

**Minutes from CSCA Annual Meeting
November 3, 2018
Meriden Public Library**

I. Call to Order (Meriden Public Library) 2:30 PM Mr Derek Mansfield

1. Notice of Meeting (Mr Derek Mansfield, Vice President and Acting President in Jim Celone's absence)

Present Directors

Derek Meredith
Derek Mansfield (Vice President)
Robert Milardo (Treasurer)
Alexander Lumelsky

Absent Directors

Jim Celone (President)

Also Present

Rob Roy (Membership Secretary)
Rick Bauer (Acting Secretary)
Approximately 50 members, including UConn Chess Club members, New Britain Chess Club members, and approximately 20 scholastic players and their parents

Also present was US Chess representative Bob Messenger, as observer pursuant to notice to CSCA from US Chess Delegates at Annual Meeting August 2018.

II. Preliminary Business

1. Mr Alexander Lumelsky made a Point of Order that all meetings called and held in 2017-18 cycle year are invalid and all business held therein must be discarded due to various claims of violations of the Bylaws and other issues. Mr. Mansfield denied the resolution on the Point of Order on advice of Mr. Milardo, acting as Parliamentarian. Mr. Lumelsky appealed the Chairman's decision to the Assembly. After discussion on whether the appeal can be made to the Assembly, the matter went to the Assembly, and Assembly discussion ensued with the Chairman never submitting the Point of Order for a vote by the Assembly.

Mr Fred Townsend explained that years prior the Assembly voted to dissolve the Board by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote. Mr Norman Burtness moved to revoke the sitting board based on $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the membership. Motion was submitted to the Assembly and passed with nearly unanimous vote. All ten board positions were determined vacant and up for election.

III. Director Elections

The Assembly adopted an election procedure as follows: (1) Open nominations, (2) Printed secret ballot with each voter allowed to select 10 candidates from the list of nominees, (3) The top ten vote recipients being elected to the Board, (4) The length of term dependent on the order of vote recipients from most receiving 5 year term to least receiving 1 year term.

Some members challenged scholastic parents' right to vote in the election and argued the definition of member under the Bylaws. Mr. Rick Bauer distributed copies of the CSCA Bylaws to the Assembly (*Bylaws as distributed attached*). Mr. Lumelsky provided the membership fees with names to Mr. Milardo, \$125, that he collected ahead of the meeting. Parents and UConn members were determined vote-eligible members pursuant to the Bylaws. Mr Rob Roy registered and collected dues from other adult members prior to meeting.

1. The Chairman requested nominees for the Board.

Some members objected to nominations of individuals not present at the meeting and expressed their willingness to serve in writing via email. Lengthy discussion ensued, and nominees were found proper pursuant to the Bylaws and Point of Order by Mr Jerry Aiyathurai. The Assembly voted via majority vote to accept the nominees.

The final nominees were Rob Roy, Suhas Kodali, Derek Meredith, Norman Burtness, Rick Bauer, Matthew Tuccillo, Marguerite Christie, Alexander Lumelsky, Erin Striff, Aashish Chopra, Alexander Palvinski, Jennifer Hogrefe, Rick Cheung, Avery Hogrefe, Fred Townsend, Robert Milardo and Derek Mansfield.

2. Election

Motion by Mr John Fikiet to have nominees speak ahead of the election about their qualifications and motivation to serve on the CSCA Board. Motion seconded and carried by a majority vote of the Assembly.

Motion by Michelle Kollen to limit speeches to 20 seconds per candidate due to duration of the meeting. Chairman modified time to 1 minute per nominee, and the motion was adopted by the Assembly via majority vote.

Each nominee made their one minute presentation. Mr. Lumelsky, as the nominating party, made the presentations for Mr. Tuccillo and Mrs. Christie from their written email statements submitted ahead of the meeting. Mrs Vandna Chopra made the presentation for her husband, Mr. Aashish Chopra.

Votes were counted by US Chess representative Mr. Messenger with help of David Herscovici. Several parents left after submitting their ballots or as votes were counted.

The result of the vote was announced, and was as follows:

Alex Palvinski, 5 year term
Suhas Kodali 5 year term
Erin Striff 4 year term
Jennifer Hogrefe 4 year term (by agreement)
Alexander Lumelsky 3 year term (by agreement)
Rick Cheung 3 year term
Fred Townsend 2 year term
Norman Burtness 2 year term
Rick Bauer 1 year term

There was a three way tie for tenth place between Mr Meredith, Mr Chopra and Mr Mansfield.

The remaining members of the Assembly decided on a run off election between the three candidates tied for tenth place. Mr. Mansfield withdrew his nomination ahead of the vote. A run off vote was taken by show of hands and Mr. Meredith won the vote 17 to 12 over Mr. Chopra, as counted by the Chair.

Mr. Messenger delivered all ballots and counting sheets to Mr. Bauer for record keeping.

IV. Treasury Report

While ballots were printed by Mr. Jan van de Mortel, Mr. Milardo distributed his financial report. Mr. Burtness reviewed the report and requested actual evidence of the CSCA account. Mr. Milardo showed him a statement that he instructed Mr. Burtness to view but not touch. Mr. Burtness and other Board members reviewed the statement to determine that it was from 2015. Mr. Burtness addressed the Assembly objecting to the financial report and asking the Assembly not to vote for Mr. Milardo. In his own defense, Mr. Milardo stated that his wife was ill, and that he took the wrong statement for the meeting. Mr. Townsend spoke in support of Mr. Milardo's character, stating that he (Townsend) initially placed Mr. Milardo on the Board. Mr. Fikiet then responded with several instances of Mr. Milardo's past lack of competence and cooperation.

V. Statement from US Chess

While ballots were printed, Mr. Messenger read the following statement from US Chess:

The US Chess Executive Board is pleased to learn the RCSCA has withdrawn its challenge to the CSCA's role as State Chapter. The Board is encouraged by indications that people's time and energy now are being spent looking ahead for Connecticut Chess, not looking back. That said, until the 2019 Delegates' Meeting, the CSCA remains on notice that its status as the State Chapter is under review for compliance with:

- Article VIII, Section 2 (Functions) of the US Chess Bylaws which states, "Each State Chapter shall guide the chess activity within the state in a manner that provides representation to all groups of chess players within its state."
- The specifications of Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest #8 which call for state chapters to have a viable set of Bylaws, hold proper Scholastic Championships and other tournaments, and act responsibly in the best interests of the entire State Chapter membership.

Allen Priest, President

VI. Community Recognition and Promotion

While ballots were being counted, Mr. Bauer discussed the fine work being done by Dan Starbuck Pelletier and his Starbuck Foundation developing inner city chess. Mr. Lumelsky announced his non-profit project's, Connecticut Chess Organization, recent offer of support to Mr. Pelletier's programs.

Bob Cyr announced Mr. Burtness' tournament in West Hartford on November 10.

II. Adjournment 4:45 Assembly

Due to the library's closing time, the meeting was adjourned on Motion by the Assembly at 4:45 PM ahead of further elections and other business.

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.

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; deposit and disbursement of all funds, reporting on the financial status of the organization, any investments, etc. At any time both the Treasurer and the President shall have access to all financial records of the CSCA. Organizers winning a bid for state events are required to submit player dues to 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

a) participating in a CSCA event during a calendar year, allowing the player CSCA membership for the remainder of the calendar year; or by

b) paying \$5 for one calendar year's dues or by c) paying \$100 for a Lifetime Membership

7. FISCAL YEAR AND MEMBERSHIP YEAR. The fiscal year and the membership year both shall be the calendar year, running from January 1 to December 31.

8. MEETINGS. The election of Directors shall constitute the Annual Directors Meeting. A special meeting of the members shall be called by the President upon written request of one-tenth of the membership over age 17, or if considered advisable by the President. The President shall set the time and place of all special membership meetings, and Board of Directors Meetings, if not previously determined. Directors meetings shall be open to all CSCA members. The Directors, at any Board of Directors meeting, may vote to go into a closed session.

9. QUORUM. A quorum for a Directors Meeting shall be five 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, and ratified by a two thirds vote of the CSCA members over age 17 present at the following annual Board of Directors meeting.

Adopted May 20, 2000

Amended October, 2003

Amended September, 2007

Amended July, 2015