

**Minutes from CSCA Board Meeting  
May 19, 2019  
Armenian Church, 1910 Stanley St, New Britain, CT 06063**

**I. Call to order (Armenian Church) 2:07 Mr Jan Van de Mortel**  
Notice of Meeting (Mr Van de Mortel)

**II. Roll Call**

Present Directors

Rick Bauer  
Norman Burtness  
Aashish Chopra  
Jen Hogrefe  
Suhas Kodali  
Alexander Lumelsky  
Derek Mansfield (left at 6:02 before the adjournment of the meeting)  
Derek Meredith  
Alex Palvinski  
Erin Striff (arrived at 2:23; left at 5:27 before the adjournment of the meeting)

Absent Directors

Fred Townsend (voted by Absentee Ballot)  
Rick Cheung (voted by Absentee Ballot)

Also Present

Jan van de Mortel, President  
Bryant Mercado, Treasurer  
John Fikiet  
Bob Messenger, US Chess Representative as observer pursuant to notice to CSCA from US Chess Delegates at Annual Meeting August 2018

**III. Preliminary Business**

1. Mr Lumelsky made a Point of Order to include a mission statement he wrote for Directors in the Bylaws and/or adopted as a rule to read and write on every meeting agenda.

*“The Board and the Directors will act in the best interest of the Association, its membership and the Connecticut chess community.”*

Mr. Fikiet stated that CSCA should create and adopt a constitution that includes Mr Lumelsky's statement. Mr Van de Mortel explained that since the CSCA does not currently have a constitution the statement would need to be placed in the Bylaws.

Mr Lumelsky motioned amend Section 3, “Directors,” of the CSCA Bylaws, and add:

*“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 every Board meeting.*

Motion passed: 8 votes in favor, 1 abstain

2. Mr Lumelsky motioned to remove unadopted text from the CSCA Bylaws:

a. Motion to remove unadopted text 3a) from the CSCA Bylaws

*“Subject to Change: 3a) A Director, at any time, seeking action to bring civil lawsuit against another director, the CSCA, or the USCF, shall be immediately removed from the Board, and the CSCA, and will be recommended by the CSCA for USCF removal.”*

Motion passed: 9 in favor, 1 abstain (Ms Striff)

b. Motion to remove unadopted text 6a) from the CSCA Bylaws

*“Subject to Change: 6a) being a current member of the USCF and residing in CT”*

Motion passed: 9 in favor, 1 abstain (Ms Striff)

#### **IV. Minutes**

1. CSCA Board Meeting Minutes 11/3/18

Mr Van de Mortel motioned to approve the 11/3/18 CSCA Meeting Minutes.

Motion passed: 9 votes in favor; 1 abstain (Mr Meredith)

2. CSCA Board Meeting Minutes 12/8/18

Mr Van de Mortel motioned to approve the 12/8/18 CSCA Meeting Minutes.

a. Mr Lumelsky motioned to amend 12/8/18 CSCA Board Meeting Minutes to better reflect the Amendment to the Bylaws explained in Item II.3. End of the second paragraph:

From: “The Board was increased to 12 Directors.”

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

Mr Burtness offered a friendly amendment to remove the word permanently because it was not discussed in the 12/8 meeting. Mr Lumelsky accepted this amendment.

Mr Van de Mortel motioned to amend the 12/8/18 CSCA Board Meeting Minutes Section II Item 3, “The Board was temporarily increased to 12 Directors for 2018-19 only. The new seats will expire at the 2019 Annual Meeting.”

Motion passed: 8 votes in favor, 2 abstain (Mr Bauer, Mr Meredith)

b. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to approve the amended 12/8/18 CSCA Board Meeting Minutes passed: 9 in favor, 1 abstain (Mr Meredith)

#### **V. President’s Report** *(copy attached)*

Mr Van de Mortel motioned to adopt the CSCA President’s Report for May 19, 2019.

Motion passed: 9 in favor, 1 abstain (Mr Meredith)

1. US Chess Membership Vouchers

Mr Van de Mortel explained that the vouchers expire on November 30, 2019, so they needed to be used by that date to receive a one year membership from the date of activation. Mr Burtness stated that the vouchers made organizing scholastic tournaments much easier, and he appreciated having them.

2. CSCA Website

a. Mr Lumelsky asked if there was any update on the status of Mr Celone’s website. Mr Mansfield said he did not receive any response to his communication efforts.

b. Mr Van de Mortel updated the logo on the webpage to the US state affiliate logo provided by US chess. Mr Lumelsky requested the webpage also include the CSCA logo.

c. Mr Van de Mortel wrote three newsletters (sent February, March, and May) to update CSCA Membership on tournament results, updates, announcements, and upcoming events.

d. Mr Van de Mortel currently has 490 contacts (289 emails) for the CSCA. The Membership list, currently 366 members, is on the website.

e. Mr Van de Mortel stated he will add a menu option "Join CSCA," with paypal link, to the website.

### 3. Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Mr Lumelsky motioned to adopt the Bylaws Committee. Mr Burtness made a Point of Order that all motions, unless critical or Point of Order, should be made during Unfinished Business or New Business. Mr Van de Mortel explained that he felt the motions he proposed in regards to the Bylaws could be looked at individually, and if the Board was not ready for the changes he would talk about the Committee again. Mr Lumelsky withdrew his motion.

### 4. Events

Many Directors provided kudos for the CSCA organized 2019 CT K-12 Scholastic Championship.

### 5. Two Controversial Directives

Mr Meredith, personally involved in one controversy, stated he felt Mr Van de Mortel's controversial directives were fair and always with the best interest of chess, the CSCA, and all those involved.

## **VI. Treasurer's Report**

1. The CSCA currently has \$5356.25 in a bank account opened by Mr Van de Mortel, Mr Mercado, and appointed assistant, Matthew Chin, at People's United Bank.

2. Mr Burtness requested for future reports to include income and disbursement separated by tournament or event. Mr Mercado explained different accounting methods he could use for future reporting.

3. Mr Bauer asked if all debts had been paid. Mr Van de Mortel reported that all debts had been paid from 2017-2019 except one organizer, Connecticut Chess Organization/Alexander Lumelsky.

4. Mr Burtness stated that over the past year he was accused, publicly, of withholding funds, and was not willing to remit funds owed while he had no confidence in the Treasurer. Since CSCA has a new Treasurer he paid past debts. Mr Van de Mortel confirmed that both the reason for withholding payment was reported previously and the debt has been fully paid.

5. Mr Bauer wanted it noted that the previous Treasurer did turn over the treasury. Mr Van de Mortel confirmed that Mr Milardo did turn over the money indicated on his last Treasurer's Report to the CSCA.

## **V. Tournament Coordinator's Report** *(copy attached)*

### 1. Bidding rules compliance

Mr Lumelsky explained that bidders were mostly compliant with new bidding rules.

### 2. Resolution of bidding rules non-compliance

Mr Lumelsky stated that there were two incidences of non-compliance. Mr Van de Mortel managed one, discussed in the President's Report. Mr Lumelsky resolved the other with Chess Haven. He explained that

after the bid was accepted, Chess Haven posted the event with five levels of fees, and the lowest cost expired five days after the bid was accepted. He reconciled this by having them follow the previous year's model with three levels of fees, and also offering regular registration for almost a month after posting.

3. Post event non-compliance

Mr Lumelsky stated that deposits by Organizers to CSCA and post event reporting still need testing.

4. Polgar nominee

Mr Lumelsky stated that the Polgar Invitational, which was unknown to him and unplanned for, did not have a nomination process. Mr Van de Mortel and Mr Lumelsky agreed to use the rating list from March to nominate Katherine Hatcher. Jasmine Su was nominated as the alternate.

5. Committees

Mr Lumelsky created several committees. He explained each of them in more detail:

a. Tournaments Planning Committee was co-created with Mr Van de Mortel and Mr Lumelsky. Members were appointed by Mr Van de Mortel.

b. Scholastic Programs Committee was created for CSCA to work with the Grants Officer to fund scholastic programs. This Committee is in its infancy and members would have to be organized with the Grants Coordinator.

c. Organizers Committee was created for Organizers to have their views represented to the CSCA in preparation for tournaments and other things. All known Organizers were sent an invitation to have one representative join the Committee. There were five Organizers on that Committee.

d. Committee on Women's and Girls Chess has one committee member, Lisa Smith the Chair.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

Mr Van de Mortel withdrew his submitted motion because it was redundant after the amended 12/8/18 CSCA Meeting Minutes was accepted. The motion stated:

*“Amendment 5/9/19*

*Until the 2019 Annual Meeting there will be twelve Directors. The three Directors tied for the tenth Board seat in the election of Directors at the 2018 Annual Meeting on 11/3/18 will serve as tenth, eleventh, and twelfth Directors. Their terms will expire in 2019.”*

Mr Bauer discussed having the Board increased to twelve Directors permanently. Mr Burtness expressed his concern that if the Board deliberately expanded it might not have committed Directors to establish quorum, which was an issue in the past. Both Mr Burtness and Mr Lumelsky explained that the CSCA Bylaws would need to be reformatted for twelve Directors, and Mr Lumelsky stated this should only be done after considering if twelve Directors was wise and in the best interest of the Association. Mr Van de Mortel advised Mr Bauer to discuss this with the Bylaws Committee.

**VIII. New Business**

1. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to organize the 2020 CT K-12 Scholastic Championship, 2020 CT State Championship and 2019-20 National Nominations Candidates' Tournament in-house.

Mr Lumelsky, Tournament Coordinator, stated he fully supported CSCA running these tournaments. Mr Bauer asked for an estimated Organizer's fee. Mr Van de Mortel said in the past he charged a flat fee of \$550 (less for tournaments with few participants) as a Tournament Director and Organizer. This fee included collecting entries, answering questions, publicity for the event, planning the event, and a ratings report. He explained that this does not include payment for assistants, which is contingent on the number of participants, needed to oversee the playing area. Mr Lumelsky stated that at the Annual Meeting the CSCA, just like a bidder, will submit a budget for the events for the Board to approve. Mr Meredith ex-

pressed satisfaction with the probable fees, and he stated he would prefer to see Certified TDs hired to assist. Mr Burtness inquired about the process for determining who will organize the events. Mr Van de Mortel assured the Board that if no one assumed responsibility he would do it. Mr Lumelsky stated that according to the CSCA Bylaws the Tournament Coordinator is responsible.

Motion passed: 10 in favor

2. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to offer the following 2019-2020 CT State Championship events up for bid

- 2020 CT Scholastic Girls' Championship
- Legs 1-4 of the 2019-20 National Nominations Grand Prix
- 2020 CT Scholastic Grade Championship
- 2020 CT K-12 Scholastic Quick Championship
- 2020 CT K-12 Scholastic Blitz Championship
- 2020 CT Blitz Championship
- 2020 CT Quick Championship
- 2020 CT Senior (50+) Championship

Mr Lumelsky offered a friendly amendment to include:

- 2020 CT K-12 Scholastic Bullet Championship
- 2020 CT Women's Championship

Mr Burtness offered a friendly amendment to include:

- 2020 CT Rapid Championship

Mr Van de Mortel accepted all friendly amendments and motioned to offer the following 2019-2020 CT State Championship events up for bid:

- 2020 CT Scholastic Girls' Championship
- Legs 1-4 of the 2019-20 National Nominations Grand Prix
- 2020 CT Scholastic Grade Championship
- 2020 CT K-12 Scholastic Quick Championship
- 2020 CT K-12 Scholastic Blitz Championship
- 2020 CT K-12 Scholastic Bullet Championship
- 2020 CT Blitz Championship
- 2020 CT Quick Championship
- 2020 CT Senior (50+) Championship
- 2020 CT Rapid Championship
- 2020 CT Women's Championship

Motion passed: 10 in favor

Mr Lumelsky requested that anyone that was interested in organizing, or knew someone that might be interested in organizing, to please share their information. Mr Van de Mortel stated he will send out a newsletter and an email blast through US Chess asking for bids.

3. Mr Lumelsky submitted a motion to reimburse 2018-19 CT Delegate to US Chess, Mr. Alexander Lumelsky, for travel expenses incurred in attending the US Chess Annual Meeting on behalf of the CSCA, held in Orlando, Florida in August, flight and hotel: \$853.11 (meals and auto transport not requested for reimbursement).

Mr Lumelsky stated that representing CSCA Membership at the US Chess Annual Meeting is critical every year, but particularly while CT was on notice. In addition, if present CT could petition the US Chess to adopt a cheaper option for US Chess membership; and CT could also request to bring a national tournament to the state. Mr Meredith stated that the request for reimbursement was not unreasonable. Mr Van de Mortel stated that he preferred to table the decision until after the Annual Delegates Meeting when the Board has information on all Delegates that attend.

Mr Van de Mortel motioned to table the motion to reimburse 2018-19 CT Delegate to US Chess, Mr. Alexander Lumelsky, for travel expenses incurred in attending the US Chess Annual Meeting on behalf of the CSCA, until after the Delegates' Meeting.

Motion passed: 7 in favor, 1 against, 2 abstain

Mr Lumelsky asked Membership to contact him before June 1st with any matters that they would like to see brought before the US Chess Delegates.

4. Mr Bauer motioned to honor one or two past members (champions, presidents, TDs) each year with a written certificate and perhaps a lifetime membership.

Mr Van de Mortel offered a friendly amendment to remove the word "perhaps" and provide lifetime membership. Mr Burtness questioned how individuals would be selected. Mr Van de Mortel said other Chapters have Membership nominate and vote to honor individuals at their Annual Meeting. Mr Lumelsky offered a friendly amendment as replacement: "Motion to create a standing Awards Committee to determine, select, and recommend individuals and honors for Board consideration." Mr Lumelsky explained that this would allow the research and debate over nominees to take place inside a Committee. This was accepted by Mr. Bauer.

Mr Van de Mortel motioned to create a standing Awards Committee to determine, select, and recommend individuals and honors for Board consideration.

Motion passed: 10 in favor

5. Mr Burtness motioned for the CSCA to investigate all the locations where chess is being played in the state.

Mr Burtness explained that one of the missions of the CSCA is to support all chess clubs in the state, but this is difficult because many scholastic and adult clubs are not known by the CSCA. He proposed that the Directors find, visit, and gather information for our website to promote chess in CT. Mr Van de Mortel said he would add an option to report a chess club on the website. Ms Hogrefe said she would like to see the CSCA provide educational support, such as basic instructional materials and/or reduced cost supplies, to new clubs, with interest, in the future.

Motion passed: 9 in favor, 1 abstain

6. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to remove Amendment 3b of the CSCA Bylaws:

*"At no time shall the Board be composed of more than 30% of Directors (3 directors for a full Board) from the same local chess club. If this situation occurs due to resignation or failure to fill a director's position, or for any other reason, then one or more directors must step down until the Board is in compliance with this rule."*

Mr Van de Mortel explained that he recommended removing Amendment 3b because it is not enforceable. The CSCA does not have every club's membership list and is not likely to get them. In addition, he stated, Connecticut has few clubs and many players have membership to more than one club.

Motion passed: 10 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstain

7. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to amend Section 5, "Treasurer," of the CSCA Bylaws to be replaced by:  
*"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. Organizers winning bids for CSCA events are required to submit player dues in a timely fashion to the Treasurer upon conclusion of the event."*

Mr Van de Mortel explained that the change will enhance financial transparency by allowing the Board and Membership access to CSCA financial information. Mr Mercado asked for clarification on how long the Treasurer had to produce a Treasury Report when requested. He felt that monthly was reasonable. Mr Meredith, Mr Bauer, and Mr Burtness agreed. Mr Bauer suggested adding one month to the motion as a friendly amendment. Mr Van de Mortel accepted.

Mr Townsend, not present, stated by email that he would like to see two signatures required on every check written by the CSCA. Mr Van de Mortel explained that this was not a service offered at many banks, including the bank furnishing the CSCA bank account, so to implement double signatures would require opening a new account at another bank. This would entail an additional monthly fee and require a minimum balance of \$3000. Mr Burtness said that he did not feel double signature was reasonable. Mr Van de Mortel said he was not in favor of adding double signature.

- Mr Van de Mortel motioned to amend Section 5, "Treasurer," of the CSCA Bylaws to be replaced by:  
*"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."*

Motion passed: 10 in favor

8. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to amend Section 6, "Membership," of the CSCA Bylaws and add:  
*"Voting rights of each Member do not take effect until ten days after acquiring membership."*

Mr Van de Mortel explained that this change is to improve security of the CSCA at the Annual Meeting by reducing individuals that show up only to influence the annual elections. Ms Hogrefe offered a friendly amendment of reducing the time to five days. Mr Lumelsky and Mr Chopra stated that this motion unfairly targeted parents of scholastic players because despite their children having active CSCA membership parents must have the foresight to buy membership for themselves ten days before a meeting. Mr Burtness suggested adding a membership question for parents to join the CSCA on scholastic tournament registration forms. Ms Striff stated that restricting membership unintentionally suppresses part of the population from voting because scholastic parents have an additional step to take that adult CSCA members

do not. Mr Meredith stated the CSCA needed to address the disenfranchisement of scholastic players, which makes up 80% of Membership and dues. Mr Bauer said the Bylaws Committee had not resolved how to give parents voting rights in situations with multiple children. Mr Meredith, Ms Striff, Mr Burtness, and Ms Hogrefe all agreed one vote per family. Mr Meredith asked Mr Van de Mortel if he would add voting rights for parents as a friendly amendment. Mr Van de Mortel said no that he did not think the Board was ready to decide voting rights of parents before getting more input and discussing potential problems, including how it would be enforced.

Mr Lumelsky offered a friendly amendment: "This rule does not apply to (1) parents of scholastic members acquiring membership through tournament play and (2) renewals of current memberships." Mr Burtness and Mr Kodali offered friendly amendments to the amendment. "This rule does not apply to (1) parents of scholastic members that have acquired membership through tournament play outside of this period and (2) renewals of current memberships." Mr Lumelsky accepted the friendly amendments. Mr Van de Mortel accepted Mr Lumelsky's friendly amendment and said this allows those that are involved in CSCA through their child to still participate.

Mr Van de Mortel motioned to amend section 6, "Membership," of the CSCA Bylaws by adding:

*"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 ten day period and (2) renewals of current memberships."*

Motion passed: 9 in favor, 1 abstain

9. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to amend section 7, "Fiscal Year and Membership Year," of the CSCA Bylaws, to be replaced by:

*"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."*

Mr Van de Mortel explained on the first of January each year the CSCA has three remaining members, the lifetime members, which means if one wanted to call a meeting they could. He felt for this reason and for practical reasons membership should run for a year, like it does in other Chapters.

Motion passed: 11 in favor, 1 against (Mr Cheung)

10. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to retroactively apply Section 7 to all new members in 2019.

Mr Burtness offered a friendly amendment that the statement should read "to all members." Mr Van de Mortel accepted this.

Mr Van de Mortel motioned to apply Section 7, "Fiscal Year and Membership Year," of the CSCA Bylaws, "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" to all members.

Motion passed: 10 in favor

11. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to amend Section 8, "Meetings," of the CSCA Bylaws, to be replaced by:

*"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."*

Mr Van de Mortel explained that the only change was that the majority of the Board would now have the ability to call a meeting. Mr Lumelsky asked how a priority would be set if two meetings were called for the same time. Mr Burtness said whoever calls it first. Mr Lumelsky asked how this impacts the Presidency since the President has exclusive control of the agenda. Mr Van de Mortel said this implicitly authorizes whoever calls the meeting to set the agenda.

Motion passed: 11 in favor, 1 against (Mr Cheung)

12. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to table the two remaining submitted motions.

Motion denied: 2 in favor, 5 against, 2 abstain

13. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to recess 5:07

14. Mr Van de Mortel motioned to reopen 5:22

15. *(rescinded and expunged)*

16. Mr Lumelsky motioned to reimburse Connecticut Chess Organization/Alexander Lumelsky for litigation expenses related to CCO's organization of the 2017-18 CSCA scholastic tournaments, \$1396.38 in filing and service fees paid to Connecticut Superior Court and Connecticut State Marshal. (CCO is presently holding \$983 in CSCA fees from 2017 to 2018 CCO organized CSCA tournaments, pending resolution of the issue.)

Mr Lumelsky explained that he was asking for reimbursement for litigation fees, including the subpoena services to Mr Milardo, Mr Celone, and Mr Gregory for CSCA records, but no records were received. Mr Lumelsky stated that all receipts would be provided to the Treasurer, if the motion was accepted.

Mr Lumelsky stated, Mr Celone, as part of a political dispute, scheduled a meeting to re-award Mr Lumelsky's awarded CSCA sanctioned tournaments that had already finished or were already organized. Mr Burtness explained that the Mr Lumelsky had an imminent threat that the students he was representing would be disenfranchised and any awards or titles (like CT representative) won would be threatened or invalid if the tournaments were no longer CSCA sanctioned. Mr Lumelsky filed the lawsuit to protect his tournaments from being re-awarded. Mr Van de Mortel and Mr Burtness explained that Mr Celone stated by email the meeting (and re-awarding of tournaments) was canceled due to the lawsuit. Mr Meredith said that this lawsuit was necessary to protect the sanctity of Mr Lumelsky's tournaments, and it was with good intent, supported by many, and believed to be in the best interest of CT chess. The lawsuit was withdrawn after the events were completed.

Mr Lumelsky explained the other portion of the lawsuit was the allegations of theft in the Association. He said it exposed the financial situation to Membership, to the CSCA, and to US Chess. Mr Bauer felt that litigation had a negative impact, and the proposed reimbursement was too much of a burden on the CSCA's current budget.

Mr Lumelsky stated that CCO still has the CSCA fees from 2017-18 in escrow, as disputed funds, because CCO was forced to file a lawsuit to protect the contracted tournaments. Mr Lumelsky explained that it is

legal procedure when an amount is in dispute to put the money into escrow until the parties resolve the issue.

Mr Van de Mortel motioned to reimburse Connecticut Chess Organization, Mr. Alexander Lumelsky for litigation expenses related to CCO's organization of the 2017-18 CSCA scholastic tournaments, \$1,396.38 in filing and service fees paid to Connecticut Superior Court and Connecticut State Marshal, pending receipt of receipts for these costs.

Motion passed: 4 in favor, 1 against (Mr Bauer), 3 abstain (Mr Lumelsky, Mr Pavlinks, Mr Kodali)

**XI. Adjournment 6:41 Mr Van de Mortel**

Mr Van de Mortel motioned to adjourn. Motion passed: 8 in favor.

## CSCA President's Report

After the meeting of December 8, 2018, with the help of a number of people some changes were made to and for the Association:

- Alexander Lumelsky prepared the documents to reinstate “The Connecticut State Chess Association, Incorporated” as a domestic/non stock corporation with the State of Connecticut. After the CSCA was dissolved as a legal entity on April 22, 1981, it was reinstated on December 28, 2018.
- On January 3, 2019, Treasurer Bryant Mercado, his appointed assistant Matthew Chin and Jan van de Mortel opened a bank account with People's United Bank.
- Early January a PayPal account was opened, under the new CSCA's new email address [CTStateChessAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:CTStateChessAssociation@gmail.com).
- On March 1, 2019, just prior to the 2019 CT K-12 Scholastic Championships, Alexander Lumelsky arranged liability insurance for the CSCA, and the Association is insured with Twin City Fire Insurance Company until March 1, 2020.

### **Summary of events and directives:**

#### **2019 CT K-12 Scholastic Championship**

In a change from the past, the CSCA Board elected to organize the 2019 CT K-12 Scholastic Championship in-house. The tournament was held on March 2, 2019 at Manchester High School. Arrangement of the date, location and the trophies was handled by Alexander Lumelsky. registrations and Tournament Direction was in the hands of Jan van de Mortel, while Suhas Kodali made himself available to analyze chess games with participants on the day itself. Manchester HS Chess Club members and their coach Parag Joshi were invaluable in helping with setup, breakdown and other logistics. Five (former) UConn students assisted with Tournament Direction.

#### **US Chess Membership Vouchers**

Manchester High School offered their premises at no charge to the CSCA. In return, all members of the Manchester High School Chess Club received a free entry to the tournament and a US Chess annual membership. It was decided to buy 25 US Chess memberships in bulk for a reduced cost. These memberships can only be sold or given to scholastic players (K-12); they may not be resold for more than their cost to the CSCA (\$13 per membership). The CSCA still has 5 unused vouchers available. They are valid through November 30, 2019.

Note: given the overwhelmingly positive reactions by participants, parents, organizers and the school, it was decided to give the Manchester H.S. Chess Club a \$300 donation as a bonus and 'investment' in the future.

#### **CSCA Website**

After the last CSCA Board meeting a number of changes were made to the website. The old logo was replaced with a new one and under 'About' some items were removed while others were added. Current membership (of 349) is listed under 'Members'; under 'CT Coaches' anyone who offers chess lessons can have their contact information listed; 'Top Youth' displays the state's scholastic players currently ranked in the National Top 100 for their age and there is a separated menu that lists Chess Clubs in the state. We've also added a “Games” section which links to the CSCA's account on lichess.org.

The latest change is that on May 7, 2019, US Chess distributed a number of specialty logos for US Chess Affiliates as a style guide for use by different affiliates, "(...) to help keep US Chess on brand and to make sure we have consistent messaging across the country." The US Chess State Affiliate logo has been incorporated into the CSCA's website and incidentally its color scheme already goes very well with the website. I also started sending out CSCA Newsletters, but after a couple of successful distributions, the last one was marked as spam by the majority of recipient servers.

### **CSCA under previous leadership**

Through the end of 2017 and most of 2018, the CSCA and CT chess went through a tumultuous time. One of the components was an Ethics Complaint I filed with US Chess against the previous President of the CSCA for a number of ethical violations. I withdrew the complaint on November 8, 2018, for a number of reasons, one of them the election of a new Board to which my predecessor and the former Treasurer was not reelected. However, I still stand by my complaints, both against the previous President as the previous Treasurer, and feel that the new Board has to address the CSCA under previous leadership so this chapter can be closed for once and for all and the CSCA is protected from future actions by these two former Directors and Officers.

### **US Chess**

Until the US Chess Delegates' Meeting in August the CSCA remains no notice by US Chess. Possibly as a result of the "Connecticut Conflict", US Chess created the position of "Governance Coordinator" which they filled in October of last year. The Governance Coordinator is the main point of contact between state chapters and the US Chess Executive Board. A number of positive changes have occurred since, such as a regular "State President's Bulletin", the aforementioned specialty logos and one free email blast for each state chapter (which I intend to use for the notice of the Annual Meeting later this year).

### **Constitution & Bylaws Committee**

In January of 2019 I canceled a CSCA Board meeting to be held in Weston. The main purpose of this meeting was to bring a number of 'patches' to the CSCA Bylaws, as proposed by the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, to a Board vote. The meeting was never rescheduled because shortly after there was sudden loss of consensus within the Committee regarding some of the proposed changes. Since then the Committee has been dormant and the loss of consensus has not been addressed, for which I take full responsibility. A number of motions to amend the Bylaws that were discussed and appeared to have consensus in the Committee have been made for the meeting and are listed in the Agenda.

### **Two controversial directives**

Following the 2019 CT Senior Open Championship held by the New Britain Chess Club on March 2, 2019, I was requested by Tournament Director, organizer and CSCA Board member Norman Burtness to handle a situation involving the playoff for the title on March 10, 2019 between Derek Meredith and Mikhail Koganov. I agreed and made a decision on March 12, 2019 that was not without controversy.

While speaking to Norman on March 10, 2019, by coincidence I found out that unbeknownst to me the 2019 CT Rapid Championships had been scheduled for June 2, 2019, to be organized by Derek Meredith, Norman Burtness and Rob Roy in Coventry under the auspices of the CSCA. Due to circumstances I stepped in and made the decision that this event could not proceed as intended. This event will now take place on the same day, but organized solely by Norman Burtness at the New Britain Chess Club, still under the auspices of the CSCA.

If the Board or a Board member would like to know more from me about these events and the decisions I made, I'd be happy to go into more detail.

**2018-19 CT State Championship events**

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:

13. Total number of events: 12 (-3); total number of participants: 614 (+55, CT Quick pending)

Despite a delayed start of State Championship events by more than two months, total attendance is significantly up. This was mainly due to one event, the Grade Championship as organized by Chess Haven. Attendance for the NNGP was down, but because of time limitations the cycle had to be shortened to three legs instead of four. There were also a couple of new events, such as the Senior Open and the Scholastic Speed. The Senior Open had low attendance, while the Scholastic Speed proved to be a very challenging event from a Tournament Director's point view.

A number of players will represent Connecticut at National invitational tournaments this summer: Zachary Tanenbaum at the Denker (High School), Peter Wolfe at the Barber (K-8), Beatrice Low at the Girls' and Mikhail Koganov at the Senior Championship events.

For the 2019-20 cycle I will suggest that the CSCA again organizes the CT K-12 Scholastic Championship and NNCT (NNGP Final) in-house, but also add the CT State Championship to this list. The NBCC did a nice job this year and with the generous donations from Hanon Russell and DGT North America the prize fund received a nice boost. However, I strongly believe the CT State Championship should be the flagship of the state championship events and now that the CSCA has a better financial standing it should aim to improve the (player) conditions by means of offering to pay the strongest players in Connecticut to participate and increasing the prize fund.

Jan van de Mortel, President CSCA  
**May 2019**

## Connecticut State Chess Association Treasurer's Report

The first five months of recorded activity have been extremely productive for the Connecticut State Chess Association. The past five months saw the opening of the CSCA bank account, recovery of funds from the old CSCA treasurer, and the creation of the CSCA's current financial system. The current system is a single-entry cash basis system. What this means is that every entry is recorded once, and matched to one account (or in this case code) and that entries are recorded when cash enters and leaves our hands. This system was designed so that anyone can understand it without being an accountant.

Over this reporting period the organization received \$10,512.89 and paid \$5156.64. The CSCA currently has \$5356.25 to its name. Transactions have been grouped on the Treasurer's Report Summary by whether they were receipts or disbursements and then further broken down by type. Each receipt or disbursement category is given its own code for organization. This system was implemented to allow CSCA members to know where the organizations funds are coming from and where they are going. These codes are also on the Treasurer's Report Transactions page. The Summary page is intended to provide an overview of the organization and the Transactions page is available for anyone who would like to view the organization's financial history in greater detail. Supporting documents are available to the future financial oversight board and the board of directors of they so choose. Supporting documents are labeled Transaction\_X for each corresponding transaction number. Supporting documents were not included here today as printing them out would take multiple pages and they contain the identifying information of many CSCA members.

There are a number of improvements that can be made to the current system. The first is that the reporting of cash receipts can be made more consistent. Currently receipts are recognized by the date on the check, *or* the date the funds were available in the account. Neither of these is a perfect representation of when the cash is actually received. This can be resolved by switching to an accrual basis system which recognized income when it is earned and expenses when they are incurred rather than when they are received and paid respectively. This system is slightly more complicated in that it will not align with the bank's records but it will provide a more accurate picture of the organization's finances. The second improvement is a stronger set of supporting documents for the organization's records. The current system maintains a record of checks that have been written or received and receipts for reimbursements. A standardized system of paper invoices and receipts would make evaluating the organizations financial statements easier. A final improvement may be the inclusion of a vertical analysis or similar financial analyses in the Treasurer's report. The categorizations of items in the Summary page may also change depending on what new expenses the CSCA may incur or if a further breakdown of expenses is deemed necessary. Changes in categorizations will not however change the overall financial picture of the organization.

If any officers, board members, or general members have questions regarding the Treasurer's report I can be reached at [Bryant.Mercado@UConn.edu](mailto:Bryant.Mercado@UConn.edu). I am optimistic about the financial future of the CSCA and look forward to implementing the changes I have outlined today. The first year of financial reporting for the organization has been and will be the most difficult because it requires creating an entirely new financial system from scratch.