

# TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

## *2023 Junior Chess Meeting*

The Junior Chess Meeting of the Texas Chess Association, Inc., was held at the McAllen Convention Center on Saturday, March 4, 2023. As the Secretary was absent, Caleb S. Brown was appointed Acting Secretary for the duration of the meeting and captured the following minutes.

### **Attendees:**

- Franc Guadalupe, President
- Barbara Swafford, Treasurer (Chair, Membership Committee)
- Caleb S. Brown, Assistant Editor (Member, Bylaws and Publication Committees)
- Dan Shafer
- David Ortiz (Member, Membership Committee)
- Deborah Shafer, Facebook Administrator (Member, Publication Committee)
- Eddie Rios
- Fernando Gomez (Member, Scholastic Committee)
- Jorge Trevino, Region X Director
- Lakshmana Viswanath
- Louis Reed
- Luis Salinas
- Renate Garcia
- Richard Newman
- Ruth Castillo
- Sarah Brauner, Region VI Director
- Tony Meza
- Victor Flores, Region VIII Director (Chair, Scholastic Committee)

### **Absent:**

- Darryl West, Vice President
- Richard Garcia, Secretary (Member, Membership Committee)

### **Called to Order**

The President called the meeting to order at 8:36pm.

### **President's Report**

The President welcomed the members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He remarked on the State Scholastic Championship, including that more than 1,200 players participated, and had some kind words for the sponsor of the advance motions being considered, notwithstanding his disagreements.

### **Treasurer's Report**

There was no Treasurer's report. However, the Treasurer informed the members that "we have brought in a lot of money, but we have not paid bills for State yet." She also noted that the Association has accrued a liability for the scholarships awarded at last year's State Scholastic Championships (\$3,200) as well as this year's championship (\$6,200) that will be paid as high schoolers graduate and move onto university.

## **Secretary's Report**

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting were not read. The Acting Secretary informed the members of five corrections which need to be made. After some discussion, the members agreed without opposition that the approval of the minutes should be delayed until the next annual meeting.

## **Old Business**

Caleb S. Brown made the following motion at the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting. As it was postponed at that meeting, it was considered as old business.

The bylaws of the Texas Chess Association shall be amended to add the following subsection to section 1, Article IX of the bylaws, as follows:

V. Superregional Scholastic Championships. Any number of these championships may be held during the fall but shall not conflict with the Texas Grade Championships. Any two or more regions, as defined by Appendix I, may hold a superregional scholastic championship and be known as a super-region, but no combination may be used more than once in any year. The name of each superregional shall include a brief description of the super-region (e.g., the West Texas Superregional or the Northeastern Texas Superregional). At the option of the organizer, the superregional may be closed to scholastic players who are residents of the super-region or open to all scholastic players, but only residents shall be allowed to compete as teams or win the title of Super-Region Champion. Membership of the Association shall not be required, but the Association shall be entitled to a \$2.00 commission for every participant in the superregionals. The bidding deadline for these championships shall be March 31 of the year in which the event is to be held.

Caleb S. Brown accepted a friendly amendment from himself to strike out "Membership of the Association shall not be required, but the Association shall be entitled to a \$2.00 commission for every participant in the superregionals." He also accepted a friendly amendment from another member (the Acting Secretary regrets his failure to record the names of other amenders) to change the name of the proposed tournaments from the "Superregional Scholastic Championships" to the "Multiregional Scholastic Championships."

On this question, the yeas were three and the nays were nine, with four abstentions. The motion failed.

## **New Business**

### **A. Make a Technical Correction About Junior Voting**

Caleb S. Brown introduced the following motion.

The bylaws of the Association shall be amended so that every member who is a resident of Texas and at least sixteen years of age is a voting member, except a Club Member or Junior Tournament Member.

Transitional Provision: This motion shall be applied retroactively so that any vote that would be permitted under this motion but was previously invalid due to membership class shall be valid for all intents and purposes whatsoever.

Caleb S. Brown accepted a friendly amendment to delete the transitional provision.

On this question, the yeas were nine and the nays were zero, with five abstentions. The motion passed.

## **B. Expand Junior Membership**

Caleb S. Brown introduced the following motion.

Every person who shall have participated in the State Scholastic Championship, or a regional scholastic championship, held during the present year, and is not a member of the Association, is hereby declared to be a Junior Online Member of the Association for a term expiring on March 31, 2024.

Transitional Provision: The Treasurer shall be under no obligation to include any person becoming a member by virtue of this motion in the membership list unless such person expressly requests to be included. For as long as applicable, the join page on the website of the Association, and the registration pages for TCA tournaments, shall state that anyone who played in one of the tournaments above is a member and need not purchase another membership to play in a TCA event held before April 1, 2024.

Jorge Trevino proposed a friendly amendment to provide that any person becoming a member under this motion would be a nonvoting member. Due to a rapid change in the discussion, Caleb S. Brown was unable to express his approval or disapproval of the amendment.

On this question, the yeas were one and the nays were eight, with six abstentions. The motion failed.

## **C. Move McLennan and Falls Counties to Region VI**

Caleb S. Brown introduced the following motion.

The bylaws of the Association shall be amended to move McLennan County and Falls County to Region VI. [*Acting Secretary's Note: These counties were to be moved from Region II. The effect of this motion would have been to move these counties from a region dominated by Dallas and Fort Worth to a region dominated by Austin and San Antonio*].

Caleb S. Brown notified the members that Falls County was omitted from the motion as published on the website with the advance motions for the meeting, even though it was included in the original submission.

On this question, the yeas were one and the nays were eleven, with five abstentions. The motion failed.

## **D. Provide for the Election of Regional Directors**

Caleb S. Brown introduced the following motion.

The bylaws of the Association shall be amended so that Art. IV, Sec. 1 read as follows:

### Change From:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected by the membership; ten Regional Directors representing each region of Texas (as specified in Appendix I) who shall be appointed by the President. The immediate past president holds the same status as the Regional Directors and the Editor of Texas Knights who are all advisory Board Members but not part of the Board of Directors. From time to time the Board of Directors will need to consider action necessary to carry out the business of the

Association. When these instances occur, the Board shall inform the Regional Directors, the Editor of Texas Knights and the immediate past president in a timely manner. The President shall be Chairman of the Board.

Change To:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected by the membership; one Regional Director from each region of Texas (as specified in Appendix I) chosen by the voting members thereof; and; the Immediate Past President and Editor of Texas Knights. Each director shall have one vote. The President shall be Chairman of the Board.

Savings: Nothing in this amendment shall impair the term of any regional director chosen before the adoption of this amendment. This amendment does not apply to the election of a regional director from Region X nor does it affect the appointment of a regional director for the unexpired term if there are no nominees or the office is vacated.

Caleb S. Brown notified the members that he had previously communicated with the Secretary before the publication of the advance motions requesting that the words “does not apply to the election of a regional director from Region X nor” be removed from the savings provision. This requested change did not occur.

A motion for the previous question was made but no vote was taken, favorably or otherwise.

On this question, the yeas were three and the nays were ten, with five abstentions. The motion failed.

**General Discussion**

All business on the advance motions being complete, the floor opened for general discussion. Lakshmana Viswanath delivered a brief, but articulate, speech on what he believed were the deficiencies in the motions under consideration at the meeting generally and the means of success at membership meetings. Caleb S. Brown was about to provide a suggestion on finance (i.e., that the Association should consider depositing some of its excess reserves in certificates of deposit considering that the risk-free rate is over five percent), but was directed to speak with the Treasurer on this matter separately. There was some discussion about directing tournaments and earning experience credits. In addition to these items, the members discussed other matters, both before and after the adjournment, that are beyond the memory of the Acting Secretary.

**Notice of Motion**

Jorge Trevino provided notice of his intention to move that certain counties be moved to Region X so that the City of Laredo would be attached to Region X. As the adjournment was moved almost immediately after his notice, the motion did not receive further consideration at the meeting.

**Adjournment**

A member moved to adjourn. As almost all hands were raised, there was no call for the nays or abstentions, and so the President ordered the adjournment. Accordingly, the meeting adjourned at 10:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Caleb S. Brown*