion for Soccer is apparent every day, whether he goes on a road trip to support one of our rural soccer committees in New Mexico, or puts on a suit and tie and represents U.S. Soccer on the international stage. Mike is always approachable. And I'm sure there's many people in this room who can attest to that, and experienced this firsthand.

He has been available to USASA for many years, actually, probably decades, while probably -- and extended the same support to all of U.S. Soccer now for over ten years.

In addition to supporting the
players, recreational and professional, he has been an important advocate for our referee community. He understands the significant changes in referee education, as well as having challenges to our referees, facing each Sunday during recreational soccer meets. I often ask myself how he does it and what keeps him going?

He manages the local Albuquerque Soccer League in Albuquerque. He drives to Roswell, Las Cruces, and Grants, and let me tell you, these are no scenic routes. This is a very long drive. Just to go home, grab a bag, and fly out to some country ending in -stan to represent all of us here in U.S. Soccer.

So why does he do it? And how does he keep going? And the answer is really, really simple. It's his undying passion for the beautiful game, his belief that his work is not completed yet, and that there are more great ideas for the co-initiatives at the end of the day, more of his heart to give to this great organization.

From the soccer fields of New Mexico to the national games all around the world, Mike has been a passionate ambassador to the youth,
the adults, the athletes and the professionals. I'm looking around this room now and asking all of you to continue your support for Mike Edwards in his role as Vice President for U.S. Soccer. Thank you.  

(Applause.)  

PRESIDENT GULATI: It's a formality, but I'm going to confirm with Mr. Edwards that he accepts the nomination.  

MR. EDWARDS: I'm a little bit overwhelmed, but yes.  

PRESIDENT GULATI: All right. Mr. Groff.  

MR. GROFF: Good morning. Richard Groff, Adult Commissioner. I'm here to nominate Kevin Payne as Vice President of U.S. Soccer. I met Kevin in 1988. I was a new volunteer from Pennsylvania, and Kevin had just been hired by Werner Fricker to be a U.S. Soccer staff member. For the next 28 years, I have worked closely with Kevin. I have seen his dedication, his passion, his creativity, and his willingness to solve problems for this organization. He started out as an executive in
U.S. Soccer. He recognized at that time, we didn't have a great deal of funds, and he became a marketing executive. And over that time, on behalf of U.S. Soccer, he grew the amount of money available to us, through sponsorship fourfold. And then he went to his passion, professional soccer. Leading a team in Washington D.C. to championships, an executive in a Pro Soccer, and working in the Pro Council, and at the same time working with our National Team coaches, as the chair of the National Team Technical Committee.

And today, he is a grass-roots organizer in both the youth and the adult councils. It's been my honor for 28 years to work with him, to see his passion for this sport, and his dedication to U.S. Soccer. As a friend, I nominate Kevin Payne.

(Appause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Kevin, where are you? Do you accept the nomination?

MR. PAYNE: Yes.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. Thank you.

Evelyn Gill.

MS. GILL: Good morning. I'm Evelyn
I wish to nominate Carlos Cordeiro for the office of Vice President of U.S. Soccer. I have had the opportunity to work with all three candidates, and I believe that Carlos is the right person at this time to serve as our next Vice President. I have watched Carlos expand his role as independent director to one that includes more interaction with the councils. His willingness to listen to members and make what he has heard part of board discussions will benefit all of us, youth, adults, athletes, and pros. His belief that U.S. Soccer needs to begin to share the financial rewards, and its members -- with its members, not by decree, but by discussion, meaningful discussion, will make him an important advocate on the Board of Directors.

Carlos understands the importance of our direction, collective grass roots efforts, and the need to help us strengthen and expand our programs, so that we can continue to grow our membership. He understands the frustration many of us have felt when trying to have our concerns
listened to and changes made. Carlos is a strong advocate for strategic and succession planning, a critical issue, at this time, for a Federation.

I ask that you give him your vote.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Cordeiro, do you accept?

MR. CORDEIRO: Yes.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Great. So we will have three speeches -- can you move that chair up -- that chair right in front of me. Somebody waiting to do something, I don't know -- like, up here.

Mr. Edwards, you are up first, up to five minutes, please.

MR. EDWARDS: Just in case you wondered how this happened, we drew names out of a hat, and the first name that came out was Sepp Blatter, and Sunil said that's you. So I got to be the first guy to go.

Just so there's no confusion whatsoever, and we all said this yesterday, Kevin Payne and Carlos Cordeiro are friends of mine. We were friends when we got here. We will be
friends when we leave. Richard Groff and Evelyn are friends of mine. We're friends when we came in here, we will be friends when we leave.

To me, this is a good sign that you have got three of us that are absolutely perfectly qualified to be a vice president, and quite frankly, if my friend here gets a bad mushroom, we're perfectly qualified to step up. That's a good sign for the organization.

And as Sunil was going through the horror stories of CONCACAF and FIFA, I think it should make you feel good that some of you who stood up, played on our national teams long ago when the ball was square, and been at AGMs for 30, 40 years, that hasn't always been the case. So, I think it's a good sign to have the organization, to move forward, that we're much more focused on the game, much more focused on our organization than we are on personalities.

I look around, we're all kind of, we're products of where we came from. And mine was a guy who runs a soccer league. And so I have kind of tended to look at that as my first focus. And when we had, we had a board meeting in the locker room at the stadium in Los Angeles,
and Sunil asked us, with new resources, where we would go? And my bumper sticker euphemism was that we have had 4 million members for four million years. We're really good at getting people to come to our games. We need to get some focus on getting parents of the four- and five-year-olds to come to our sport. Life is very different. Communications, getting people's attention, is very different from 1994, when a World Cup just went boom with interest in our country, and our membership just wham, took a big jump.

I think U.S. Soccer could give resources to all of the members to use to help bring in, to help convince parents to bring your kid over here to run off that excess energy. You have got to communicate now in less than 140 characters. We can figure that out. We do pretty well with that.

So I think not all of the resources have to be money, time, something, that fits all of us. That's something that is valuable that's going to come out of U.S. Soccer, and see if we can't make that 4 million be 6 million. We've got a bigger pond. You got more fish; when you
got more fish, that may be an opportunity to get an expanded player base all the way up to the top; professional soccer grows, somewhere, we're going to have to find a professional soccer players. So it goes from the bottom all the way to the top. If we're going to have improved coaching, we need players to coach, and I think we could help expand that membership base.

As I have traveled around the country, beyond Roswell and Grants, New Mexico, I have seen a passion of people that they want to get involved. They want to help.

And when I look at this group representing a much larger group, this is what I think is an untapped resource for U.S. Soccer to engage to support our Women's Professional Soccer League. Two of them have gone down. The third one stays in business.

We support it extensively, but it would be nice to grow that out with the support of local soccer being engaged by us, beyond the Women's National Team games. We can't survive strictly on those. We need a vibrant, profitable, at least, break-even women's soccer league, and I think we need to call on local
soccer resources, as I tell people, you see 100,000 people wearing a Real Madrid jersey that never, they have no clue where Madrid, Spain is, but they're wearing the jersey. We could flex some of that attention to the NWSL, show them some love for futsal, for beach soccer, for Paralympics soccer, to again engage our own membership in getting programs to go with those that so that we could coordinate those, so Sunil can get a scouting base set up.

It's a much smaller universe of people, but again that's something we can engage our membership to participate with U.S. Soccer in those types of activities. And we discussed a great deal, as Carlos, and Kevin, and I have talked, the governance and kind of a disconnect between U.S. Soccer, we need to better connect the dots between policy coming in, decisions being made, and the involvement of the people who those impact. And we are all committed, I know, to improve the governance. It is indeed a -- this board is primarily comprised of members with three independent directors.

So, it's not your classic, classic corporate board, where you go outside to find
people to sit on the group of a board of
directors. We are driven in our composition here
by the membership, but we can indeed make it
reflective of better corporate governance at a
better time. At the same time, we can make it
better reflective of the needs of the membership.

So, that's my pitch. I hope you will
vote for me, but be crystal clear, if I'm not the
Vice President when I walk out of here, I'm not
leaving. I've got a long list of things to do,
and I told Sunil that, and so maybe I wouldn't
have to wear a tie to meetings.

Okay. Thank you.

(Appause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: The reasons I'm a
vegetarian are pretty obvious. The reasons, the
one vegetable I don't eat, Mike, is mushrooms.

All right. Second on the list,
Mr. Cordeiro, up for five minutes.

MR. CORDEIRO: Well, good morning,
and Evelyn, thank you for nominating me.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's a great
pleasure and privilege for me to be with all of
you today to share with you my vision for U.S.
Soccer. As many of you have already heard from
me, I hope this doesn't come across as too repetitive, and I know that for some, I know that for some this will be the first time that you will -- I will have had the opportunity to introduce myself.

For those I have met, I am struck by your commitment and dedication to sport across the country, to our sport. We are all volunteers here and without you, we would not be where we are today. In many ways, the people in this room represent a significant part for our game's future.

As a Federation, we have achieved significant positive milestones over the past decade. But I'm acutely aware that you and your respective associations and organizations face many issues these days. Not least the growing challenges, the challenges growing your membership and your relationship with our Federation. So let me return to this and other challenges in a few moments.

As you know, I was invited to join the Federation Board as the first ever independent director in 2007. I come from the business world. And I was introduced to the
sport when I volunteered to serve on New York City's Olympic bid 15 years ago.

Over the ensuing ten years or so, I have taken on a number of voluntary roles here at U.S. Soccer, including serving as your treasurer, acting as vice chairman of our World Cup bid, and chairing the budget committee. Through all of this, I have been passionate about the development of our game. And I think it's fair to say, that I'm usually, for an independent director, I have a deep understanding of how the Federation works, the good sense of the progress we've made, but the fact, more importantly, an understanding of the challenges ahead. And it is for this reason I want to become even more engaged, and why I am putting myself forward as a candidate for Vice President.

Let me, perhaps, briefly summarize why I would like to be your Vice President, and why I think it's important we make a change in 2016.

First, and I have said this before, through all the sessions yesterday, I really believe, we can only continue to be successful and grow the sport, as we have at the Federation,
if this success is mirrored and replicated across
the country, particularly, at the grass roots.
It's people and organizations like you, who are
ultimately why we exist, and we cannot forget
that. In a rising tide, all votes need to rise.

Second. Our Federation is now a
multimillion dollar business, and we can
certainly do more with our resources to help our
members. Sunil has already alluded to that. I
will use the skills and experience gained in the
international business to make the board a better
steward, given the responsibilities bestowed on
us.

This is what I have done throughout
my career, advising, and in fact, sitting on
boards and committees. I need not remind you
that world soccer is under intense scrutiny these
days, and we need to be at the forefront of this
change that has now been demanded of our sport.

Following yesterday's election of the
new FIFA president, we cannot waste a single
moment in restoring confidence around the
governance of soccer.

Third, I'm at a stage in my
professional life where I've got the time and the
energy to take this on. I am retired now from business and will be accessible and passionate for all of you as your Vice President.

Yesterday, in my discussions with many of you, I heard many critical comments about the Federation. That there is not enough communication or dialogue between the Federation and its members. In today's world, in major leagues, that's not acceptable. And for anyone that knows me, they will attest that this is not my way. Communications are our lifeline. While we don't have time now to go through any specifics, what I can best do is listen to you to help facilitate discussion, to ensure that all views are represented, and that critical and strategic decisions taken by our board as a whole, and not in isolation.

I will work hard to deliver this in conjunction with your representatives on our Board. We definitely can do better as a Federation, and will do better.

As Vice President, I believe that my business background, my strong organization, and board skills, will complement my colleagues to represent all of you, and between them, have
decades of experience in the world of soccer. I have also heard from many that arguably the single biggest challenge you all face is growing the membership. The sport has changed. Today's kids, and their parents, our adult players, and even our elite professionals are different, and we need to meet their needs. As a Federation, at the end of the day, we are only as strong as our constituent members. Our survival is your survival, and I believe that we in the Federation can and should be assisting you better.

As you heard earlier, we have the financial resources today to address many of your critical issues, by working with you, to provide resources and to come up with new programs to help grow your membership. If elected, I will work to set up a task force involving you and the Federation to establish a concrete list of programs to address this particular issue.

This support has to go beyond writing a check. We need to create opportunities and programs for one plus one equals three.

I said it earlier, and I will say it again. This is your Federation, and we must
ensure the success of its active members who love and support this game. We can do this by working together to create new programs that build on our existing programs, such as, they are not incremental, but do our part on our existing programs.

Finally, other than my professional background, a major point of distinction for me is that I'm a free and independent candidate, beholding to no one. I have never worked for nor been paid by any entity related to U.S. Soccer. I do not come from a member organization with a specific point of view, or a hidden agenda.

My involvement with U.S. Soccer started as an independent director in 2007. I may well be an insider today, but I think like an outsider. This confers on me, I think, unique credibility, with my colleagues on the Board to help drive this change. And it's so ironic, because I think we need a commitment to change, to improve, and to grow the entire Federation.

As an independent director, I can only do so much. If I have the honor and privilege of representing all of you, as your Vice President, I would be empowered to help
effect that change, the change that we need to sustain the growth in the years ahead.

On that note, I humbly ask for your vote this morning, and I look forward to working closely with you over the next four years. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks, Carlos.

Kevin Payne.

You can talk while he's coming up.

MR. PAYNE: Thank you-all. It's a pleasure to be here this morning. This is my 28th, I think, AGM. I see an awful lot of friends around the room, and a lot of people that I don't know as well, but hope to get to know better in the years to come.

I have been in this game for 50 years. First as a player, then, initially in high school, and college, then as a registered player from the Adult Division in Eastern New York, and in Colorado.

I have been involved with the Federation, as Richard had said, for close to 30 years now. I have a deep passion for this organization, and it has been my great, great
pleasure to be involved all of these years.

We are at a time, we find ourselves, at a time of great opportunity. The game has gained so much in such a short period of time. Our resources, the level of relevance of our sport in our culture is at an all time high, but we also face great challenges. Sunil talked about some of the challenges, some of the global challenges, but we face challenges every single day in the way that we try to impact our sport.

I share those challenges with you. I say "we," because I deal with those the same as you do, and I'm very proud of that. I'm proud of the fact that I'm a member of U.S. Soccer.

I'm very proud of the fact that in recent weeks, I have worked hard with John Sutter of USYSA, and also with AYSO, and SAY, and U.S. Futsal, and USSSA, and MLS, to create the new ad hoc body called the Youth Council Technical Working Group. And for the first time, probably ever, all the youth members are sitting at a single table and talking about the issues that they are facing that are common to them, and talking with the Federation about how we can best meet those
issues.

I think this kind of collaboration is way forward for us as an organization, and it's how to achieve and fulfill the expectations that we all have for soccer in our country.

One of the challenges, I believe, facing, particularly the youth, but really throughout our organization, is growth. Mike referred to it. The simplest way, in my view, to begin to address this, is to take note of, and begin to try to impact the fact that of every player, three out of every four players who begins playing soccer, quits the game before they're 13 years old. This is an issue that should be a loud alarm bell to all of us.

We are actually among the worst-organized sports in the country for player retention, and that's something that needs to be addressed in the Federation involving all of our members, and it should be a mission for all of us.

One of the roles, I think, the Federation can really play, is not just financial, but as a leader in developing greater cooperation between all of the members.
The task of ensuring that we keep players involved in our game for a lifetime should fall not just on the youth members, not just on the adult members, but equally, on the athlete council, the professional council. We should all be finding a solution to this together, because it concerns all of us equally.

I believe the Federation needs a grand vision. It needs to develop a plan, a strategic plan, to put that vision into effect. I think that's one of the roles, in my view, of the Board of Directors, is to lead that process. Last summer we saw what 23 young women could accomplish when they came together behind a common goal. Imagine what the four million plus of us could do if we are all aiming at the same point in the distance. This is something that to me will be a major priority.

I owe a tremendous debt to this sport. It has brought me a great deal, and I don't regret a single moment that I have spent in the sport of soccer. For me, it would be a tremendous honor and privilege to serve you as the Vice President. I hope that you will give me your vote, and I look forward to working with
you-all in the future.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you, all three of you.

I think this is pretty straightforward. I could probably do it without having Mr. Kepner show me how.

If we could put up on the board those three candidates, presumably, a number next to their name. I'm doing this slowly just to make sure the message is getting through. Excellent, well done.

When I tell you the ballots are open, you can hit the 1, 2, or, 3 for the candidate of your choice. Now, before we do that, contrary to the rules yesterday at the FIFA meeting where at the second ballot, the low person has to drop out, we didn't get to that stage. In our rules no one has to drop out. If we don't have a winner at 51 percent, 50.1 percent, we would continue. It also will not take two hours per round is a plus. So if we have somebody above 50, we have a winner. If there's no one that reaches 50, we will queue up the data and go
again, unless one of the candidates voluntarily wants to withdraw from the process.

Okay. So, let us set this thing up, and tell us -- where is -- you tell me when you are ready to start the clock. Somebody give me a thumbs up.

MR. KEPNER: We are ready now. The one thing I will say is that at one point, I will say "vote now," and then I'll count down, and you have to get your vote in by the time --

PRESIDENT GULATI: I thought I got to say "vote now."

MR. KEPNER: You can go ahead and say "vote now."

PRESIDENT GULATI: No, you can say it, Robert. I'm just kidding.

MR. KEPNER: Go ahead. We're ready to start.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. Vote now.

MR. GARBER: Mr. President, are we supposed to hit send?

PRESIDENT GULATI: Yes, Bob, you are supposed to hit the number and the send, yes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Don't put up
anything on the screen. We've got questions from here.

MR. KEPNER: Just hit the number.
PRESIDENT GULATI: Just the number.

Okay, we're going to run that again. Everyone in the room got it except the front row of the board. Just kidding. The front row left. All right. Everyone got it except Commissioner Garber.

We're going to do it again.

Robert, is confirmation of receipt -- do you need to see the word "received" down here?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
MR. KEPNER: We stand corrected. You do have to press --
PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. You were the only one in the room that was right.

MR. GARBER: Thank you.
PRESIDENT GULATI: All of you should apologize to Don Garber right now. Okay. We're going to try that again. This is why FIFA does a three-hour paper ballot.

MR. GARBER: That's why my name is on the ball there big guy.
PRESIDENT GULATI: Commissioner...
MR. GARBER: Just saying...

PRESIDENT GULATI: Just saying.

Okay.

All right. We're going to do that again. After you push a Number 1, 2, or 3, you must hit send and then you are going to see the word "received" in the little screen. All right?

MR. KEPNER: Vote now.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Vote now. All right. Stop again.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How do we clear?

PRESIDENT GULATI: We have to clear -- hit clear, all right -- Kepner?

(Multiple simultaneous discussions.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: We are going to have more litigation, I can tell.

Okay. Robert.

MR. KEPNER: These are new keypads, and there is where the confusion came.

If you want to change your vote now, at any point, you can. So, go ahead and vote now.

PRESIDENT GULATI: So right now, is everything clear on the system?
MR. KEPNER: No.

PRESIDENT GULATI: So let's clear the system and start it from scratch.

MR. KEPNER: Everything is clear.

Now, vote.

(Votes being cast.)

MR. KEPNER: Five, four, three, two, one.

PRESIDENT GULATI: This is dangerous. I asked if I could be like the judge, and I get to see the outcome before the jury gets it, but no, we're just going to find out at the same time.

MR. KEPNER: We will show the result now.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Cordeiro, the new Vice President of the United States Soccer Federation.

(Applause.)

MR. CORDEIRO: I don't really have anything to say. I'm really humbled by the support you expressed this morning. I really look forward to working with all of you over the next four years. I would just echo what Mike and Kevin had said that we were friends. We are
friends. We will stay friends. We have a lot of work to do together. Thank you very much. And I'm particularly overwhelmed. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: So either the new Vice President or one of the candidates stole my agenda piece of paper while they were giving their speeches, and, as always, the General Secretary comes through.

Okay. We have -- congratulations to Mr. Cordeiro. I had three good friends that were running in this, so, just a minute beyond that. Mike has been an extraordinary Vice President, and an extraordinary leader of the adult division and extraordinary for the game in every way. We talked over the weekend, because I wanted to get his views on the FIFA election, and he went out of his way to say what he said to all of you, that he will be here tomorrow regardless of which way this goes, and he will be in the game for a long, long time. So, Mike, thank you for your service, and I know you will be around for a very, very long time.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: And Kevin, who has
been a very, very, close friend for many, many, years, a lot of battles, and a lot of wins, and some losses along the way, our families know each other very well, he's been a big supporter and a close friend. I don't need to ask him whether he's going to be around in the game. He's got, as he already said, 50 years in it, and he'll be around tomorrow, and the next day, whether it's running the most successful professional team in the history of our country, or running a major youth organization, or just watching a game somewhere with me. Kevin, I know we'll always be close and that you will be in the game. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Carlos, welcome. Welcome to your new position. If I ever see you try to order mushrooms...

Okay. We have another election. We have an election for our independent directors. This one, I think, will be easier.

We have one nominee from the board to continue in her role as independent director, Dr. Donna Shalala. Donna is here. If she would like to say a few words she can, but she's going to
take advantage of the opportunity not to say a few words. So with that, I will open up the ability of all of you to confirm Dr. Shalala as an independent director.

By unanimity, Donna, thank you.

Welcome back.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: And that is all we have on our agenda. I'm sorry, no -- a couple other things, 2017 AGM. And yes, you won on this one. We will be in Hawaii next year.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Those are the dates for next year, March 2 to 5, in Hawaii. Make a note of that. And with that, we'll go to another video. This one is our affiliated video that we always try to end with. Go to the video tape.

(Video shown.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: We are on to the Good of the Game. And I'm going to take the opportunity, being the chair, to both start, and potentially go and make one other comment later on. And the comment that I want to start with is
we've got a couple of board member changes. One
I have already talked about is Mike and his
contributions to the game, but we have another
board member who will be leaving us after today's
meeting. And after I comment, we will have John
Sutter do the same, and introduce you to the new
board member that will be joining us at this
meeting.

Evelyn Gill has been with USYSA and
an important part of the America soccer scene for
many, many years, in so many different ways, not
only on women's programs and women's committees,
but in many, many, different ways.

She's really been a terrific board
member, and when we talk about all these issues,
like gender equity and so on, it will be a good
day when we've got someone standing at this
position or the one that Carlos occupies, and it
is a woman. And I hope that's sooner rather than
later. But it's not just because she's a woman.
She's been terrific for us in the sport in the
Unite States. Evelyn, I can't say enough about
what you have done and how we've all appreciated
it. Thank you.

MS. GILL: Thank you.
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: John. Please.

MR. SUTTER: Thank you. I wanted to echo what Sunil said. At the Youth Council yesterday, we elected a new member to the U.S. Board of Directors, Tim Turney, and Tim is replacing Evelyn Gill on the Federation Board of Directors from the Youth Council, and he has extremely large shoes to fill.

As Sunil indicated, Evelyn has been involved in our game for more than 30 years. I have served side by side with her for the past six, and she has been an incredible force to U.S. Youth Soccer in the Youth Council, and an extremely valuable member to this Board of Directors, and through all of those many, many, years of soccer, as Sunil said, she's worked tirelessly to further girls' and women's soccer -- well, lately, it's time here -- she's worked tirelessly for our Girls and Women's soccer, and I know that she's going to remain working in the game, but I wanted to acknowledge and thank her for all that she's done, and personally, say, Evelyn, it's been my honor. And thank you for everything.
MS. GILL: Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Standing ovation.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Tim, if you could stand, just so everyone knows that you will be joining the Board. Tim.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Anyone else?

Please.

MR. DAVEY: I would like the membership in this room to help celebrate a milestone in soccer for the United States. The Illinois Adult Soccer Association is celebrating their 100th anniversary in dedication to the game that we love so much.

Illinois, thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Steve.

MR. FLAMHAFT: For the Good of the Game, as well as for the reputation of United States Soccer, I respectfully request that this administration, through its BOD, censure Chuck Blazer for bringing disgrace to U.S. Soccer by his unethical, corrupt, and immoral conduct.

I do so, because U.S. Soccer has been
silent on this issue. As a life member, I care deeply about U.S. Soccer's standing, as well as its reputation. Our president has said that I am one of the most devoted persons to the organization that he knows. This request for consideration of this censure was born and grew out of that same dedication.

If this censure is not sustained or approved by the NBOD who represents us, what is the message we are sending to both the U.S. Soccer community as well as the international soccer community; that we don't care about the conduct of those who represent us? I think we do care.

When an American representative, no matter who he is, acts in a dishonest, corrupt, and illegal manner, I believe it reflects on all of us. And I will not sit silently nor should any of us. I think I speak for those in the past, as well as in the present, who worked, and do work, tirelessly with integrity and dignity to protect our reputation and the credibility of U.S. Soccer.

Chuck Blazer, an American, a former official of U.S. Soccer, who gained his
international position through U.S. Soccer, is a prominent name in the FIFA investigation. By his conduct, no one in U.S. history has done as much damage to these values as Chuck Blazer. Chuck Blazer has dishonored our unblemished history. I do not pretend to be the moral conscience of U.S. Soccer, but sincerely believe we must take a stand on unethical behavior when it impacts our organization. We should take pride in our accomplishments of the organization and be vigilant of those who selfishly destroy it.

Churchill said that in situations such as this, When you are in doubt, what to do; do nothing.

I believe, when you are in doubt as to what to say, say what you really think. I recognize that this request for censure is a rarity, but then again, it is also true that we have never, never been the victim of such conduct.

The Assistant U.S. Attorney, for the prosecution of the FIFA case, has stated it's fair to say that soccer federations whose officials have engaged in criminal conduct are victims. Their constituents, including the youth leagues, and the other members of those bodies
that rely on them for support, were harmed by the corruption of their officials and their former officials.

I do not shy away from saying that I believe I am defending the honor of our leaders past and present. I have been informed that I will pay a price by going forward with this request for censure.

It has been suggested that because Chuck Blazer is from New York and that I am from New York, I should be protective of him. I reject that notion and that rationale. I believe the censure request has merit, and what I have stated should be stated. One should have the courage of their convictions.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Pinori. I'm sorry, you were at the mic first, Lynn.

MS. BERLING-MANUEL: Hi, I'm Lynn Berling-Manuel. I'm the CEO of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. And for the Good of the Game, I would like to actually extend a special thank you this afternoon, or this morning, to my predecessor, my friend, and my mentor, Joe Cummings, who led the NSCAA for
the last six years, and really, turned the organization around in, oh, so many ways, sort of leading up to our convention in Baltimore this January, which was the largest convention ever for the NSCAA, with over 6,000 coaches, and 12,000 guests. And I would just like to say a very special thank you to Joe for being a lifelong servant of the game at the professional level, the national level, World Cup, Youth, and so many other things that he's done.

And I also want to extend an invitation to everyone that the NSCAA convention is coming to Los Angeles in 2017, in January, and we hope you all will attend. But again, really this is for a moment just to thank Joe Cummings.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: To the middle, and then to the right, and then back to the left.

Peter.

MR. PINORI: Hi, Sunil. Good afternoon or good morning everyone. I wanted to make a couple of points on what Steve said. Number 1, Steve does not, in any way, represent Eastern New York. That's Number 1. So when he
mentions that, he makes us all look bad by saying what he said.

Number 2, Mr. Blazer paid a dear price with his life. He has done -- yes, when somebody does something wrong, it's correct they should pay a price, but up to what point? He has lost everything. The man is dying. He has put CONCACAF on the map.

Before Chuck Blazer, we didn't know -- most people didn't even understand what CONCACAF was. He has helped this game tremendously, not just in New York, but nationally for U.S. Soccer, and, again, CONCACAF. He came up with the Gold Cup. He came up with a lot of ideas, and I understand he has done something wrong, and I get it. We all don't want somebody to do something wrong. But enough is enough. This vendetta, and that's what it is, that Steve has with Chuck Blazer is a personal vendetta, and nothing to do with the game, and I'm ashamed that it comes from New York.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. We're going to move on past. We are at Good of the Game, folks. So, we don't need to have any fights between people on the floor.
Applause.)

MR. REGRUIT: Sunil, my name is Curtis Regruit. I'm the President of New York State West Youth Soccer, and I'm also a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Recreation Committee.

I was going to ask you this anyway. You opened the door a little bit further earlier when you mentioned that you might be open to reinvesting some of the U.S. Soccer resources back to the membership.

I wanted to make an appeal that you make a commitment to investing annually $1.5 million a year directly back to us for the betterment of the recreational side of the game. Recreational players represent two-thirds of the base of our top triangle and two-thirds of our paying membership.

These kids, ultimately, a small component of them, may become national players, but equally as important, these are the players and the families that are the paying, paying soccer participants, that will go to the MLS games and support our national teams, buying T-shirts as well.

We have taken it upon ourselves to
reinvest in this part of our game in the last few years to the tune of about $25,000 a year at our local state association. It's a small investment monetarily. We don't generate revenue from it, but it's an even loss to continue to provide coach education and resources to that sector of the game, and it's very important to the continued betterment of the game for all of us.

So, I would ask that you consider that. We will be providing you a business case later this year, but you don't need to wait for that business case to make that commitment, but I urge to you please consider to do so. Thank you.

(Appause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Howard, keep me in-line, Howard.

MR. RUBENSTEIN: I know, I'm not going to, Sunil, I'm not talking about it.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay.

MR. RUBENSTEIN: Howard Rubenstein, Life Member. I'm the past president, one time, when we were all Southern New York Youth Soccer Association. The only reference to the past gentleman was that he was my Vice President. In those times, he was a good guy.
But I'm here, to America's own, to say thank you to the delegation for helping me since 1978, but I think it's time to say good-bye. I've got to thank all the past presidents, Gene Edwards, Werner Fricker, Alan Rothenberg, Dr. Bob -- and what I used to call the kid in short pants who ran around with Paul Gardner -- Sunil, you grew up, and you have a great family. You are making us proud.

I would like to thank the people who were working for the Federation, who are always cooperative, who never get a thank you from anybody, and I'm going to mention a couple of names, and I know I'm going to forget a lot, but I especially want to thank Eleanor Petrie, when we had problems with player registrations, when I was with Eastern New York Adults. I want to thank the referee group there, now, Adrian, and Ryan Mooney, and Nicole. And I want to especially thank Dan Flynn, for all the help, and cooperation he's given us, and his secretaries of the past, who, whenever I took the phone to call the Federation, I was never given, Oh, we're going to put you on hold. They would say, Dan will get back to you. Thanks a lot, Dan.
And maybe, as a going-away present to eat tonight, will you serve franks and beans?
Dan decided that the Federation was spending too much money, and we had franks and beans at the Hall of Fame dinner.

Thank you all. It's been a great ride.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: There may be no better indication of our progress than our Hall of Fame dinner tonight.

Howard, we will not be having franks and beans. That's the good news. Dan has rescinded your invitation.

Yes.

MR. BOLLINGER: Jim Bollinger, Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association, Adults.

I'm proud to second and support the recommendation of Steve Flamhaft. I just want to say that if someone's offense is egregious enough, they deserve censure. And we should all remember that it only takes for evil to succeed, for good men and women to do nothing. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Next.
MR. WOLFF: My name is Eli Wolff, from the Disability Committee.

I wanted to be able to highlight the great work that's been done on gender equity both in the United States and internationally. I think that's a tremendous step for diversity, and inclusion, and for U.S. Soccer to now really highlight that aspect of diversity. And I think for disability to be included in that, to recognize the Paralympic team for Rio this summer, a great honor and acknowledgement for what's going to happen this summer.

But I think overall, the stigma of diversity and inclusion, both internationally, and here in the United States, is really significant. And I think to embrace that as part of the culture of soccer is really amazing. So thank you.

(Appause.)

MR. PIAZZA: Good morning, I'm Pascal Piazza, the president of Texas South, the Adults. On behalf of Texas South, I want to thank everybody for coming to San Antonio and having a good time. I tell everybody "Bienvenidos" to San Antonio, and have a good
day. And thanks everybody for having a great AGM here in Texas.

(Appplause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks.

MR. LARABA: Sunil, Dave Laraba, West Virginia -- West, by God, Virginia. As those of you who know me know that I have never been shy in expressing my opinion. So I was really happy last week to get a call from a very nice young woman of the Federation inviting me to participate in small groups, and a discussion in Chicago, to try to work on communications with the Federation, and those of us that have to actually put in place these brilliant ideas that come out of Chicago.

She said she would send me an e-mail with the details.

So I get the e-mail, and it's 10:00 to 4:00, you go in, you go out, whatever, and I'm looking for the part about how we arrange for our travel. It's not there.

So I'm not a Rhodes scholar, but I figured out, I've got to pay to get there myself. We're a small state. I'm not small, but my state is small. And for those of you that are trying
to fly into Charleston, West Virginia, you know that it's not a cheap ticket.

I didn't mind paying almost $1,000 to fly here for four days, very important, but we can't do that, even though I want to tell the Federation what I think, I can't do that. My boss isn't going to let me. And so we could have done this Thursday. I would have come in a day early, paid for one night in the hotel extra and met on Thursday. We could have met during this afternoon. There's plenty of times. So I just ask you guys, take a look, because if I'm not in Chicago, it doesn't mean I don't want to give you my opinion.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT GULATI: So, we'll solve this one easier. It took us a while to get from the franks and beans to the dinner tonight. This one is considerably shorter. We're going to reimburse people for their travel on those visits, and all the ones in the future will be covered for those working groups that come into Chicago.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: And by the way, so
no one thinks that Sunil is just overruling Dan,
I'm not. Dan is the one who whispered, We're
going to do that.

MR. FLYNN: And John and John both
brought it up.

PRESIDENT GULATI: And John Motta and
John Sutter, on your behalf, brought that up.
And they said, Don't do it. We overruled them.

Were either one of you up for
elections, or no? Just kidding. They brought it
to us, we're covering it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Rocco.

MR. AMOROSO: Thank you. Rocco
Amoroso, Eastern New York Soccer.

First, let me congratulate,
Mr. Cordeiro, your election. I trust and hope
that you will honor the leadership, will continue
to promote the good things in life through the
good works of soccer.

Let us, this afternoon, this morning
rather, we heard so much, very bad vibes, let us
reflect thoughts on character building.

In this beautiful game of soccer, let
us reinforce ethics into the game, and let's make
it more beautiful. Nowhere to nowhere are the ideals of brotherhood reinforced and the evils of prejudice are destroyed than on the soccer fields of America. We should be very proud of this. Very proud of this.

Respect for one another is an old-fashioned way. It's earned through deed and action, and self-respect evolves in the same way.

I would like to remind the coaches here, and all of us, really, advocate that the object of any athlete contest is to win, however, it must be achieved fairly and with integrity.

Teach the players to play hard, but within the framework of the rules. The fact is that in sports, the rule book is a game for life. Teamwork, sportsmanship, fair play, are words that originated in sports, but are now a part of the vernacular, because of their descriptive manner.

As coaches, be reminded you assume a tremendous responsibility as you direct, as you lead, as you show by your conduct in preparing our youth for life, not merely a game. I am positive that all of you will continue to wear the mantle with dignity and integrity.
Thank you very much for listening.

God bless you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you,

Mr. Amoroso.

Mr. Garber.

MR. GARBER: Yes, I just wanted to reiterate some of the comments about the Federation staff.

You know, this is an incredibly lean organization that has multiple hats that they're wearing both in terms of servicing the membership, but assertorically working to manage the national teams and grow the game commercially. The fact that Jay and Dan and the organization have taken on the COPA America tournament for seven months is really a monumental herculean feat.

It's a tournament that I think will make all of us proud, and the fact that they really haven't added any staff to do so, I think, is just a credit to how hard they work. It's similar to what they did with the 2003 World Cup in trying to manage these tournaments without putting additional burden on all of us in terms
of increased costs. So I want to really congratulate them for the work they have done in the past and really thank them for what they've done.

And then on behalf of the professionals, this is the start of all of our seasons. There was a time when we really couldn't look to the membership to support the game professionally, because a lot of the things that were going on politically within U.S. Soccer. I, every year, say, sort of, ending the Good of the Game, that I want to thank, on behalf of all of us, everything that you do to help grow the game beyond just participation, and recognizing the importance of building a fan culture in our country, and to get that fan culture behind the American game.

Doing so will allow us to develop more players. It will allow us to be involved in building more infrastructure, and then ultimately giving back more to the game. So our season starts this weekend. The NASL starts in early April. The USL starts at the end of March, and the NWSL starts in the month of March as well. So go out to a game. Get your members to go out
to a game, and be a fan. And thanks a lot for your support.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Evelyn?

MS. GILL: I would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues on the Board for their friendship, for the help and discussion, and for making me feel so welcome as I served with you. I would especially like to thank Linda for all of her work on the part of the staff. She's just great. To the Youth Council for electing me, and I want to wish Tim well.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Cordeiro.

MR. CORDEIRO: Yes. Sunil was way too humble not to mention this earlier, but as from yesterday, he was elected the FIFA Vice President. This is the, I think, the first time ever in U.S. history that we will have an American serving in that role, and obviously a reflection, Sunil, of all the work that you put into the reform process and how well your colleagues at FIFA think of you.

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks.

(Applause.)
(Standing ovation.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. Thanks very much. Anyone else on the Board?

With that? With that, we will give the next-to-the-last word to the Vice President --

MR. EDWARDS: -- the Treasurer of Albuquerque Soccer League.

PRESIDENT GULATI: -- the Treasurer of Albuquerque Soccer League.

MR. EDWARDS: One thing about what I said, okay, you had a pretty good choice, and if you came to the Youth Council meeting yesterday, we kind of all said the same thing. We're all in favor of the same thing, so, life goes on.

The work that Kevin has done in rising above allegiances to try to form a youth confederation to bring everybody to the same table, to make people make eye contact, I think is just invaluable, and I commend him for doing that.

The work that Carlos has done on pushing us to form a better, more responsive, more communicative board, I commend him for that.

You know what, you weren't going to go wrong no
matter what you did.

And so, I have been up here awhile.
I look at the audience, and there's guys like
Kevin, and guys like Richard have been up here,
go back down there. I don't know why Richard
wears a tie to a meeting, you don't have to, you
can stop that now, because I'm going to. But I
told Sunil before, a couple of months ago, when
we talked, that this is what I do, and probably
the greatest compliment I ever got was when I was
the National Cup chairman in 1994, and we had the
Cup Finals with the United German Bulgarian Club,
in portion, and Werner Junior and I were out, we
were out cleaning up the field between the games.
And for me, this was natural. I didn't think
anything about it until I came back in. Werner
pulled me aside, and he always called me Michael,
and he said -- he made me feel I was talking to
my mom -- and he said, Michael, I never thought I
would live long enough to see the National Cups
Chairman actually work. And I always considered
that kind of the greatest compliment I ever got.

I appreciate the support from
everybody. I'm not going anywhere. Sunil has
got a list of stuff, I still need to do. There's
a cup committee meeting at noon, and all of you still need to be there. We're still having the meeting, and there's free lunch for the cup committee members. Don't be getting any bright ideas. The rest of you can go out on the Riverwalk, but if you are interested in the Open Cup, come in and sit in and listen to what we're talking about. We've got a couple of issues to deal with, and I'll add a couple of things. I love the staff of U.S. Soccer. Thanks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT GULATI: So, in closing, a few final comments. As I look around the room, we do a lot better on gender participation even in this room than the room I was in yesterday. Still not good enough, but a lot better than the room I was in yesterday.

On the other hand, in terms of some other forms of diversity, we do a lot worse. As I look around the room, and we need to do better on that. This room, on issues of ethnicity and race, certainly isn't reflective of the United States. The room yesterday by force has to be, because you have people from 270 countries, and the likelihood that you are going to have all
African-Americans or all Africans, and so on, we need to do better than that.

But we made a lot of progress. It's a phenomenal day yesterday that when one Australian woman, essentially forced FIFA to add six voting female members to the organization at the highest level, which she did in a long process, a former national team player -- that's pretty incredible. And for those things to happen over the last couple of days were pretty incredible, and the fact that we have approximately $100 million in the bank is pretty incredible.

But we still have lots of things to do. One of them is, and that's personal for me, and collectively for the Board, we need to listen more to all of you, to other people around the country that have lots of views on these things.

We even made sure that some of the people in Zurich, and Miami, CONCACAF, and FIFA, listen to us more, and we speak a lot more often. Feel free to do that. We have pretty thick skins most of the time. So we'll listen more. We'll communicate better.

I'm not going to say we're going to
work harder again, only because there's a lot of time that goes into this, but we'll try to work harder, and we'll take this game forward.

A couple of three days ago, at one of these FIFA exhibits, they opened a museum in Zurich, and there's some terrific exhibits. You go down, and you can push a button, and they've got a series of their qualifying best games. You can push a button, and you can watch the USA/Portugal game. So John, I got to see that goal again. Jeff, I got to see that goal again. They were both terrific goals.

Jeff, you could not place it better. John, you got us well on the way -- not everyone in the room understands this one, Jeff, but it was a well-taken goal. And usually there's the highlights of the World Championships, and I was moved by it. I took three pictures of Mary Harvey, and Abby, and Hope Solo, and texted them all to them.

The history of the game is extraordinary. The history of the American game is extraordinary. The history of this country is extraordinary. And to think that two guys that were born -- two guys that by Donald Trump's
definition, or any definition, couldn't run for President of the United States, are now president and Vice President, pretty extraordinary.

So continue your efforts. We're going to make this game even bigger. This summer will be a fantastic event, I assure you of that.

I would love to see you at those games or any other games, whether it's a U-6 coed game, or it's just, the main goal is to get through the grass, as it were, or watching the national team play in Rio, or the Olympic team play, or any of the games in the venues.

Thank you for all you do. Enjoy the day, and we'll have a great future. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. KEPPNER: Sunil, this is Bob.

If everybody could just leave their keypads exactly where they are. Members of the committee and staff will pick them up. Thank you.

PRESIDENT GULATI: On that note, I should mention, that instruction was not given yesterday at the meeting. Arthur Mattson brought home the keypad.

Meeting adjourned.
(Adjourned at 10:04 a.m.)
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 San Antonio, Texas, on February 27, 2016 then reduced to typewritten form consisting of 101 pages herein; that the foregoing is a true transcript of the proceedings had.

In witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of March, 2016.

______________________________
Debra K. Resling, CSR, CRR, RMR
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and Notary Public.
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My commission expires February 28, 2017