

Official Minutes of Meeting

Southwest Open September 2019 Recorded and Notated By Renate Garcia

Present: Tom Crane, Barb Swafford, Renate Garcia, Vish Viswanath, Tom Jones, Eddie Rios, Jim Hollingsworth, Regina Rios, Chuck Lo.

Teleconference participants: Dipika Das, Augustine Valverde, Alexey Root

Reading of the Minutes

At State several motions passed. Background checks- For all TCA events organizers are asked in good faith to screen Tournament Directors who work during scholastic TCA events. All TD will now need to pass a background check that is performed to verify non-criminal status. These screens will verify that the TD is cleared from sex offender lists, felonies and are cleared and approved to work in the proximity of children.

Financial Transparency- TCA events/ organizers will now be asked to turn in a profit and loss statement that demonstrates the tournaments revenue and expenses. This will be required for all TCA events.

Election Cycle- 2 year instead of one term

Treasurer Report

Treasure reports \$6,000 in one account \$5,000 in another account. The TCA memberships are down, but they are expected to spike during the Southwest Open. TCA offered a 500 stipend for travel to the delegates meeting.

Presidential Report

Bad year for being president. Many things happened. Many things went wrong. Jeff French long time and well-respected editor resigned. Texas Knights magazine was moved to be an online magazine. As TCA looked for a new editor, we sought how to bring the online version of our highly regarded magazine to life in the online version. Finally, our new Editor Louis Reed was appointed so we could get this task underway. In an effort to get more members involved in our association I implemented the Telecons. I strongly believe in their abilities to make this happen. We are a large state and we must make our communications with all regions stronger in order to get more business done. David Ortiz is now the new Region Director of Region 10. Shortly after his appointment I had the district coordinator contact me and ask what does TCA do for me? They then asked for reimbursements to run tournaments. In truth TCA needs you. They then asked for reimbursements to run tournaments.

There are too many people fighting over money in the state of Texas for hosting tournaments. Money should not be a driving force for the growth of chess.

In February, I heard through social media about the sanctions against Henderson Middle School in El Paso, Texas. They were alleged to be attending tournaments in New Mexico to lower their score in order to compete in the Nationals in the under sections. These sanctions that were imposed by the USCF is something that we are taking note of for events here in Texas as well.

The bid for the Regional in Region IV was not processed correctly. I have appointed a new Regional Director for the area, Renate Garcia.

While there were some bad situations happening, there were also some great things happening. State had great attendance, background checks and Profit and loss statements were added to our Bylaws. The Southwest Open was a Norm event and we very much would like to continue that. The Texas Amateur

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was successful as well as Mr. Hollingsworth's events. Such as the Texas Women's Championship, and the Veteran's Championship. Girls chess is also growing and we support the USCF initiative to support Women and Girls in Chess. The Red River Shoot out was also a huge success. The Texas Women's Championship broadcasted live video of the games via Twitch and they were broadcasted to several countries. The TCA website was one of two State websites who were featured at the USCF delegates meeting as a point for all to see.

The 2021-Armed Forces event will be held at Great Wolf lodge October 8 to 11 2021 and we are looking forward to that great event.

At this time, I would like to take a moment of silence to honor one of Chris Woods friends who passed away. Thank you.

Our finances were audited and we now have an updated amount for fundraising purposes.

There were over 11, 039 USCF tournaments in our state last year.

We have 4 new FIDE Arbiters. Our people fundamentally care about chess and work to grow chess for our State perpetuating good for chess. I like to personally recognize Barb Swafford for her 20 plus years of service and dedication to our organization. She is always there to help. However, we are looking to our younger generation to step up. If you are a club TD that you grow to a Local and so forth. We must look to our younger generation to keep the growth of our organization. WE must take the load off of Dallas Chess Club and spread the growth of our young leaders. We must make sure that our young people are given leadership spots and that they have opportunities to earn their higher credentials.

Our infrastructure and organization of the membership needs work. The answer that we are always asked about why you should join TCA and become a member is simple. To support chess. You are a member in an organization to see the growth of chess in your community and in the state of Texas. We serve over 268,000 square miles and we are continuing to grow. The future of TCA looks bright and we need your continued support to continue to grow.

We must actively push for Vish to get elected to the Executive Board. It seems fit since Texas has the largest membership and voting power. Everyone must register to have voting privileges.

Old Business

Elections- Two year term. President votes to implement this motion.

Mr Rios seconds this motion

24 in favor

5 phone

0 abstentions

Motions

Motion to make the Election effective immediately requiring a two-year term of office.

Unanimous 24 in favor

Motion- To designate The North Central Texas Girls event by MR Rob Jones as an official TCA event.

Mr Rios- states that this is a technically officially Scholastic event and Scholastic Events need to be handled as business during the Scholastic meeting at State.

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Phone Connection on teleconference is not working and has muted several callers. Some have lost connection.

Mr Hollingsworth called for a floor motion that the in person meeting is being disrupted for the teleconference calls and that those people who are in attendance spent money for a hotel and had a right to continue with the meeting.

Vish- Mr. Hollingsworth is out of order because although I (Vish) agree with him there is already a motion that is being discussed in regards to the event by Mr. Jones.

Mr Rios- This event needs to be tabled to be discussed at the Scholastic meeting at State as referenced in the Bylaws.

Mr Jones- Opposed the table motion and asked for consideration for his motion to be addressed during this meeting contrary to Bylaws because his people are all current present at this meeting and are here to speak to this Motion in person.

Mr Rios- Restated it didn't matter whether they were present or not since according to Bylaws Scholastic business needs to be handled in the Scholastic meeting at State.

President Crane- The girl's event is of importance and we need to find a way to work through this to get business done. (Page 20 letter T read aloud directed to attendees in meeting)

T. Texas Girls Regional Scholastic Championship. These shall be held in each of the Regions of the Association any time during the school year. These shall be organized according to the same guidelines as the Texas Girls Championship. These shall be open only to female students residing in or attending school in the same region as the tournament. A TCA region that does not hold a girls regional forfeits its priority in the next bidding cycle for the Texas Girls Championship. If a regional draws less than 50 players the previous year (or is not held), then the next year the regional can be held as an open event. It will be up to the organizer to decide whether out of region players can win trophies.

Rios- If the Region has less than 300 players run as an OPEN and extend invitation to players outside of the Region.

Mr Jones- A State event and a Regional are quite different than that of a Regional. As a State event we would have more chances for sponsors and be able to recruit more players. A state event is a higher stature and would generate more interest and bring more validity to the event. We may also be able to award scholarships and hold out for more scholarship money for players thus making the event more reputable.

Mrs R Garcia- Support Women in chess by starting with a Regional event and growing the area to establish more turn out and then eventually grow the State event. There are few regions that hold Regional events. We need to encourage more players to play in their Region and then grow.

Vish- I fully support running this tournament for next year with a Title but this year we must follow the Bylaws. I will support running this event with the intent of the regular rotation including Super State every three years.

President Crane- We are at a quandry. There should be no reason for us not to do more than one state event to accommodate different areas of the state.

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Mr. Rios- Girls bid was up and Mr Jones didn't submit for girl's event. I cannot support breaking the rules pass and motion contrary to Bylaws. We have run these Womens Events and we must preserve the tournaments integrity.

Mr. Hollingsworth- I agree with sticking with the Bylaws the one bid has been awarded. We must support all of TCA.

Vish- The Geographic distance is an issue but we need to think of everyone no matter of their location. Keep events together. I support Mr Jones events but we must follow the Bylaws to work together.

Mrs. Garcia- The integrity needs to be upheld of all events.

Mr Valverde (on phone) – (Attempted to interject but mute button was on and we could not hear and he could not get it to work)

Mr Jones- 16% of girls playing in the North Area of our State. In the Plano are we have 30% growth and that is on the rise as well. It would be wonderful to continue to grow the areas with the stamp of the TCA. I would like for us to vote on this proposed motion now.

Rios- Motion to table still stands as it is the business that needs to happen during our Scholastic meeting in State.

President Crane- Recognize the member on the phone- we cannot hear member

Mr Rios- I have 4 motions on the floor but I need to leave to get back on the floor I am due in the tournament room.

President Crane- I propose we table this motion until State.

7 in favor

15 opposed

President Crane- Do you realize you just voted to disregard the Bylaws. We are trying to get more members to have access and be able to participate using these teleconferences but sometimes the connection does not work. Apologize to those on the phone.

Mr Valverde-(on the phone) I like Mr. Jones motion.

Vish- Lets create something so Mr. Jones can run this coming year. Come up with a name Mr. Jones with what you want to call it and we will endorse.

Mr. Jones- Bragging rights are least of concern. We vote on this and get this done for our girls?

Vish- I second the motion.

Mr. Rios- We established the Girls State for a reason we support Girls in Chess that's not the problem. We have Bylaws to which we must follow. This should be discussed during the scholastic meeting in State.

Hollingsworth- We have a State Championship. Point of clarification is that we have the Regional Director in charge of Regionals, it is logical for him to be in charge of this event.

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Mr Rios- Proxy vote in favor of Mr Jones vote but we are not calling it a State event, The word TCA is not going to be in the title.

President Crane- This is not going to be a TCA even Withdraw your motion. This is part of letter T in Bylaws.

Vish- The reason we did not put a money amount in the Bylaws was because we were not sure what amount we would have in our account. You can decide to table this or continue.

Advance Motions

All Motions Submitted by Mr Rios will be table until State.

Stipend – Award \$200 stipend for Delegates attendees to the US Open.

Hollingsworth- Second Motion

7 in favor

1 no

Motion passed

Hollingsworth- His Motion Withdrawn due to it being a National Event but will be looking for TCA support

Texas Knights Editor not be considered as an Officer.

Mr Hollingsworth- Editor position is important but should not be an officer. Asked to put to vote.

Vish- No definition of staff in our Bylaws.

Dr. Root- (Via phone) How much do they get paid?

Ms. Swafford- \$400 per issue

Motion to change Job of Editor of Texas Knights Magazine Publication from Officer to staff member. Swafford- Second that motion

6 in favor

3 on phone in favor

1 abstention

Floor Motion:

Appoint Twitter admin the same pay as Facebook

President Crane- Twitter resulted in 1260 in donations.

Ms. Swafford- The pay for Facebook admin is 150/month.

Mr. Jones- It is good to have different media outlets.

Ms. Swafford- When we have made motions in the past we have not spoken about amounts.

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Mr. Hollingsworth- Twitter results are quick and immediate. It helps get the word out fast.

Ms. Garcia- This would help provide the younger players to stay in touch using Twitter and other modalities such as Instagram, snapchat or whatever we can to align with our effort to make TCA younger.

In Essence, After the new business and old business were concluded, Mr. Crane covered bid requests for the up coming year. Once concluded with awarding bids to specific tournaments, he went to the business of dealing with updating bylaws. He started with the fact that Texas Knights magazine is no longer a printed issue, and has been changed to online magazine. Changes will be made on our bylaws concerning current status of TK. Correction of there being 10 regions and not 8 anymore needs to be reflected as well. Discussion over membership rates and category changes in the bylaws update were tabled to next southwest open. And regional Directors now serve on TCA BOD as advisory only along with Past President, Tom Crane made motion, Jim Hollingsworth seconded. All other items were tabled till next meeting.

