

NMCO Minutes 04Nov2023

Attend: Daniel Serna, President; Steve Perea, Vice President; Ken Lopez, Treasurer; Kevin Zemko, Secretary, Kaitlyn (Katey) Klein-Sutton, public.

A quorum was achieved with 4 of 4 voting members present.

Previous Minutes

Minutes from the 29Oct2023 annual membership meeting approved conditional upon correction of typographical errors.

President's Report

Vision:

grow the vision of chess for New Mexico;

have more attendance at tournaments, e.g., have 200 players instead of 100 players;

have better (larger) prize funds

address players' concerns

work with city government, chamber of commerce, et al to support NMCO financially, publicize our tournaments; and work with other affiliates in New Mexico to host and run tournaments.

Treasurer's Report

No changes occurred to finances this week. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report from the 29Oct2023 annual membership meeting for more information.

Ken Lopez and Daniel Serna will meet with Dean Brunton to transfer the bank account information and access rights.

Old Business

Appointment of Positions

Scholastic Director, voting member. Will Barela is the only person who expressed interest. Approved by Board vote 4-0.

Tournament Organizer, voting member. Kaitlyn (Katey) Kelin-Sutton. Approved 3-0 with Daniel Serna recused because he is personal friends with Katey.

Webmaster, voting member. The only person who expressed interest was Joseph Cutchall, who was webmaster in 2023 and expressed that he would contribute only if needed. Through discussion the Board voted to keep this position open for the time being, not seeing a need for a webmaster currently, with a count of 5-0.

Desert Knight (magazine) editor, voting member. No person expressed interest in this position in recent times, leading up to and in this week following the annual membership meeting. A motion was approved for Steve Perea, Vice President, to approach Eddy Wyckoff, who is a well-known and well-regarded

member of the state chess community and writes a chess column that appears on Sundays in the local newspaper, the Albuquerque Journal, about possible interest in being the Desert Knight editor for the 2023-2024 Board term.

#### Public members at large

Dean Brunton would be a good fit for a Board position because of his extensive history as Treasurer; however, recently he did not express interest in continuing on the Board, instead preferring to enjoy retirement.

Dr. Preston Herrington was approved by a 5-0 vote as a member at large, voting, because he brings good insight to the Board and organizes tournaments in Farmington (Northern New Mexico).

Calvin Cox and Heidi Fleck were not approved, each by a 5-0 vote, because they expressed interest in being on the Board but not having any responsibilities.

Richard Warren had expressed interest in representing the senior (age 50+) population of New Mexico chess players. However, Mr. Warren had not reached out to any other senior players to ascertain their agreement with his proposition, before and after suggesting the position during the September 2023 Board meeting. The Board did not approve Mr. Warren by a 5-0 vote.

To summarize, three members were added to the Board: Kaitlyn Klein-Sutton, Will Barela, and Dr. Preston Herrington, bringing Board membership to 7 members. Daniel Serna will notify Will Barela and Dr. Preston Herrington of the Board decision in a timely fashion and in time for their attendance at the subsequent Board meeting.

#### New Business

##### Game in 60 (G/60) events.

The vision of Daniel Serna and Steve Perea is to run these one-day, weekend, monthly, tournaments under the Albuquerque Chess Club, which is Daniel Serna's affiliate, and/or Empire Chess Club, which is Steve Perea's affiliate, to ease the burden on the Board of having to vote to approve these tournaments. In exchange, the G/60's would be sanctioned by NMCO which makes players eligible to vote at the annual membership meeting, and a \$100 donation would be made to NMCO to facilitate fundraising.

A motion was made and seconded as follows: NMCO would allow ABQ CC, Empire CC, or other New Mexico USCF affiliate to run G/60 tournaments as previously described, including the \$100 donation and voting member rights. The NMCO Board will approve these tournaments prior to their conduct. Daniel Serna and Steve Perea were recused from the vote due to their statuses as running the affiliates as described. The motion was approved 3-0 (Zemko, Lopez, Klein-Sutton).

##### Senior Championship tournament

A play-up limit was suggested fo 200 points within each section's cap. For example, for a U1700 section, players rated 1500-1700 could in the next higher section, which is usually the Championship section in New Mexico, but players rated 1499 or below would not be allowed to play up in the Championship section. This suggestion was made to discourage playing up by players whose ratings and playing strengths are not competitive in the higher sections in which they desire to play, thereby giving the players who are required to be in those sections more competitive games.

Byes can be requested for the first round, up to 2 byes at one-half point each.

Any byes requested after the start of the first round will be zero-point byes.

Unrated players will be limited to the bottom two sections.

The sections will be Championship (highest), U1800, U1200, and U600.

A scholastic section was undecided due to the impossibility of prediction of how many scholastic players would register. Noted as an aside was that scholastic G/30 tournaments have been planned for 2024 and the ones that occurred in 2023 were highly popular.

The total prize fund was set at \$1990. This fund is larger than any previous known prize fund for NMCO.

The venue of AIMS was offered by Steve Perea, which is a no-cost venue to NMCO.

The dates will be January 14-15, 2024.

Concessions were well-received at the October "Mortal Kombat" tournament on 27Oct2023 and are preferred for this tournament. Concessions help to eliminate the need to leave the venue between rounds for meal breaks.

The tournament director will be Daniel Serna. Assistant TD responsibility will be considered by K. Klein-Sutton, K. Lopez, and K. Zemko.

Details of the format of the tournament were provided in separate notes and will be similar to the previous year's Senior tournament.

The motion for the tournament was approved by a 5-0 Board vote.

November

No large tournament scheduled

December

10Dec2023 G/60 which will be run by Daniel Serna

Albuquerque Scholastic Chess League

In 2023, the ASCL was run over three weeks. Issues noted with this format included the need for players and parents to travel for three weeks in a row. For 2024, Sunday 28Jan2024 only is proposed, will all of the games occurring on one day.

Venue: Sandia Prep. The gym/cafeteria area holds 800 people.

Cost: trophies only, anticipated about \$80.

Format: 5 players/team, 2 teams/school allowed. NMCO should include Learners Chess (Victor Lopez), Santa Fe, Los Alamos, and Socorro.

NMCO will sponsor. Motioned and passed with a 5-0 vote.

#### Northern and Southern New Mexico Championship tournaments

The Northern should be held in Albuquerque or Santa Fe. The Southern should be held in Las Cruces.

These tournaments feed into the March 2024 scholastic K-12 state championship.

The Super Bowl is 11Feb2024. These tournaments could be held the same day or different days and the proposed dates are 04Feb2024 and 18Feb2024, Sundays.

No need to vote – the dates and venues will be determined by the Board members. Will Barela, Scholastic Director, and Manny Castillo (Sr.) will organize the Southern. The TO, P, VP,

T, and S of NMCO will organize the Northern.

#### Scholastic K-12 state championship

March 2024

140 players anticipated. Steve Perea offers AIMS as a venue. Steve Perea will determine the date(s).

Information: spring breaks for area schools are all different, so there won't be a perfect date.

Suggestion: hold a Saturday night pop-up blitz tournament open to all ages.

February G/60 – will run TD'ed by Daniel Serna and hosted by his ABQ CC, Steve Perea's Empire CC as discussed earlier in these minutes.

March G/60 – same as January and February

#### Regional tournaments

Discussion

Las Cruces and Northern New Mexico are the obvious locations for regional tournaments.

Rapid and blitz events on Friday night, Saturday night were great fun in 2022 and are recommended.

Local affiliates should be responsible for organizing these tournaments' venues and dates. The sections, entry fees, and prize funds will follow the formats of previous regional tournaments, e.g., G/75;d5 times 4 or 5 rounds over 2 days. The minimum time control should be G/75;d0 for regular/classical. Blitz can be held as a pop-up with a G/5;d2 time control.

The local players and affiliates will be notified by NMCO with the request for the local affiliates to organize the tournaments and they will be held under the authority of NMCO, which also means that the players become eligible to vote in the annual membership meeting.

#### Regions

Northern NM, Farmington, Dr. Preston Herrington

Southern NM, Las Cruces, Will Barela, possibly with Manny Castillo, and with Ron Farrar from "Visit Las Cruces" which is a local government organization for tourism.

Roswell, Mark Austin.

Alamogordo, Matt Grinberg.

Silver City, TBD.

Socorro, TBD.

Los Alamos, Todd Yilk.

Carrizozo and Cloudcroft, TBD.

#### FIDE event(s)

FIDE events should be stand-alone and can be paired with a G/60 for lower-rated players.

One to two FIDE events per year should be feasible, one in the first half of the calendar year, and one in the second half of the calendar year.

The need to identify additional FIDE arbiters was identified because the only FIDE qualified arbiter in the state is John LeTard, whose availability cannot be guaranteed. Secretary K. Zemko suggested creating a short list of up to 10 FIDE arbiters who would be asked to cold bid on each NMCO FIDE event. Two to three arbiters should be selected to ensure proper coverage.

#### Fundraisers

HOPS Brewery was excited to host our events in 2022 and Secretary Kevin Zemko should reach out to them again to confirm their interest for 2023.

Hollow Spirits Distillery in downtown Albuquerque was approached in 2022/2023 and was excited to host a chess night, although one was not executed in 2022/2023 to the knowledge of the Board.

State government offices may support NMCO.

ABQ CC plays at Slice and Dice at Menaul/Wyoming and they offer a pizza of the month from which 10% of profits can be directed to an organization. A pizza should be decided and the month of February was suggested.

Coffee shops can be great venues for casual chess play, game review, instruction, etc. K. Klein-Sutton will research this possibility, approved 4-0 by the Board with K. Klein-Sutton recused.

K. Klein Sutton asked why NMCO is not soliciting donations. NMCO was not in the habit of soliciting donations in 2022 or 2023 but there's no reason why we cannot.

Next Board Meeting

Sunday December 3 at Hops Brewery, 7222 Fourth Street NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, 7:30pm.

Passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned.