

# VCF Annual Membership Meeting

9:00am – 11:00 am Saturday, Sep 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, in Glen Allen, VA

## *Minutes of the Annual Meeting*

1. **Call to Order/Quorum Call.** VCF President Dommalapati (Anand) called the meeting to order at 9 am eastern time. Executive Secretary Hoffpaur (Mike) stated that a quorum, in accordance with the VCF ByLaws, would consist of 8 members physically present for the meeting. There were 11 voting-age members present as listed below and a quorum was established for the meeting. A copy of the sign-in sheet for the meeting is at *Enclosure 1*.

Anand Dommalapati	Michael Hoffpaur	Michael Callaham
Christina Schweiss	Cheryl Havens	Daniel Miller
John E. Gray	Robert Jackson	Aniket Sinkar
Andrew Samuelson	Chase Neese	

2. **Annual Business.**

- a. Election of President: One nomination, Anand Dommalapati, was made by Mike Hoffpaur. It was seconded. Anand was elected President by voice acclamation.
- b. Election of Board of Directors (BoD):
  1. Vice President: Michael Callaham self-nominated. The nomination was seconded. Mike was elected VP by voice acclamation.
  2. Executive Secretary (ES): Mike Hoffpaur self-nominated. The nomination was seconded, and Mike H was elected ES by voice acclamation.
  3. Two Members-at-Large. Both member-at-large positions were vacated after Adam Chrisney resigned in 2020 and Andrew Rea moved to Florida. Robby Jackson (VA Beach) and Aniket Sinkar (Glen Allen) were nominated and elected by voice acclamation.
  4. Note: The VCF Webmaster (Mike Hoffpaur) already has updated these names on the VCF website.
- c. Appointed Positions. ES Mike Hoffpaur noted that these appointments can be deferred until the BoD can meet in closed session. President Dommalapati will schedule that meeting. (See also New Business for discussion of a new Appointed Position.)
- d. Minutes of the 2020 VA Closed and Annual Meeting. Last year's meeting was canceled due to the COVID pandemic and the inability to hold an over-the-board VA Closed. These actions were in accordance with the VCF ByLaws. Exec Secretary Hoffpaur has prepared an update to the ByLaws that would enable the annual meeting to be held online. This is covered under New Business.
- e. Delegates to the 2022 US Chess Delegates Meeting. Mike Hoffpaur noted that the US Chess ByLaws require all State Chapters to provide their list of 2022 delegate by November 1<sup>st</sup>. With next year's US Open being in southern California, Tina Schweiss noted that getting delegates to attend without a stipend will be difficult. Mike Hoffpaur observed that members who also are tournament directors may be able to have their

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travel paid for by US Chess if they are accepted to be part of the Tournament Committee by the US Chess Director of Events (Mr. Boyd Reed).

- f. President's Report (Dommalapati).
  1. Anand delivered an oral report. He thanked Mike Hoffpauir and others for organizing events throughout the pandemic, online and over-the-board. Anand mentioned that the last Board meeting was in Jun 2020. Subsequently due to a board member having moved to Florida and another Board member stepping down, most of the board-level discussions within the VCF were made by telephone/zoom communications between Anand and Mike Hoffpauir with all the updated being discussed pertaining to Board's activities.
  2. Anand summarized the events canceled due to the COVID. He noted that as online activity was gradually picking up, Mike Hoffpauir initiated discussions with the President and Tina on the possibility of having multiple Online Qualifiers and running a final Scholastic Invitational either Online or In-person. Anand also mentioned that as things were gradually opening up during Fall, a few of the VCF events were scheduled as planned.
  3. Anand reported that the 2020 US Class event was organized well following COVID safety protocols.
  4. He also mentioned that during the Jun 2020 Quarterly board meeting, a motion was passed (as initially brought up then Vice President, Andy Rea) to extend VCF Memberships by 6 (Six) months effective March 2020 – a decision that benefited about 350 VCF members.
  5. Anand also reported that as the deadline was approaching to select and send a Senior Representative's to the 2021 US Open's Invitational Senior Tournament of Championships, he worked closely with Adam Chrisney to schedule an over-the-board event in early July 2021. The nominee's name, John Farrell, was turned-in about two weeks before the invitational at the US Open.
- g. Treasurer's Report (Hoffpauir). Mike Hoffpauir delivered an oral report. Mike will follow-up and post his report on the VCF Website. Mike reported that the VCF's overall value increased approximately \$5,000 owing to aggressive over-the-board and online event activity by the VCF. The VCF's total value includes funds currently in a Wells Fargo checking account, the David Zofchak memorial fund (also in Wells Fargo), and two PayPal accounts for Scholastics (\$200) and non-Scholastics (\$800). Mike noted that he keeps the PayPal balances low and routinely transfers money from PayPal to the Wells Fargo Account. Mike also noted that the Zofchak funds (approximately \$1,760) grows about \$.02 or \$.03 each month, and that VCF has decided to use this as a contingency fund and to supplement the prize purse for the annual David F. Zofchak Memorial Tournament.
- h. Membership Secretary's Report. Ms. Georgina Chin, our Executive Secretary was not present at the Annual Meeting.
- i. Editor's Report. Macon Shibut, the VCF Editor, delivered his report by email to the President and Executive Secretary because he was not able to attend the Annual

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Meeting. His report noted that he needs more consistent input on recently completed and future tournaments.

### 3. Old Business.

- a. Review Status of VCF Tournaments. President Dommalapati and ES Hoffpaur commented on events VCF had run (or had to cancel) during the previous year-plus.
  1. Virginia Scholastic State Championships, Schoolyear 2019-2020. This event was held at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, VA. The tournament was held the week before most of the U.S. “shut down” due to the onset of COVID.
  2. 2020 Virginia Closed & the 2020 Virginia Commonwealth Games. Both events were held online.
  3. 2020 Northern VA Open. Was held in November in Dulles, VA.
  4. 2020 Zofchak Memorial. Was held in November in Norfolk.
  5. 2021 Virginia Open. Was held in April in Dulles, VA.
  6. Schoolyear 2020-21 Virginia Scholastic Championships. This past year the pandemic prohibited holding an over-the-board tournament in March, so ES Mike Hoffpaur conceived and organized a special format involving 3 Qualification Tournaments that would qualify players to participate in a down-sized “invitational” state scholastic championships. The event was very successful, with 275-380 players playing in the online events in January, February and March 2021. These “qualifiers” qualified players to participate in the over-the-board version of the tournament, with up to 40 players being in the tournament from each grade group traditionally used in the state scholastic championships—e.g. K3, K5, K8 and K12. All 3 qualifiers were played on Chesskid.com. Mike Hoffpaur noted that about a dozen players were disqualified for cheating, with all players admitting their transgressions. The invitational event was held in May and was highly successful.
  7. 2021 Charlottesville Open (Charlottesville). Mike Hoffpaur organized this event, which had a record turnout of over 105 players.
  8. 2021 Senior Open (Dulles). Adam Chrisney hastily put together this event to identify Virginia’s representative to the annual Tournament of State Senior Champions held at the US Open. John Farrell won the tournament and traveled to Cherry Hill NJ in late July to play in the champion’s tournament.
  9. 2021 VA Commonwealth Games. Mike Hoffpaur organized and conducted the VC Games online using LiChess.
  10. 2021 Virginia Closed. Mike Hoffpaur organized this year’s state championship at the usual location in Glen Allen, VA. Mike noted that we had a record turnout with over 110 players. Mike also held an informative “Pre-Tournament Zoom Meeting” before the event to talk about the venue, tournament format, etc. with new players (and their parents).

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11. Non-VCF Tournaments. President Dommalapati organized and ran several tournaments in 2020 and 21: the 2020 US Class Championships, the 2021 Colonial Open, and the 2021 Cherry Blossom Classic.
  - b. VCF Cup Re-organization. ES Mike Hoffpauir stated that he needs to calculate VCF Cup prizes from 2020 and 21. Checks will be sent to winners through the VCF's Wells Fargo account.
  - c. HEAV & VA Home-School Convention. Tina Schweiss noted that the "online" version of the convention was not acceptable because it would not allow us to give a presentation. She spoke with the HEAV organizers and they agree to roll-over VCF's funding (about \$650) to the next event.
  - d. Additional Old Business.
- 4. New Business.**
- a. Upcoming VCF Tournaments
    1. 2021 Fredericksburg Open (Fredericksburg). Mike Hoffpauir noted that this event is scheduled for Oct 30-31.
    2. 2022 Senior Open (June 2022, Dulles. This event has not been scheduled.
    3. 2021-2022 VA State Scholastic Championships. Mike stated that options are being worked for holding the event in Virginia Beach. The Founders Inn was front-runner for the event, but they could only offer "early February" as tournament dates—this was not acceptable.
    4. 2021-2022 Virginia Team Championships (online). Mike has proposed this new event for Jan/Feb 2022. Mike said he needs to develop the rules and organize the event.
  - b. Upcoming Non-VCF Tournaments. Anand said he has won the US Chess bid to organize the 2021-22 Pan American Intercollegiate Championships, with Mike Hoffpauir as Chief Arbiter. He and Aniket Sinkar briefly mentioned the potential of marketing the tournament as a "recruiting event" for companies like CapitalOne and others. The idea initiated a more general discussion about getting sponsorship. Aniket noted that a senior executive (Vice President) from CarMax has a son playing chess in the Richmond area and that he would talk to the man about.
  - c. US Open Delegates Report (Andrew Rea & Ernest Schlich)
    1. New FIDE rules for Arbiters. Mike Hoffpauir noted that these take effect January 1<sup>st</sup> and include requirements for continuing education and a new exam for International Arbiter candidates. Mike is a member of the FIDE Rules Commission.
    2. The state chapters and US Chess need to work for more women's participation in tournaments and chess governance.
    3. 2022 US Open will be in southern California. In 2024, the US Open returns to Norfolk VA.

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4. Mike Hoffpauir, who also is President of the US Chess Federation, noted that many states have “lost” delegates because they did not continue their chess activities during the pandemic. Virginia did stay active and retained its 5 delegates for the 2022 US Open.
- d. Additional New Business.
  1. VCF ByLaws.
    - a) Proposed Revisions. Mike Hoffpauir provided an overview for members of proposed revisions to the VCF ByLaws. He had posted a copy of the proposed changes on the VCF website in early August, in accordance with the VCF ByLaws. Mike noted that the revisions covered three broad topics: 1) to clarify that the Virginia State Champion shall always be the winner of the last-held over-the-board championships; 2) to allow members to attend the VCF’s Annual Meeting online and that they be counted toward the quorum; and, 3) to update other parts of the ByLaws impacted by adding the online attendance option. The members unanimously voted these changes as previewed by Mike.
    - b) Additional Revision. Tina Schweiss and Mike Callaham made a plea to add a “Youth Representative” to the ByLaws as an Appointed Position. The members liked this option. The President directed Mike Hoffpauir to develop appropriate language for the ByLaws.
  2. Advertising and Getting Additional Funding.
    - a) Mike Callaham, Aniket Sinkar, Robby Jackson, and Tina Schweiss all commented on this topic, with Mike Callaham making a passionate appeal for action by the Board of Directors. Mike discussed the need for public service announcements on local TV and radio. Tina pointed out the positive aspects of Facebook and Twitter.
    - b) Member John Gray (Fredericksburg) stepped forward and said he has contacts in Virginia’s public TV network and that he would reach out to them in the coming weeks and get back with Mike Callaham.
    - c) Mike Callaham pointed out that he will take the initiative to reach out to the VCF Editor on getting some news out to reach out to VCF Members for further ideas on advertising and spreading the VCF activities.
5. **Open Forum.** President Dommalapati opened the floor to any additional concerns from the general membership. No one raised any issues.
6. **Adjournment.** Mike Hoffpauir made a motion to adjourn that was seconded and passed by acclamation. The meeting ended at about 11:05 am.

Enclosure 1: Sign-in Sheet

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Sign-in Sheet from the 2021 VA Chess Federation Annual Meeting on 9/4/2021

VCF Annual Meeting Attendees 9/4/2021

Name	email
1 Mike Hoffmann	mhoffmann@aol.com
2 Cheryl Havers	dancewiz@gmail.com
3 Robert Jackson	RRJackson6@gmail.com
4 Mike Ollahom	waterman2010kir@aol.com
5 Aniket Sinkar	aniket.sinkar@gmail.com
6 Christine Schweiss	cschweiss2@gmail.com
7 Chase Neese	chaseeesel@gmail.com
8 Anand Dammalapati	adammalapati@yahoo.com
9 Daniel Miller	dmiller85g@live.com
10 Andy Samuelson	andy.samuelson82@gmail.com
11 <del>John E. Gray</del>	<del>John.E.Gray28@iccc.org</del>
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