



April 10, 2025 OCA Board Meeting Minutes

Present by Zoom call at 7:00pm were:

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

Chris had asked for a brief one-hour Zoom meeting to decide some specific issues, so some of the formalities were dispensed with, such as reports or the reading of the last minutes from Dec 19, 2024. A productive meeting on several topics:

1) Jerry Spann Memorial Issues

The draft TLA for the Jerry Spann Memorial (State Championship) was discussed and finalized, fixing some minor details, and reinstating the same name used in recent years.

- a) Director Issues— Unfortunately, Josie Braddy and Rebecca R won't be available to direct this year (we should have asked them earlier) so the board had been recommended new TD David Stewart for the job, with Joe Veal volunteering to assist him. (Joe stated he wanted to try and take the test for Senior TD certification before then). The board approved this.
- b) Director Payment — the idea of paying the chief TD of our larger events of 100+ players like this Jerry Spann was again brought up. It had been discussed in previous meetings, including Dec 19, 2024, but so far had been tabled in favor of studying our finances. Braunlich made a motion to pay the chief TD this year \$500 plus hotel expense. Amburgy said the financial situation which he had studied did justify the expense. After some discussion the board approved the motion.
 - a. Amburgy said he would make the offer to Stewart (UPDATE: subsequently Stewart has accepted)
 - b. TD Mike Waters has also said he intends to assist.
- c) Setup Issues —
 - a. Capacity was about 125 last year and quite full, but Josie had ideas on getting more, and has sent us those ideas in diagram form to raise it to 140. We have the same rooms as 2024.
 - b. Who does the DGT top boards? Rebecca has them currently.
 - c. We need to gather the playing sets and transport them there, and we need volunteer help with the Friday evening room setup.
- d) Tiebreak Methods — We must publicize the tiebreaker method for the titles at this tournament, which will be math tiebreaks, not playoffs, as previously decided. The exact method to use that the board agreed on after some discussion was 1) Head-to-Head, then 2) Modified Median, 3) Solkoff, 4) Cumulative, as recommended now by USChess.

- e) Membership meeting —We now have a system of membership in which our eligible voter list consists of people who have participated in at least one OCA event (previous year's Jerry Spann, Blitz Championship, Rozsa Invitational, etc.) during the past year. TB was assigned to print out a list from the tournament info.

2) FKB Memorial TLA

The group discussed Josie's draft for the FKB Memorial FIDE Open, which she is organizing for September at a new venue in OKC that has a very reasonable 3-day cost. The group suggested bumping up the prizes in the open section a bit for this and would cover it.

3) Unruh at USChess Policy Board Ending

Chuck Unruh, who has for a long time been on the USChess board and working in many key capacities for them, announced to the OCA Board that "my volunteerism with USChess will come to an end in late August." This hopefully means he will be able to play more actual chess!

4) Oklahoma Chess History Book Fundraiser

TB announced that this fundraiser book project discussed in previous meetings has been finished in manuscript form. The goal was to have it available for sale at the venue during the Jerry Spann Memorial (and online always at amazon.com). Rebecca R had begun editing it.

The board discussed some ways to promote the book with the goal of selling 100+ copies a year, with the proceeds going to the OCA and helping to defray our expenses.

UPDATE — Rebecca is just too busy, so TB is going to finish the edit the book himself, with assistance of Mark Hulsey as proofreader.

Meeting was adjourned.