

State of the CJA – 2019 Annual Report and List of Award Winners

Thank you for attending the annual Chess Journalist of America meeting. As has become our custom, this is basically a report on the activities of the CJA, a report on the awards and where we hope to go in the future.

1. This is an election year and so we must choose our governing officials. Vice – President Eric Vigil and Webmaster Bethany Carson are stepping down after two years to work on various other exciting projects. I am sure I echo everyone’s sentiments when I wish them well and thank them for their support the past two years. Much thanks to Bethany for interviewing the person we would like to succeed her – Miss Ashley Priore. Miss Priore was interviewed and found to be knowledgeable on the WIX system we use for our website. As such I would like to suggest the following people to run the organization for the next two years.
2. Running for office for a two year term are as follows:
 - A. President – Joshua Anderson, Vice – President / Outreach – Jennifer Vallens, Secretary / Treasurer – Mark Capron, Webmaster – Ashley Priore; Editor – Phil Simpkins
 - B. Does anyone else wish to be considered for one of these offices?
 - C. Vote for Officials
3. The Awards
 - a. This year for the first time in 8 years, I did not have the pleasure of being Chief Coordinating Judge, but rather the pleasure of assisting Chief Coordinating Judge Jennifer Vallens. Jen cannot be here today, so I will present the awards, but before we do, I want thank her for all her hard work this year and also thank all the judges. The full list is attached and around 2 PM will be on the chessjournalism.com.
 - b. Turn to the awards and discuss. The Top Four Awards will receive a crystal piece that will be sent to them some time in the next couple of months.

- c. Jennifer will not be returning to be Chief Coordinating Judge but will be staying involved. We will undoubtedly be speaking often as we assess and plan for next year. Feel free to email us with concerns and ideas, keeping in mind that there is only so much time in the day and that we are volunteers.
- d. There will be a full write up in the next issue of The Chief Journalist and certainly we will give US Chess, Chess Life, US Chess Online, any information they would like. As Jennifer has much other work to catch up on, I have told her that I will be happy to handle any of these requests.

4. The Chess Journalist

- a. The Chess Journalist came out for the first time in 5 years when I published an issue devoted to the awards for the last 5 years. This was useful not only to get the magazine running again, but also to update our list of addresses.
- b. Much thanks to Tim Just who after last years meeting sent me some missing TCJ's. We have posted those online. We are still missing a few, especially the early ones.
- c. Phil Simpkins is getting better, much improved in fact, after some eye surgery trouble. This gives us hope for a fall issue, ideally September, more likely in October/early November.
- d. For the next issue we are thinking a report on the awards and an article on Southern California's decision to promote and redo their Rank and File magazine. We are certainly looking for other articles. By all means, please reach out to myself and/or Phil Simpkins.

5. U. S. Chess: A Living History

- a. This project began in earnest over the past year. It is an attempt to chronicle oral histories of players, politicians, and others. The project is a collaboration between

us, the U. S. Chess Trust, and the World Chess Hall of Fame. There is a packet designed by us and originally based on a Library of Congress project to interview Vietnam Veterans, so as to help volunteers with questions to ask and information to gather from the subject of the interview. The interviews were originally designed to be life stories but are often more narrow and thus more like 45 minutes to an hour rather than two hours. This was particularly true of a recent series done for the WCHOF's exhibit - 80 Years of U.S. Chess. A few of the quotes from the interviews can be found in their booklet about the exhibit. Materials that wish to be donated can be done so and will be held by World Chess Hall of Fame.

- b. The first of these interviews to be posted is a two part piece about John Curdo. It can be found at <https://www.chessjournalism.org/oral-history-project> . Much thanks to Alonzo Ross who interviewed Mr. Curdo for this project.
- c. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact me at joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com.

6. Budget Summary

- a. Much thanks to Mark Capron for putting the below information. The information is incomplete as it does not include a variety of items such as printing/shipping the journal and income from a bit of the awards: Starting Balance 6019.57, Income 426.32 Expenses 463.45 new Balance 5982.44 Expenses: Awards 284.52, Website Yearly Fee 81.93, Postage and UPS TBD, Email Account 97