

NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY OF NORMAN BURTNES

The next NBCC member in line for his honorary tournament was Norman Burtness. Norman was introduced to chess by his father at the age of five and played the game regularly through high school. It would not be until thirty years later, however, when Norman began playing chess seriously again. Norman got introduced to the club by Daniel Rozovsky, a former member and one of his students at Hall High School. One day, Norman challenged Daniel to a game when he came to the High School Chess Club. After squeezing out of a jam in Norman's game, Daniel destroyed him. It was then, in 2011, that Daniel introduced Norman to our family. Since 2011, Norman has been one of the club's most steadfast supporters and contributors. He got involved in club management only a few years after joining the club. He served three years as vice president under USCF NM Derek Meredith and got his tournament directing certification during that time. He has directed numerous local and state tournaments at the club and at his school. In 2016, he was elected NBCC president. During his presidency, he was instrumental in making many changes to the club website, was instrumental in creating the club's first online payment system using PayPal for dues and tournament fee collections, was instrumental in enriching the club's weekly e-mails, and was instrumental in developing the training classes and recruiting students to the club. Norman currently serves on the Connecticut State Chess Association's Board of Directors and is a strong advocate for state chess. Norman also runs a chess club at Hall High. For those of you who know Norman well, like me, know that he is a man of integrity and character. He is a soft-spoken and kind man who has made significant contributions to the enrichment and promotion of the NBCC and Connecticut chess. He is a good friend who cares deeply about the welfare of our members. Norman retired from the NBCC presidency in 2020, which was a long-needed break from club management. Thanks to Norman for all that he has done for the club and for Connecticut chess. Winning the Norman Burtness Quick Chess Tournament was FM Nelson Castaneda. He was awarded a club chess set as his prize.