

Meeting Minutes 2019 CSCA Annual Meeting

October 20, 2019

Weston Public Library

56 Norfield Rd, Weston, CT 06883

Meeting Called to Order at approximately 12:20 PM by CSCA President.

President Van de Mortel reads the Board Meeting Opening Statement. Bylaws Section 3.

Present are:

Jan van de Mortel, President

Bryant Mercado, Treasurer

Alexandr Palvinski, Board Member and Vice President

Rick Bauer, Board Member

Suhas Kodali, Board Member and Associate Tournaments Coordinator

Alexander Lumelsky, Board Member, Tournaments Coordinator and USCF Delegate

The following Board Members were absent:

Jennifer Hogrefe, Aashish Chopra, Derek Mansfield, Rick Cheung, Norman Burtness, Derek Meredith, Fred Townsend and Erin Striff (8)

Also present are four members and parents from Riverfield Elementary School chess program, including Nevena Lanzo, as well as Dan Pelletier of DIG Chess and a DIG instructor, who is under age 18. Mr. Pelletier provided the meeting space for this Annual Meeting.

With only four Board Members present Quorum is not attained to proceed with Agenda as submitted. Quorum requires five Directors or 50% of the current Directors. Bylaws Article 9.

Mr. Van de Mortel discussed the Bylaws procedure for such circumstances, given the pending election of two CSCA seats and no Quorum requirement for elections. Bylaws Article 9. It is possible that after elections, Quorum will be achieved.

Nominations are offered as follows:

Mr. Van de Mortel states that he received an email note from current Board Member Derek Meredith, whose one year term is expiring, stating his interest to run for reelection to the Board. Mr. Van de Mortel nominates Derek Meredith for the Board. Mr. Meredith is not present and Suhas Kodali volunteers to speak on his behalf.

Alexander Lumelsky nominates Nevena Lanzo as representative of the Fairfield Schools chess programs to the Board.

Mr. Lumelsky nominates Bryant Mercado to the Board.

Rick Bauer states he is not running for reelection.

There are no other nominations. Nominations are closed. The candidates make oral presentations on their qualities and qualifications, with Mr. Kodali speaking for Mr. Meredith. Vote is made by secret ballot and counted by Mr. Pelletier. The results are as follows:

Derek Meredith – 0

Nevena Lanzo – 10

Bryant Mercado – 9

Nevena Lanzo and Bryant Mercado are elected as Board Members, terms expiring 2024.

Since Mrs. Lanzo and Mr. Mercado are present, Quorum is attained with five Board Members and 50% of the active Board present, and the balance of the Agenda may now be reached.

Motion 19-1 to postpone approval of Minutes from May 19, 2019 meeting to the next Board Meeting. (Mr. Lumelsky, second: Mr. Mercado) Vote: 5:0.

Motion 19-2 to table Officer's Reports. (Mr. Lumelsky, second: Alexandr Palvinski) Vote: 5:0. Written reports (President, Web Admin, Tournaments Coordinator, Historian, Scholastic Grants Administrator, USCF Delegate and NECA Member at Large) were submitted ahead of the meeting and are attached.

Unfinished Business from 5/19

Motion 19-3 to reimburse USCF Delegate for partial travel expenses in attending USCF Annual Meeting. (Moved and seconded on 5/19)

- Motion to vote by secret ballot. Vote: 3:2
- Vote on question: 1:2:2 / abstaining: Mr. Lumelsky, Mrs. Lanzo. *Motion fails.*

New Business

Motion 19-4 to Amend the Bylaws to remove the "Tournaments Coordinator" as an elected officer mandated by the Bylaws. (Mr. Lumelsky, second: Mr. Palvinski)

- Vote to refer to e-mail vote by the entire Board: 5:0

Other motions postponed to follow elections of officers. Elections of officers were held as follows:

President

Mr. Van de Mortel announces his willingness to run for reelection. Mr. Kodali nominates Mr. Van de Mortel. There are no other nominations. Mr. Van de Mortel is reelected President by unanimous consent.

Vice President

Mr. Van de Mortel nominates Mr. Palvinski for Vice President. Mr. Palvinski declines and nominates Mr. Lumelsky for Vice President. Mr. Lumelsky accepts the nomination. Mr. Kodali nominates himself for Vice President.

Mr. Lumelsky and Mr. Kodali speak to their qualities and qualifications. The vote is made by secret ballot and the result is as follows:

Alexander Lumelsky – 3

Suhas Kodali – 2

Mr. Lumelsky is elected Vice President.

Secretary

Current Secretary Jennifer Hogrefe is absent. No communication was received from Mrs. Hogrefe as to her willingness to serve a new term. However, Bylaws mandate an Officer to serve in their position until a replacement is elected. No nominations for Secretary are made. Mrs. Hogrefe remains in the position of Secretary.

Treasurer

Mr. Palvinski nominates Mr. Mercado for Treasurer. Mr. Mercado agrees to serve until entering law school some time next year. There are no other nominations. Mr. Mercado is reelected Treasurer by unanimous consent.

Tournaments Coordinator

Mr. Lumelsky will continue to serve as Tournaments Coordinator until Motion 19-4 to Amend the Bylaws to remove the position is decided by the Board.

Database Secretary

Motion 19-5 to Amend the Bylaws to remove the “Database Secretary” as an elected officer mandated by the Bylaws. (Mr. Lumelsky, second: Mrs. Palvinski)

- Vote to refer to e-mail vote by the entire Board: 5:0

Vandna Chopra remains in the position until the Board decides the Motion to Amend.

USCF Delegates and Alternates

Motion 19-6 to Amend the Bylaws to add the USCF Delegates and Alternates as elected positions. (Mr. Lumelsky, second: Mr. Palvinski)

Mr. Lumelsky is reelected USCF Delegate by unanimous consent.

Mr. Kodali is reelected USCF Alternate Delegate by unanimous consent.

One Delegate position and one Alternate Delegate position remain open. Mr. Van de Mortel may fill these vacancies by Presidential appointment.

NECA Representative

The position remains open. Mr. Van de Mortel may fill this vacancy by Presidential appointment.

Non-elected Positions

Historian: The President appoints Bob Cyr to continue as Historian.

Ombudsman: The President appoints Rich Cheung to continue as Ombudsman.

Scholastic Grants Administrator: The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

Web Administrator: The President appoints Gert Hilhorst to continue as Web Administrator.

Motion 19-7 to suspend the annual event bidding process and grant the CSCA President authority to negotiate CSCA event organization via assignment directly with potential organizers, subject to the rules of ethics and the availability of an appeal by competing organizers for a target event to the CSCA Board, if in disagreement with the President's assignment decision. (Mr. Lumelsky, second: Mr. Palvinski) Vote: 5:0.

Motion 19-8 to amend NNGP Rules for the 2019-20 cycle year, per attached motion supplement. (Mr. Lumelsky, second Mr. Palvinski) Vote 5:0.

Award of Bids for 2019-20 CSCA Tournaments is abandoned following Board's adoption of Motion 19-7.

Motion 19-9 to limit CSCA direct assistance to circumstances of hardship, only, per attached motion supplement. (Mr. Lumelsky, second Mrs. Lanzo) Vote: 5:0.

Motion 19-10 to establish Needs Program, per attached motion supplement. (Mr. Lumelsky, second Mr. Palvinski.) Vote: 5:0

Motion 19-11 to establish TD Training and Assistance Program, per attached supplement. (Mr. Lumelsky, second Mr. Mercado.) Vote: 4:0:1 / abstaining: Mr. Kodali.

Motion 19-12 to amend the CSCA Bylaws or Tournament Rules to provide that "CSCA memberships are not required for scholastic students to enter CSCA tournaments." (Fred Townsend, second: NONE) *Motion fails.*

Motion to Adjourn (Mr. Lumelsky, second Mr. Mercado) Vote: 5:0.
Meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

CSCA Annual Meeting Officer's Reports

President's Report

It has been almost a year since a new Board was elected, and a little less since I started my term as President. After the crisis that the Connecticut State's Chapter went through the year that preceded, I believe the CSCA as an organization has drastically improved. In 2019, the CSCA was reincorporated as a non-stock corporation with the State of Connecticut, carries liability insurance, organized the State Scholastic Championship in-house, changed the Bylaws for greater transparency, keeps membership records and has increased revenue for its operations.

US Chess Delegates' Connecticut State Chapter Resolution Committee

The only official response I have received from US Chess is the following message from its President Allen Priest that was forwarded to me on September 12, 2019: "The delegates accepted the report of the committee that suggested no change in the CT state affiliate." For further information see the US Chess Delegate's Report by Alexander Lumelsky.

National Tournaments of Champions

A number of players represented Connecticut at the National invitational tournaments held in Orlando, Florida August 3-6. Zachary Tanenbaum achieved 3 out of 6 and 24th place (out of 48) in the Denker Tournament of High School Champions. Peter Wolfe achieved 3 out of 6 and 28th place (out of 50) in the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions. Beatrice Low achieved 2.5 out of 6 and 27th place (out of 42) at the Haring National Girls' Tournament of Champions. Mikhail Koganov achieved 4 out of 6 and 5th place (out of 44) at the National Senior Championship of Champions. On behalf of the CSCSA I would like to thank them all for representing the State of Connecticut.

CSCA Members

The CSCA currently has 369 members; their names and the expiration date of their membership are [listed](#) on our website.

US Chess Membership Vouchers

The CSCA still has five unused vouchers for an annual scholastic membership available. They are valid through November 30, 2019 and I would like to offer them for free to the first five (parents of) scholastic members who respond to our next Newsletter following the Annual Meeting.

Donations of chess sets

In reply to email inquiries sent to the CSCA asking for information and/or support in joining or starting a chess club, I personally donated a chess set to a retired couple who expressed interest in learning the game of chess. The CSCA has donated ten chess sets to a new chess club at Staples High School in Westport.

CSCA Website

Following the Board Meeting on 5/19/19 the old logo was brought back to the left top of the page and the US Chess specialty State Chapter logo is now in the right top of the website.

2018-19 CT State Championship events (*updated #12*)

1. 2018 CT Blitz Championship
 - Date: January 2, 2019
 - Organizer: New Britain Chess Club, Local TD Norman Burtness
 - Location: Armenian Church of the Holy, New Britain
 - # of participants: 28 (+2 from last year)
2. 2019 CT Grade Championships
 - Date: January 19, 2019
 - Organizer: Chess Haven, Club TD George Wang
 - Location: Heath Commins, Hopkins School, New Haven
 - # of participants: 145 (+109)
3. 2019 CT Girls' Championship
 - Date: January 26, 2019
 - Organizer: Connecticut Chess Organization, Senior TD Jan van de Mortel
 - Location: Raymond Library, East Hartford
 - # of participants: 16 (-4)
4. Leg 1 of the 2018-19 NNGP
 - Date: January 26, 2019
 - Organizer: Connecticut Chess Organization, Senior TD Jan van de Mortel
 - Location: Raymond Library, East Hartford
 - # of participants: 36 (-7)
5. Leg 2 of the 2018-19 NNGP
 - Date: February 10, 2019
 - Organizer: UConn Chess Club, Senior TD Jan van de Mortel
 - Location: Castleman Building, Storrs Mansfield
 - # of participants: 57 (+37)
6. 2019 CT K-12 Scholastic Championships
 - Date: March 2, 2019
 - Organizer: CSCA, Senior TD Jan van de Mortel
 - Location: Manchester High School, Manchester
 - # of participants: 160 (+21)
7. 2019 CT Senior Open Championship
 - Date: March 2, 2019
 - Organizer: New Britain Chess Club, Local TD Norman Burtness
 - Location: Armenian Church of the Holy, New Britain
 - # of participants: 13 (new event)
8. Leg 3 of the 2018-19 NNGP
 - Date: March 16, 2019
 - Organizer: Hall High School, Local TD Norman Burtness.
 - Location: Hall High School, West Hartford
 - # of participants: 51 (-17)
9. 2018-19 National Nominations Candidates' Tournament
 - Date: March 30, 2019
 - Organizer: CSCA, Senior TD Jan van de Mortel, Club TD Kevin Zimmerman

- Location: Raymond Library, East Hartford
of participants: 12 (invitational)
10. 2019 CT K-12 Scholastic Speed Championship
Date: March 30, 2019
Organizer: CSCA, Senior TD Jan van de Mortel
Location: Raymond Library, East Hartford
of participants: 64 (new event)
11. 2019 CT State Championship
Date: May 4, 2019
Organizer: New Britain Chess Club, Local TD Norman Burtness
Location: Armenian Church of the Holy, New Britain
of participants: 32 (+8)
12. 2019 CT Quick Championship
Date: June 2, 2019
Organizer: CSCA, Local TD Norman Burtness
Location: Armenian Church of the Holy, New Britain
of participants: 9 (+1)
13. Total number of events: 12 (-3); total number of participants: 623 (+56)

Jan van de Mortel, President CSCA
October 2019

Website Administrator's Report

Traffic

We get between 100 and 1000 hits per day.

I estimate 90% of this traffic is automated traffic by Google-like companies indexing our data and/or hackers trying to steal something.

Https vs Http

A browser shows either https:// or http:// before the URL in the address bar.

Communication using https:// is harder for third parties (spies) to listen into. It is called "secure".

Security is not a concern for us since spreading information is the main objective of the site.

However, Google browsers warn aggressively about sites using http:// communication. They show "Not Secure" before the URL in the address bar.

Furthermore, Google announced to place "not secure"-websites lower in their search results. We might be moved from page 1 to page 3.

Becoming "secure" implies buying a "Certificate" at a cost of approx \$80 per year.

Just another way big-IT makes money!

Another problem ('convenience' perhaps for big-IT) is that very old browsers (older than approx 8 years) do not support "secure" technology.

Those users would have to upgrade to a new browser (and probably new hardware) to be able to see "secure"-websites.

For these users, CSCA introduced a new URL: www.chessct.org/oldbrowser

This URL forces un-secure communication thus enabling old devices and allowing older users (like myself) to continue to see the site.

Usage

Besides CSCA, three other organizations use the site:

- www.chessct.org/nbcc (also known as www.newbritainchessclub.com) for NBCC
- www.chessct.org/simsbury for the Simsbury Library Chess and Go Club
- www.chessct.org/hascl for scholastic chess matches around Hartford

Content

Content needs to be entered as HTML code. In case the site looks good enough, we can continue with this methodology.

Far more important than technology is frequent maintenance of content. Collecting stories, nice pictures, historic facts, new ideas will always be a the real challenge for continuation of the site.

2019/2020

I offer to serve for another year.

Gert Hilhorst

Historian's Report

I don't have anything formal to include, just the fact that I have been updating the CSCA website history section with articles from Fred Townsend and Rob Roy from the 1960s through the 1990s.

I also have been writing biographies annually (which are actually posted on the NBCC website) about legendary chess people who have been instrumental in promoting, enriching, and advancing the game of chess. This year, we will be honoring David Lees. His biography, which I wrote and which you can share with the membership, is at the link below

<https://www.chessct.org/nbcc/UplHist/LeesDavid.pdf>

I have also submitted various games in the big book that I created for the NBCC years ago to Rick Bauer. He is collecting them for a best game of Connecticut project.

Bob Cyr

Scholastic Grants Coordinator's Report

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Scholastic Chess and Grants Coordinator for the Connecticut State Association for the past year. I have been continuing my efforts to promote chess in the New Haven Public school district, tutoring at local public schools and donating chess equipment.

I also organized and ran the 2019 CT State Grade Chess Championships at Hopkins School, New Haven, CT back in January. 145 players attended the event - an 109 player increase (~300%) from 2018. This set a beneficial precedent for other CSCA tournaments. Players from my tournament became more active and joined other CSCA related tournaments such as the K-12 State Championship. More importantly, we were able to promote chess amongst the economically challenged areas across Connecticut, following some of the main duties of the Scholastic Chess & Grants Administrator and promoting CSCA's mission of promoting chess to people of different backgrounds.

I hope everyone else at the meeting is doing well.

Best Wishes,
George Wang

Report of CSCA Tournaments Coordinator

CSCA Annual Meeting 2019

The 2018-19 Tournament Activity Report was provide via oral presentation at the CSCA Board Meeting on May 19, 2019.

2019-20 Event Planning

At this time, there is a maximum of one proposed bid for a number of CSCA events, but many tournaments still remain unrepresented. The bidding process itself may perform a disservice in failing to attract more organizers, as well as to maximize CSCA revenue from the sole revenue source. With so few bids, there does not seem to be any practical reason to continue a bidding process, and continuing subjects the CSCA to the will of the sole bidders, their limitations, locations, financial interests, etc.

The alternative would be to suspend the bidding process entirely and create a submission by request process, allowing the President or other CSCA official to negotiate the organization of events and the revenue received from organizers. This would also grant organizers a direct line to the events they are interested in organizing without being subjected to the process of bidding.

In 2018-19, both the Tournaments Coordinator and the President assigned CSCA tournament events without bidding, due to lack of bids submitted. In that process, the CSCA was able to generate revenue otherwise lost and hold more state-level events.

My motion on the subject is below.

Organizers Committee Report

The Organizers Committee received interest from ten organizers in the state. However, the inaugural Committee meeting, held in Hartford, Connecticut on September 21, 2019, was only attended by three organizers, including Norman Burtness (Hall High), Suhas Kodali (NBCC) and myself (CCO). Future committee activity will have to be transferred to web-based participation. Nonetheless, the existence and activity of the committee in 2018-19 was record breaking and can serve as a solid foundation for organizers communication and cooperation under CSCA leadership in the future.

Future of Tournaments Coordinator Position

In 2018-19, many TC responsibilities were performed by the CSCA President, particularly in the area of adult tournaments. Under the current governance model and CSCA culture and administrative limitations, the TC is a superfluous position, which should be removed from the Bylaws as an elected position. The President should be permitted to appoint a coordinator whenever circumstances call for such an officer. If the TC is limited in web access and positional scope, the duties described in the Bylaws cannot be adequately performed. Moreover, when the duties under the Bylaws are

adequately performed, the position becomes both: overwhelming and overlapping/conflicting with the duties, responsibilities and interests of the President.

Accordingly, my motion on the subject is below.

Proposed Motions

(1) Motion to suspend the annual event bidding process and grant the CSCA President authority to negotiate CSCA event organization via assignment directly with potential organizers, subject to the rules of ethics and the availability of an appeal by competing organizers for a subject event to the CSCA Board, if in disagreement with the President's assignment decision.

(2) Motion to amend the CSCA Bylaws to remove the "Tournaments Coordinator" as an elected position mandated by the Bylaws. (The President may appoint such officer in lieu of a Bylaws election requirement.)

I request that these motions be addressed ahead of the 2019-20 bidding process.

Report Submitted 10/18/2019

Alexander Lumelsky
CSCA Tournaments Coordinator

Report of the Connecticut Delegate to USCF

CSCA Annual Meeting 2019

MISSION

The mission of the Delegate for the USCF Annual Meeting 2019, held in Orlando, FL from August 7 to 11, 2019:

- (1) Secure State Affiliate status
- (2) Represent the CSCA and its interests before the Executive Board and the Delegates
- (3) Establish Connecticut influence at the national level
- (4) Obtain information on USCF benefits and resources for Connecticut
- (5) Answer questions/present motions from CSCA
- (6) Learn the state of USCF and current issues at the national level
- (7) Investigate avenues to bring a USCF event to Connecticut
- (8) Obtain reduced USCF memberships for Connecticut scholastic players in need

This eight part mission was fully accomplished.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES/TASKS PERFORMED

To accomplish the mission, I attended 21 workshops and meetings, as follows:

- 1) Denker & Barber
- 2) Collegiate
- 3) Women's
- 4) Scholastic
- 5) Outreach
- 6) New Delegates Seminar
- 7) Executive Board's Open Meeting (before Delegates Meeting)
- 8) States
- 9) Governance Task Force
- 10) Chess Trust
- 11) Bylaws
- 12) Ethics
- 13) Development
- 14) Clubs
- 15) Finance/LMA Trust
- 16) Staff Forum/General Membership Meeting
- 17) Executive Board Reception
- 18) Delegates Meeting (day 1, part 1)
- 19) Delegates Meeting (day 1, part 2)
- 20) Delegates Meeting (day 2)

21) Executive Board Open Meeting (post Delegates Meeting)

The total meeting time was five days, including four evenings and three late night emailing/drafting sessions for reasons discussed below. Total travel time was two days.

EXPENSE SUMMARY

Flight – \$281.17 +\$60 (baggage)
Hotel – \$571.94
Ground Transportation to/from Airports – \$123.01
Meals – ~\$300
Miscellaneous -- \$80

TOTAL: \$1,416.12

REPORT:

(1) **State Affiliate Status Secured.** The USCF appointed Connecticut Resolution Special Committee submitted a report ahead of the Annual Meeting, recommending CSCA to continue in its Affiliate status. The report contained several non-substantive inaccuracies, which did not need to be corrected. Bob Messenger delivered an oral history of his Connecticut efforts to the States Committee at the States workshop, requesting my confirmation as he went through the events of last fall. There were a number of Delegate and Committee questions for me at the workshop, including those resulting from the in-workshop attack on the Connecticut Barber invitational selection process by Dewain Barber, himself. Although the attack was ignored by the States Committee, to prevent a second such incident at the Delegates Meeting, I challenged Mr. Barber on the accuracy of his representations on the subject with his own e-mail communications from 2015-2016. This resulted in a formal in person apology to me and to the Connecticut Affiliate by Mr. Barber in the presence of Carol Meyer, USCF Executive Director, and Mr. Barber's personal statement of wholehearted support of the CSCA's continuance as the USCF Connecticut Affiliate before the Delegates at the Delegates Meeting.

At the Delegates Meeting, the CSCA was continued in its status as State Affiliate by the EB's withdrawal of the motion for review, stemming from the RCSCA's withdrawal of its petition challenging the CSCA as State Affiliate and the Connecticut's Committee's report, delivered before the Delegates by Alan Losoff, Chair, Connecticut Resolution Special Committee. The Delegates took no action on the matter.

It should further be noted that the matter of the invitational process and criticism revealed that about one third of State Affiliates do not adhere to Barber rules. It further revealed that the Connecticut NNGP process adheres and always adhered to those rules, and that at no time did Mr. Barber or other members of his invitational committee review the NNGP rules. Further, it was discovered that Barber leadership unfairly and based on misinformation, its own misdirection and alleged complaint from Hans Niemann—initiated by Danny Rohde of the NY Affiliate--targeted Connecticut for criticism for

political reasons and to avoid responsibility for the administrative imperfections of the Barber selection process. With Mr. Barber's apology and statement of support, the matter should now be closed. Finally, it should be noted that, presently, Mr. Rohde is requesting authorization from Mr. Barber on Mr. Niemann's behalf, to be considered a NY resident for invitational purposes.

(2) **Actively Representing Connecticut Interests at the National Level.** One of the effects of attending the maximum number of workshops and meetings was a demonstration of Connecticut participation and interest in USCF. I contributed to discussion of matters under review at the Denker/Barber, Collegiate, Women's, Scholastic, States, GTF, Bylaws, and Ethics workshops, and the EB's first Open Meeting. Also, I undertook support and amendment of a Delegate's Motion to amend meeting procedure, proposed by two Arizona Delegates. Although the motion failed, I was able to compromise a friendly amendment and exhibit a solid presentation before the EB and the Delegates, improving the overall support of the motion from around 10% at workshop to near 40% at the Delegates Meeting. The effort allowed Connecticut to gain some additional Delegate support and exhibit the enthusiasm of Connecticut efforts. It also gave me an opportunity to support a worthy cause, proposed by two outstanding long time Delegates to open the Delegates Meeting on Day 2.

Meanwhile, to establish Connecticut influence at the national level, I made efforts to gain selection to a USCF committee. Unexpectedly, instead of one selection, I received two committee posts: the highly complicated and politically charged Governance Task Force, examining the governance structure of the USCF in light of its 501c3 mission, and the coveted Bylaws Committee, reviewing and proposing USCF legislation.

Finally, a variety of other networking, introduction and communication efforts were employed to gain more exposure and collect as much available information as possible for the benefit of our chess community.

(3) **Resources.** There are many resources for Affiliates and particularly State Affiliates to tap into with US Chess from program funding to memberships funding to DGT boards for game broadcasting to 501c3 assistance to women's chess grants to initiating journal publication and marketing to organizing a USCF event. I made introduction with most, if not all, contacts for these resources. After focusing on this part of the mission, I can represent that Affiliates need only decide on their task and then address the USCF for potential sources of support. Chances are that something is available.

My resource priority was discounted memberships for scholastic players in need. However, I decided not to submit an Advance Delegate's Motion, having no background on the subject available from USCF. Instead, I decided to attempt to gain momentum for the motion during the three days leading up to the Delegates Meeting and submit the Motion at the General Membership Meeting, an alternative motion path. I also submitted the Motion to Carol Meyer for presentation to the EB, which resulted in a one-on-one discussion with Allen Priest, USCF President, who very specifically declined support for anything that would limit USCF revenue. USCF revenue is heavily membership reliant.

However, he directed me to the US Chess Trust, and I was able to gain support there for obtaining free scholastic memberships through their cross-funding. Thus, free US Chess scholastic (and possibly non-scholastic) memberships may be obtained for persons in need, who communicate such need to the CSCA. CSCA can set up a program to manage such requests.

My next resource priority was bringing a US Chess event to Connecticut. The biggest issue with this venture would be locating a hotel/convention center that could adequately house the event. Apparently, Connecticut is short on such larger convention space, and we would likely be limited to the annual U.S. Open, including the USCF Annual Meeting, or the National High School Championship. If the CSCA Board is interested in such a venture, an effort can be made to propose a Connecticut location for such event. The earliest an event can be brought to Connecticut is 2023.

(4) **Answers to CSCA Questions.** I received only one question/concern from the CSCA Board for USCF. Norman Burtness submitted a general idea for a Delegate's Motion on the subject of improving/revamping the USCF website, specifically the TD interface for rated tournaments. I submitted this request as an oral inquiry at the first Open EB Meeting, directing it to Carol Meyer, who discussed the soon to be ongoing website and database project. Her response was as follows:

At this time, the USCF is initiating an 18 to 24 month updating and rebuilding project for the website, for which a contractor was approved (this Annual Meeting). The priority in the project is the import of all USCF data into their computer and web systems. The rating system will not be touched during this time. Although technical support will continue to be provided, the rating system will not receive any further updates. Instead, upon the conclusion of Part 1 of the rebuild of the USCF database and website, USCF will initiate Part 2, which would include the construction of a brand new TD interface, anticipated for release in approximately two to three years from now. However, it is also possible that the TD interface will be moved to a Part 3 of this lengthy project, delaying its release further.

(5) **State of the USCF.** Following the 2013/2014 finalization of the USCF's 501c3 status with the IRS, the organization has been in a slow process of transition to meet its adjusted purpose and mission. The Federation is financially secure, and has made great advances in organizing and developing its limited financial resources in an exemplary manner.

Meanwhile, the current priorities at USCF are to (1) establish a steady flow of donors and (2) meet the requirements of its reported purpose. The major obstacle or political struggle to attain these goals is the fairly recently created separation of Directors from Delegates, which made the EB the USCF Directors. This core amendment requires many structural changes to be put into practice. For that reason, EB and the Executive Director ended the Delegates Meeting declaring a "need for change" from the Delegates. The precise nature and parameters of that change are still being explored.

I should note that the 501c3 status is widely viewed by the Delegates as a positive quality for chess organizations, and the Delegates went so far as to propose a motion for USCF to provide undetermined support to State Affiliates to apply to the IRS.

Finally, many of the problems facing CSCA at the state or local level is common to other Affiliates and to the USCF. If CSCA needs input on potential solutions to a variety of obstacles, it is possible a tried solution may be obtained from the experience of other organizations.

Report Submitted 10/18/2019

Alexander Lumelsky
2019 CT Delegate to USCF

Report in re: NECA Annual Meeting

CSCA Annual Meeting 2019

As Board Member at Large, I attended the New England Chess Association's annual meeting on August 31, 2019 in Boston, Massachusetts. Present were the officers and representatives of five of the seven NECA regions and the other Members at Large. Vermont and Western Massachusetts were not in attendance.

My mission ahead of this meeting was to attain an Officer's position to increase Connecticut participation and influence at the regional level, as well as to increase the activity of the organization. The alternative to the unlikely possibility of an officer's position becoming available was to initiate and chair a committee. NECA presently (pre-meeting) serves a very limited function with no committees.

In brief, I was elected Vice President of NECA. I will be working with Bob Messenger, reelected NECA President, on any administrative tasks NECA performs during the year.

My motion to create the Committee on Scholastic Chess also passed, and I was appointed Chair. The Committee opens lines of communication to all seven NECA regions for information and potentially project exchange/share among its member organizations. Just weeks ago, I received commitment from all seven NECA regions to participate on the Committee.

Bidding for the NECA's main event: the New England Open is open until November 1. A bid by the Maine Association was offered but withdrawn for further revisions. Past NEO events were organized by SENECA (RI) and MACA (MA). By way of advice, if the CSCA is interested in submitting a bid, planning for it should commence in the spring. Bids for other NECA events are entirely open and have no deadline, as no other NECA events have ever been organized.

NECA also created a website committee on the motion of the former Vice President. Given my contributions on the subject, I was also appointed to serve on that committee. At this time, NECA does not maintain a web presence, but performs the web-based service known as the New England Clearinghouse.

Due to summer travels and school commitments, I was the only Connecticut official to attend the meeting, and thus am submitting this report in lieu of our appointed representatives.

Report Submitted 10/18/2019

Alexander Lumelsky
CSCA Board Member

BYLAWS OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION

1. NAME. The name of this organization shall be the "Connecticut State Chess Association" (CSCA).
2. PURPOSE. The CSCA shall be a non-profit organization affiliated with the United States Chess Federation ("USCF") as the official state chapter for the USCF in the State of Connecticut. As such, (1) the CSCA will pay its USCF affiliate membership dues when due and payable, (2) certify in writing to the USCF Secretary by November 1 the USCF Voting Members and Alternates from Connecticut and their method of selection, (3) sponsor and hold (or arrange for) an annual USCF State Championship, (4) have a formal organizational structure and bylaws with opportunity for USCF members to participate in the CSCA, (5) and any other duties and responsibilities of USCF State Affiliates mandated by the USCF.

Also, the CSCA shall encourage and promote chess in Connecticut, organize State-titled events, promote Scholastic and women's chess activities, co-ordinate chess tournaments, maintain a tournament calendar, maintain a directory of Connecticut chess clubs, and maintain a website (or disseminate a periodical).

3. DIRECTORS. The Board of Directors shall be composed of ten Directors who shall vote on CSCA matters. Each year, at the annual meeting, the adult CSCA members present shall elect Directors. In order to be nominated, the nominee must indicate his willingness to serve in writing or in person. All Directors shall serve five years or until their successors are duly elected. Vacancies shall be filled for their remaining terms at the next election.

December 8, 2018

The Board was temporarily increased to 12 Directors for 2018-19 only. The new seats will expire at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

"The Board and the Directors will act in the best interest of the Association, its membership and the Connecticut chess community." This statement will be included in every agenda and read at the beginning of every Board meeting.

4. OFFICERS. The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Tournament Coordinator, shall be elected by the Directors at a Board of Directors Annual Meeting for a term of one year, or until their successors are elected. A nominee must signify his willingness to serve, either in writing or in person, before he is voted on for office.

5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT. The President shall preside at meetings of the CSCA, enforce the Bylaws, call Board of Directors meetings when necessary, and sign papers and documents for the CSCA officers or appointees. The Vice President shall succeed the President if a vacancy occurs.

VICE PRESIDENT. The Vice President shall assume all meeting duties of the President when the President is absent, or when the President has to step down from the chair to debate an issue. The

Vice President takes over the office of President if that office is vacated.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR. The Tournament Coordinator shall organize, or supervise organizers for all CSCA tournaments. Such organization includes selecting assistants, playing conditions and rules.

TREASURER. The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping all the financial records of the CSCA, depositing and disbursing all funds, reporting on the financial status of the CSCA (including by preparing, not less often than annually, written financial reports, which shall be made available to the President, the Directors and the Members), making any investments, etc. Each of the Treasurer, the President and the Directors shall have access to all financial records of the CSCA, which shall be furnished no later than one month after the request.

Organizers winning bids for CSCA events are required to submit player dues in a timely fashion to the Treasurer upon conclusion of the event.

SECRETARY. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping all the non-financial records of the CSCA; preparing the agenda, handling correspondence, sending notices of meetings, taking and recording the minutes, and performing other assigned administrative duties.

DATABASE SECRETARY. The Database Secretary shall maintain records of current and past members, including but not limited to Name, USCF ID, and Email address. The Database Secretary shall maintain records on all players that play in state titled events. Organizers winning a bid for state events are required to submit player registration information to the Database Secretary in a timely fashion upon conclusion of the event. Player records will be used by the Database Secretary to help promote future CSCA events.

6. **MEMBERSHIP.** Any person may become a member of the CSCA by
 1. participating in a CSCA event during a calendar year, allowing the player CSCA membership for the remainder of the calendar year;
 2. or by paying \$5 for one calendar year's dues;
 3. or by paying \$100 for a Lifetime Membership.

Voting rights of each Member do not take effect until ten days after acquiring membership. This rule does not apply to (1) parents of scholastic members who have acquired membership through tournament play outside of this period and (2) renewals of current memberships.

7. **FISCAL YEAR AND MEMBERSHIP YEAR.** The fiscal year shall be the calendar year, running from January 1 through December 31. The membership year starts on the day membership is acquired and ends on the same date one year after membership was acquired.
8. **MEETINGS.** The election of Directors shall constitute the Annual Meeting. A special meeting of the members shall be called by the President upon written request of one-tenth of the membership age 17 or older, or if considered advisable by the President or a majority of the Board. The President or a majority of the Board shall set time and place of all special meetings and Board of Director meetings, if not previously determined. Director Meetings shall be open to all CSCA members. At any Board of directors Meeting the Directors may vote to go into closed session.
9. **QUORUM.** A quorum for a Directors Meeting shall be five Directors, or shall be 50% of all

current Directors. A quorum for any special membership meeting shall be ten percent of the CSCA members over age 17. There is no quorum requirement for the election of Directors.

10. RULES OF ORDER. Meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, on points not covered by these By-laws. No proxies or proxy votes are permitted.

11. AMENDMENTS. These Bylaws may be repealed or amended at any meeting of this association by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, voting in person or by absentee ballot.

Adopted May 20, 2000

Amended October, 2003

Amended September, 2007

Amended July, 2015

Amended April, 2018

Amended December, 2018

Amended May, 2019