

Chess Journalists of America

Annual Business Meeting

August 2, 2023

1. Elections

As per the Constitution, we hold elections every 2 years. This year we have the following slate of individuals:

President - Joshua Anderson

Vice-President - Robert Irons

Treasurer/Secretary - Mark Capron

Webmaster- Grayson Rorrer

With the exception of Mr. Irons, everyone has been a member of the board since at least last year. Mr. Irons has provided a brief bio below:

I was born and raised in Evanston, Illinois, just north of Chicago, and have lived in Illinois for all but six of my 64 years. I have a Ph.D. in Finance from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, and I have been teaching undergraduate and MBA students for over 20 years. I am currently employed as the Chair of the Finance department at Illinois Wesleyan University. I am married to Ruth Ann, and we have two grown children, Jessica and Nicholas. I played in 10 or 12 OTB tournaments back in my 20s, but life kept me away from the board for a long time, and some time ago I found correspondence chess. In the fall of 2022 I took over as the Correspondence Chess Editor for the US Chess Federation, and I now write their online column, The Check is in the Mail. My third book is about chess -- it is an update of the tournament book for the San Sebastian 1911 International Chess Tournament. It will be published by Russell Enterprises in early 2024. My OTB rating (10 years old) is 1640, while my correspondence rating (current) is 2020.

At the last minute, literally after the handout had been prepared, Grayson Rorrer decided to step down. With this decision, we needed to find someone new and Caleb Brown was kind enough to volunteer, so the slate became:

President - Joshua Anderson

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Each candidate was nominated, seconded and then voted on by the whole.

For President: Alexey Root nominated, Pete Tamburro seconded, and the vote was 12 - 0.

For Vice - President: Fun Fong nominated, Pete Tamburro seconded, and the vote was 12 - 0.

For Treasurer/Secretary: Caleb Brown nominated, Pete Tamburro seconded, and the vote was 12 - 0.

For Webmaster: Alexey Root nominated, Fun Fong seconded, and the vote was 12 - 0.

2. While we have much to talk about including the awards. I know everyone is at least somewhat interested in the awards. I want to take a moment to thank everyone who entered. We had over 350! entries, which I believe is a record even over the "Fischer Boom" years. (You can find a full list of winners at the back.) To refresh your memory, there is a 5 judge panel for each category. The highest score wins, and ties are not broken. Honorable mentions are given to any entry scoring at least 80% of the points of the winning entry, and here may be multiple honorable mentions. Scoring for single entries in a category is yes (winner), worthy of honorable mention, or not worthy of an award. Special Achievement and Mainstream Press need only score 60% (3 yes scores out of 5) to win an award.

We need to take a moment to thank the judges. We had over 60 this year, but with so many entries, we were still working really hard. If it hadn't been for Grayson's new entry system, we would have likely never survived the listing process. As it was, I want to thank Grayson especially, but also all the other judges who spent untold hours working through the categories.

3. The pictures that we have of the meetings are rather sporadic and quite a hodge podge. We have been asked to make sure to take numerous current pictures this year. So please feel free to take numerous photos (not of me we don't need any broken cameras), but of others in the room, like Mark discussing his wonderful work on the journal, etc.
4. Speaking of Mark, this year for the first time in a long time, we have had 4 issues of our journal, *The Chess Journalist*. Here is Mark to speak about the journal.
5. Since Mark is in speaking mode, I am going to ask that he continue with the budget. (See last page for budget numbers that Mark presented.)
6. Our website is the best it has ever been and we owe that to Grayson, who unexpectedly left the office of webmaster and did not speak about it.

7. We have had great success improving both the journal and the website and you have had a give and take with both people. Their work, at least slightly, grew out of some committees that were formed a couple of years ago. There was also a third committee formed regarding the awards and trying to provide some clarity to help the judges with what they were looking at. This committee was reformed the following year and the people asked me to leave thinking I was overworked. That was very much appreciated, however, I have by far and away the best understanding of why we have the categories we do, where confusion about them often lies, etc. For that reason, I would like to suggest that we form such a committee again, probably keeping it quite small and also keeping me in the loop. Would one or, at most, two people be willing to help me?

A committee of Joshua Anderson and Pete Tamburro was formed to work on providing helpful guidelines to judges.

A committee of Joshua Anderson, Caleb Brown, John Hartman, and Jim Hollingsworth was formed to help clarify the different categories.

8. There are numerous other projects that we are engaged in. One of these is a large plaque at the US Chess Main Office. This plaque has listed several noteworthy journalists and US Chess would like us to add to it. I propose that we add 2 a year and announce them at the February meeting. In this case, that would be - February 4th, 2024, at 8 PM EST. Would anyone like to be on the committee to help with this honor?

A committee of Joshua Anderson and Jim Hollingsworth was formed.

9. In the History and Research tab on the website, we have a variety of items that we could use some help with. The Living History Project has been progressing slowly. We are looking for a cheap transcription service. Anyone know of one? WCHOF offered to do it for free, but they may not be able to get to it for some time.

10. The two other items under History and Research are "Distinguished Contributors to CJA" and "Famous Chess Journalists". At the moment, they are just lists, but I would like to develop these so that you click on a name and get a few paragraphs about them and a picture. I would like to find an intern of some sort to assist with this- perhaps Boy/Girl Scouts or students who need volunteer hours. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact me at joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com. More importantly, I would like to add Dan Lucas to the Famous Chess Journalists - Living!

11. With that I would like to open up the floor to any questions or concerns.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our February meeting on February 4, 2024, at 8 PM.

Budget Information from Mark Capron

Aug 1, 2022 Starting Balance 6845.79

Expenses:

Postage 34.16

Printing 594.90

Website costs 268.78

Trophies and Certificates
2022 766.13

Trophies 800 Estimate

Webmaster Fee 600

Income:

Memberships/Entries 2298.58

Estimate Entries to come 800

Aug 1, 2023 Ending Balance 6880.40