

- I. Introductions
  - A. Myself, Jon, Mark, and Caleb
- II. Numerous issues to update folks on, we can get peoples thoughts, etc.
  - A. New By-Laws
  - B. Reasons for need
    1. 2019 no one interested - no one wants addresses on line or email addresses on line, but that is the extent of it
    2. Banks are increasingly particular about setting up banking accounts for organizations. We had some difficulties when Randy had closed the CJA account and sent me a check, then when we went from Stan Booz to Mark as treasurer we again had some difficulty. At some point, hopefully a long time from now, Mark will retire as treasurer and the new treasurer may not want to have our account in Iowa
    3. Organizations like WCHOF/STLCC and the company that owns the Cleveland Public Library (which is not the public of Cleveland) are uncomfortable with our quasi-legal status for their book-keeping.
    4. 2023 Caleb wanted a committee for bylaws, tries to bring it up at meeting, it really isn't a short discussion so no one seconded and then later I suggested Caleb that he write something up, he writes it up, I would take a look as I recognized we hadn't had anything done officially since 2006, and then we would take it to Mark and Robert (who is now Jon). Caleb wrote something up, I thought on the whole it was good, but had a few significant reservations. We discussed over the next month or so and then shared with Mark and Jon as there were a few spots Caleb and I couldn't agree. We discussed as a group for several hours and came up with the document that Caleb asked me to send off to everyone.

This leads us to this document that Caleb is going to lead the discussion on.

Once this discussion goes on.

C. Mark will update on the journal and much thanks to him for doing a tremendous job editing the journal!

D. Caleb can answer any questions on the website and gave a brief tour of changes, largely dealing with a bit of historical improvement and governance type materials.

E. Gaige Archive - This archive was put up shortly after the last meeting. Jon Edwards deserves about 99% of the credit (though he will dispute that). We have been hosting for about 7 months ago with numerous people using the archives. In fact, the April issue of the journal will have a brief interview with a New Zealand (!!) researcher who has been using the site. Jon, is there anything you would like to add about the site?

F. Outreach Committee - Continue to progress forward but purposely slowly, thinking very incrementally - Sophia 2 years ago started reaching out to young writers at NHS, I continued last year, will continue this year. We have also begun looking for more judges and more involvement with the magazine and judging at USATE and USATW. I have reached out to the other two, but I have not heard back from the other two.

G. Committees regarding the awards: Pete and I have emailed will see each other in two weeks and ways to help judges judge material they are not real familiar with is one the main foci of our meeting (others include CJA writer and common friend - 95 year old Gene Salomon and his book signing) other committee on awards had alot of questions and it took quite a long time to answer so much, might have to move to some sort of zoom set up or more pinpoint focus on upcoming award season

H. Oral history: Oral history goes slowly, but we do have some items, including some fairly substantive John Curdo that will hopefully be online soon. I would certainly like to see this expanded, but there are only so many hours in the day. If someone is interested in this please feel free to email me.

- I. DCJ - Jim speaks about the poster and the goal of finding 3 journalists (1 deceased, 1 living, 1 primarily focused on regional work) to join the Distinguished Chess Journalists Board held by US Chess (if you wish to suggest people please contact Jim or I)
- J. American Chess Magazine Project:

Historically, movement by the CJA, and most organizations, is two steps forward - 1 step back. In 1993, John Donaldson, who had been thinking deeply about chess and chess history, came to the CJA and spoke about the need to make sure that those interested in chess magazines needed to work hard and do more than they were doing to make sure that Cleveland preserved the myriad of American chess magazines that were out there.

A little over 30 years later, Robert Irons stepped down from the VP position as he had too much work to do with him still teaching, etc. Mark and I made a short list of who we would want to be VP if we could pick. Jon was on the shortlist, so I reached out to him, and he said he would be willing because he liked many of the projects we were doing and thought they were necessary.

We were all extremely pleased to have Jon join us. A few weeks later, Jon shared an email he had received that someone had updated the website for the state of West Virginia, and it had a complete run of all their state periodical issues (a little over 200 of them.)

I had not read the brief article in the 1993 Chess Journalist, but some sort of record of the various state affiliates and their journals had been playing around in my brain for a while. I had once suggested a 30-volume history of chess in the United States to McFarland based on the idea that state histories (smaller states grouped), and I was thinking that excellent source material would be found in the various state periodicals. McFarland was not interested, but this interest in state periodicals had periodically played around in my subconscious. A couple of years ago, at this meeting, I also briefly mentioned the problem of where and how to find things, though we had yet to come up with a course of action. On top of this, I had Jon's kind words about thinking about our projects and his tremendous work in the Gaige archive.

So, I set up an Excel file and started inputting the names of the various journals in the United States. The next day, I told Mark and Jon what I had done, and using di Felice, Betts, etc., we began to put together a list of periodicals. This list is just the first step, though, one with about 600 entries. Meanwhile, I found the above article about Donaldson's interest, which, as Jon said, "Shows we are definitely on the right track."

While we have yet to solve all the problems, especially those concerning copyright, we have developed a plan of attack.

- 1) We have a file with about 600 magazines printed by various clubs, states, and national organizations.
- 2) We have begun collecting them. One young man who helps me with various chess projects (it is from some school/donated hours credit thing kids have to do before they graduate) has already begun moving West Virginia over so that we have a copy. We are also working with a young man to start some copying of materials from the White Collection in Cleveland.
- 3) We reached out to big pharma, who deals in truly tremendous amounts of data, and spoke with someone who had dealt with electronic documents for about the last two decades; we had them explain the methodology they would use for storing and making the documents accessible, in short - we have designed, at least in theory, how we will set up a folder structure to host these magazines and all papers will be saved within this structure and will have Optical Character Recognition (OCR) done to them so they will be word-searchable.
- 4) A list of best practices is being put together so that those interested in assisting, ie someone at a state organization who wants to see more publicity for his state's magazine will be able to see the best practices, follow them, and then we can upload it into the folder structure and it will be accessible to everyone.
- 5) We will set up a Chessbase file with the games from these issues. This file will essentially be a games database from all the various magazines. We have some people interested in starting this part of the project. We also have a couple of people who have begun work on such things and will discuss with them further as the situation allows.

The hope is that most work will be done in our lifetimes, but there will always be new things to add, new "old" magazines found, and the like. Still, the expectation is that those who succeed us will continue to expand on our hopes to understand better and respect the great variety of Americans who have played the game and all of those who have written about chess over the last almost two centuries.

In closing - Hope to see everyone at the US Open in Newport News, in VA. Also next winter meeting will be on February 2nd, 2025. Further meetings expect to be:

2025 US Open - WI

2/1/2026 - Winter meeting

2026 - US Open location unknown

2/7/2027 - Winter meeting

2027 - US Open - Texas