

OCA Annual Membership Meeting - Minutes

June 26, 2022 (8:30-9:30am)

Present – Chris Amburgy (president), Harold Brown (vice-president), Josie Braddy, Tom Amburn, Chuck Unruh (past president), Tom Braunlich, Chris Dooley, Paul Covington (at large) Joe Veal (at large)

Not present: Rebecca Rutledge (secretary), Jerry Casteel (treasurer), Steven Gehly (at-large)

Finance Report – Chris Amburgy presented a printout showing the bank balance to be about \$8805 in May, about \$1170 more than a year ago.

Summary of the Past Year's Accomplishments – The Bank Account got changed (finally), success with the Okla. Blitz and Senior Championships. Name change for the “Jerry Spann Memorial”, OCM made official publication.

- Tom B reminded the board that the OCM is available to print messages or information from the OCA in any upcoming issue.

Status Reports on Current Projects –

- **Non-Profit Status Project** – Harold Brown reported progress was slow because the previous treasurer had to be the one to apply for ID numbers first before other applications could be submitted, and that was not done. He expects progress this year, but pointed out it could still take a year or two from now.
- **Tournament Clearinghouse** – Tom B spoke from a discussion with Rebecca that the OCA Webmaster (currently Rebecca) should also double as the Clearinghouse coordinator, since he/she already maintains a list of upcoming tournaments on the website, which is half the job. That person would also need to be willing to field emails from future tournament organizers who are considering an event, who can ask about available dates. All TDs would be encouraged to check with the Clearinghouse person as soon as they have a potential date, who can advise them if others are also considering those dates, etc. This idea received general approval from the board but not by a vote.
 - Paul and others suggested the Clearinghouse person should try to keep in touch with counterparts in Kansas and Arkansas (and perhaps SW Missouri and Northern Texas) to coordinate some with them as well.
 - Paul noted that USChess maintains a list of Clearinghouse names in various states, and we will need to update our entry on that list.
 - I found that list here: [The United States Chess Federation - Tournament Clearinghouses](#)
 - It is organized by Zip Code (first 3 letters) and also says how to contact them.

- Note it was updated in Feb 2022, but still lists Harold Ball as the Clearinghouse person, but he hasn't been active at that for ten or fifteen years... We must change that.
- **Possible "Rozsa Cup" Closed Invitational Tournament** – Paul spoke about his proposal for a closed tournament that has prestige but is not an official state championship.
 - Discussion came to the consensus that it "should be tried."
 - Paul volunteered to be the TD, Chris A. and Harold offered to support financially.
 - Joe Veal suggested a January 2023 time frame and this was tentatively agreed to (talk to the Clearinghouse!).
 - Tom B. suggested it would be nice to hire Gabe Coss, (chess player and woodworker), to design and make a nice traveling trophy for it. He said he didn't think it would need to have much in the way of prizes, maybe just something to cover player expenses.
 - Tom Amburn said he probably wouldn't play in it because he prefers open tournaments.
 - All agreed we need a good inexpensive venue. Discussion left there.

2022-2023 OCA Board Elections –

Final Results:

- **President** — Chris Amburgy
- **Vice-President** — Tom Braunlich
- **Treasurer** — Harold Brown
- **Secretary** — Rebecca Rutledge
- **At-Large** — Paul Covington
- **At-Large** — Chris Dooley
- **At-Large** — Joe Veal
- **Past Prez** — Chuck Unruh

New Business —

State Championship List Refinements Proposed — NM Tom Amburn (6-time state champion and OCA past president) spoke to the board about his recently checking various lists of Okla state champions that have been published over the years (some of which was researched originally by him in the 1970s), and he found 5 inconsistencies or questions. Some of them he said were easy to resolve:

- 1982 – W. Zenteno should be added to Dee Drake's name. (Z won a closed championship they had, Drake the open).
- 1975 – Bill Devin and Ted Grose should both be listed (again, one won a closed championship that year, the other the open).
- 1977 and 1978 — The names of Todd Lunna and Ted Grose for this years had become inadvertently switched; Tom has the correct years figured out from Chess Life info.

But there was one that may be controversial:

- 1985 – Current list has Robert Harrington. An earlier list (1993) has George Trammell. Amburn's memory was that it was Trammell. Harrington won the

tournament, but Amburn remembers that he was not considered eligible as he was living in Texas at the time, and Harrington confirmed that. Amburn remembers he and Trammell tied for 2nd and Trammell was given the title on tiebreaks. Harrington said he thought he was champion that year, but admits to confusion about it. Harrington has said he doesn't particularly object, as he has no strong memory of what happened then.

- Chris Amburgy said before the board votes on this question we should publicize this "controversy" in the OCM and ask if anyone has any different memory of it or any objections to making the change to George Trammell from our current list.
 - The Board agreed.

Finally, Tom Amburn said he wants to research a definitive list of the state champions AND create a document that fully documents the entries on that list. (In spreadsheet form). The OCA board supported that idea, though not with any formal motion — with an estimate of 6 months to a year to finish it. Once the definitive list is created Amburn said he'd like it to be archived safely by the OCA somehow, perhaps on the website. The list will include the city where the tournament was held as well as the result and the documentation footnotes.

(FYI — The current champion list begins with the starting year of OCA in 1946. Prior to that year Frank Berry found two champions for 1913 and 1914 with newspaper documentation (very informal). I found a name for 1915 when they had a championship by correspondence (travel being difficult then). Furthermore, Amburn and I have reason to believe there were some state championships in the 1920s, but they will have to be researched at newspapers in person because the online newspaper databases we currently have available stop in 1923 and don't pick up again until after the war). We've talked about researching this sometime.)

Proposal for Four Scheduled OCA "Zoom" board meetings per year — Tom B proposed the OCA buy a Zoom account (\$15 per month) to hold one formal board meeting by Zoom once per quarter, for convenience, plus easy minute-keeping by the secretary (who can post the video of the meeting online in lieu of detailed minutes written up for the OCM). (Minutes are supposed to be published for OCA meetings). In OCM I can publish a link to the Zoom video plus quick summary, giving OCA members excellent visibility into what OCA is doing. If the board wants to discuss something in private the recording can be switched off at that time.

- Chris Amburgy says his business has a Zoom account that we can use for this purpose (no charge).
- The board agreed to commit to 4 Zoom meetings a year.
- Chuck said it shouldn't be necessary to put it in bylaws or have a formal motion for that.

Proposed 2022-23 Tournament Schedule — Summary:

- OSCO is working on their calendar and hopes to have it soon.
- Oklahoma Blitz Championship proposed for October 1, maybe in Chandler or Stroud.
- Holiday Open (one-day) – The Saturday between Xmas and New years as usual. In Tulsa.

- Rosza Cup closed invitational – Jan 2023 timeframe. Needs a good inexpensive venue.
- Okla Senior Championship — March 2023
- Jerry Spann Mem / State Championship — Same weekend as usual, end of June (June 24-25) — but next time should be in OKC.
 - Josie has a new venue we are trying out in OKC in September and might be perfect for it.

Other Business — Tom B. proposed that OCA needs to make a priority of developing at least one new young Tournament Director this year – someone capable of handling a 100-player state championship event as well as other two-day traditional chess events. It's starting to get to be a bit much for the current boomer generation of TDs (I mean *Fischer-Boomers* like Harold and me).

- Josie said she is trying to get Matt Dalthorp interested in doing this. (OKC in particular needs a good director).
- It was left as a topic for future discussion at the next board meeting.

Meeting adjourned.