

## NBCC Annual Meeting (06-06-2023 Draft)

The NBCC held its annual business meeting on the Tuesday June 06 2023 at the Armenian Church

1. Call to Order 7:13 PM
2. Attendance: 31 members at the beginning of the meeting plus 2 more who arrived after.
3. NBCC President Suhas Kodali and NBCC Secretary Mario Guevara-Rodriguez reviewed the minutes of the 2022 business meeting; after a brief deliberation, the members approved it. All 31 members present voted in favor.
4. Bob Cyr, NBCC historian, gave his report.
  - The major highlights of 2023 so far were covered.
  - The fastest rating increase was earned by young member David Mashkov.
  - The Most active member during the year NBCC Treasurer David Herscovici.
  - Mentioned that the honorary tournaments will be suspended until more members reach greater longevity in the club.
  - Gave an update on the Best Game of the Year and Grand Prix contests.
5. Presidents Report
  - Suhas gave an overview of the operations of the club in the last year.
  - He expressed his gratitude to the folks who help to set up and close the club every Tuesday, the TD's who help to run the tournaments, and a special mention to Norman Burtness for his dedication to conducting the Summer Open and Planet Earth tournaments.
  - He highlighted the success of the Youth Club and the Tuesday training sessions making it accessible to players of every level. He gave special thanks to all trainers for the time devoted to preparing every lesson.
  - A special mention for Estee Axelrad for her dedication to the youth club and her effort to open the club every week.
  - He mentioned the significant improvement in efficiency running the tournaments using the new Caissa chess software.
  - He asked all members for their feedback on the application and bylaws on the Non-profit 501(c)(3) project the Club wants to pursue . Obtaining the status the Club will be able to receive tax deductible donations, formalize its legal business status in Connecticut , grant legal protection to NBCC officers and volunteers.
6. VP Report
  - NBCC Vice President Justin Lalor has been working on a pro-bono basis to analyze, prepare, and draft all of the legal documents for the NBCC to obtain the legal status as a 501(c) (3) of the IRS Code of 1986. A thorough and rich exchange of ideas with NBCC members took place

- Mr. Lalor explained in detail every section of the ten articles of the NBCC bylaws project. He highlighted the following points:
  - The purpose as a nonprofit will be to foster chess education and national and international amateur sports competition.
  - An upfront cost needs to be considered.
  - The NBCC will be a member run organization.
  - The potential disadvantages of becoming a 501(c)(3): extra administrative and accounting workload, which were accepted by the members.
  - The club will be able to receive tax deductible donations and be exempted from paying sales tax on large purchases.
  - A vote took place to authorize the officers to proceed to file the 501(c)(3) status in the state of CT. The following changes were requested:
    - Grant the lifetime membership to members who already have it
    - Clarify the fiscal year prorated for Sep-Aug
    - Craft an easier mechanism to call the members meetings but considering a reasonable minimum quorum.
- The final vote was 32 members in favor and one abstention.

#### 7. Treasurer's Report

- NM David Herscovici explained his detailed and comprehensive treasurer's report. A copy for each member was distributed.
- He highlighted the positive change in the unrestricted net worth as a good sign for the financial health of the club.
- A motion to invest the cash surplus in a money market was mentioned.
- He informed the members about the prompt rent payments to the Armenian Church. Our chess club is a very good tenant.

#### 8. The election of officers/board members took place for the September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024 club year.

- The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary were re-elected unanimously to their positions for the following year.

#### 9. During the new business portion of the meeting, the following ideas were brought forth by the membership:

- A motion to perform more weekend tournaments was raised by one member. Suhas explained the cost benefit for the club has been marginal or negative compared to the significant effort, resources, and time to organize them. Only the Summer Open has brought positive balance for the club.
- Norman Burtness volunteered to organize a scholastic tournament during a weekend next year.

- Bob Cyr expressed his wish to proactively advertise the NBCC to increase youth beginners' membership.
- Mark Bourque raised the point about the long-time control in the open section and the option for students to choose a reduced time control. He recommended that every player in the open section should play with long time control. Suggestion to start round one earlier was presented.
- A motion to maintain the members' dues was presented, and a vote took place to approve it. The 32 members present voted in favor.

10. Without more points to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM with 32 members present.