



Oklahoma Chess Association general meeting

December 1, 2022

(Meeting held on Zoom)

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

Chris Amburgy *president*

Tom Braunlich *vice president*

Harold Brown *treasurer*

Chuck Unruh *past president*

Rebecca Rutledge *secretary*

Christopher Dooley *at-large*

Paul Covington *at-large*

not present:

Joe Veal *at-large*

Past minutes

Chris Amburgy moved to approve the minutes of our previous meeting (8/18/2022). The motion passed.

New business

♙ We talked about new TDs. Milam did great in Norman. It was reported that Tom Nichols said he would like to plan for a big tournament next year he could direct.

♙ Harold presented the treasurer's report.

♙ Harold said he will file for nonprofit status in early January. He said IRS approval might take nine months.

Rozsa Trophy tournament

- Tom proposed a souvenir for participants. He is having custom-made drinking glasses with the Rozsa Trophy logo.
- Harold suggested taking a group photo, having everybody sign a copy of it, and framing it to give to participants.
- The board discussed how names should be drawn for round one pairings. Paul suggested that this could be done at Tom's Sunday chess club, and that players not in attendance could observe the drawing via Zoom.

A motion was made to approve expenses for the event. The motion passed.

Jerry Spann Memorial Oklahoma Open & Championship

- The venue will be around \$1,000 (plus tax) for the ballroom and skittles area. This is based on selling 15 rooms. Room cost will be \$96 with a three-week cutoff. We will advertise May 18 as the cutoff date.
- Prize fund will be similar to last year's, around \$2,500, Chris will guarantee the first-place prizes. Remaining prizes will be based on 100 entries. (Last year we had 90 players.)
- Tom would like to see something else there in the fall. Take advantage of that good rate (possibly \$400 for a one-day tournament). Rebecca will talk to Milam about possibly having a one-day event there, and will let other OKC organizers know it's available at a good price.

☞ Chris suggested that a good way to announce our new affiliation with Chess.com would be to have the OCA quick chess championship online. This could be an opportunity for OCA to generate new memberships.

Tom moved that we hold an online rapid championship on Chess.com this year. The motion passed.

☞ Other tournaments:

- Tom said that the Steve Wharry will be a "Con Sat" again this year, probably in August, and that
- **The Holiday Open** would be held once more at the end of December.
- Harold said that for **National Chess Day** (October 14), he might do a rapid & blitz instead of the bughouse/blitz.
- Harold said he planned to do the Senior championship in Stroud again this April. It will be an open event, free to Oklahoma residents. again this year. championship in Stroud in April again. Open, no EF for OK residents.

Tom moved to approve this tournament as our official nominating event to the John T. Irwin Tournament of Senior Champions. The motion passed.

☞ Paul said that the US Chess/Alzheimer's Association fundraiser on hold.

☞ **US Open/Invitational reps:** Tom suggested that we make hotel reservations for our national invitational representatives & delegates, then transfer them to the players, so they'd be sure to get room at the venue. Other states do this. Chris said he would get this done and transfer once our reps & delegates have been named.

☞ **US Chess report:** Chuck reported that membership is up at all levels: scholastic, adult, and life/benefactor. In addition to generous endowments from members, has left US Chess ahead of budget and looking for programs to fund.

☞ **Ways to preserve Oklahoma chess history:** Tom reported on Tom Amburn's project to verify past state champions. He's going through all old Chess Life and American Chess magazines, noting winners, dates, locations, TDs, and the sources from which he's finding the information. The project is expected to take until spring 2023. Tom suggested we might do something more with it than just put it on the website, possibly a display to be shown annually at the state championship.

Chuck suggested we could produce **bookmarks with the list of state champions** on them and give those out annually at the Jerry Spann.

Paul suggested an **Oklahoma Chess Hall of Fame** as another way to preserve Oklahoma chess history and educate players about the rich heritage of Oklahoma chess. Members could nominate players and others who have made significant contributions to chess in Oklahoma. Paul told us that Colorado's HOF started with seven individuals and added others annually when there were approved nominations. Colorado would start their state championship weekend on Friday night with a Hall of Fame induction followed by a blitz tournament. Displays were placed throughout the playing hall with information about the inductees. The board discussed how effective it could be to use tournaments as vehicles to educate players about our history, just by making such information available and accessible.

Tom suggested that we discuss the feasibility of **compiling historical articles from *Oklahoma Chess Magazine* into a book**. Rebecca volunteered to do the design & layout.

Summary

Expenses were approved for the Rozsa Trophy, to be held in January.

OCA will host an online rapid championship on Chess.com this year.

The Senior championship will be held in April and will determine our representative to the Irwin.

Going forward

Harold will file early in January for OCA's nonprofit status.

Chris will reserve hotel rooms for our invitational reps and delegates to the US Chess Open, to be transferred later to those individuals.

Rebecca will promote the Wyndham hotel to OKC-area organizers in the hope of generating more tournaments there.

Tom and Rebecca will work together to produce a book of Oklahoma chess history articles.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.