

## US Chess 2018 Annual Meeting Report

**Summary.** The 2018 Annual meeting was held at the US Open in Madison Wisconsin on August 4-5. Mike Hoffpauir attended as US Chess President and Ernie Schlich was the only delegate from Virginia who was able to attend. The number of delegates is based on the number of US Chess members in Virginia and for 2018 we had 4 authorized delegates. Our delegates are appointed by the VCF Board. If you are interested in serving, please contact our VCF President or volunteer at the VCF Annual Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. Next year's US Chess Annual Meeting will be held on the final Saturday and Sunday of the US Open in Orlando, FL from August 3-11.

US Chess has produced an Annual Report which gives excellent information about our organization. You can see the report at the US Chess website in two sizes. The full size document is quite large so you may want to first view the reduced size report.

Click to see: [The full size report](#) [The reduced size report.](#)

In his remarks to the Delegates, US Chess President Mike Hoffpauir reviewed the US Chess Mission Statement, "*Empowering people through chess one move at a time.*" Mike also described how the US Chess Executive Board conducted a strategic planning meeting in February, re-affirming the mission statement, vision statement and over-arching goals of US Chess. He also mentioned that the Executive Board developed 9 new "objectives" subordinate to the 5 US Chess Goals, and that US Chess was in the process of developing various programs and initiatives to help US Chess fulfill its 501(c)(3) mission. The efforts of our chess community are essential for our success in these endeavors. Please help.

US Chess finances are in excellent condition, with over \$1M in a reserve / contingency fund. The federation has shown significant improvement each year since 2014. Continued growth is expected in the coming year, even as we send more players and teams to international events and promote chess everywhere. Donations are the "wild card", the more US Chess receives, the more it can support all sorts of great programs for members.

**Motions Considered.** Many motions were considered at the meeting. Here we recap only those that Ernie and Mike think are of the most interest to VCF members. You can see the all the advance motions proposed in the 2018 Delegates Call. Once the minutes are approved they will be posted on the US Chess website. They are or will be found under Reports on the US Chess website at [http://www.uschess.org/component/option,com\\_uscf\\_dirlist/Itemid,414/](http://www.uschess.org/component/option,com_uscf_dirlist/Itemid,414/)

- **Governance.**

US Chess has formed a governance task force to examine the structure of the US Chess Executive Board. US Chess Vice President Allen Priest (KY) noted that most 501(c)(3) organizations has Board Members who are not "elected" to their positions; rather, they are people of influence and wealth who bring considerable corporate-level skills and

charitable capabilities to their positions. VP Priest noted, however, that “while this is not our culture in US Chess,” there still may be a way to include certain persons of influence in US Chess’s governance.

In May 2018 the US Chess Executive Board (EB) adopted a Transgender Policy. The policy was discussed by the Delegates and the matter has been referred back to the EB for improvements suggested by the Delegates. The transgender policy is posted on the US Chess website.

- **Rules.**

A motion passed to limit changes to the US Chess Official Rules of Chess to every 2 years, unless 85% of the Delegates (a super-majority) approve an immediate change. The intent is to try and minimize the number of rules changes that occur each year.

Wording changes were made to rules 14D (Insufficient material to continue) and 14E (Insufficient material to win on time) to clarify the language of these two rules. They do not affect how the rules are implemented.

Rule 35F10e dealing with optional assistance for blind/disabled players will add the right to claim a win on time and to notify that player about touch move violations so they could decide if they wanted to claim the violation.

- **Upcoming FIDE Elections.**

The Delegates approved a motion for US Chess to endorse the ticket of GM Nigel Short for the FIDE Presidency. The FIDE Congress where the nations will vote for the next FIDE President and other Officers happens in October.

**REMINDER:** The VCF Annual Membership Meeting is Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at the same site as the Virginia Closed.

Sincerely,

Ernest W Schlich Virginia Delegate to the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Michael E Hoffpauir US Chess President at the 2018 Annual Meeting.