

TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

2023 Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Texas Chess Association was held at the Sheraton North Houston on Sunday, September 3, 2023. As the Secretary was absent, Caleb Brown was appointed Acting Secretary for the duration of the meeting and captured the following minutes.

Attendees:

- Franc Guadalupe, President
- Barbara Swafford, Treasurer
- Caleb Brown
- Daniel Shafer
- Darryl West, Vice President
- Deborah Shafer, Facebook Administrator
- Doug Goldberg
- Jeff French, Editor of Texas Knights
- Jim Polomsky, Region V Director
- Leon Powers
- Melanie Kneen
- Peter Craney
- Sarah Brauner, Region VI Director

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:33am.

President's Report

There was no President's report. However, the President introduced the other officers who were present and welcomed the attendees.

Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Treasurer's report were distributed at the meeting and have been reproduced as an appendix to these minutes. The Treasurer remarked that "we spent more money than we brought in," referring to the cash flow deficit of \$2,782.69 during the last fiscal year. She also mentioned the financial impact of the college scholarships awarded at the 2022 and 2023 State Scholastic Championships. Lastly, she noted that TCA deposited \$5,000 in a certificate of deposit with Bank of America.

Caleb Brown asked why only \$1,800 was paid as Delegate stipends when eight Delegates represented Texas (\$300 per Delegate = \$2,400). The President explained that only Delegates whose travel is not reimbursed by another educational institution receive stipends. Also, when asked by Caleb Brown, the Treasurer noted that the certificate of deposit has a 4.6% interest rate and the player of the year award, which was created at the 2021 annual membership meeting, has not been awarded.

The President expanded on the Treasurer's report by adding that an additional \$5,000 may be deposited in a certificate of deposit soon and that TCA is considering combining its two bank accounts (one of which is held at Wells Fargo) into one account at Bank of America.

Membership Report

The Treasurer presented the membership report. At the end of the fiscal year, TCA had 584 members, the details of which are published with the Treasurer's report in the appendix. She noted that, after accounting for the Southwest Open memberships, TCA should have over 600 members.

Peter Craney asked about Life Patron membership. The President and Treasurer explained that Life Patron memberships cost \$500 and include recognition as a generous supporter of Texas chess in Texas Knights and on the website. It was also noted that Life Patrons are entitled to first class mailing of Texas Knights, although this additional benefit is only a formality because all paper copies (Patron or otherwise) are sent by the nonprofit equivalent of first-class mail. Caleb Brown added that \$300 of a Life Patron membership, namely the extra cost for a Life Patron membership over a normal Life membership, may be tax deductible.

Publication Report

Jeff French reported on behalf of the Publication Committee. He mentioned the possibility of membership changes in the future considering that the per member cost of printing and mailing the paper magazine is much more than the \$10 regular membership. However, he noted that he will need to discuss these matters with the Treasurer further and that the Publication Committee will need to work on recommendations.

The President added that he agrees that it costs "a lot" to print and mail Texas Knights and that almost no other state chapters distribute a paper magazine. Caleb Brown said that the only other state he knows that has a paper magazine is New York.

As required by the motion creating the Publication Committee, its full report was posted on the website before the meeting and is available at: <https://texaschess.org/report-of-publication-committee/>

Secretary's Report

The Acting Secretary reported that the minutes of the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting, prepared by Jim Hollingsworth as Acting Secretary, and the minutes of the 2023 Junior Chess Meeting, prepared by Caleb Brown as Acting Secretary, were posted on the website. He also reported five corrections that needed to be made to the minutes of the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting.

A member moved to approve the minutes of both meetings with the corrections. On this question, the yeas were twelve and the nays were zero, with no abstentions. The motion passed.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

As five advance motions had been submitted for the advance agenda, the membership took up the advance motions in the order in which they had been received.

A. Change the Delegate Appointment Timetable

Caleb Brown introduced the following motion.

Moved that Article V, Section 7 of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

Section 7. Delegates to the US Chess, Selection Requirements and Duties and Responsibilities

A. Receive a total count of delegate slots from the US Chess.

B. To be considered, a delegate must be over the age of 18, must have a valid US Chess and TCA membership, must be a Texas resident, and must commit to attending the US Chess business meeting in August. Preference will be given to past delegates who communicate with the TCA board promptly, if not, first come first serve. Preference will then also be given to new nominees who, if appointed as a delegate before, canceled at least 90 days before the event.

C. On ~~September~~ March 5th, announce, through the TCA website and Facebook fan page, that if any of our past Texas delegates are interested, to contact the TCA Secretary for appointment. We will ensure they meet the above criteria and appoint them on a first come first serve basis; any overflow will be placed on an alternate list. If any of the above criteria is not met, there will be a 15 day deadline to comply, otherwise the candidate will not be considered.

D. After ~~September~~ March 20th, TCA will allow nominations for anyone who meets the above criteria, to be advertised through TKs, the TCA website and Facebook fan page. Positions will be filled on a first come first serve basis; any overflow will be placed on an alternate list.

E. The Secretary shall confirm with all appointed US Chess Delegates on May 1st to ensure they are planning to attend the US Chess business meeting. If they cancel, they will need to formally resign so an alternate may be assigned in their place.

Rationale: Until recently, state chapters were required to designate their Delegates by November 1. At the 2022 annual Delegates meeting, the Board of Delegates moved this deadline to May 1. As a result, it no longer makes sense to ask our past Delegates to commit to attending the meeting in September, which is almost a year before the annual meeting. This motion would move our timetable for appointing Delegates forward proportionally with the change approved by the Delegates in 2022.

Melanie Kneen offered the following friendly amendment: Instead of “On March 5,” insert “Three months before the US Chess deadline for designating Delegates,” and instead of “After March 20,” insert “Two months before the US Chess deadline for designating Delegates.” The sponsor accepted the amendment.

On this question, the yeas were twelve and the nays were zero, with no abstentions. The motion passed.

B. Allow Flexibility in Effective Dates of Bylaw Amendments

Caleb Brown introduced the following motion.

Moved that Article X, Section 2 of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

Change From:

Section 2. Date of Effect

A. An amendment to the Bylaws will normally take effect on January 1 of the following calendar year.

B. In an emergency or unusual circumstance, the amendment may be declared to take immediate effect, upon a vote of two-thirds of the voting Members present and voting. A separate motion must be made, seconded, and passed for this procedure to occur.

Change To:

Section 2. Effective Date

A. An amendment to these Bylaws will normally take effect on January 1 of the following calendar year.

B. In an emergency or unusual circumstance, the amendment may be declared to take effect at a different time upon a vote of two-thirds of the voting members present and voting. A separate motion must be made, seconded, and passed for this procedure to occur.

Rationale: Presently, our Bylaws allow two choices of when bylaws amendments become effective: January 1 and immediately. Sometimes, however, the best effective date may be neither of these possibilities. It is entirely possible that an amendment should not be effective today but cannot wait until January 1. This motion would give membership meetings the flexibility to decide the best effective date for the matter at hand.

On this question, the yeas were eleven and the nays were zero, with one abstention. The motion passed.

C. Rename TCA Clubs as TCA Affiliates

Caleb Brown introduced the following motion.

Moved that Article III, Section 2, Subsections B and C of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

Change From:

B. Club: Any U.S. club or organization that wishes to affiliate itself with the Association may do so for an annual affiliation fee of \$10.00. Any foreign club or organization may affiliate itself with the Association for an annual affiliation fee of \$40.00. The club or organization will not have voting privileges but will receive one free quarter page advertisement per year in the on-line Texas Knights.

C. Scholastic Club: Any scholastic organization including colleges, junior colleges, community colleges, high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, youth centers, youth hostels, etc., may affiliate itself with the Association for an annual affiliation fee of \$10.00. The club or organization will not have voting privileges but will receive Texas Knights and one free quarter page advertisement per year in Texas Knights.

Change To:

B. Affiliate: Any school, club or organization may affiliate itself with the Association for an annual affiliation fee of \$10. The affiliate shall have no voting privileges but shall receive Texas Knights by mail and one free quarter page advertisement each year in Texas Knights. Foreign affiliates shall receive Texas Knights by mail only if they pay an additional annual surcharge of \$30. Affiliates are not agents of the Association for any purpose.

Rationale: Presently, organizations that purchase memberships are known as TCA Clubs. However, some of these so called “clubs” are actually not clubs at all. Examples include the Student Lead Chess Association, Texas Armed Forces Chess, and Innovative Chess Solutions. It would make much more sense to use the word “affiliate,” just like what US Chess does. This is necessary because some prospective affiliates might think that TCA club memberships are only for chess clubs and members of the public may improperly assume that some of these non-clubs are actually chess clubs. Renaming TCA clubs as TCA affiliates would eliminate this unnecessary potential for confusion.

This motion would also make a few other clarifying changes. It would clarify that affiliates are not agents of TCA, a provision also found in the US Chess Bylaws. Moreover, it would clarify that all affiliates receive Texas Knights, which is what actually happens even though the Bylaws currently say that only scholastic clubs receive it. Lastly, this motion would ensure that foreign affiliates only have to pay an additional \$30 if they want to receive Texas Knights by mail (presumably the higher fee was intended to cover the extra cost of mailing copies to a foreign country; if so, there is no reason to charge it if they do not want the mailed copies).

The President noted that, in addition to the three non-clubs in the rationale statement, F&B Trophies is another TCA Club that is not a chess club. He suggested that a separate list of chess clubs might be posted on the website.

On this question, the yeas were twelve and the nays were zero, with no abstentions. The motion passed.

D. Reform the Junior Chess Meeting

Jim Hollingsworth sponsored the following motion. As there was no objection, the membership considered the motion notwithstanding the absence of its sponsor.

Change from:

Section 2. Annual Junior Chess Meeting

B. The Order of Business and quorum rules for the junior chess meeting shall be the same as that for the Annual Membership Meeting.

Change to:

Section 2. Annual Junior Chess Meeting

B. The annual junior chess meeting (in some years there may be two) uses a town-hall format and Roberts Rules of Order do not apply. The President calls the

meeting to order, the Secretary records the major issues, and the Secretary publishes a summary within 30 days.

B1. For any issues affecting the ByLaws, the President shall appoint a volunteer to write an advance motion for approval at the Annual Membership Meeting. The advance motion must be published prior to the Annual Membership Meeting.

Comments: This is how TCA used to be and it worked well. The Annual Junior Chess Meeting is traditionally a working meeting for chess coaches to discuss issues impacting scholastic chess. Many of the coaches are not voting TCA members, but all are presumed to be invested in and supportive of scholastic chess.

Caleb Brown noted that the notion of the junior chess meeting traditionally being a discussion only session is historically inaccurate. The very first junior chess meeting, which was held in 1995, passed nine motions, and at least nineteen junior chess meetings have passed motions on a binding basis.

On this question, the yeas were one and the nays were ten, with one abstention. The motion failed.

E. Reform the Texas Women's Championship

Tom Crane sponsored the following motion. As there was no objection, the membership considered the motion notwithstanding the absence of its sponsor.

Currently written as:

Q. Texas Women's Championship. This tournament shall be open to all female players.

Proposed re-write:

Q. Texas Women's Championship. This tournament shall be open to all female players over the age of 16 as of the tournament date. The organizer is authorized to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Rationale: The name of the event says Women's. Not scholastic players and I included The Texas Girls Championship listed as R. from the By-Laws for reference. The dynamic of women playing against other women is appreciated by the participants who have played the event in calendar years 2019 and 2022. Many of them will not play in events where there's scholastic players but they will come and play other adult aged women. I am also quite certain wherever you level the age at which a female is a woman it does not mean scholastic aged players. There's plenty of scholastic events including the one I listed below for reference. Let's do something to serve the adult aged women's chess player, by far the egregiously underserved demographic of chess.

R. Texas Girls Championship. Only Texas female residents or students enrolled in secondary or primary schools (including home schools) in Texas may play in this event. This event shall be held in the fall prior to the Texas Grade Championships. There shall be individual and team trophies. A team shall consist of any four players from the same school and may be designated at the conclusion of the tournament to include the top scorers from that school.

Several members expressed concerns with the wording of this motion. The President was strongly opposed to the exceptions provision. Peter Craney suggested that, instead of exceptions, underage players with a FIDE title or above a rating threshold might be allowed to participate. Melanie Kneen said that the purpose

of the Women's Championship was for women players to get together, not to find the top players. Jeff French opined that it should align with the corresponding national event (the President noted that females of all ages are eligible for that event). The Vice President felt that the proposed age limit is discriminatory.

The Treasurer suggested that a third championship for women over a specific age might be created without changing the existing championships for female players.

Caleb Brown moved to refer to the Bylaws Committee. On this question, the yeas were eleven and the nays were zero, with one abstention. The motion was referred.

When the membership had disposed of all the advance motions, the membership considered floor motions, after which an opportunity for general discussion was allowed.

Caleb Brown made the following motion: "I move that the membership thanks all the volunteers whose efforts made this organization possible during the last fiscal year." Peter Craney asked if this motion meant that he would be receiving a Christmas card and more generally about how it would be implemented. Caleb Brown explained that, similarly to the motions of thanks customarily passed towards the end of Delegates meetings, this motion would simply be entered onto the minutes. On this question, the yeas were ten and the nays were zero, with two abstentions. The motion passed.

Caleb Brown moved that advance motion A become effective immediately. Peter Craney had previously said shortly after advance motion A passed that it needed to become effective immediately as otherwise notice to past Delegates would have to be sent two days later. On this question, the yeas were twelve and the nays were zero, with no abstentions. The motion passed.

Caleb Brown moved that advance motion C become effective immediately. On this question, the yeas were ten and the nays were two, with no abstentions. The motion passed.

Peter Craney pointed out that some TCA regular events were not listed in the bidding spreadsheet, including the Texas Team Championship and the Texas Junior Team Championship. The President thanked him for bringing this issue to their attention, which was promptly corrected after the meeting.

Adjournment

Caleb Brown moved to adjourn. As the adjournment was unanimously approved, the President ordered the adjournment. Accordingly, the meeting adjourned at 9:37am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caleb S. Brown

TCA Treasurer Report – August 31 2023

Income

September memberships	\$197.50
October memberships	67.50
November memberships	132.50
December memberships	130.00
January memberships	439.50
February memberships	301.00
March memberships	364.00
April memberships	145.00
May memberships	226.50
June memberships	223.00
July memberships	690.00
August memberships	612.00
2022 SW Open memberships	514.00
2022 Texas Girls Championship memberships	214.00
2022-23 Texas Quick Championship memberships	264.00
2023 Texas State Scholastic	10,138.14
Texas Senior Championship memberships	65.00
Texas State and Amateur memberships	242.50
Texas Action memberships	38.00
Region 1 Scholastic Championships	225.00
Region 2 Scholastic Championships	100.00
Region 5 Scholastic Championships	336.00
Region 6 Scholastic Championships	543.00
Region 8 Scholastic Championships	900.00
Amazon Smiles	<u>181.88</u>
Total	\$17,290.02

Expenses

<u>Promote Chess</u>	
Chess Set Program	317.61
TK Apr-June 2022 (pub Nov 22) (350 issues)	1,811.09
TK July-Dec 2022 (291 issues)	1,628.03
TK Jan-Feb 2023 (281 issues) postage only	540.85
TK Mar-Apr 2023 (312 issues)	1,764.03
TK May-Jun 2023 (319 issues)	1,689.98
TK Jul-Aug 2023 (348 issues)	1,929.94
Texas Invitational Players	2,500.00
Scholarships paid	3,000.00
2023 TCA Creativity Contest	<u>16.00</u>
	15,247.53
<u>Administrative</u>	
2023 Texas Delegates	1,800.00
US Chess Affiliate membership	40.00
Insurance	315.00
Facebook Administrator	1,050.00
Web Page renewal	120.00
Web Page Administrator	1,200.00
Zoom	<u>300.18</u>
	4,825.18
Total	\$20,022.71

TK April-June includes editor PO Box rental fee \$182

Scholarships Awarded by TCA

Total Prize Amount 2022 Texas Scholastic			3,000
1 st Place	Venkata Pullabhotla-Col	\$1,000-paid	
1 st Place Girl	Aparna Yellamraju-Col	\$1,000-paid	
2 nd Place	Sharvesh Deviprasath-12	\$600	
3 rd Place	Ganesh Kumarappan-Col	\$400	

Total Prize Amount 2023 Texas Scholastic			6,200
1 st Place	Sharvesh Deviprasath-12	\$1,200	
1 st Place Girl	Ambica Yellamraju-Col	\$1,000-paid	
2 nd Place	Rohit Gundam-12	\$1,000	
3 rd Place	Ganesh Kumarappan-Col	\$1,000	
4 th Place	Rithik Sai Polavaram-12	\$1,000	
5 th Place	Rohun Trakru-12	\$1,000	

August 31 2023

WF checking account balance	\$17,503.81
BOA checking account balance	\$14,223.54
BOA 7 month CD	5,000.00
PayPal	80.70

Current members August 31 2023

Lifetime Patron	10
Lifetime Regular	39
Patron	8
Patron Online	4
Family Patron	11
Family Online	8
Family	37
Honorary Life Member	1
Regular	137
Regular Non-Subscriber	65
Blind	2
Student	6
Student Online	22
Junior	96
Junior Online	102
Club	34
Complimentary	<u>2</u>
Total	584