



**Minutes of the
VCF Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday, August 31, 2019; 9:10 – 11:45 am
Hilton Garden Inn, Glen Allen, VA**

by Executive Secretary Mike Hoffpauir

I. Call to Order & Quorum Call.

VCF President Adam Chrisney called the 2019 Annual Membership Meeting of the Virginia Chess Federation (VCF) to order at 9:10 AM in Glen Allen, VA at the Hilton Garden Inn Innsbrook, site of the 2019 Virginia Closed. Exec Secretary Mike Hoffpauir reported that a Quorum of 8 members was required, which was achieved as there were 9 present.¹ A sign-in sheet was distributed by Andrew Rea (see Enclosure 1). The Board Members present were:

- Adam Chrisney, President
- Michael Hoffpauir, Executive Secretary
- Anand Dommalapati, Member-at-Large
- Andrew Rea, Member-at-Large

II. Annual Business.

- a. **Approval of the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes:** President Chrisney distributed copies of the minutes. A motion was made for their approval, seconded and passed unanimously.
- b. **Election of President:** President Chrisney opened the floor for nominations for VCF President. Anand Dommalapati was the only nomination and his election was unanimously approved. Anand was in an elected Officer/Director position, a position now vacated because of his election as President. (Anand and Mike Hoffpauir were elected in 2018 to serve 2-year terms.) Executive Secretary Mike Hoffpauir has informed the US Chess main office (on Sept 2nd) that Anand is now our VCF President.
- c. **Election of Board of Directors:** Former President Chrisney explained that three (3) elected Officer / Director positions were up for election: the 1-year position just vacated by Anand's election to President; and, the 2-year terms of Akshay Indusekar and Andrew Rea. Attendees decided to elect the 1-year position first and separately from the two 2-year Director positions.
 - 1) **Election to Backfill Anand's vacated Director Position:** Andy Rea and Mike Callahan were nominated as candidates to complete the remainder of Anand's vacated position. Andy Rea won by a vote of 5-4.

¹ A Quorum is defined in Article 3, Section 5 of the VCF ByLaws, " At any meeting of the members of the corporation, the presence of five percent (5%) of the voting age members residing in Virginia shall be necessary to constitute a quorum."

No audio or video recording allowed by attendees except that the secretary may record the meeting to aid in the preparation of minutes (copy deleted once the minutes have been prepared). Members do not have the right to participate in the Board's deliberations or votes. Members may raise new business not on the Agenda during the Annual Meeting's Open Forum. Disruptive attendees may be expelled from the meeting and/or the tournament (without EF refund).

- 2) Election of Directors to 2-year terms (2 vacancies): Mike Callaham, Adam Chrisney and Akshay Indusekar were nominated as candidates for the 2 positions. Adam and Mike were elected with 8 votes each, while Akshay received 2 votes.
- d. **Call for Delegates for 2020:** Former President Chrisney explained that the VCF may send up to 4 Delegates to the US Chess Annual Delegates Meeting in August 2020. That meeting will be held in St. Louis (St. Charles), MO, site of the 2020 US Open. Anand Dommalapati, Adam Chrisney, Tina Schweiss, and Andy Rea all volunteered to serve as Delegates, with John Farrell saying he is available as an Alternate Delegate (states are allowed a number of alternates equal to their number of authorized primary delegates). Adam explained to Anand that US Chess will call for the Delegate nominations from the US Chess State Affiliates/Chapters in October to meet the November 1 cutoff specified in the US Chess ByLaws.
 - e. **President's Report.** This year the VCF Board has resolved or addressed several items for the betterment of the membership and good of the organization and VA players and affiliates. Among the highlights is a concern first identified when I became President five years ago ... all VCF tournaments except the VA Senior Open at that point had seen a steady annual decline in entries. After examining tournament stats, the VCF board and TDs focused on increased advertising and fine tuning and adjusting the prize structure for VCF tournaments. We have started to see success as entries have begun to increase across the board as well as replacing the defunct Emporia Open with a Fredericksburg Open.

After a couple of years of my consistent urging, VCF has taken a more proactive role in advertising chess and VCF capacities to the sizeable VA home school population. VCF Scholastic Coordinator Paul Swaney, and VCF Women's Coordinator Christina (Tina) Schweiss and I aggressively engaged the HEAV and the smaller Homeschool conventions as well as developed VCF's initial marketing material (trifold). While VCF missed HEAV registration deadlines, through Tina Schweiss we were represented at the Homeschool convention this year. We are focused on a more robust participation at both conventions this coming year.

Among various other minor items addressed by the board, VCF has had several other accomplishments this past year. These include that former VCF board member Ernest Schlich has taken over management of the USCF Region 3 Clearinghouse from Mike Atkins. Ernie's focus has been on updating webpage quality and increasing organizer participation. In addition, through our Executive Secretary's efforts we have implemented a comprehensive electronics policy for VCF tournaments. And finally, we have successfully resolved external fraudulent outreach to/among/from board members; we did so by privatizing and "blinding" official VCF contact info and correspondence.

I finish my tenure by looking back and hoping we have turned VCF into a more proactive and effective entity in my five years at the helm. I am eager to help our new President, Anand Dommalapati, capitalize and expand on VCF's recent successes.
 - f. **Treasurer's Report** (See Enclosure 2). Mike Hoffpauir, Exec Secretary and Treasurer provided attendees with a copy of the Treasurer's Report. Mike noted that the report is in "final draft" form because "technically" the VCF fiscal year doesn't end until Saturday

Aug 31st. Mike will update the report of record. He noted that several members have not cashed their prize checks dating back to November 2015, this amounts to about \$1,350. Mike summarized the status of our Wells Fargo bank and PayPal accounts, noting that the decline in our total net worth for 2019 is “typical” due to the every-other-year effect of VCF hosting (or not hosting) the annual State Scholastic Championship. This event along usually brings in between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in profit for VCF, depending on where it is held. It is the primary revenue-generating event for the VCF, enabling us to provide players and teams with stipends of varying amounts to attend national and international events. In FY19, VCF received about \$1,380 in donations from four donors one of whom was anonymous. \$1,250 of these donations were applied to “military chess”, with the rest used to supply schools and clubs with chess sets/boards. In FY19 Mike reported VCF had a net profit of about \$735 from 6 tournaments, noting that the Emporia Open will be discontinued as a VCF event because of several years of losses between \$300 and \$600 per year (as well as declining attendance). The new Fredericksburg Open (last held in 1999) will replace the Emporia event on the VCF’s annual tournament calendar. Mike also noted that the costs of our Newsletter have risen. Macon Shibut, VCF Editor, agreed (see his Editor’s Report below).

- g. **Membership Secretary’s Report.** Georgina Chin, VCF Membership Secretary, was not present, so Mike Hoffpauir rendered a report on her behalf. Mike noted a difficulty with membership deadlines--they can end any day of the month. This is hard to track. Mike suggested having them all end at the end of a month, just like US Chess memberships.
- h. **Editor’s Report.** Macon Shibut, our Newsletter Editor, noted that print expenses have recently increased. He also described a promising cost-saving measure he is exploring with the same vendor who does the mailing, e.g. that they would also do the printing. Macon will do a “test run” of this with an upcoming issue. He believes this could save several tens of dollars per issue.

III. Old Business.

a. **Review Status of VCF Tournaments.**

- 1) VA Closed. Mike Hoffpauir noted that attendance appears to be down for the tournament, but after the meeting the number of walk-in entries picked up. This year’s Closed had 87 players, 84 of whom were “paid” entries. In 2018 we had 85 paid entries.
- 2) Senior Open. Adam Chrisney highlighted that he is running the next Sr. Open in last September “at the same site” he’s run it for the past several years. He also noted that this past year’s Sr. Champion, Shawn Hoshall, represented Virginia at the new tournament of State Senior Champions (SSC) held as a prelude to the US Open in Orlando. Next year’s SSC tournament will be in St. Charles, MO, as a lead-in to the US Open in 2020.
- 3) Fredericksburg Tourney. Mike Hoffpauir explained that he is organizing the new Fredericksburg Open, an event that actually revives a tournament of the same name last held in 1999. Mike has visited the facility and secured a contract with a great room rate

(\$79/nite). The tournament will be held on a Saturday and Sunday in mid-October, and it will be a VCF-Cup event. This event replaces the Emporia Open on the VCF annual calendar, the Emporia tournament was not attracting enough players to continue.

- 4) Zofchak Memorial. Adam Chrisney informed members that Ernie Schlich has arranged the site for this year's Zofchak Memorial; however, Adam added that Ernie is not able to run the tournament. As a result, Adam has secured the services of (*name*) as Chief TD. The Zofchak is in mid-November, 2 weeks after the Northern Virginia Open.
 - 5) 2020 US Class Championship bid. On August 28th, US Chess announced that Anand Dommalapati was awarded the bid to host the 2020 US Class Championship in October 2020. The tournament will feature a \$14,000 guaranteed prize (!) and will be held at the Washington-Dulles Airport Marriott (same site we routinely use for the NoVA Open and the VA Open).
 - 6) Developing Women's Championship. Adam informed us that Tina Schweiss has said she is no longer able to serve as the VCF's Women's Chess Coordinator. Adam said he would reach out to Georgina Chin to see if she would be willing to take on this responsibility and to help organize a Women's Championship in Virginia. Mike Hoffpauir noted that it might be possible to make an award to the top Virginia female competing in the "regional" women's championship being organized in Washington, DC.
- b. **Jennifer Yu Recognition.** The membership discussed "what would be an appropriate" form of recognition for Jennifer Yu's recent win of the 2019 U.S. Women's Championship. A stipend was mentioned, and members did not think that was fitting. A "nice plaque" also was mentioned, and members agreed that was appropriate. Mike Hoffpauir volunteered to get the plaque made, and he would coordinate the language for the plaque with the Board of Directors.
 - c. **VCF Cup Update.** Mike Hoffpauir and Andy Rea previewed results of the 2018-19 VCF Cup. NM Daniel Clancy won 1st place. This year's Cup is paying out about \$1,300. In past years all Class winners were awarded cash prizes for 1st to 3rd places, but this year the awards are only for 1st and 2nd place, 3d place winners are shown on the Cup home page. The Cup's overall winners continue to be awarded as 1st-3rd places. This year's cup featured 7 events, and the 2019-20 Cup will has 9 tournaments on the slate, with the Eastern Open and the Fredericksburg Open being new events.
 - d. **HEAV & VA Home-School Conference.** Paul Swaney contacted Adam Chrisney by email and informed him that it costs about \$450 to be an exhibitor at the HEAV convention. In March 2019, the VCF (Tina Schweiss) gave a presentation at the VA Home School Convention in Williamsburg, VA. On Monday, Sept 2, Mike Hoffpauir submitted the VCF's application to be an exhibitor at the 2020 HEAV Convention, with Tina listed as our POC.
 - e. **Additional Old Business.** No matters were raised as Old Business.

IV. New Business.

- a. **Highlights from US Chess Annual Delegates Meeting.** Mike Hoffpauir and Andy Rea gave an update from the 2019 US Chess Federation's Annual Delegates Meeting held in Orlando in early August. Mike noted that US Chess recently published new "Safe Play Guidelines" for use at National tournaments, is part-way through providing new instructions for vendors creating electronic chess notation devices, and is about to publish new policy on electronic devices (all kinds) at National tournaments (e.g. players will be required to use the form of notation provided by the event organizer—personal scorebooks and electronic scorekeeping devices will not be allowed). The 2020 US Chess Annual Delegates Meeting will be held in St. Charles, MO, in early August at the site of the US Open. Adam Chrisney informed the members that VCF needs to provide the names of 4 Primary Delegates and up to 4 Alternate Delegates to US Chess by 1 November. The 4 Virginia delegates would then attend the Annual Delegates Meeting at the US Open in 2020. The members selected the following persons:

- *Primary Delegates:*
 - Anand Dommalapati
 - Adam Chrisney
 - Andrew Rea
 - Christina Schweiss
- *Alternates:*
 - John Farrell
 - Mike Callaham

- b. **Additional New Business.** No new business was raised by the members.

V. Open Forum.

Former President Chrisney opened the floor for any other member business. No business was heard.

VI. Adjourn to Closed Executive Session.

At 11:45 am President Dommalapati entertained a motion to Adjourn, which was seconded and unanimously approved. The Executive Board then convened in Executive Session and announced the following positions and appointments:

- Vice President: Andrew Rea
- Executive Secretary: Mike Hoffpauir
- Members-at-Large: Mike Callaham and Adam Chrisney
- Treasurer: Mike Hoffpauir
- Scholastic Coordinator: Paul Swaney
- Women's' Chess Coordinator: (Tentatively) Georgina Chin

The Point of Contact for these Minutes are Mike Hoffpauir, VCF Executive Secretary.

Enclosures:

1. List of Attendees at the Annual Meeting
2. Treasurer's Report

Enclosure 1: List of Attendees at the 2019 VCF Annual Membership Meeting

● August 31, 2019 ATTENDANCE, 2019 VCF Annual Membership Meeting		
1	Andrew Rea	Andrew Rea
2	Anand Dommalapati	Anand Dommalapati
3	Macon Shibus	Macon Shibus
4	Cheryl Havens	Cheryl Havens
5	Daniel Miller	Daniel Miller
6	● John J. Farrell	John Farrell
7	Mike Hoffpauir	Mike Hoffpauir
8	Adam Chrisney	Adam Chrisney
9	Michael Callahan	Michael Callahan
10	Christina Schweiss	Christina Schweiss
11		
12		

Enclosure 2: Treasurer's Report

