

Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 8:00 Central Time



Agenda

The meeting will last no more than 90 minutes.

Voting is limited to those who are TCA members at the time of the meeting.

1. Call to order
2. President Address
3. Treasurer Report
4. Membership Report
5. Old Business
6. Junior Advanced Motions only
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

TCA Treasurer Report – April 25 2022

Income

September memberships	\$267.50
October memberships	403.00
November memberships	27.50
December memberships	60.00
January memberships	156.50
February memberships	232.50
March memberships	250.00
April memberships (so far)	182.50
2021 SW Open memberships	41.50
2021 Texas Grade Championship memberships	waived
2022 Texas Quick Championship memberships	303.00
2022 Regional Scholastic memberships	waived
Amazon Smiles	51.93
Benevity Fund	2,020.00
Network for Good	70.00
UKOGF Foundation	<u>1.20</u>
Total	\$4,067.13

Expenses

Chess Set Program	109.50
TK July-March	1,772.39
Web Administrator	600.00
Web Page renewal	120.00
Texas Delegates	900.00
Obituary Flowers for Charles Ray Flores	160.42
Secretary Recorder	<u>63.82</u>
Total	\$3,726.13

April 25 2022

WF checking account balance	\$13,718.53
BOA checking account balance	\$28,285.67

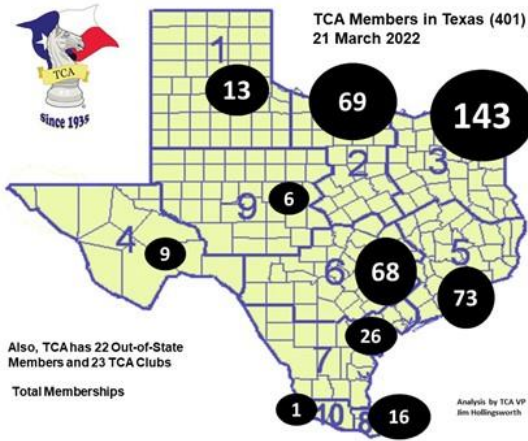


TCA Membership Trends

March 2022

By TCA Vice President Jim Hollingsworth

- **March's TCA Membership is 446**
 - Texans 401
 - Out-of-State 22
 - Clubs and School Clubs 23
 - Lost 207 Junior Online Memberships
- **February's TCA Membership was 670 (highest ever)**
 - Texans 628
 - Out-of-State 20
 - Clubs and School Clubs 22
 - No February Report published due to Time Constraints
- **Key Membership Types for March 2022:**
 - Regular and Regular Non-subscriber 107
 - Family and Family Online 97
 - Junior and Junior Online 92
 - Lifetime Patron and Lifetime Regular 46
 - Patron and Family Patron 46



TCA Membership Trends by Region as of March 31, 2022 (daily totals)

(Analysis by TCA VP Jim Hollingsworth)

Region	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	
01	10	10	10	10	5	4	5	5	5	32	33	33	33	31	31	31	32	31	31	31	32	32	32	11
02	56	60	61	65	77	81	87	88	89	121	124	126	126	106	88	88	93	96	89	89	94	94	94	64
03	103	112	120	120	65	65	68	80	88	250	255	260	264	247	252	263	301	305	296	296	300	296	136	
04	12	13	16	13	12	13	13	13	11	11	11	10	7	6	6	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
05	46	62	69	69	66	64	64	65	63	66	71	71	73	55	59	61	73	65	64	63	62	70	71	
06	42	45	44	44	27	30	33	35	39	44	46	50	54	54	66	71	85	82	75	75	73	71	64	
07	17	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	23	23	23	21	6	13	13	12	13	13	25	25	26	26	
08	29	30	31	31	30	30	30	30	30	30	29	29	29	15	15	15	15	12	12	12	12	12	15	15
09	4	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	5	
10	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Out of State	13	14	15	13	10	10	10	10	10	9	9	11	13	10	13	12	13	13	13	13	13	13	20	22
Memberships	336	398	428	415	313	327	340	357	366	595	612	622	631	537	549	566	641	644	619	620	627	648	423	

All Membership Types by Region as of March 21, 2022

(Analysis by TCA VP Jim Hollingsworth)

Membership Type	Region										Out-of-State	Grand Total	%
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X			
Regular	2	11	23	12	14	2	1				6	71	15.9%
Family	4	12	23		19	5	3	3				69	15.5%
Junior		6	12	13	12	16			1		2	62	13.9%
Regular Non-subscriber		11	14	1	4	4			1	1		36	8.1%
Lifetime Regular	1	9	8		3	6	3	2	1		2	35	7.8%
Family Patron	4	3	5	4	3	6		8	2			35	7.8%
Junior Online		1	15		6	4					4	30	6.7%
Family Online		5	10	3	9	1						28	6.3%
Student Online			20			2					2	24	5.4%
Club	2	5	6	1	2	3		1	1			21	4.7%
Lifetime Patron		1	2			4	1	1			2	11	2.5%
Patron		2	2		1	4						9	2.0%
Student		2	1		1	1						5	1.1%
Complimentary						1					3	4	0.9%
School Club				1		1						2	0.4%
Patron Online		1	1									2	0.4%
Foreign						1						1	0.2%
Honorary Life Member											1	1	0.2%
Grand Total	13	69	143	9	73	68	26	16	6	1	22	446	

Advanced Motions

Submitted by Anthony Guerra February 2022 Motion 1

TCA by-laws to reflect that in the event of at-home or virtual learning, the physical residence (usually the USCF/TCA membership address) takes priority over the school address. Otherwise, the official address of the school takes priority. Keep in mind, this only affects closed regional tournaments (those that have more than 300 entries), not open events. I further motion that every school or team that enters a tournament must submit one official address (perhaps the address the school accepts service of process for legal matters would be the appropriate address) because under no circumstances should one school be eligible to play in both the Region 8 and 10 championship tournaments as a team.

Rationale - years of precedence.

Submitted by Luis Salinas April 2022 Motion 2

Article IX

Section 1

Change from:

M. Regional Scholastic Championships. These shall be held in each of the Regions of the Association, and shall precede the Texas Scholastic Championship within the school year. These shall be organized according to the same guidelines as the Texas Scholastic. These shall be open only to students residing in or attending school in the same region as the tournament. [Notes: (1) A TCA region that does not hold a regional championship forfeits its priority in the next bidding cycle for the Texas Scholastic Championships and for the Texas Grade Championships. (2) If a regional draws less than ~~150~~ 300 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.]

Change to (proposed change in bold):

M. Regional Scholastic Championships. These shall be held in each of the Regions of the Association, and shall precede the Texas Scholastic Championship within the school year. These shall be organized according to the same guidelines as the Texas Scholastic. These shall be open only to students residing in or attending school in the same region as the tournament. **A Region may decide to open the tournament to only those who attend school in the region. Multicampus schools cannot represent more than one closed regional in a school year.** [Notes: (1) A TCA region that does not hold a regional championship forfeits its priority in the next bidding cycle for the Texas Scholastic Championships and for the Texas Grade Championships. (2) If a regional draws less than 300 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.]

Rational: The openness of the regionals was initially proposed by the North. The North's regionals were smaller and we wanted to increase attendance and to decrease the financial risk to the organizers. However, the South has different needs. Their regionals can be and has been used as a qualifier for State and/or Nationals. Therefore, they may want to 'close' Regionals to schools only in the region so as to not affect which schools' teams qualify for State or Nationals.

Note that the prior limit of 150 had been previously changed to 300 in a prior membership meeting.

Submitted by Caleb Brown April , 2022 **Motion 3**

Be it resolved by the members of the Texas Chess Association that there shall be a special fund belonging to the Association, known as the Scholastic Chess Opportunity Fund (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund"), which shall be governed by the following provisions of this resolution.

Section 2. (1) All revenues received by the Association after the adoption of this resolution from the sources described in subsection 2(2) shall be deposited in the Fund and shall not be diverted to any other purpose.

(2) The revenues dedicated to the Fund by this resolution are as follows:-

(a) donations received for the benefit of the Fund;

(b) fifty percent of all revenues (exclusive of donations) received by the Association during each fiscal year in excess of the expenses incurred during such time; and

(c) such other moneys as the membership or Board of Directors may appropriate to the Fund.

(3) All moneys dedicated to the Fund shall be deposited in such bank account as may be prescribed by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall maintain accurate records of the receipts and outlays of the Fund, and every three months, shall prepare a report containing a summary of such receipts and outlays. Such report shall be delivered to the Webmaster within thirty days after the close of the reporting period and published on the website of the Association as soon as possible.

Section 3. Subject to the limitations of this resolution, the Treasurer shall pay, out of the Fund, all entry fees, membership dues and other fees required for an approved applicant to participate in a qualifying chess tournament. If deemed necessary by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer may also reimburse an approved applicant for reasonable transportation expenses to and from a qualifying chess tournament, not in excess of fifty dollars, upon presentation of receipts.

Section 4. (1) An approved applicant shall be any person who has submitted an application commensurate with the requirements of subsection (2) and meets the following qualifications:-

(a) Is a K-12 student or preschooler;

(b) Is a resident of the State of Texas who has resided in the same for at least six months; and

(c) Belongs to a low-income family (as defined in subsection (3)).

(2) An application shall be complete if it contains the name and contact information of the applicant (and the parent or guardian of such applicant), a certification that the applicant meets the qualifications specified in subsection (1), the name of the qualifying tournament in which the applicant would like to participate and a certification that the applicant would be unable to participate in such tournament without the assistance of the Fund. If the applicant does not have an

unexpired membership of the United States Chess Federation and his family cannot afford to purchase such a membership, the application shall certify that this is the case. All applications shall be signed and dated by the parent or guardian of the applicant.

(3) A person shall be deemed to belong to a “low-income family” if the combined income of such person and his parents or guardians does not exceed two hundred percent of the federal poverty level for the size of the family in question. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, an applicant shall not be deemed to belong to a low-income family if the combined net worth of such person and his parents or guardians exceed five hundred thousand dollars, even if such person would otherwise qualify on the basis of income.

(4) Upon receiving an application commensurate with the provisions of subsection (2), the Treasurer shall verify the validity of the application. If satisfied that all of the requirements of this resolution are fulfilled, the Treasurer shall immediately set aside sufficient funds for the payments required by section 3 with respect to the applicant and shall notify the applicant of his approval. If the Fund does not have sufficient funds to make such payments, the Treasurer shall set aside the balance of the Fund (if any) for the payments and notify the applicant accordingly.

(5) As soon as possible, the amount set aside for any applicant shall be applied to payments required by section 3. In the event that the applicant shall decline to register for, or withdraw from, the tournament he designated in his application, the unused portion of the amount set aside for the applicant to participate in such tournament (including the refundable portion of any entry fee) shall revert to the Fund and shall be available for the benefit of another applicant.

(6) Notwithstanding anything in this resolution, the Board of Directors shall have power to limit how much any person may benefit from the Fund, either as a number of tournaments or dollars, but every such limit shall be uniform with respect to all approved applicants.

Section 5. An event shall be deemed a “qualifying chess tournament” if the tournament will be rated by the United States Chess Federation and held in the State of Texas. An online tournament shall qualify as being held in the State of Texas only if such tournament is organized by a Texas organizer. A “Texas organizer” shall mean any natural person who is a resident of the State of Texas and an entity (for profit or nonprofit) organized under the Texas Business Organizations Code. For the purposes of this resolution, an entity shall also be deemed a Texas organizer, regardless of domicile, if the majority voting power of the entity is controlled by residents of the State of Texas.

Section 6. (1) There shall be a dedicated page in the website of the Association explaining the purposes of the Fund and the manner in which someone may submit an application for benefit from the Fund. The website shall also solicit donations to the Fund and enable visitors to make donations electronically.

(2) Whenever any person shall register for any tournament of the Association or purchase any membership of the Association, he shall have the option to make a donation for the benefit of the Fund.

(3) Texas Knights shall carry an announcement about the Fund in the first issue released after the passage of this resolution and shall thereafter remind readers about the Fund and its purposes from time to time, with instructions on how to submit applications for, and make donations to, the Fund.

Section 7. The Treasurer may appoint one or more deputies to assist in the execution of this resolution.

Section 8. All reasonable expenses incurred by the Association in the administration of the Fund shall be deducted from the Fund, unless the Board of Directors shall otherwise direct.

Section 9. This resolution shall become effective thirty days after the passage of this resolution; provided that, this section shall not in any way hinder the Association and officers thereof from accepting or soliciting donations for the benefit of the Fund before such time.

Discussion:

This resolution has a simple purpose: To empower students of low-income families to participate in chess tournaments without worrying about the cost. For some time, the Association has generously subsidized our representatives to several national championships, such as the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions. It is good for us to do this and this policy should continue. However, there is simply much more that can be done to pursue our mission of promoting the game of chess.

During the most recent annual meeting of the membership at the 2021 Southwest Open, one of the principal issues under discussion was what was to be done with our wonderful budget surpluses. Of course, no one can deny that surpluses are a great thing to have, but as a nonprofit, they are meaningless if not applied to some useful end. As stated in the Treasurer's Report dated August 22, 2021, the Association generated a surplus of approximately \$10,000 during the last fiscal year. For comparison, this means that for every \$10 received, \$4.20 accumulated in our bank accounts, helping a grand sum of zero people.

We can do better. If adopted, this resolution would provide a permanent solution to this chronic problem by creating a special fund known as the Scholastic Chess Opportunity Fund. Every year, at least half of our surplus would automatically be deposited into the Fund. This money would be used to cover at least some of the cost involved in playing in chess tournaments for those students who want to participate but whose families simply cannot afford to. Why should young chess players be denied the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of competitive chess just because their families cannot afford the cost? There is no reason why the opportunity of competitive chess should be denied to any student while this Association has the resources to make it possible. That is just what this resolution strives to do: Lower the burden for the less fortunate to competitively play the world's greatest game.

Not only does this resolution enhance the fulfillment of our mission, but it does so efficiently. There is no complex approval process nor any need for new committees. Also, the added administration expense for the Association would be minimal as this program would rely chiefly upon our existing infrastructure, such as our website and Texas Knights. Finally, interested individuals would also be permitted to donate directly for the benefit of the Fund, thereby hyperintensifying the impact of this resolution.

For all these reasons, I humbly request that you vote in favor of this resolution to empower scholastic chess players of low-income families to compete over the board without worrying about the cost.

Submitted by Caleb Brown April 4, 2022 **Motion 4**

Be it resolved by the members of the Texas Chess Association that the bylaws of the Association be hereby amended, so that subsection M, section one, article nine of the bylaws read as follows:-

Change From:

M. Regional Scholastic Championships. These shall be held in each of the Regions of the Association, and shall precede the Texas Scholastic Championship within the school year. These shall be organized according to the same guidelines as the Texas Scholastic. These shall be open only to students residing in or attending school in the same region as the tournament. [Notes: (1) A TCA region that does not hold a regional championship forfeits its priority in the next bidding cycle for the Texas Scholastic Championships and for the Texas Grade Championships. (2) If a regional draws less than 150 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.]

Change To:

M. Regional Scholastic Championships. These championships shall be held in each of the regions of the Association, and shall precede the Texas Scholastic Championship within the school year. These championships shall, at the option of the organizer, be open to students residing or attending school in the same region as the tournament or open to all students regardless of geographic location. If the latter option is chosen, only students residing or attending school in the same region as the tournament shall be eligible for the title of "Region Champion." A TCA region that does not hold a regional championship forfeits its priority in the next bidding cycle for the Texas Scholastic Championships and for the Texas Grade Championships.

Discussion:

As the bylaws are presently written, regional scholastic championships can only be open to students who do not reside or attend school in the same region as the tournament if last year's regional championship is not held or draws less than 150 players. However, this policy has several disadvantages, including:-

- When regional championships are closed to students who reside or attend school in a region, some students may be rendered unable to play in any regional championship due to scheduling conflicts.
- In a closed system, students who are just on the territorial line of their region may have to travel much farther to play in their regional championship while another region may be offering a much closer regional championship. This inconvenience could dissuade some families from participating in any regional championship at all.
- Potential organizers who are located near the border of their region could decline to submit bids for regional championships because this policy would prohibit many of their frequent registrants who live in neighboring regions from participating. As a result, this policy may depress the number of bidders that the Association receives for these events and thereby diminish geographic diversity.

This resolution solves these problems by eliminating the numerical cap on regional championships being open to all scholastic students. Concurrently, this resolution would increase flexibility for bidders and the Association as a whole to best provide for the needs of competitive scholastic chess. It should also be noted that this resolution allows, but does not require, regional championships to be held as open events. If any organizer would like to bid on a regional championship as a closed event, he remains free to do so. For these reasons, please vote for this resolution to promote simplicity and flexibility in competitive chess.

Submitted by Caleb Brown April 4, 2022 **Motion 5**

Be it resolved by the members of the Texas Chess Association that the bylaws of the Association be hereby amended, so that section one, article three of the bylaws read as follows: -

Section 1. Voting Membership Categories

A. Regular: Any Texas resident may become a Regular Member of the Association upon payment of \$10.00 for one year.

B. Regular Non-subscriber: Any Texas resident may become a Regular Non-subscribing Member of the Association upon payment of \$5.00 for one year. This class of membership does not receive Texas Knights but may participate in TCA tournaments and vote in TCA elections, and does not exclude juniors aged 16 (as of September 1st) or under.

C. Student: Any Texas resident with a valid college ID may become a Student Member of the Association upon payment of \$7.50 for one year.

D. Junior: Any Texas resident 16 (as of September 1st) years of age and under who has not attained to eighteen years of age may become a Junior Member of the Association upon payment of \$7.50 dues per year for one year.

E. Junior Online: Any Texas resident who has not attained to eighteen years of age may become a Junior Online Member of the Association upon payment of \$3.00. This class of membership does not receive Texas Knights but may participate in TCA tournaments and vote in TCA elections.

E F. Junior Tournament: Any Texas resident 16 (as of September 1st) years of age and under who has not attained to eighteen years of age may become a Junior Tournament Member of the Association upon payment of \$1.00 \$2.00. This class of membership does not receive Texas Knights and carries no voting privileges but may participate in one TCA sponsored tournament. College players in a TCA Scholastic Event with a Collegiate Section may participate as Junior Tournament Members upon payment of the \$1.00 \$2.00 fee.

F G. Family: A household consisting of husband and/or wife, including children (if any) age 16 (as of September 1st) who have not attained to eighteen years of age, being Texas residents, may take out a Family Membership upon payment of \$15.00 for one year. They shall receive one subscription to Texas Knights, and all shall be considered TCA members eligible to participate in TCA events.

G H. Life: Any person may become a Life Member of the Association upon payment of \$200.00 or by ten annual payments of \$20.00 each. Life Membership shall be twenty times the amount of dues specified for Regular Members. If paid over a ten year period, Life Member annual dues shall be twice the current amount of Regular Member dues.

H I. Patron: Any member may become a Patron Member of the Association upon payment of \$25.00 or more dues per year. Said Member shall receive Texas Knights by first class mail, have his name displayed in the Texas Knights "Hall of Honor" and be known as a generous supporter of Texas chess.

I J. Blind Membership. A blind person may become a Special Member of the Association upon payment of \$2.00 for one year without the magazine, or \$5.00 for one year with the magazine.

J K. Family Patron: Any family member may become a Family Patron Member of the Association upon payment of \$30.00 or more dues per year. Said Member shall have their family name displayed in the Texas Knights "Hall of Honor" and be known as a generous supporter of Texas chess.

Discussion:

The purpose of this resolution is to align our bylaws with our current practices. At present, the website says that people who are 18 and under can become Junior Members. However, the bylaws specify 16 and under as of September 1. The bylaws also fail to mention Junior Online Memberships and incorrectly lists the price of Junior Tournament Memberships as \$1 when we are presently charging \$2.

Again, this resolution does not constitute any new policy. It merely ensures that the bylaws reflects what we are actually doing. No one needs to be unnecessarily confused by outdated information. For all of these reasons, please vote in favor of this resolution to take care of the simple housekeeping matter of keeping our bylaws up to date and minimizing confusion.