



Dec 19, 2024

OCA Board Meeting Minutes

Present by Zoom call were:

Chris Amburgy (President) plus Tom Braunlich (Secretary), Chuck Unruh, Paul Covington, Joe Veal, Mark Hulsey, Miles Melvin

A productive meeting on several topics:

1) Rozsa Trophy Invitational Tournament Status (Jan 24-26) and Future Ideas

Tom B reports the 3rd annual invitational is coming along well now. Invitations have been sent out and so far, five have accepted, with one additional “maybe” and a few yet to be heard from. Closes at the end of this year.

The venue at TU in the student union has been given to us for **free** due to the synergy we have with them at the Performance/Talk about Bela Rozsa which will be Jan 25 evening.

The remaining possible sticking points are the need to get **parking** permits for us on the campus on Jan 24 (Friday), and worries about the **WiFi** strength. Joe expressed it should be okay. Paul said he might check it out beforehand and he has the contact info.

Tom asked if the board might be able to get some **financial help with the hotel stay** for any out-of-town players who might have trouble for springing for that, and the consensus was that might be possible if necessary.

The board then discussed how we could parlay this special event at TU into them allowing us free space for the tournament in the **future** as well.

Joe suggested we first of all need to put on a professional appearance – with a **dress code** for the players/officials, and that was agreed by the board. The other main idea was to try to speak with **Roxanna Lorton** (Roxana Rozsa, Bela’s daughter) about this plan for an annual Rozsa Chess tournament hosted at the Student Union and get her support.

2) Tulsa Midtown Chess Club Situation — New Venue Needed

Tom B updated and asked for feedback on the situation with the Tulsa Midtown club, which enjoyed two permanent rooms at the Harvard Ave Baptist Church and was hosted there by the late Harold Brown Jr. Without his sponsorship the church elders had asked the club to leave in January.

Tom B said he will meet with **Ken Warrick**, of Broken Arrow, who has a daughter involved in chess, and who has an “in” with **Rhema Bible College in B.A.** Rhema has a sprawling complex there, including an unused restaurant on 71st street he thought he could procure for us. He will check it out in person on Saturday, Dec 21, and report back.

Tom mentioned an alternative was to meet at the **Zarrow Library** in West Tulsa, which has two nice large rooms and might also be a venue for one-day tournaments. This would work fine as a meeting place but has the drawback we have to bring in our equipment and take it with us each meeting. The same for the possible return to **Foolish Things Coffee Shop** where this club met originally from 2014-2021 prior to going to the church.

Chris A mentioned that his wife is on the **Tulsa Library board** and would look into the possibility of special arrangements. (He contacted me the following day saying that something would likely be possible along those lines and would ideal requirements we would like to have for the club in that case. Tom will speak with some of the club members on Saturday and report back to him.)

3) Revisit Proposal for OCA History Book Fundraiser

Regarding this old proposal that had been temporarily backburned from previous meetings, Tom B said he now has experience working with the Amazon “KDP” on-demand print system that allows a book to be published through their system easily and with no need to carry an inventory. He presented an outline of the contents of the book, basically a summary of OK’s chess history (from pre-statehood to the 1970s) plus a compilation of already-written “character profile” articles taken from past issues of the OCM. He made a motion to go forward with this project.

In discussion, several ideas were adopted: that the book feature some **key games** from our history, with diagrams, to interest those who were more into the chess than the personalities. Also, Paul C suggested this list of key past personalities would serve as a possible initial list of players for the **Hall of Fame** idea he has previously proposed and we postponed work on.

OCA’s involvement with the book basically will be to promote it to players and parents – at tournaments, on our website, and in the magazine. We can simply point people to the book’s sales page on Amazon and they can order it directly, or we can get some “author copies” at a cheap price and sell them personally at events. The board would have to provide Amazon with a bank account number to send payments to.

The board agreed with these suggestions and then unanimously approved the project to go forward.

4) Upcoming Tournament Schedule Thru Next Summer, 2025

The board looked at our current schedule shown in the below image, which shows already-organized events in blue and green, and proposed events in red:

UPCOMING OKLAHOMA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE - 2025					
Date	Event	Format	Location	TD	Organizer
Dec 28	HOLIDAY OPEN	4-SS One-day	Tulsa - Church	David Stewart	TB
Jan 24-26	ROZSA TROPHY	6-RR	Tulsa - TU	Peter Ferris	TB
Jan 18	OSCO - Deer Creek K-12	One-day	Edmond	OSCO	OSCO
Mar 8	OSCO - Jenks K-12	One-day	Jenks	OSCO	OSCO
Apr 5	OSCO State Championships	One-day	Edmond	OSCO	OSCO
Apr 12 or 19	OKLA SENIOR OPEN ?	4-SS (Two-Day)	OKC - (Hol Inn?)	?	?
May	STEVE WHARRY ConSat CLASSIC ?	4-SS ConSat	Tulsa - Library	Ferris/Stewart	Ferris/Stewart
June 20-22	JERRY SPANN / ST CHAMPIONSHIP	5-SS (2 schedules)	Edmond	Josie	Josie
July/August	OKLAHOMA CITY FIDE OPEN?	5-SS (2 schedules)	OKC - (Hol Inn?)	Josie?	Josie?
October	OCA STATE BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP	Blitz 7-SS	Chandler ?	?	?
November?	FKB MEMORIAL FIDE OPEN?	5-SS (2 schedules)	OKC - (Hol Inn?)	Josie?	Josie?

The main topic of discussion was the Senior Open, which the late Harold Brown Jr. had supported a lot with his own money, and which has an OCA travel stipend for the winner to attend the national tournament of state senior champions during the U.S.Open.

Chris said the recent FKB Memorial in OKC run by Josie was partly done to help raise funds for this event. Other sources of support for it are the money saved with no expenses for the Rozsa this year, and possibly some money from the new book Fundraiser.

The board decided to see if Rebecca or Josie (assisted by Joe) could organize and direct it at the same new OKC site at the Holiday Inn that Josie found for the FKB, which is spacious and inexpensive. Chris said he would contact them about it – with **target dates of either late March or April 12-13**. It is a two-day 4-SS classical event.

The other red tournaments in the chart were tabled until later, with the note that the new OKC venue is a good site to use, and we need to find a similar site for Tulsa now that we have apparently lost the church's gymnasium site.

5) TD and Volunteer Situation in the State

Tom B expressed some concern for the future with regard to our stock of active experienced TDs in the state, and with insuring that our key volunteers who spend extra-high work hours for the OCA are supported.

He pointed out we lost three of our experienced TDs in 2024 (Brown, Gargus, Braunlich), and now rely heavily on Josie and Rebecca, with two TDs being mentored in Tulsa (Peter Ferris and David Stewart). Both Josie and Rebecca have very high levels of Volunteer time, and there is always the possibility that at some point they may want to cut back.

Tom B wanted to revisit the idea of “token” support payments to key volunteers:

- The Chief TD for the Jerry Spann Memorial State Championship, which is now a major 100+ tournament that has high time requirement for the organizer/TD.
- The Webmaster (Rebecca)
- The OCM Editor (Tom)

It has been the general policy of the OCA to rely on pure volunteerism, so there is naturally some reluctance for this idea. But Tom argued it would help to show appreciation to key volunteers, help to defray some of their personal expenses in their work, and thus help to retain them ongoing. The proviso was that any payments made would not be ones that require a 1099 tax form at end of year.

The board was generally in agreement with this proposal (first made last June), but Chuck and Chris and Paul wanted to see more details about the financial commitment this would make for OCA and whether we had the cash flow to support it. Specifically, the proposal was adopted by the board last Summer to explore some form of **getting extra OCA revenue by charging dues to active players**, like almost all states do, but doing so **in a passive form by an additional up-charge on entry fees at our state championship events**. Players in those events were to be considered members through the next year’s Jerry Spann Memorial tournament. (The idea being that we wouldn’t have to maintain a membership list).

Last Summer when this topic was also discussed, it was left to Harold to work out the details of this. He had been doing so when he became ill.

At the current meeting, **Chris and Chuck agreed “explore the revenue stream and the idea of token payments”** in more detail and get back to the board with a recommendation for all these issues.