

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION

97th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill
Washington D.C.

June 2, 2013

9:05 a.m. - 11:10 a.m

Reported by Debra K. Resling, RMR, CRR

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1 (Commencing at 9:05 a.m.)
2 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. Take your
3 seats.
4 Good morning. I hope everyone had a
5 good night's rest after that evening of memories
6 last night. We've got a relatively short agenda
7 and then obviously the game this afternoon, and
8 virtually everyone is going to the game. So we
9 will make sure we move through the agenda, but
10 not skip anything that we need to discuss.
11 I would like to officially open this
12 annual meeting and our Congress and start with a
13 moment of silence. We've had multiple major
14 issues in the U.S. over the last year that have
15 affected the soccer community, Sandy, and most
16 recently, the Oklahoma disaster which, as you
17 know, had two parts. And in that one,
18 specifically, a couple of young players who were
19 registered players lost their lives.
20 So if we could stand and take a
21 moment of silence for those and all of those who
22 have been part of our game and lost their lives
23 over the last year.
24 (Moment of silence.)
25 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

1 Next, ask our Executive
2 Vice-President, Mike Edwards, to lead us in the
3 Pledge of Allegiance.

4 Mike.

5 There's also a little fitness built
6 into the morning session.

7 MR. EDWARDS: Obviously, this guy
8 hadn't had knee surgery lately.

9 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

10 PRESIDENT GULATI: In keeping with
11 the spirit of last night, before we get to the
12 business meeting we thought we would take a quick
13 look at the video screens, so if we could run
14 that next video.

15 (Video shown.)

16 (Applause.)

17 PRESIDENT GULATI: There are a number
18 of those goals and wins, and they're not all
19 wins, obviously, but I get chills every time I
20 see it. And from seeing the emotion of some of
21 our players last night, it was certainly the case
22 for them, and I want to thank especially this
23 group up here on my left for -- well, just thanks
24 for the memories.

25 If I could ask our life members to

1 MR. KEPNER: I know. Well, I
2 appreciate that introduction, Sunil.

3 And welcome all of you, to the great
4 capitol of our nation.

5 I'm Bob Kepner, Chairman of Our
6 Credentials Committee, and I welcome you, but I
7 want to say thank you to the folks who've really
8 made this happen. All of us know already last
9 night's event, outstanding, all the activities of
10 this weekend, today; none of it falls into place
11 perfectly, the way it is, without the hard work
12 of the staff of the U.S. Soccer office. They
13 have just done a superlative job. All of the
14 arrangements here for this weekend, in
15 particular, I'm going to put on the shoulders of
16 Melissa Biniewicz, and we should all give a round
17 of applause for her and her fellow members.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. KEPNER: Now, the preparation in
20 terms of the credentials report is a long,
21 hard-held secret that really only a few people
22 understand, and there's a close-knit group that
23 works with me and it -- they have to pay money to
24 be able to join the group, and that's why I only
25 have rich people working with me.

1 stand and acknowledge their participation and
2 their lifetime of service. If our life members
3 could stand for a second, please.

4 Thank you for what you do and have
5 done.

6 (Applause.)

7 PRESIDENT GULATI: And one other
8 group -- and we've kind of made it a tradition --
9 if I could ask those who have been at 30 annual
10 meetings or more to stand and stay standing up
11 for a minute, 30 annual meetings or more.

12 (Applause.)

13 PRESIDENT GULATI: Stay standing.
14 And if we could add to that group, those that are
15 at their first annual meeting of U.S. Soccer, if
16 you could stand, please.

17 (Applause.)

18 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you-all.
19 Mr. Kepner, if you would join us for
20 the Credentials Committee Report and explanation
21 of the voting procedures, the ballots, the
22 electronic ballots, and various other stories you
23 will no doubt tell us.

24 The time on the way up here counts as
25 part of the allotment, Bob.

1 Those rich people are: From the
2 Adult Council. Darius Ejlali, he's a North
3 Carolinian; all North Carolinians are very
4 wealthy. We have Tim Bezbatchenko from the Pros.
5 Hey, you know he's wealthy. From the Athletes,
6 we have Siri Mullinix. Not only is she an
7 athlete, but she's from North Carolina;
8 therefore, she's a rich athlete. And then from
9 the Youth, moneybags of all, Kathy Zolad.

10 Thank you to the participation of
11 those folks.

12 But I will tell you the work of this
13 group would not be even close to being easy
14 without the hard work of three members of the
15 U.S. Soccer staff that really give guidance,
16 provide support all year long, and those are Greg
17 Fike, Eric Gleason, and Mark Bahnsen. So thank
18 you to them as well.

19 Now, you know our job here is to give
20 you a credentials report. We have been moving
21 forward with giant steps. Last year, instead of
22 having a roll call, it was portrayed up on the
23 screen. Those of you who were here at that time
24 will probably remember it. You had to use
25 telescopes to be able to read. This time you are

1 going to be able to do it just with regular
 2 eyesight or with bifocals the way I have.
 3 And that's important. I'm going to
 4 portray the credentials report on the screen.
 5 It's going to be displayed, in order to be able
 6 to have the font size big enough so that you can
 7 read easily, it's going to be portrayed, I
 8 believe it's 14 different slides. Remember the
 9 system that we use. We have four different
 10 councils: Youth Council, Adult Council, Pro
 11 Council, and Athletes Council. And then there
 12 are other individuals, national organizations,
 13 members of the Board of Directors and so on.
 14 The three initial councils that I
 15 mentioned -- the professional, the youth, and the
 16 adult -- all of those have to be weighted the
 17 same. And the way that works is the largest of
 18 the councils is the one that really drives them,
 19 a multiplier system. As I recall, the number
 20 that we have is 288. You will see it up on the
 21 screen.
 22 And then the Adult Council, whatever
 23 number of voters it has, we have to use a
 24 multiplier to make the effect of their presence
 25 exactly the same as that of the youth. The same

1 me well, 288 for the Youth Council.
 2 We'll move on to the Adult Council,
 3 and that's two slides as well. The next slide.
 4 Same system. On to the next slide. Okay.
 5 Next slide. Professional Council. I
 6 will mention this: The Professional Council,
 7 it's very important that sufficient members of
 8 the professional ranks, members of the council
 9 attend, because it becomes a difficult
 10 mathematical matter if we don't have sufficient
 11 members, but they have been doing a particularly
 12 good job in recent years in coming to this event.
 13 So we'll go on to the next one.
 14 The Athlete Council, and I applaud
 15 the athletes as well for the great job that they
 16 are doing in coming to this event. Okay. The
 17 next one.
 18 Other members. I won't identify
 19 them. Go ahead. Next.
 20 The life members. And we've already
 21 given one round of applause to the life members,
 22 and they are well deserved.
 23 The next slide, Board of Directors.
 24 Oh, I will point out that there's some persons
 25 here who you see in the Board of Directors --

1 is true for the pros; again, a different
 2 multiplier. You will see these multipliers
 3 portrayed before you.
 4 Now you take the three councils that
 5 I have mentioned, and you add the other persons,
 6 the NBOD and the life members, past presidents
 7 and so on -- and you will see all of this -- you
 8 take that, and that becomes a number that
 9 represents literally 80 percent of the full
 10 voting power of this group. The remaining 20
 11 percent is in the hands of the athletes. And so
 12 we have to go through a very simple algebraic
 13 formula to determine what the multiplier is for
 14 the athletes who are present.
 15 So, with that, we'll go ahead and
 16 present it, and we'll start. You can see -- and
 17 what I am going to ask is as we go through this,
 18 if there's something missing, please tell us.
 19 There are members again of our committee around,
 20 members of the staff in the back, but you can
 21 also see not only the name of the state
 22 association but the voting strength of that
 23 particular organization.
 24 So, second slide, please, for the
 25 youth. And you can see, again, my memory served

1 Bill Bosgraaf, Bob Contiguglia, Richard Groff --
 2 there's not a number next to their name. The
 3 reason for that is that no particular single
 4 individual can vote in more than one capacity.
 5 Bob Contiguglia, you can see, appears in the Past
 6 Presidents column. Bill Bosgraaf is an adult
 7 commissioner. Richard Groff as well. And so
 8 they really, while they're on the NBOD, they vote
 9 in that other capacity in terms of the weight of
 10 their vote.
 11 Next.
 12 And now you can see the overall
 13 effect. First of all, the total number of votes,
 14 the multipliers that were determined
 15 mathematically. And then the voting strength,
 16 you can see the equivalent, Youth Council, Adult
 17 Council, Pro Council, the other members. You
 18 take the three 288s, add to the 31; that
 19 represents 80 percent of the vote. And then you
 20 mathematically determine what is the remaining 20
 21 percent. And you can see the simple majority is
 22 defined and the two-thirds majority is defined.
 23 So thank you very much for that.
 24 Now, each of you has before you, each
 25 of you who has voting authority, has before you a

1 very complicated device. You might look at that
2 device, you say, huh, it says "reply" right on
3 the front. I haven't asked the question, Why
4 should I reply? But anyway, I want to give you
5 an explanation on how this works.

6 Throughout the meeting, you will be
7 asked to vote on a number of issues. The item to
8 be voted on will appear on the screen. You will
9 be asked to use your keypad to place your vote.
10 Press 1 for "yes," and 2 for "no."

11 When you press the button, the number
12 you selected will show up in the LED box on the
13 keypad. It will stay on for about a second, and
14 the data will be sent to our computer technician
15 back in the back who will tabulate the results
16 and display them on the screen.

17 Please do not place your vote until I
18 say -- and I will be sitting in the back as
19 well -- "Begin voting now." As the votes wind
20 down, I will say "Five seconds remain, four,
21 three, two, one, stop." You can change your mind
22 up until the time we stop the voting. The keypad
23 will accept your final vote.

24 Now, understanding that this is a
25 particularly complex device, we do feel that

1 practice makes perfect. And so we're going to
2 help you to warm up. And we have been doing this
3 for a long time since we started using these
4 devices. And each year I have given you an
5 opportunity to determine who, between two
6 individuals or two teams or two groups, would win
7 a PK shoot out.

8 Well, this time, I selected some real
9 important people, people who have honored the
10 world of soccer of the United States and the
11 history of soccer better than any group ever has.
12 They have been honored and they honor us. And
13 they are the members of the women's national
14 team.

15 There are six members here who are on
16 the Athletes Council, and so I'm going to pit
17 them against each other in two groups of three.
18 And so I'm going to display them up here on the
19 Board. You can see. We have the Lightnin' Pak.
20 And you can see we have Tiffany "Saucy Five"
21 Roberts-Sahaydak; and Danielle "D" Slaton; and
22 Amanda "Sal" Cromwell.

23 And then the Gallopin' Gang is Angela
24 "Huckles," Hucles, and then we have Heather
25 "Mitzy" Mitts, and Siri "Dogseer" Mullinix.

1 And so here you go. It's your
2 decision, as to which of those two groups would
3 end up winning in a PK shootout.

4 Begin voting now. Okay. Five
5 seconds remain. Four, three, and there we go.
6 Gallopin' Gang. Congratulations, ladies.

7 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you,
8 Mr. Kepner. We are obviously near the Capitol
9 building. On their agenda, that would be noted
10 as filibuster.

11 We have as the first order of
12 business, having now officially opened the
13 meeting with our Credentials Committee report,
14 approval of the 2012 -- thank you. We need to --
15 I'm told that we need to formally accept the
16 Credentials Committee report, and my concern is
17 that it may be rejected but we're going to try it
18 anyway.

19 MR. DES BORDES: So move.

20 PRESIDENT GULATI: So move, Mr.
21 desBordes.

22 Any objections to accepting the
23 Credentials Report as presented by Mr. Kepner?
24 Hearing none, thank you.

25 (Motion passed.)

1 PRESIDENT GULATI: We're now
2 officially starting.
3 Approval of the 2012 AGM minutes.
4 You have had those minutes. Are there any
5 comments to the minutes from last year's Annual
6 General Meeting?

7 Okay. Thank you.

8 We'll accept a motion to accept those
9 minutes.

10 MR. FLAMHAFT: So move.

11 MR. TRAINOR: So move.

12 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Flamhaft,
13 thank you.

14 Any objections? Those are accepted.
15 (Motion passed.)

16 PRESIDENT GULATI: One last video,
17 from the gentleman that works down the hall the
18 other way. If we could run that video please.
19 (Video shown.)

20 (Applause.)

21 PRESIDENT GULATI: Next I get the
22 pleasure of introducing a good friend, and I
23 won't say more importantly, equally importantly,
24 the president of CONCACAF, who you heard briefly
25 from last night.

1 Jeff Webb was elected again this year
2 as the head of CONCACAF for a full term and is a
3 FIFA vice-president. And I will let him talk a
4 little bit about some of the things that CONCACAF
5 is doing in just a minute, but I want to
6 certainly pay tribute to him for everything he's
7 done in the last year. There have been
8 extraordinary changes; some, very painful but
9 necessary. And I very, very much look forward to
10 working with Jeff over the years to come. He is
11 a great friend of American soccer.

12 He's lived in Tampa for much of his
13 life. His home is in the Cayman Islands. In
14 August, he's marrying an American doctor, and I
15 think you will see, over the years, that we've
16 got a great friend and a great leader in
17 CONCACAF. The confederation is in great hands,
18 and I think he will make his mark at FIFA as
19 well.

20 Jeff Webb, please.

21 MR. WEBB: Good morning. Good
22 morning. Thank you, Sunil.

23 And, yes, Sunil did say that -- he
24 did say it correctly -- we are good friends. And
25 for me in CONCACAF and for us, he has been a

1 steady hand and a great representative of U.S.
2 Soccer and a great ambassador.

3 CONCACAF, as you know, has been
4 through some turmoil, some growing pains, but our
5 focus has been very sharp. Our focus has
6 remained on institutionalizing the organization,
7 putting in place oversights and governance. I'm
8 sure you have seen our famous reports from the
9 integrity committee. One of the judges resides
10 right here actually in Washington D.C. Judge
11 Arbena. We've put in place, of course, the
12 necessary audit and compliance, financial, so
13 we've created a framework. We've created a
14 structure that we believe can help CONCACAF grow,
15 but that's just the administration side of it.

16 The game isn't about administration.

17 The game is about development. The
18 game is about players. The game is about
19 passion, about emotions, about moving people,
20 about uniting communities and uniting nations.
21 That's what the game is about.

22 And for me, Sunil said it, I actually
23 got my passion for soccer -- something that lit a
24 flame for me was sitting in a stadium in Tampa in
25 1976 watching the New York Cosmos play the Tampa

1 Bay Rowdies. And that inspired me. It inspired
2 me to -- at that time, I moved from Cayman to the
3 U.S. to go to school, high school, to go on to
4 play high school, play college, play in state
5 championships, and grow up in the Tampa Bay area
6 and play in the Brandon Area Youth Soccer
7 Leagues -- and instilled, of course, for me,
8 really what U.S. Soccer is about. U.S. Soccer,
9 of course, it's your soccer moms, it's your
10 communities, your coaches.

11 And as I sit here and I reflect on
12 the report from, your first report, I don't know
13 of any other association in the world that has
14 this type of balance, where the youth get a vote,
15 where professional soccer gets a certain
16 percentage. I don't know of any. We have 41
17 national associations within CONCACAF. And I
18 don't think there's anywhere athletes get to have
19 a vote. So please allow me to congratulate you
20 for getting it right.

21 Congratulations.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. WEBB: And when I think of the
24 journey of U.S. Soccer, for me it started in
25 1976, and when I think of U.S. Soccer and you

1 have the image of soccer around the world, you
2 think of the strategic planning, you think of
3 focus on development, you think of continuity and
4 stability.

5 And some of the videos that we saw
6 last night, some of the images, the emotions, the
7 passion that was shown on the screen that has
8 lived throughout the United States, throughout
9 your stadiums from 1994 to 1999, so much is about
10 that, about stability, the stability and the
11 continuity that you-all have experienced over the
12 last 25 years.

13 And, please, it comes from you. The
14 power isn't here. The power is not here. The
15 power is you. You have -- what you have seen on
16 the screen comes from you, because of your
17 stability, because of you sticking to what you
18 believe, you sticking to your focus, you
19 believing in strategic development, plan to plan.
20 You've implemented them and executed them.

21 So I say to you, congratulations.
22 And congratulations for the continuity and the
23 stability, and for giving not only to CONCACAF
24 Sunil Gulati, but also giving him, for me now,
25 for FIFA.

1 And FIFA, on the whole, has its --
 2 yeah, we have our issues too. Have our issues
 3 too. Some of them more complex. Some that we
 4 bring on our ourselves, unfortunately. And we're
 5 reforming. We're transforming FIFA step by step.
 6 We have a whole new generation of people who are
 7 coming through. Nine members of the executive
 8 committee have left FIFA in the last two years.
 9 Nine.

10 So we have a whole new generation.
 11 We're demanding more. We want more focus on
 12 players. We want more focus on player
 13 development, because that's what the job is
 14 about. The reform process that we passed a few
 15 days ago, hey, it's not what me and Sunil
 16 necessarily would agree to a hundred percent, but
 17 you know what? Maybe we got 80 percent of what
 18 we wanted. But we will keep fighting to get
 19 more. We will keep fighting to make sure that we
 20 have more transparency in international soccer.
 21 And some of the things that are affecting the
 22 game, when you look and you see match fixing, the
 23 integrity of the game is so paramount. If we
 24 lose the integrity of our sport, if we allow
 25 individuals around the world to stay in Singapore

1 or somewhere else and determine a result of a
 2 game, it's game over. Once we lose the integrity
 3 and credibility of our sport, it's over.

4 So we are working strategically to
 5 ensure that we combat this problem. Racism and
 6 discrimination, we've take some bold steps. We
 7 took a bold step yesterday in Mauritius --
 8 sorry -- two days ago. We've been flying through
 9 the night, so it seems like yesterday. But we
 10 have taken some bold steps. We brought
 11 universality to racism and discrimination,
 12 because what was on the books of FIFA must not
 13 only reflect the World Cup or the top, it must
 14 reflect all 209 countries around the world.

15 I sat in a stadium a few days ago
 16 with Sunil at the iconic Wembley stadium, and I
 17 watched. I watched Borussia Dortmund, I watched
 18 Bayern Munich, a great display of football,
 19 incredible, the movement, the pace of the game,
 20 the discipline, the technical, the tactical
 21 ability. Incredible.

22 And I watched the fans of Borussia
 23 Dortmund, and I watched the fans of Bayern
 24 Munich. They didn't care. They cheered. They
 25 cheered with passion. They cheered with

1 emotions. They cheered for their team. They
 2 didn't care if Dante -- the color of Dante's
 3 skin. They didn't care the color of Jerome
 4 Boateng's skin. They didn't care. They were
 5 cheering for their team. They were cheering for
 6 their team.

7 But unfortunately, that doesn't
 8 always exist. And as we look at one brother,
 9 Jerome Boateng, at the height, the celebration,
 10 winning the European championship, I reflected on
 11 his brother. I reflected on his brother Prince
 12 Boateng, who, several months ago, playing in a
 13 game in Italy, broken, heart-broken, soul ripped
 14 out of him, not because of his ability, not
 15 because of his technical ability, but because of
 16 the color of his skin.

17 So you go from one extreme to the
 18 other.

19 So we're fighting. We're combatting,
 20 and we've made this an agenda issue that CONCACAF
 21 is going to lead this fight. And we believe that
 22 we have the platform. We believe that the
 23 diversity, the integration, the balance that we
 24 have within CONCACAF, that you in U.S. Soccer
 25 have done, we believe that we can spread the

1 harmony that we have here in this confederation
 2 to the rest of the world.

3 And Don Garber, Commissioner, has
 4 volunteered to assist, MLS social program, to
 5 assist us to show that we can showcase to the
 6 world some of the best practices, some of the
 7 best practices that we have in the world, so we
 8 can learn, so that we can learn to accept and we
 9 can combat ignorance.

10 So, Mr. Gulati, today, of course,
 11 is -- you gave me 30 more minutes, you said?

12 PRESIDENT GULATI: Injury time.

13 MR. WEBB: Injury time.

14 But, yes, we are moving, we're
 15 transforming, and for us in CONCACAF and FIFA, we
 16 have, I think, an exciting future. It's a whole
 17 new generation that's coming through, a whole new
 18 generation. And I'm happy to have by my side
 19 Sunil Gulati, President of U.S. Soccer, and the
 20 U.S. Soccer family as a support behind CONCACAF
 21 and FIFA.

22 I thank you, and I wish you-all the
 23 best of luck in your meetings today. God bless.
 24 (Applause.)

25 MR. WEBB: And at this time on behalf

1 of CONCACAF, I would like to present to U.S.
2 Soccer to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of
3 U.S. Soccer on behalf of CONCACAF.

4 (Applause.)

5 PRESIDENT GULATI: It should be quite
6 clear why those of us that are involved with FIFA
7 and CONCACAF have very high expectations of Jeff
8 as he fully engages his efforts over the next few
9 years and, I think, beyond.

10 We have another very special guest
11 today. And in a few hours we're playing against
12 Germany, and I mentioned our long-term
13 extraordinarily good relationship with the German
14 federation, the coaching side and so many other
15 areas. Those of you that -- especially those of
16 you that are in that 30-year group, know how much
17 and how many of our roots came from Germany, and
18 they agreed to play us in our Centennial game,
19 which worked out perfectly for us. And I would
20 like to ask the head of their delegation,
21 Dr. Reinhard Rauball, to come up and speak with
22 us for a few minutes.

23 Dr. Rauball, please.

24 (Applause.)

25 DR. RAUBALL: Mr. President, Mr.

1 -- was historic. I don't say that it
2 was historic. However, I do think that no one
3 who watched that 90 minutes in Wembley will ever
4 forget it any time soon. And although you may be
5 aware, my presidential heart beats for the
6 players in black and yellow -- that's the colors
7 of my club -- I'm the first to acknowledge that
8 Bayern Munich deserved to take home that trophy.

9 At the German Football Association
10 and the German Professional Soccer League, we are
11 proud and happy that many years of hard work have
12 finally paid off, but already, there are critics
13 warning of German football becoming too dominant
14 for the rest of the world. I think that's total
15 nonsense because it's all written in the preamble
16 of the actual law of our so-loved game. Football
17 is a game with 22 players with two linesmen and
18 around about 20,000 referees. Later today,
19 Germany will play against 11 U.S. players, two
20 linesmen, and around about 46 referees. Against
21 such odds, how can we even dream of world
22 domination.

23 Well, now, we are here, a ballroom
24 full of people, and looking forward to the game,
25 loving their football, loyally supporting their

1 General Secretary, ladies and gentlemen, for a
2 German citizen like me speaking to an American
3 audience in Washington is a special, almost
4 overwhelming occasion. After all, this is an
5 extraordinary venue: The capitol of the United
6 States, with its glorious buildings and avenues,
7 with the White House as a center of global power,
8 and policymakers showing the world what democracy
9 is all about.

10 When many months ago, the U.S. Soccer
11 Association asked the German Football Association
12 whether we could imagine playing a friendly match
13 to celebrate the 100 years of soccer in the
14 United States, we didn't think twice. Of course
15 we could. So we said yes.

16 We were not even shaken in our
17 resolve by an unexpected development. Jeffrey
18 Webb mentioned it in his speech some minutes ago:
19 For the first time ever, not just one, but two
20 German teams went through for the Champions
21 League final at Wembley Stadium in London one
22 week ago. I'm not saying that the game between
23 Borussia Dortmund -- and I'm the president of
24 Borussia Dortmund as well --

25 (Applause.)

1 own teams. And you, ladies and gentlemen, have
2 every reason to be proud of the 100 years'
3 milestone that was celebrated last night in such
4 wonderful fashion. And thank you very much for
5 the invitation, my colleagues and me, for this
6 great party yesterday night.

7 Please accept the German football's
8 community most heartfelt congratulations.

9 But has football always ruled the
10 world? Listen to this quote: While the gymnasts
11 walk tall and proud, the football player
12 schlooshes along with a sunken chest, his head
13 down, and his arms dangling unuselessly like
14 empty sleeves. This so-called sport is a threat
15 to public health.

16 This, ladies and gentlemen -- that's
17 not my opinion -- was the official reaction to
18 football in Germany at the beginning of the last
19 century. Political leaders didn't want it. They
20 called it, this is un-German. And the P.E.
21 teachers didn't want it. They said football
22 would ruin their students fitness. They were
23 sure that such a ridiculous pastime would soon go
24 away.

25 Well, they are about as right as the

1 Decker record company which refused to give the
2 Beatles a contract claiming that guitar music was
3 going nowhere.

4 We can all laugh about this now, but
5 the truth is just a few generations ago -- and we
6 have very nice people, ladies and gentlemen, who
7 are witnesses of that time -- players needed
8 courage in the face of adversity, and the game
9 needed pioneers, such as a man -- he was
10 mentioned yesterday night in the movie and he's
11 mentioned today anyway -- by the name of Gustav
12 Rudolf Manning, or Gus Randolph Manning, as he
13 preferred to be called.

14 When leaving Germany for England, his
15 father had changed the family name from
16 Mannheimer -- Mannheim is a city in Germany -- to
17 the more English-sounding Manning. Gus Rudolf
18 Manning was a cofounder of the German Football
19 Association in the year 1900 in Leipzig. He
20 became a medical doctor and went to the USA,
21 where he enjoyed his newfound liberty, like so
22 many immigrants before him and after him.
23 However, he soon discovered there was something
24 missing. You know what: The good game of
25 football.

1 The rest is history. Manning said, A
2 man must do what a man must do. And he, one of
3 the founding fathers of the DFB, was elected the
4 first president of the United States Football
5 Association in the year 1913, as you know.

6 The years went by. Germany and the
7 U.S. became bitter enemies in two world wars.
8 You know that. And while in 1950 people were
9 still very skeptical of the new Germany,
10 Dr. Manning attended that year the FIFA Congress
11 in Brazil, convincing the delegates that they
12 must welcome Germany back to the community of
13 civilized nations. Four years later, the German
14 national team won at the first time the World Cup
15 trophy, a moment of glory that laid the
16 foundation for many more success of the German
17 football.

18 Sadly, it was a victory that
19 Dr. Manning was denied to witness, having passed
20 away in the year 1953.

21 At this point, may I ask you to give
22 a round of applause for one of the unsung heroes
23 of German and American soccer: Dr. Gus Randolph
24 Manning.

25 (Applause.)

1 DR. RAUBALL: Now, I could go on for
2 hours, telling you about the Bundesliga history
3 of, 50 years Bundesliga, all about the popularity
4 of Franz Beckenbauer, Rudi Völler, Lothar
5 Matthäus, or Lukas Podolski, but I'm not going to
6 do that because you know all about that. Better
7 still, you know who Dettmar Cramer, Manny
8 Schellscheidt, and Lothar Osiander, German
9 coaches who left a legacy here in the United
10 States infecting American players, especially
11 young players, young girls with their love for
12 the game, at a time when the famous Big Four
13 didn't even take soccer seriously.

14 Well, times have changed. Soccer is
15 on the way to becoming a top spectator sport and
16 is already a top participation sport. The U.S.
17 Women National Team practically rules the female
18 game worldwide since years and years. The U.S.
19 Men's National Team hasn't missed a FIFA World
20 Cup tournament since the year 1990. And there's
21 no doubt in my mind that you will be in Brazil
22 next year together with our former coach, Jürgen
23 Klinsmann, and President Obama is right when he
24 said he has the same opinion.

25 These are all joyful developments,

1 and you, as the delegates of the U.S. Soccer
2 Federation, have any reason to approach the next
3 100 years with self-confidence, optimism, and the
4 great community spirit that has made your nation
5 so strong.

6 Once again, my best wishes for the
7 next hundred years, Mr. President, and all you
8 delegates. And thank you very much for the
9 invitation, for the yesterday-night party and for
10 this opportunity here now before the delegates.

11 And I will do my best to convince our
12 coach, Joachim Löw that our team will not score
13 within the first 8 seconds.

14 (Applause.)

15 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you very
16 much.

17 DR. RAUBALL: You know people like the
18 uncle who brings the gift better than the auntie
19 who is coming to play the piano.

20 (Gift presented to U. S. Soccer.)

21 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. Thank
22 you very much.

23 You all remember the videos last
24 night, and this -- actually I'm reading the
25 inscription on this beautiful plaque, and it

1 says: On behalf of the German Football
2 Federation, the DFB, we humbly accept and
3 apologize that it was a handball during the World
4 Cup in 2002.

5 (Applause.)

6 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you,
7 gentlemen, for finally acknowledging that.

8 (Applause.)

9 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks very much
10 for that terrific speech. And while we're on the
11 subject of that game, before I make a few
12 remarks -- and President Webb referred to it, our
13 opponents today referred to it in that game --
14 and we have a few people leaving U.S. Soccer, and
15 I want to mention one right now, because he
16 played in that game, and not leaving U.S. Soccer
17 in the broadest sense -- but he was on the field
18 and on the field many times, many times as
19 captain at the World Cup, one of the certainly
20 true stars of the U.S. men's team over the last
21 hundred years -- and he's leaving us as our youth
22 technical director to join the new MLS team as
23 its technical director and director of soccer, a
24 good friend and a good friend of the sport, a
25 Hall of Famer, I'd like to recognize Claudio

1 Reyna.

2 Claudio, thanks for everything you've
3 done.

4 (Applause.)

5 PRESIDENT GULATI: And thank you to
6 our guests who are exiting; President Webb has a
7 number of meetings, and the German federation is
8 going back to make sure their 8-second rule is
9 obeyed, apparently.

10 I'm going to keep my remarks very
11 short, since we had a little chance last night to
12 talk about things. And in a real sense, I can
13 start with that game that the two previous
14 speakers have talked about. But not just that
15 game. There was a game two days earlier, the
16 Women's final. The women's UEFA Champions League
17 final was played on Thursday and the men's final
18 on Saturday. The women's final won by a German
19 team as well, Wolfsburg-Lyon, which hadn't lost
20 in something like 100 games, had an American
21 player, Megan Rapinoe, playing in the game, and
22 against all odds, Wolfsburg won, and the game was
23 played at a higher level than certainly anyone
24 could have predicted 5, 10 or 15 years ago.

25 The men's game was played at a level

1 that was almost beyond belief with two German
2 teams; surprisingly, I guess, there were no
3 Spanish teams, no English teams. But it was
4 played at a level that really set the bar for
5 where we're trying to get to in the sport in
6 terms of on-field performance.

7 In so many ways -- Dr. Rauball was
8 there; he was a few rows in front of me. And you
9 could see the emotion and the passion in his
10 violation of all FIFA protocol when he was
11 excited about the game, like we all are, and it
12 was extraordinary, but a game that was played at
13 such pace, with such intelligence, with such
14 skill, with such stamina by both teams, and an
15 extraordinary venue.

16 And why do I talk about a game
17 involving two German teams? Because it sets the
18 bar for where we're trying to get. So quite
19 often I stand here and talk about all the
20 accomplishments of last year and where we've
21 come, and we've come a long way, as a lot of
22 people have talked about and we talked about last
23 night. But we still have a very long way to go,
24 because we are a long way from playing at the
25 level of that game on last Saturday. We're a

1 long way in our women's league that we've just
2 started, from playing at the level of Lyon or
3 maybe a top international game involving two
4 national teams; that's pretty apparent.

5 But we're going forward with all of
6 those plans. Lots still to do. Lots of people
7 here that will continue to play an integral part
8 in that.

9 But let's not kid ourselves of where
10 we are. So our Youth-17s for the first time
11 didn't qualify for the World Cup. Brazil didn't
12 qualify in the past; Argentina, England, Spain.
13 We were the only team that had qualified for
14 every U-17 World Cup. That is not a good sign.
15 That doesn't mean everything we are doing is
16 wrong, because you are going to lose some games
17 and win some games along the way. Our Olympic
18 team last year didn't qualify on the men's side,
19 which was particularly painful because I think we
20 had a very good team. Mexico went on to win the
21 Olympic Games, and we beat them in the previous
22 game that we had played two months earlier.

23 So there's plenty of wins, but
24 there's plenty of losses as well. Luckily we win
25 more often than we lose.

1 But I often talk about the national
2 team, not an end of itself, but because the
3 national team is symbolic for everything we do,
4 which is why it was the centerpiece of everything
5 we talked about last night and the players who
6 comprise that, but because they reflect
7 everything we do at all steps of the game.

8 Bob Gansler, who spoke last night,
9 who said -- he said to me a number of times -- I
10 don't understand this division between
11 competitive players and recreational players,
12 because all players, when they start to play,
13 play because they want to have fun, and every
14 player wants to compete. So none of us know who,
15 the 6-year-old that's going to be Leo Messi or
16 Claudio Reyna or John O'Brien or Cobi Jones, all
17 of whom are here. None of us know who the
18 7-year-old is that is going to turn out to be
19 Alex Morgan or Hope Solo.

20 And until we know that -- and we're
21 never going to know that, thankfully --
22 everything we do at youth level, at school level,
23 with our referee programs; with our coaching
24 programs and the curriculum that Claudio worked
25 so hard on in sending out, that the youth

1 organizations have been a big part of in
2 implementing, all of that continues to matter. I
3 call it connectivity. It's a made-up word, but
4 President Bush allows you to make up words, so
5 I'm okay on that.

6 At the other -- we had to mention
7 Republicans somewhere in the weekend -- at the
8 other end of the spectrum, before we get to the
9 national team, after players have been, whether
10 it's the academy system or ODP or university,
11 we've got our pro leagues, and that's the last
12 chance before they're in the national team, and
13 that's become extraordinarily important. We
14 certainly want most of our players playing in the
15 United States.

16 And Don Garber will talk in a few
17 minutes about the challenges that are posed by
18 that, because we know that's the case. That
19 doesn't mean that none of them should go abroad.
20 That just means our leagues need to continue to
21 get better. So we make the choice very easy to
22 want to stay home. There are very few English
23 players that play abroad, because the economics
24 are right, the competition is right, and
25 everything else is right. Most of our women's

1 national team players are now playing at home.
2 Many of our men's national team players are
3 playing at home, because the league is getting
4 better and has gotten better, and the
5 developmental programs that exist within our
6 Division 2 and Division 3, and that doesn't mean
7 they're only developmental programs, that helps
8 get players experience, develop markets, all of
9 those things on the business side.

10 It's a long way to go, and I think
11 we're up to it. I think we're up to the
12 challenge. And we've now got Canadian teams
13 playing in the league. And we've run into some
14 issues there because we're trying to develop
15 soccer in America, but frankly that helps us, and
16 a team from Antigua that plays in the league and
17 a team from Puerto Rico, and while they're part
18 of U.S. in some ways, in the FIFA world, they're
19 different.

20 So lots of challenges. Challenges in
21 this globalizing world where players have choices
22 which country they want to play for. Most of the
23 Mexican women's national team live in the United
24 States. They've gone to universities here. A
25 few players in our Under-20 team, born in the

1 U.S., raised in the U.S., but they've got
2 eligibility to play for Mexico.

3 Those are the sorts of challenges
4 we're going to have to face. Continued increase
5 in revenues in Europe for our top players and a
6 temptation to go there. Megan Rapinoe chose to
7 come -- chose to play in Lyon in maybe the best
8 club team in the world, even though they didn't
9 win the final, but she will be on the field for
10 Seattle next week. And a few hours from now, the
11 best women's team in the world will be playing
12 against Canada. But we need to figure out how do
13 we continue to put them in the best opportunity
14 to win medal after medal, and it's not unrelated
15 to what we do at grassroots level.

16 So I got into this backwards. I
17 started out working with ODP many, many years ago
18 and then the national team program and then the
19 Federation, and now both of my kids play. So
20 that came much later along the way. But I can
21 certainly see the connection. Not between my
22 kids -- we already took care of that with the
23 genetic issue last night -- but between the kids
24 that are playing in the fields of New York,
25 whether they're playing in AYSO or U.S. Club

1 Soccer or USYSA. I think my kids play in all
2 three, sometimes on the same day apparently, and
3 they don't care which league it is, but they
4 aspire to whatever it might be, and their
5 teammates aspire to play on the national team.
6 And they know who Alex Morgan is, and they know
7 who Landon Donovan is. And some of them ask me,
8 like some of you asked me, Why isn't Landon
9 Donovan here? I've asked Jürgen that question as
10 well, but we'll get into that later.

11 So it's -- today is not about thanks;
12 that was last night, it's always about thanks.
13 Today is about the challenge. The challenge to
14 continue what we do. The challenge to continue
15 to get better on the field and off the field.

16 And what Jeff said is absolutely
17 right. There are so many areas -- and they're
18 primarily in the administrative side -- that we
19 are way ahead of the game, way ahead of the game,
20 including the top European countries, in our
21 administrative capabilities, in our use of
22 technology. They come and learn from us. We
23 have top leagues in the world, top clubs in the
24 world that come regularly to Major League Soccer
25 and ask how do you do this, or go to the NFL,

1 because, frankly they have got lots to learn from
2 us, while we've also got lots to learn from them.

3 So I'm certainly looking forward to
4 continuing that effort, thanking you for what
5 you've done now, but the challenge is in front of
6 us, because silver medals are great. None of the
7 players over there are satisfied.

8 So when I dream about our success on
9 the field, I don't dream about silver medals.
10 Nobody does. No one dreams about getting to the
11 World Cup final, whether it's the men or the
12 women, and saying, God, if we can only finish
13 second. Clearly you have got to get to the
14 second round, and I'm not putting a timetable on
15 it. I'm not predicting that we will win it in
16 2014. But that's certainly what it's about and
17 all the effects that come from that.

18 There is nothing any of us in this
19 room can do that can replicate when the U.S.
20 played Mexico recently and 8 and a half million
21 people watched the game. There's nothing we can
22 do to promote the game, any grassroots program or
23 anything else, than what that game can do, or the
24 Olympic final on the women's side, or the
25 U.S.-Canada game, where millions of kids watch

1 that game and get turned on to the sport, to
2 play, to participate, to buy goods, to come to
3 games, to watch more games, and that's a -- not a
4 vicious cycle, but it's an extraordinarily
5 positive cycle. So all of those pieces fit.
6 They don't always fit perfectly, but those are
7 the pieces of the puzzle. And we're all carrying
8 little pieces of that puzzle, and meetings like
9 this and when we get to together to try to figure
10 out how those pieces fit.

11 And we will get there. I promise you
12 we will continue to do it from our end, your
13 leadership end. I want to thank the Board for
14 being very, very supportive, for all of you being
15 very supportive, but we will get to where we all
16 want to see the sport. It's in a better place
17 than it's ever been. But we all want it to be
18 even better than that. So thank you for that.

19 And I'm now going to turn to our
20 very, very capable and extraordinarily efficient
21 General Secretary, Dan Flynn, to give you some
22 comments from his report. Thank you very much.
23 (Applause.)

24 MR. FLYNN: I will equally be brief.
25 I just -- there are two points. One is our

1 fiscal years 2012 and 2013 were very positive;
2 wanted to make the comments that as, moving
3 forward, we'll continue to be very focused on the
4 discipline of the budget. But as Sunil said, we
5 will be bringing programs and plans forward to
6 invest and spend to meet the challenges that
7 Sunil just touched upon.

8 And the second point is, as with any
9 team, the people I work with on a day-to-day
10 basis, I don't always get a chance to publicly
11 thank them, but when it came to planning for this
12 particular event, it wasn't just a weekend. It's
13 been a long period of time, and the entire staff
14 of U.S. Soccer has been excited and really
15 embraced this Centennial year.

16 But with any team, you have to have
17 the right pieces put together, and with any team,
18 there are your captains and leaders. And Bob
19 Kepner mentioned Melissa, who obviously needs to
20 be recognized as one of those leaders and
21 captains. And I just wanted to mention a couple
22 of others. Amy Hopfinger, as well, who handles
23 an awful lot of requests from the ticketing side
24 and the event side and finds a great way to
25 balance all of that. And last night, in

1 particular, Neil Buethe was the gentleman who
2 really has led the charge in terms of the
3 production for that particular event.

4 So they all deserve my personal
5 thanks. They volunteered to be part of the AGM.
6 They want to be part of the program, if you will,
7 and they've just have been great, great
8 supporters of U.S. Soccer. And one other, Brian
9 Remedi, who I think many of you know, serves as
10 kind of my right-hand guy, made one great
11 recommendation -- many along the way -- but when
12 we were looking to make sure that we could kind
13 of touch and reach back and have somebody that
14 could really offer us some really good insight,
15 if you will, of the past, we called on Jim
16 Trekker. And Jim obviously worked in the '94 Cup
17 and worked for U.S. Soccer for a while, but his
18 steady hand and his constant professionalism,
19 really, you see throughout the entire event.

20 So in general, I just want to say
21 thank you to the staff. I enjoy working with
22 them every day, and I know they were very excited
23 and very passionate to be here this weekend. So
24 thank you for your commitment. Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks, Dan. And
2 obviously we can't -- he's already named the
3 captain of the team, so the coach of the team, I
4 guess, is Dan, in that metaphor, so, Dan, thanks
5 for everything you do and an extraordinarily
6 well-done weekend. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 PRESIDENT GULATI: You have got the
9 committee reports in your book, so we're not
10 going to go through those, but I would like to
11 ask Commissioner Garber to make a few remarks.
12 Major League Soccer hosted the cocktail party
13 last night at that wonderful museum. And Don in
14 his role as commissioner of the league and
15 chairman of the Pro Council, if you would come up
16 and make a few remarks. Thank you.

17 MR. GARBER: Thank you very much,
18 Sunil, and I will be brief as well. Again, I
19 want to really congratulate all of you guys for a
20 wonderful evening last night. What a great way
21 to celebrate the history of our sport in this
22 country.

23 But something else kind of happened a
24 bit historic last week, and it was a very special
25 moment, I think, for all of us that are very

1 close to the man here at my right: Sunil was
2 elected to be a member of the FIFA Executive
3 Committee. For all of his service that he's done
4 for the sport in our country, really devoting his
5 entire life to it. So, Sunil, on behalf of all
6 of us, congratulations.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. GARBER: I think as Jeffrey said,
9 I think all of us that have been involved in this
10 sport, because all of us are sort of listening to
11 see how the sport will be led, and it's so
12 important that those folks that are leading the
13 sport at the FIFA level and certainly now at the
14 CONCACAF level can transform this sport that we
15 all either work in or volunteer in. And the
16 sport does need transformation.

17 We're very pleased with Jeff and the
18 role that he's taken to lead anti-racism in the
19 sport, which is really rampant throughout Europe,
20 as hard as that is to believe. And we pledged
21 our support to Jeff, and we're very excited about
22 the leadership role that he's taken. So we're
23 all hoping for great things at FIFA and CONCACAF.

24 So as you saw in the video last
25 night, MLS has come a long way. And I thought I

1 would just take a couple of minutes to talk a bit
2 about that. It wasn't that long ago that our
3 founders sort of had a goal to prove that
4 professional soccer at the men's level, at the
5 highest level, could make it here in this
6 country, that we could prove to the sports
7 industry, that we could prove to the soccer
8 industry that our country could support a
9 Division 1 soccer league.

10 And though it hasn't been easy -- and
11 I think all of you have seen some of the trials
12 and tribulations that we have gone through over
13 the past 18 years, thanks to the support of many
14 of the people in the room, both sitting over here
15 and certainly behind me, we have been able to
16 achieve at least the initial phase of our owners'
17 vision.

18 As you saw today, we have 19 teams,
19 soon to be 20. The 20th team will play in New
20 York City, and interestingly, it will be owned by
21 a premier league team and the New York Yankees,
22 not something that we thought ever would happen
23 when we founded this league many years ago. And
24 as you know, most of them -- most of our 19 teams
25 are already playing in their own stadiums. We

1 have an ownership group that I think you can be
 2 proud of that represents some of the greatest
 3 leaders in our country and really care about the
 4 sport and will continue to invest in making our
 5 league in this sport great.

6 And as you know, we have players that
 7 you can be proud of. We talk a lot about having
 8 them be great athletes on the field, but what is
 9 most important to us is that these young men who
 10 have grown out of the grassroots soccer community
 11 can be role models off the field and take pride
 12 in that. We talk about that with them every day.
 13 We work hard on ensuring that they're behaving in
 14 ways that can make America proud and can show
 15 that soccer can really be a leading sport in our
 16 country.

17 And believe it or not, this is a stat
 18 that I think you will be very surprised, at a
 19 time when jobs are so important, there were over
 20 2000 people in Major League Soccer who are
 21 earning their living full-time working for our
 22 league, whether that be at the league office or
 23 being at our teams. There are several thousand
 24 more, 5- to 6,000, that are working part-time in
 25 Major League Soccer. We have hundreds and

1 hundreds of ex-players that are working as
 2 coaches and administrators, and that in itself is
 3 something that's a remarkable, remarkable
 4 achievement over the last 18 years. Think about
 5 what that will look like 10 and 20 years from
 6 now. We're looking to create an infrastructure
 7 for the sport for those people that have helped
 8 build it that could raise the sport to even
 9 higher levels in years to come.

10 A couple of quick things. You might
 11 have heard that we have a goal. We set a goal
 12 when we were all bidding for the World Cup and
 13 when we worked with Sunil and Dan, and we said,
 14 hey, if we can bring the World Cup here, what
 15 will it do for our pro leagues, particularly for
 16 Major League Soccer? We said if we can bring the
 17 World Cup here, we think in ten years we can be
 18 one of the top leagues in the world. And we lost
 19 the World Cup. And rather than go back and
 20 create a new goal, we sat back as an ownership
 21 group and as a league office and we said we're
 22 going to stick with this goal that within 10
 23 years, by 2022, we want to be one of the top
 24 leagues in the world.

25 That means we've got to continue to

1 work on the quality of play. We have got to
 2 continue to create that great dynamic that exists
 3 in our stadiums and work on building a passionate
 4 fan base. And I can assure you that our owners,
 5 our players, our administrators will do
 6 everything in their power to try to achieve that
 7 vision so that all of us who are associated with
 8 this sport can be proud of what professional
 9 soccer has become and what it could be in the
 10 years to come.

11 So I want to thank everybody in the
 12 room for all their support, particularly Sunil
 13 and Dan and the Federation staff. But all of
 14 you. It was not that long ago that we had
 15 issues, the issues between the membership and the
 16 Pro Council. If you look now, we've got a pretty
 17 large group of young people, some of them
 18 ex-players in our league, that are all committing
 19 to be part of this Federation and doing their
 20 role to help build the sport.

21 We said then that we needed to earn
 22 your support, and we hope now that we have been
 23 able to do just that. We have players that
 24 believe it's important not to just play the game,
 25 but to do it with honor. We have teams that are

1 embedded in their local communities, and as you
 2 heard Jeff say, we have a philanthropic program
 3 called MLS Works that is giving back, spending
 4 millions of dollars, millions of dollars to give
 5 back in philanthropic programs, and most
 6 importantly, what we're trying to do is to build
 7 a culture of soccer fans.

8 So we appreciate everything that you
 9 do to build the game. What we ask is that you
 10 work with all of those people that you are
 11 teaching the game to, to teach them to be fans,
 12 support their local club, whether that's an MLS
 13 team, whether that's an NASL team, a USL pro team
 14 or an NWSL team, teach our kids to learn how to
 15 be fans and supporters of the game. If we're
 16 able to do that, we will truly build a soccer
 17 nation in this country, and I assure you that we
 18 will live that with pride.

19 Thank you very much.
 20 (Applause.)

21 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks, Don.

22 One of the reasons that I think we're
 23 in a better place than we've been for as long as
 24 I have been involved -- I can't say ever,
 25 certainly the sport is in a better place than

1 it's ever been -- but, when I think of the
2 Federation being in a better place has a lot to
3 do with how we get along. Don and I have an
4 extraordinarily good personal and professional
5 relationship. We talk probably more often than
6 our spouses think we should.

7 We have got a similar sort of
8 relationship with the other pro leagues, with the
9 new commissioner on in Bill Peterson who has
10 reached out immediately to me, to Dan and is
11 starting to work. He's new at it, but we know
12 him from previous experience with MLS. The same
13 is true of Tim Holt and Alec Papadakis went as a
14 Federation delegate to the FIFA Congress.

15 The relationship with the youth
16 groups is, frankly, from my perspective, better
17 than it's ever been. It's either because I'm not
18 hearing about all of the problems, or because
19 it's better than it's ever been. And certainly
20 when we have our retreat -- and we had one in
21 February -- that's the impression I got from the
22 leadership there and the impression I get from
23 AYSO when I talk to them, and SAY and so on.
24 With the adults, Richard is more than comfortable
25 reaching out on any issues, day or night, on your

1 behalf.

2 So those pieces are fitting better
3 and, maybe with some of the edges not there, and
4 the athletes fit, really, into the same situation
5 on being part of this, that the pros do for a
6 while and some of you that were here long enough
7 remember where the concern was the only thing the
8 athletes were doing after they stopped playing
9 here was devote 20 percent, and now you are
10 seeing them fully engaged, participating, coming
11 to other people's meetings and so on. So we
12 actually feel very, very good about how we're
13 working as a family. That doesn't mean there
14 aren't some disagreements in the family. And
15 feel free to contact Dan if you want to talk
16 about some of those. He knows how to reach me,
17 if I'm reachable.

18 Okay. So we now get on to the proper
19 business issues that we've got to take some votes
20 on or do them by acclamation.

21 The first of those is the budget.
22 You've got in your book the proposed budget for
23 fiscal year '14. I have at my side, or next to
24 me here, not too far, the U.S. Soccer's
25 treasurer, Carlos Cordeiro, and our CFO, Eric

1 Gleason. I am advised that there was no
2 participation in the Q and A on the budget two
3 days ago, so either you are having other things
4 to do or there were really no questions.

5 As you will see in a couple of
6 these -- it's been a long, long time since U.S.
7 Soccer hasn't beat its budget, sometimes
8 significantly. And we've had discussions at
9 Board level about that's not necessarily a good
10 thing, that maybe we need to be a little bit less
11 conservative in our budgeting, but you will also
12 see some deficits built into the budget. That's
13 not unintentional. That's not for the same
14 reason that happens, depending on who you want to
15 assign blame to, that way or that way in this
16 city. They are planned deficits. We have got
17 the funds to do it. We don't have any printing
18 presses, but we have reserves, and the whole
19 point of having the reserves was to make
20 investments in the game. So no one should be too
21 concerned that we're running deficits. We plan
22 to run deficits for quite some time, and Dan will
23 start to outline some of the other areas we'll be
24 raising revenues in the future, and those are
25 primarily in the commercial areas.

1 So do we have any -- could I have a
2 motion to approve the budget, and then we can
3 take it --

4 MR. DES BORDES: So move.

5 MR. EDWARDS: Second.

6 PRESIDENT GULATI: -- Mr. desBordes;
7 Seconded by Mr. Edwards.

8 Questions or comments on the budget?

9 Okay. So while Mr. Kepner may be
10 less than pleased with me, I'm not going to give
11 him a chance to use the ballots, the electronics,
12 on this one. We will come back, Bob.

13 So we'll do this by acclamation:
14 Anyone objecting to approving the budget as
15 presented?

16 (Motion passed.)

17 PRESIDENT GULATI: Good. Thank you.
18 We've done that by acclamation.

19 We are then on to new members. You
20 have membership applications in your book or
21 membership changes. The first of those is from
22 the American Amputee Soccer Association. Can we
23 have a motion to accept them as members?

24 MR. GROFF: So move.

25 PRESIDENT GULATI: So moved,

1 Mr. Groff.
 2 MR. EDWARDS: Second.
 3 PRESIDENT GULATI: Seconded by Mike
 4 Edwards.
 5 Any comments, questions, or concerns?
 6 Hearing no objections, we accept them
 7 as members. Congratulations. Is there any one
 8 here from the organization? Great, thank you,
 9 and welcome to U.S. Soccer.
 10 (Applause.)
 11 PRESIDENT GULATI: Next is a joint
 12 application for Colorado State between the adults
 13 and the youth. Do we have a motion to accept
 14 them as members?
 15 MS. SHALALA: So move.
 16 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you, Donna
 17 Shalala.
 18 MR. SUTTER: Second.
 19 PRESIDENT GULATI: And seconded by
 20 John Sutter.
 21 Any comments, concerns, questions?
 22 Any objections?
 23 Welcome back, Colorado, in your new
 24 form. Thank you.
 25 (Applause.)

1 PRESIDENT GULATI: National Women's
 2 Soccer League. You-all know that U.S. Soccer is
 3 involved in that in much more than just a
 4 regulatory way. It's the women's league that
 5 started this year. You have an application. Do
 6 we have a motion to accept them as members?
 7 MR. BORRONI: Yes.
 8 MR. PERRY: Second.
 9 PRESIDENT GULATI: Frank Borroni,
 10 thank you. Foster Perry seconded.
 11 Any questions, comments or concerns?
 12 Okay. Any objections?
 13 Welcome, NWSL.
 14 (Applause.)
 15 PRESIDENT GULATI: Bill Lynch or any
 16 of the folks from the NWSL here? They had games
 17 last night. Okay. They're not present.
 18 U.S. Futsal, you have got an
 19 application.
 20 Motion to accept U.S. Futsal as a
 21 member?
 22 MR. STEINBRECHER: Second.
 23 MR. DES BORDES: So move.
 24 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Steinbrecher;
 25 seconded by Mr. desBordes.

1 Any questions, comments, concerns?
 2 Any objections?
 3 We approve them by acclamation.
 4 (Motion approved.)
 5 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Para is here.
 6 Alex, are you here? He was here last
 7 night.
 8 Welcome back, Alex.
 9 (Applause.)
 10 PRESIDENT GULATI: We've got an
 11 application from Wisconsin Soccer Leagues.
 12 Any -- we need a motion to accept.
 13 MR. MOTTA: So move.
 14 MR. EDWARDS: Second.
 15 PRESIDENT GULATI: John Motta;
 16 seconded by Mike Edwards.
 17 Comments, concerns? Any objections?
 18 Wisconsin, welcome back in a new
 19 form. Congratulations.
 20 (Motion passed.)
 21 PRESIDENT GULATI: We are done with
 22 those pieces of new business.
 23 We are then on to life member
 24 nominations. We have one nomination that is
 25 being recommended by the U.S. Soccer Board. That

1 is Burton Haimes, and we will do that by
 2 acclamation.
 3 (Passed by acclamation.)
 4 PRESIDENT GULATI: So, Mr. Haimes --
 5 unless there's any objections -- Mr. Haimes is
 6 now a life member. Welcome, Burton.
 7 (Applause.)
 8 PRESIDENT GULATI: Behind me.
 9 I will take this opportunity to thank
 10 a couple of people for their service to the
 11 Board. Today will be Burt's last Board meeting,
 12 not because he's becoming a life member, but
 13 because the at-large group will be electing --
 14 has elections coming up in a couple of days, and
 15 so they will be adding someone new to the Board.
 16 We also have Bill Bosgraaf -- actually, in Burt's
 17 case, I don't know how many years it is now,
 18 Burt?
 19 MR. HAIMES: Since 1988 with one
 20 exception.
 21 PRESIDENT GULATI: Since 1988 with
 22 one exception. He won't confirm whether the
 23 exception was a 20-year exception, or two years,
 24 but for a long time. So thank you, Burt, for
 25 your service to the Board as well as becoming a

1 life member.
2 We also have Bill Bosgraaf, who will
3 be stepping down as a commissioner from -- as a
4 representative from the adult division, and will
5 be replaced by John Motta. So, Bill, thank you
6 very much for everything you have done for U.S.
7 Soccer.

8 (Applause.)

9 PRESIDENT GULATI: And welcome John
10 Motta, who most of you in the room already know.
11 And John will join us for the next Board meeting.

12 We have on our next list, bylaw
13 amendments. If you go to Bylaws 202, 232, and
14 241, which are listed together, and since they're
15 listed together, I would propose we obviously
16 look at them and consider them together. We have
17 got a motion on the floor to adopt those.

18 MR. EDWARDS: So move.

19 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mike Edwards. And
20 a second from --

21 MR. PAYNE: Second.

22 PRESIDENT GULATI: -- Kevin Payne.

23 These, I think, are -- so we have
24 a -- Mr. Fike? Bylaw 543, which is one of the
25 four in this, is being withdrawn by the proposer,

1 MR. PAYNE: Second.

2 PRESIDENT GULATI: Richard.

3 MR. GROFF: We have received some
4 recommendations as you can see from the Rules
5 Committee, plus some comments from individual
6 lawyers who have reviewed this. This was the
7 work of myself and Greg, because we had
8 experienced the Wisconsin issue, and so
9 therefore, these are the following amendments.

10 In Section 4 (b), rather than "agree
11 to," we are inserting the word "shall" which
12 makes this a mandatory mediation. And in
13 reference to the mediator, instead of having the
14 legal counsel, we are stating that "The Secretary
15 General shall appoint a mediator to serve as a
16 mediator in the dispute."

17 Hopefully those amendments will be
18 accepted.

19 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. So, I think
20 we need to get the motion on the floor or the
21 amendment?

22 MR. DES BORDES: What was the last
23 one?

24 PRESIDENT GULATI: So I'm told by our
25 parliamentarian that we don't need to get the

1 which is Mr. Flynn. I think those that are
2 involved in this particular issue know the
3 rationale behind that.

4 So we will be voting on the other
5 three which are 202, 232, and 241, so the motion
6 on the floor will be to adopt those three, which
7 has certainly been moved and hopefully properly
8 seconded. So it's without 543. Any comments on
9 those? Any objections?

10 We will approve those by unanimous
11 consent. Thank you.

12 (Motion passed.)

13 PRESIDENT GULATI: Next is 213. That
14 is proposed by Mr. Groff. Do we have a motion to
15 accept those?

16 MR. GROFF: Sunil, I have several
17 amendments to make.

18 MR. EDWARDS: I will move --

19 PRESIDENT GULATI: Do we need to get
20 this on the floor first? So we don't have a
21 motion yet to adopt. Mr. Groff, who is the maker
22 of, or the proposer of this amendment to start
23 with.

24 MR. EDWARDS: I move adoption of
25 Bylaw 213. Richard.

1 motion on the floor and then make amendments.
2 Since he's the maker of the motion, he can
3 propose it as amended by himself. So Mr. Groff
4 is slightly amending his original motion. We now
5 need to get that on the floor, and Mr. Groff will
6 move that we put that on the floor with those
7 amendments.

8 Do we have a second to that?

9 MR. DES BORDES: Can we get the
10 specific language again?

11 PRESIDENT GULATI: We will get the
12 specific language again. Mr. Groff, one more
13 time before we give the floor to Mr. Flamhaft.

14 MR. GROFF: In section 4 (b), where
15 it says "agree to" that shall be changed to
16 "shall."

17 On the statement by the Secretary
18 General, "shall appoint a mediator," rather than
19 having someone from the Federation's legal
20 counsel.

21 MR. DES BORDES: Okay.

22 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay.

23 Mr. Flamhaft, the motion is now on the floor.
24 Hang on. We need to get that mic on.

25 Well, actually, I'm told that your

1 credential has a sensor which the mics pick up as
2 soon as you get near the microphone, and they
3 automatically go off.

4 MR. FLAMHAFT: Thank you.

5 PRESIDENT GULATI: So obviously the
6 sensor is not working. All right. You've got to
7 have some fun.

8 Hang on. It's still not on.

9 There we go. Thank you.

10 MR. FLAMHAFT: ...to make these
11 observations, with regard to --

12 PRESIDENT GULATI: We've got a
13 hand-held -- hang on, Steve.

14 Now, we're going to get one of the
15 national team players to hold the mic and just
16 run around the room so nobody can get them. Okay.

17 MR. FLAMHAFT: Richard, please permit
18 me to make these observations with regard to this
19 rule change.

20 Under subsection (b), who determines
21 what issues will be determined at the mediation
22 session?

23 MR. GROFF: I will speak for myself,
24 but I would assume that the mediator and the
25 parties involved will do that.

1 not the applicant have the opportunity to provide
2 a more comprehensive presentation, such as what
3 technological advantages they have, what
4 personnel they will be bringing to that
5 organization. Would you include that as well?

6 MR. GROFF: Well, having been
7 involved in these, both parties are given the
8 opportunity to present whatever they wish, and
9 they would present that to the mediator. I don't
10 think that this limits them from doing what you
11 said.

12 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay, Steve, thank
13 you. I was going to say, these are all
14 logistical issues which don't need to be in the
15 bylaw itself. Okay, yup?

16 MR. MARIAHAZY: Having been referred
17 to as the Wisconsin bylaw amendment, being from
18 Wisconsin, I just want to speak in favor of this.
19 Having gone through this, the opportunity to at
20 least, if nothing else, force the opportunity to
21 sit down and mediate and talk, as parties, at the
22 very least -- and all of us have members we
23 report to -- really allowed me to go back to my
24 membership and say, We're doing everything we can
25 without having to take the heavy stick.

1 MR. FLAMHAFT: And number -- my
2 second observation is under (b) as well. The
3 wording says "being present." Would "being
4 present" include or would you consider a phone
5 discussion or a video conference, rather than
6 actually being present in one room at a
7 particular time? Mediation sessions could
8 conceivably last for more than one day, and
9 please consider the conveniences, time and money
10 involved in attending a session. Would you
11 consider alternatives?

12 MR. GROFF: I think that's a
13 realistic approach. However, why not let the
14 mediator and the parties make that decision based
15 on the locations and the people involved? I
16 don't know that we need that detail in this
17 bylaw.

18 MR. FLAMHAFT: And under subsection
19 (d), do you not limit the state association who
20 is making an application to replace an existing
21 state association by only stating that they only
22 have to include programs. Under (d), we are
23 talking about the evidence that's needed "by a
24 preponderance of the evidence." Aren't you
25 limiting the applicant to only programs? Should

1 This is a reasonable timeline, and
2 again, having gone through this a couple of
3 times, I truly appreciate this amendment, and I
4 appreciate Richard putting it forward, because I
5 think it does, realistically, to the point of
6 being present, personally, I think that's
7 invaluable. I work in technology. I work -- I
8 understand the convenience of it. But on
9 something of this magnitude, face to face, it's
10 irreplaceable. So I speak in support of the
11 amendment as it was amended and presented to the
12 body.

13 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.
14 Any other comments? Questions?
15 Hearing none -- I don't think we need the keypads
16 here. Any objections to approving this amendment
17 as changed, slightly altered by the proposer,
18 Mr. Groff?

19 Hearing none, we approve that by
20 unanimous consent.

21 Thank you.

22 (Motion passed.)

23 (Applause.)

24 PRESIDENT GULATI: We are on to Bylaw
25 322, which is on its own. It's very much what I

1 would call housekeeping to make the athletes
2 elections consistent with the USOC Athletes
3 Council; is that right, Jon?

4 MR. MC CULLOUGH: Yes.

5 PRESIDENT GULATI: So any -- we need
6 a maker of the motion. I'm going to assume
7 Mr. McCullough is making the motion here.

8 MR. PAYNE: Second.

9 PRESIDENT GULATI: We have a second
10 from Mr. Payne.

11 Any questions? Comments, concerns?
12 Any objections?

13 Approved by unanimous consent.

14 (Motion passed.)

15 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

16 Next is Bylaw 412 proposed by
17 Mr. Groff. It changes the composition or the
18 election, I guess, slash, composition of the
19 adult commissioners for the adult council. Do we
20 have a -- someone want to make this motion?

21 MR. GROFF: I will move that motion.

22 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Groff, thank
23 you; second --

24 MR. MOTTA: Second.

25 PRESIDENT GULATI: -- John Motta.

1 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Christiano is
2 seconding that. It's on the floor for any
3 comments, concerns. We'll do this at some point
4 by electronic vote. Any comments, concerns?

5 Mr. Edwards.

6 MR. EDWARDS: Can I ask a question?
7 Just so I understand what I'm voting on. Do I
8 understand that this language replaces the
9 Eastern New York language?

10 MS. GILL: Yes.

11 MR. EDWARDS: Okay. Thank you.

12 PRESIDENT GULATI: Any comments,
13 concerns?

14 Okay. Mr. Kepner, we will go to the
15 electronic voting here. So, this is to approve
16 the Eastern New York amendment as changed by the
17 Rules Committee. You are hitting 1 if it's
18 "yes"; 2 if it's "no." Let us know when the
19 voting starts, Robert.

20 MR. KEPNER: Begin voting now. 5, 4,
21 3, 2, 1. Voting closes.

22 PRESIDENT GULATI: This needs
23 two-thirds.

24 (Motion passed.)

25 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay, that's

1 MR. GROFF: I would like to make a
2 comment.

3 PRESIDENT GULATI: It's on the floor
4 now. Any questions? Comments, concerns? We're
5 going to pass it without any comments. Any
6 objections?

7 Good. Passed unanimously. Thank
8 you.

9 (Motion passed.)

10 PRESIDENT GULATI: We then have a
11 proposal from Eastern New York, which is Number
12 4 -- I'm sorry. That is number -- what's the
13 number on that? 603. We have a motion to adopt
14 that.

15 MS. GILL: As amended by the Rules
16 Committee.

17 PRESIDENT GULATI: As amended by the
18 Rules Committee. Mr. Christiano, is that okay
19 with Eastern New York, as amended?

20 MR. CHRISTIANO: Yes.

21 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. So the
22 maker of the motion has accepted the Rules
23 Committee amendment.

24 And, Ms. Gill, are you moving that?

25 MS. GILL: Yes.

1 approved.

2 (Applause.)

3 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

4 We are on Bylaw 805, which is just
5 the distribution of materials, allowing us to do
6 it electronically; purely -- not housekeeping,
7 but purely technological advances allow us to do
8 this. Do we have a maker of this motion?
9 Someone want to put this on the floor?

10 MR. STEINBRECHER: So move.

11 MR. GARBER: Second.

12 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Steinbrecher,
13 thank you. Mr. Garber seconded it. Thank you.
14 Any comments, concerns, or objections?

15 MR. MONACO: Mr. President?

16 PRESIDENT GULATI: Yes, Larry.

17 MR. MONACO: I would ask for
18 clarification here. We still have bylaw
19 provisions that require that communications be in
20 writing. If I understand this correctly, we're
21 now saying writing includes distributions by
22 e-mail, e-mail attachment or fax, and not to send
23 me an e-mail saying "Go on the web site and find
24 it yourself."

25 PRESIDENT GULATI: That's correct.

1 MR. MONACO: The other thing here
2 which I'm curious about, this only applies to
3 National Council, which means it does not apply
4 to the Board of Directors, committees,
5 organization members, and we have about five or
6 ten provisions in the bylaws that talk about
7 distribution to organization members which are
8 related to national council members, but not
9 necessarily the same, and of course, it doesn't
10 apply to the four councils. So should this be
11 broadened?

12 PRESIDENT GULATI: Lisa? Get to a
13 microphone, please.

14 MS. LEVINE: If you would like to
15 offer an amendment, if you would like to offer an
16 amendment, to so broaden it, then that would
17 certainly be entertained. The thought was right
18 now, to just limit this electronic means to the
19 National Council meetings.

20 MR. DES BORDES: Why?

21 PRESIDENT GULATI: Larry, can we
22 clean this up relatively easily by saying maybe
23 distribute it to the National Council, and then
24 fill in about seven or eight words "...and
25 other..."

1 MR. MONACO: How about just strike
2 the phrase "to the National Council."

3 PRESIDENT GULATI: That's fine.
4 Sure. That's even simpler.

5 MR. FLYNN: Thank you.

6 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

7 The proposer of the motion, which is
8 Mr. Flynn, is amending his own motion, so we
9 don't have to go through this amendment process,
10 "may be distributed ..." strike the words "to the
11 National Council." Okay.

12 Since Dan is not a voting member, it
13 needs to be done by general consent. Hearing no
14 "disconsenters"... we will accept that.
15 Remember, we're allowed to make up vocabulary
16 words.

17 Okay. Any objections? Other
18 concerns? Comments? We will accept that by
19 unanimous consent.

20 (Motion passed.)

21 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

22 That is the end of the bylaws.

23 We are now --

24 PARLIAMENTARIAN: The amendment was
25 accepted; now you have to --

1 PRESIDENT GULATI: The amendment was
2 accepted by you-all, because there might actually
3 be a lot of you against the actual motion itself,
4 so we will now do the amendment itself by a roll
5 call vote. No, I'm just kidding. It's a written
6 ballot.

7 Any objections to the original
8 amendment?

9 THE PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, to the
10 motion --

11 PRESIDENT GULATI: Any objections to
12 anything dealing with 805?

13 Are we okay with this one? Thank
14 you.

15 So much for Jeff Webb saying we're
16 organized and administratively right on track.

17 We are now to the Affirmation of
18 Policies adopted since 2012. There are three of
19 them. You see them in your books. Can I have a
20 motion -- unless we need to separate these
21 individually -- we need a motion to adopt or
22 approve the actions of the Board with respect to
23 these three policies. Do we have such a motion?

24 MR. MOTTA: So move.

25 MR. BORRONI: Second.

1 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Motta, thank
2 you. Mr. Borroni seconded.

3 Any questions, comments, concerns?
4 Any objections?

5 Hearing none, those are approved by
6 unanimous consent.

7 (Motion passed.)

8 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you very
9 much.

10 We are on to NBOD, independent
11 director nominations.

12 As you know, we have three
13 independent directors. They serve on rotating
14 terms. Two terms are currently expiring; those
15 are of Mr. Carlos Cordeiro and Mr. Fabian Nunez.
16 Those two are being nominated and unanimously
17 endorsed by U.S. Soccer's Board. However, if
18 there are any other nominations, we would
19 entertain them at this time.

20 Any other nominations for positions
21 of independent members of U.S. Soccer's board?

22 Hearing none, I will close the
23 nomination period, and in the absence of any
24 protests against the acceptance and election of
25 Mr. Cordeiro and Mr. Nunez, we will approve them

1 unanimously.
 2 (Motion passed.)
 3 (Applause.)
 4 PRESIDENT GULATI: I said it last
 5 year, or the year before, and frankly, I can't
 6 say it often enough. One of the best things we
 7 have done in this organization from a governance
 8 point of view, in the 30 years or so that I have
 9 been involved or coming to AGMs is adding
 10 independent directors to our Board. What
 11 independent directors bring generally, and what
 12 these three have brought to our organization
 13 specifically, is, frankly, extraordinary. So I
 14 want to thank the three of you again for what you
 15 have done for U.S. Soccer.
 16 (Applause.)
 17 PRESIDENT GULATI: We are on to
 18 information. The 2014 Annual General Meeting.
 19 The 2014 Annual General Meeting will be in New
 20 York City, February 28th to March 2nd. New York
 21 City, February 28th to March 2nd. And while we
 22 want you to get any of the issues that you have
 23 got about what meetings and schedules as soon as
 24 you can, please, please, please, wait until at
 25 least Monday before you contact Amy or Dan.

1 So, Rocco, on behalf of a very, very
 2 thankful U.S. Soccer family, I want to thank you
 3 even before you speak for everything you have
 4 done.
 5 (Applause.)
 6 PRESIDENT GULATI: Please.
 7 MR. AMOROSO: Thank you. To say that
 8 I'm disappointed, I would be careful to; however,
 9 I'm 87 years old. Over 50 years ago, when I
 10 first coached the young people, I taught them
 11 that you must win, but win eloquently; but if you
 12 lose, lose graciously. I lose graciously.
 13 My crusade in life has always been to
 14 make this world better, and through soccer, it
 15 has given me a vehicle where I could possibly do
 16 something good for our society.
 17 When I was blessed with the role in
 18 the Youth Soccer League, I initiated the motto of
 19 building character through soccer. That's been
 20 my life. It's always been my life, knowing fully
 21 well that the full recognition comes within
 22 yourself, the full honor comes to yourself. When
 23 you make enough difference, it's always life,
 24 young or old. With the grace of God, I trust
 25 that it will sustain me to fulfill that mission.

1 Okay.
 2 NYC, the 28th of February - March
 3 2nd, we are back in our regular first quota
 4 requirement by our statutes.
 5 We are on to Good of the Game. Good
 6 of the Game.
 7 Who would like to speak to Good of
 8 the Game?
 9 While Mr. Amoroso comes to the
 10 microphone -- I want to make a couple of
 11 comments, Rocco, before you speak -- many of you
 12 in the room that aren't at your first annual
 13 meeting know Mr. Amoroso, and those of you who
 14 have not been here before, I will predict you
 15 will be moved by his comments. His service to
 16 the organization, whether it's at these meetings
 17 or his dedicated work over a lifetime in Eastern
 18 New York, are extraordinary. The sort of person
 19 that has made U.S. Soccer what it is today. We
 20 have had 100 years, and we would have never made
 21 those hundred years and gotten the success levels
 22 without the dedication, the passion, the
 23 continuous passion over a long period of time
 24 with every bone, with his heart, and you will
 25 hear that in a minute.

1 Thank you very much.
 2 God bless you-all, and now on with my
 3 message.
 4 (Applause.)
 5 The Good Book says: "Bring up a child in
 6 the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not
 7 depart from it." The beginning is the most important
 8 part of any work; so is the education of our youth.
 9 Aristotle wrote over 2000 years ago that
 10 good habits formed at youth make all the difference.
 11 In view of the many deplorable incidents occurring
 12 not only in soccer, but in all sports in America
 13 today, a petition for the Good of the Game and for a
 14 better society, we, as administrators, coaches,
 15 parents, and advocates, we need desperately to
 16 reinforce the importance of character in our youth.
 17 We need to stop entertaining the
 18 philosophy that it doesn't matter whether you follow
 19 the rules or break them as long as you come out on
 20 top. No. You will never lose by emphasizing
 21 character over results. Let me repeat that. You
 22 will never lose by emphasizing character over
 23 results. For character really is forged on the anvil
 24 of sincerity and is polished by the virtue of
 25 fairness.

1 Everyone wants to win. Everyone wants
2 success, but when it comes at the expense of
3 integrity and honor, the cost to our youth is too
4 high. So let us choose what truly matters most to
5 our young people today, that they have to be
6 successful, not just what they do, but who they are.
7 Who they are. Yes, character, to me, to all of us,
8 is the most precious thing. Let us promote it at all
9 costs.

10 Thanks for listening, and God bless
11 you-all.

12 (Applause.)

13 PRESIDENT GULATI: Others for Good of
14 the Game?

15 MR. MOELLER: Hi, Richard Moeller,
16 vice-president of Florida State Soccer
17 Association. Good morning, everyone.

18 This really is Good of the Game. We
19 would like to invite everyone to our first soccer
20 cruise that we will be having in September,
21 September 26th through the 30th. It's leaving
22 out of Tampa on a Thursday morning going to
23 Cozumel returning on Monday morning. It's going
24 to have 3 v 3 soccer on the cruise, have a little
25 beach soccer when we get to Cozumel, and it's

1 going to be a great time. We've made it
2 affordable, starting at, with all price inclusive
3 with the taxes and port, 377 per person or 417
4 per person depending on the type of room you want
5 there. There's also suites, because I know Sunil
6 wants to get the presidential suite there. But
7 please come. Have a great time, and we do it
8 right in Florida. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. MOELLER: I have flyers if
11 anybody wants any; otherwise, please send an
12 e-mail to Jen, Jennifer at Florida State Soccer
13 dot-com, or Richard at Florida State Soccer
14 dot-com. Thank you.

15 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

16 MR. DES BORDES: Do you know if the
17 boat works?

18 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. desBordes,
19 Life Member from Louisiana, would like to know if
20 the boat is guaranteed to make it back and forth
21 all the way.

22 MR. MOELLER: Yes, Carnival Cruise
23 has guaranteed us.

24 PRESIDENT GULATI: It was rhetorical.
25 All right. Peter.

1 MR. PINORI: Peter Pinori from
2 Eastern New York.

3 As probably most of you know, the
4 Federation started in New York, so we also are
5 celebrating our 100th year in existence of
6 soccer. Sal has been there for probably 65 of
7 those years. And we are going to celebrate by
8 renting a boat going around Manhattan, and we
9 will have a special occasion. We are going to
10 honor two giants of our sports. A couple of
11 years ago we honored Sunil as part of our Hall of
12 Fame. And this year we're going to induct
13 Mr. Hank Steinbrecher. He fully deserves it, one
14 of the best secretary generals we've ever had.
15 Don't take this the wrong way, that --

16 PRESIDENT GULATI: So, so far I
17 missed out on the Giants and Hank was one of the
18 best secretary generals you've ever had.
19 Excellent. Keep going. Anybody else up here you
20 want to offend?

21 (Laughter.)

22 MR. PINORI: And also Mr. Don Garber
23 is going to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, so
24 I just want to say that.

25 (Applause.)

1 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks, Peter. We
2 were certainly hoping that New York doesn't end
3 the history of the United States Soccer
4 Federation after creating it, but okay. Sir?

5 MR. WEDDING: Tom Wedding from
6 Oklahoma Soccer. On behalf of Oklahoma Soccer
7 and the committee who was elected, thank you to
8 everybody in this room for donating to our
9 tornado relief fund. Sunil, thank you for your
10 support.

11 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. Anyone
12 else? Anyone else in this part of this room,
13 before we get to the people back here? We save
14 them for last. Anyone else?

15 Okay, behind me. Danielle; oh, I'm
16 sorry, Derek first, just hang on a second.

17 MR. ARNEAUD: For the Good of the
18 Game, Derek Arneaud. We must continue to create
19 and develop new leaders from all of the
20 communities in our beautiful country, with
21 particular interest in our grassroots
22 communities. The standards set by our present
23 leaders is high. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 PRESIDENT GULATI: Angela.

1 MS. HUCLES: And on behalf of the
2 Athlete Council, we just wanted to thank you-all
3 for providing these leadership opportunities for
4 former players to stay involved in the game as
5 well.

6 (Applause.)

7 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay, now we're
8 back to you, Danielle.

9 MS. SLATON: Again to echo what both
10 Derrick and Angela said on behalf of the athlete
11 council, I know we had a great night and you
12 heard from a lot of our athletes at our event,
13 but officially, at this meeting, it's been a true
14 honor for all of us to wear this uniform, be a
15 part of growing up in this country playing
16 soccer, and on behalf of the athlete council, we
17 look very much forward to another hundred years
18 of success.

19 (Applause.)

20 PRESIDENT GULATI: Back here?

21 MR. SUTTER: Sunil, we celebrated 100
22 years this weekend. U.S. Youth Soccer is right
23 at about 40 of that, but we invited our founders
24 that are still living and were able to attend to
25 this meeting so that they could bask in the

1 celebration. They were Tony Perez, Julius Roth,
2 and Jimmy Woffard. If they are here in this
3 room -- I'm not sure they are -- if they could
4 stand. But if we could thank them for the
5 founding of our organization, and the
6 contributions that they have made to U.S. Soccer,
7 I would appreciate that.

8 (Applause.)

9 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Edwards.

10 MR. EDWARDS: I would like to echo
11 what Dan touched on, although I'm not going to go
12 by names, because I will inevitably leave out the
13 person who handles the room reservations at the
14 next Board meeting.

15 If you kind of put it in context what
16 the staff of the Federation has done this
17 weekend, they got us set up here. They got us
18 all over Friday night and back. They got us all
19 over, well fed, well entertained last night.
20 Today they're going to get all of us over to RFK
21 stadium, and, hopefully, back. I don't know if
22 they're going to apply your sunscreen for you; I
23 think Coach Klinsmann may be doing that.

24 If you have ever been underground, as
25 I referred to it, at a national team game and

1 watched the staff of U.S. Soccer at work, they
2 are professional. They're stunningly dedicated
3 to their jobs. Whatever us, administratively
4 weekend warriors, we always have our meetings on
5 weekends, when somebody from U.S. Soccer is
6 there, when Greg Fike is at the USYS workshops on
7 issues there, when Ryan and Adrian are out, they
8 have been working soccer for the full week. It's
9 pretty much a 7-day-a-week job for a lot of the
10 staff people. When you get to a national team
11 game, it's a 24-hour job. And we are blessed
12 with the people who do that job for us.

13 I will grant you, they get paid, we
14 all get paid at our jobs. But you-all know at
15 your jobs, there are some people that do the job
16 a whole lot better than other people. We're
17 pretty lucky. Everybody we've got is at that
18 level. They are the hardest-working people I
19 know, and Dan.

20 For all the stuff they've done for
21 me, I know for Sunil, for a lot of you, on the
22 way out of here, find one of them and thank them
23 for what they do, because believe me, they go way
24 beyond the call of duty in taking care of the
25 membership here. Thanks.

1 (Applause.)

2 PRESIDENT GULATI: So all that's left
3 is we've got one other member of staff, who
4 starts working today at about 2:30, coaching our
5 team. Let's hope he does his job today and that
6 the guys put on a good performance.

7 So thanks for the memories. Look to
8 the future. Enjoy today's game, and we'll see
9 you around the --

10 MR. DES BORDES: Sunil --

11 PRESIDENT GULATI: Hank, you can't
12 possibly speak after I close the meeting.

13 MR. DES BORDES: Should we eat before
14 we go to the game?

15 PRESIDENT GULATI: Should we eat
16 before we go to the game? Can I have a motion to
17 abolish life membership or just one life member?

18 Okay. On the screen -- now, he's
19 going to say, I can't read that from here --
20 Hank, come on. All right. So that's the
21 instructions for the day, and we will have one of
22 those very dedicated staff members, Hank, with
23 you at all times, mostly to keep you away from
24 me.

25 Folks, now, let me try to close with

1 that emotional thing I was doing a minute ago
2 until we needed to know what the salad dressing
3 was going to be.

4 Again, thanks for the memory.

5 Okay, it's too late now.

6 Thank you. Enjoy the day. Go USA,
7 and look forward to seeing you-all next year.

8 Meeting is adjourned.

9 (Applause.)

10 (Adjourned, at 11:10 a.m.)
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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2

3 I, DEBRA K. RESLING, RMR, and Certified
4 Realtime Reporter appointed to take the meetings of
5 the U.S. Soccer Federation, do certify that the
6 within proceedings of the 97th Annual General Meeting
7 meeting were taken by me stenographically in
8 Washington D.C., on June 2, 2013 then reduced to
9 typewritten form consisting of 90 pages herein; that
10 the foregoing is a true transcript of the proceedings
11 had.
12
13

14 In witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand
15 this 15th day of June, 2013
16
17

18 _____
19 Debra K. Resling, CSR, CRR, RMR
20 Registered Merit Reporter
21 and Notary Public.

22 4 Cheyenne Blvd.,
23 Colorado Springs, CO 80905

24 My commission expires February 28, 2017
25