

## MOTIONS OF THE US CHESS EXECUTIVE BOARD IN FY 2022 - 2023

Key: C = Phone Conf. Call, E = Electronic Portal, M = Physical Meeting,  
I = Internet Video Conference

Motion #	Sponsor	Date/Method	Subject	Disposition
EB23-001	Fernandez	08/7/22 M	Section 1.2 of Invitationals Requirements	PASSED 6-0
EB23-002	Fernandez	08/7/22 M	Amend motion EB22-044	PASSED 6-0
EB23-003	Fernandez	08/7/22 M	Create Chess in Education Committee	PASSED 6-0
EB23-004	Board	08/7/22 M	Nominating Committee appointments	PASSED 6-0
EB23-005	Hoffpauir	08/7/22 M	President named	PASSED 6-0
EB23-006	Bauer	08/7/22 M	Vice President of Finance named	PASSED 6-0
EB23-007	Bauer	08/7/22 M	Secretary named	PASSED 6-0
EB23-008	Unruh	08/9/22 I	Vice President named	PASSED 8-0
EB23-009	Bauer	08/9/22 I	Committee appointments	PASSED 8-0
EB23-010	Bauer	08/9/22 I	Thanks to representatives at FIDE General Assembly	PASSED 7-0-1
EB23-011	Board	08/9/22 I	Authorizing a Bank of America account	PASSED 8-0
EB23-012	Fernandez	08/10-16/22 E	Invitational Rules Update	PASSED 8-0
EB23-013	Board	08/18-22/22 E	Committee assignments	PASSED 8-0
EB23-014	Board	08/19-22/22 E	Appoint FIDE Delegate	PASSED 8-0
EB23-015	Fong	09/13/22 I	Approve August 4, 2022, Minutes	PASSED 7-0
EB23-016	Fong	09/13/22 I	Approve August 7, 2022, Minutes	PASSED 7-0
EB23-017	Fong	09/13/22 I	Approve August 9, 2022, Minutes	PASSED 7-0
EB23-018	Fernandez	09/13/22 I	Chess in Education Committee Charter	PASSED 8-0
EB23-019	Board	09/13/22 I	US Senior Women's Championship	PASSED 8-0
EB23-020	Fong	10/11/22 I	Approve September 13, 2022, Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB23-021	Hoffpauir	10/11/22 I	ChessNoteR Letter of Certification	PASSED 8-0
EB23-022	Board	10/11/22 I	Create task force for hybrid delegates meeting	PASSED 8-0
EB23-023	Board	10/11/22 I	Legal services contract	PASSED 8-0
EB23-024	Board	10/11/22 I	Appointing Chess in Education members	PASSED 8-0
EB23-025	Board	10/11/22 I	Activity requirements for Top 100 lists	PASSED 8-0
EB23-026	Board	10/20-11/2/22 E	Scholastic Committee/Council Charter	PASSED 8-0
EB23-027	Fong	11/8/22 I	Approve October 11, 2022, Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB23-028	Board	11/8/22 I	FIDE hybrid events	PASSED 8-0
EB23-029	Bauer	12/3/22 M	Approve November 8, 2022, Minutes	PASSED 7-0
EB23-030	Board	12/4/22 M	FIDE Delegate appointed	PASSED 8-0
EB23-031	Board	12/4/22 M	2026 K-12 Contract	PASSED 8-0
EB23-032	Board	12/4/22 M	Hosting and Maintenance Agreement	PASSED 8-0
EB23-033	Fong	1/10/23 I	December 3&4, 2022, Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB23-034	Board	1/10/23 E	Nominations to US Hall of Fame	PASSED 8-0

EB23-035	Board	1/11/23 E	Appoint EFT Members for terms expiring Jan. 2023	PASSED 8-0
EB23-036	Board	1/23/23 E	Baltimore Convention Center Contracts for 2024 HS and 2026 ES	PASSED 8-0
EB23-037	Fernandez	2/14/23 I	Approve January 10, 2023, Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB23-038	Day	2/14/23 I	Adoption of Denker Invitational rules	PASSED 8-0
EB23-039	Board	2/23/23 E	Approve 2025 U.S. Open Contract (Madison, WI)	PASSED 8-0
EB23-040	Fong	3/14/2023 I	Approve the February 14, 2023 Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB23-041	Board	3-/4/2023 I	Contract with APCO International	PASSED 8-0
EB23-042	Day	3/14/2023 I	Uphold Thomas Connelly's suspension	PASSED 8-0
EB23-043	Fong	4/11/2023 I	Accept March 14, 2023, Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB23-044	Board	4/11/2023 I	Increase PPHB grant by \$5,000 to IM Jay Bonin.	PASSED 8-0
EB23-045	Board	4/16/2023 M	Hater v. Valderrama	PASSED 7-0-1
EB23-046	Board	4/16-2023 M	Authorization to the Executive Director re. APCO	PASSED 8-0
EB23-047	Board	4/16/2023 M	Authorization to the Executive Director re. bank accounts	PASSED 8-0
EB23-048	Board	4/25/2023 E	Approve Carpeting & Tables Contract: 2023 Elementary National	PASSED 8-0
EB23-049	Fong	5/9/2023 I	Approve the April 2023, Minutes	PASSED 7-0
EB23-050	Board	5/9/2023 I	Lifting of suspensions	PASSED 8-0
EB23-051	Board	5/9/2023 I	Alejandro Ramirez's permanent ban	PASSED 8-0
EB23-052	Board	5-9-2023 I	FIDE rated hybrid events	PASSED 8-0
EB23-053	Board	5/9/2023 I	Approval of contract with Hargrove	PASSED 8-0
EB23-054	Board	5/9/2023 I	Approval of contract with Courtyard Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI	PASSED 8-0
EB23-055	Board	5/11/2023 E	Training Agreement with the US Center for Safe Sport	PASSED 8-0
EB23-056	Board	6/13/2023 I	Approve the May 9, 2023, Minutes	PASSED 6-0
EB23-057	Board	6/14/2023 E	2023 Annual Awards	PASSED 8-0
EB23-058	Board	6-20-2023 E	Publish Snapshot of US Chess Member Sanctions	PASSED 8-0
EB23-059	Board	7/12/2023 I	Approve June 13, 2023, Minutes	PASSED 5-0-1
EB23-060	Board	7/12/2023 I	Adoption of charter for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee	PASSED 7-0
EB23-061	Board	7/12/2023 I	Adoption of the US Center for Safe Sport Member Services Agreement.	PASSED 7-0
EB 23-062	Fong	8/3/2023	Approve the July 12, 2023, Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB23-063	Hernandez	8/3/2023	Amend US Chess Invitational Rules	PASSED 8-0

The first meeting of the 2022-2023 US Chess Executive Board took place on August 7, 2022, at the US Open in Rancho Mirage, California.

**EB23-001 – Fernandez** – I move to amend section 1.2 of the Scholastic National Invitational Event and Award Requirements as follows:

1.2. The winner of the preceding U.S. Junior Open and the winner of the preceding Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions shall be directly seeded, if still eligible by age. Only players who finish clear first or tied for first are eligible for seeding. Should no player who was tied for first be both eligible and available, the spot will be replaced by the next player in the rating list as per 1.1.1.

**PASSED 6-0** (Chuck Unruh and David Hater absent and not voting)

**EB23-002 – Fernandez** – I move to amend motion EB22-044 from:

“RATIONALE for 5a: The annual U.S. Senior Open is now called the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions.”

to:

“RATIONALE for 5a: The annual U.S. Senior Open is being replaced by the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions as a U.S. Senior Championship qualifier.”

**PASSED 6-0** (Chuck Unruh and David Hater absent and not voting)

**EB23-003 – Fernandez** – I move to create a Chess in Education committee.

**PASSED 6-0** (Chuck Unruh and David Hater absent and not voting)

**EB23-004 – Board** – Executive Board moves to appoint Hal Sprechman and Joy Bray to the Nominating Committee for a two-year term.

**PASSED 6-0** (Chuck Unruh and David Hater absent and not voting)

**EB23-005 – Hoffpauir** – I nominate Randy Bauer as President.

**PASSED 6-0** (Chuck Unruh and David Hater absent and not voting)

**EB23-006 – Bauer** – I nominate Chuck Unruh for Vice President of Finance.

**PASSED 6-0** (Chuck Unruh and David Hater absent and not voting)

**EB23-007 – Bauer** – I nominate Fun Fong for Secretary.

**PASSED 6-0** (Chuck Unruh and David Hater absent and not voting)

**EB23-008 – Unruh** – I move to nominate Kevin Pryor.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-009 – Bauer** – The appointments as listed for committees for the 2022-2023 year are approved.

**PASSED 8-0**

See Appendix A for the initial board committee assignments.

**EB23-010 – Bauer** – The Executive Board thanks David Hater, Michael Khordakovsky, and Allen Priest for their presence at and participation in the FIDE General Assembly in Chennai, India.

**PASSED 7-0-1** with David Hater abstaining

**EB23-011 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to approve the resolution to open a new operating bank account with Bank of America.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-012 – Fernandez** – I move to modify section 2 of the Invitational Information as follows:

The following will be automatically seeded into the U.S. Championship, U.S. Women's Championship and U.S. Senior Championship:

- 1) Previous year's respective champions.
- 2) U.S. Open Champion. (for U.S. Championship)
- 3) U.S. Junior Champion. (for U.S. Championship)
- 4) U.S. Junior Girl's Champion (for U.S. Women's Championship).
- 5) U.S. Senior Open Champion. (for U.S. Senior Championship)
- 6) John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions Champion (for U.S. Senior Championship) - For the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Champions Champion to qualify for the U.S. Senior Championship, they must satisfy the above residency requirements and earn clear first or a tie for first. In the case of a tie, the playoff results or the tournament tiebreaks will be used.

**PASSED 8-0**

**The rationale for EB23-012:** The U.S. Senior Open was inadvertently removed in a previous update. The 2022 U.S. Senior Open Champion will be eligible to qualify for the U.S. Senior Championship alongside the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions Champion as long as they fulfill the other eligibility requirements.

**EB23-013 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to add the following people to:

FIDE Events Committee: Chris Kim

Recognitions Committee: Jon Crumbler

Scholastic Committee: Dewain Barber

Senior Committee: Chris Kim, Robin Ramson, Harold Scott

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-014 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to re-appoint Michael Khodarkovsky as the US Chess FIDE Delegate through December 31, 2022.

**PASSED 8-0**

**The rationale for EB23-014:** Michael served as delegate to the recent FIDE General Assembly. With the continental association meeting this fall, we need his Delegate title to be current to allow his representation at the meeting.

**EB23-015 – Fong** – Motion to approve the August 4, 2022, Executive Board minutes.

**PASSED 7-0** (Hater joined the meeting after the vote)

**EB23-016 – Fong** – Motion to approve the August 7, 2022, Executive Board minutes.

**PASSED 7-0** (Hater joined the meeting after the vote)

**EB23-017 – Fong** – Motion to approve the August 9, 2022 Executive Board Minutes.

**PASSED 7-0** (Hater joined the meeting after the vote)

**EB23-018 – Fernandez** – I move that the Executive Board approved the Chess in Education Committee Charter as approved by the Chess in Education Committee in September.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-019 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to create a US Senior Women's Championship envisioned as:

- 1) A Round Robin event.
- 2) Eligibility requirements will be determined by November 15 by the Director of National Events.
- 3) The event will be bid out.
- 4) The event is expected to commence in 2023 if a suitable bid is found.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-020 – Fong** – Motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2022, seconded by Fernandez.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-021 – Hoffpauir** – I move that the Executive Board approve the Letter of Certification for the software upgrade made to the ChessNoteR electronic chess notation device produced by Black Mirror Studio. Board approval authorizes the President to sign the Letter of Certification.

**PASSED 8-0**

See Appendix B for the document related to EB23-021.

**EB23-022 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to create a task force to study, investigate and issue a report and recommendation regarding the feasibility of hybrid delegates meetings that would allow remote participation. The Executive Board appoints the following members to that task force: John Fernandez (Chair), Mike Hoffpauir, Hal Terrie, John Rockefeller, Beatriz Marinello and Dewain Barber.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-023 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Wagenmaker & Oberly LLC for legal services.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-024 – Board** – The Executive Board moves modify the membership of the Chess in Education Committee to the following: Ranae Bartlett and John Galvin as co-chairs, Jeff Bulington, Ursula Byrd, Victor Flores, Gabrielle Moshier, Richard Pointer, Sophia Rohde, Abel Talamantez, Brian Tillis, Mark Indermaur, Christina Mullinax, Adam Porth, and Shaun Smith.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-025 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to restore activity requirements for player eligibility for Top 100 lists effective January 1, 2023. The activity requirement links to each rating category for which a player might qualify.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-026 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to approve the revised Scholastic Committee/Council charter as shown in the motion's attachment.

**PASSED 8-0**

See Appendix C for the document related to EB23-026.

**EB23-027 – Fong** – Motion to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2022.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-028 – Board** – The Executive Board moves that, effective November 9, 2022, any new FIDE hybrid events (e.g., online tournaments with Arbiters present at all playing locations) held under the jurisdiction of FIDE Zone 2.1 (USA) will not be registered with FIDE.

Further, any rating reports or title norms arising from such events shall not be submitted by US Chess to FIDE for rating and the games shall not be rated by US Chess except as online play.

For a hybrid-style event to be rated as online play by US Chess, all directors must be certified by US Chess.

Further, the Executive Board moves that the US Chess FIDE Events Committee and Rules Committee collaborate before the 2023 Delegates Meeting to develop an appropriate rule to cover this situation.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-029 – Bauer** – Move to approve the November minutes.

**PASSED 7-0** (Day joined the meeting after the vote)

**EB23-030 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to re-appoint Michael Khodarkovsky as FIDE Delegate through December 31, 2023.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-031 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to adopt the contract with the Rosen Shingle Creek for the 2026 K12 Grade Nationals.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-032 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to adopt the Hosting and Maintenance Agreement with Skvare.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-033- Fong** - Move to approve the December minutes.  
**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-034- Board** – The Executive Board has received nominations to the US Hall of Fame from the Recognitions Committee and forwards them to The Chess Trust.  
**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-035 – Board-** The Executive Board moves to appoint Randy Bauer, Peter Dyson and Mike Nietman to 6-year terms on the Endowment Fund Trust. Terms commence with passage of this motion.  
**PASSED 8-0**

**Rationale for EB23-035:** The Endowment Fund Trust was created in Jan. 2020 to provide oversight to the US Chess Endowment Fund. Three members' terms are expiring in Jan. 2023. This motion reappoints 2 members (Dyson and Nietman) and appoints 1 new member (Bauer).

**EB23-036 – Board** - The Executive Board moves to adopt the contracts for the 2024 High School and 2026 Elementary School Championships at the Baltimore Convention Center.

The contracts have been reviewed and approved by US Chess counsel.  
**PASSED 8-0**

**Rationale for EB23-036:** Hotel contracts were signed years ago and the pandemic stopped all conversations with the BCC, the playing venue for the 2024 and 2026 events. All staff points of contact changed in the ensuing years and as such, there was a delay getting things back on track.

**EB23-037 – Fernandez** - Move to approve the January 2023 minutes.  
**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-038 - Day** – I move that the Executive Board adopt the rules for the Denker Invitational in the form presented to the Board and that that same form be used to create the rules for the other invitational events.  
**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-039 – Board** - The Executive Board moves to approve the contract with the Marriott Madison West Hotel (Madison, Wisconsin) for the 2025 U.S. Open.  
**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-040 – Fong** – proposed to accept the February 14, 2023, minutes as presented.  
**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-041 – Board-** The Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a consulting contract with APCO International.  
**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-042 – Day** - I make a motion that the Executive Board vote to uphold the membership suspension of Thomas Connelly that was recommended by the Ethics Committee.  
**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-043 – Fong** - moved to accept the March 2023 minutes.  
**PASSED 7-0** (Fernandez joined the meeting after the vote)

**EB23-044 – Board** - The Executive Board approves the US Chess Professional Players Health and Benefits (PPHB) Claims Committee's recommendation to extend the PPHB grant by \$5,000 to IM Jay Bonin.  
**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-045** - The Executive Board has considered the recommendation of the Ethics Committee in the case of Hater v. Valderrama. The Executive Board upholds the decision of the Ethics Committee for a 5-year suspension. Further, the Executive Board pursuant to Section Article III, Section 11 of the Bylaws votes to revoke the membership of Daniel Solorio Valderrama (US Chess ID 16229362).  
**PASSED 7-0-1 (Hater abstained)**

**EB 23-046** - The Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to further engage APCO at her discretion up to a limit of \$25,000.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-047**- The Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to open accounts with U.S. Bank and to close all accounts at One Bank of Tennessee.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-048 – Board** - The Executive Board moves to approve the carpeting & extra tables contract for the 2023 Elementary National Championship in Baltimore, Maryland.

**PASSED 8-0**

**Rationale for EB23-048:** The convention center is partially carpeted, with additional carpet needed for the playing hall. Visit Baltimore has offered an offset for much of this cost. Additional tables might be necessary as well given the expected large increase in attendance at this event.

**EB23-049- Fong** – I move the adoption of the April 2023 minutes.

**PASSED 7-0** (Pryor joined the meeting after the vote)

**EB23-050 – Board** - The Executive Board moves that suspensions be lifted on all expired member records without a suspended 'til date.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-051 - Board** - The US Chess Executive Boards moves to ratify the resignation of GM Alejandro Ramirez from the US Chess Federation as communicated on March the 10th, 2023. Further, the Executive Board moves to permanently ban GM Ramirez from being a US Chess member.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-052 – Board** - Effective immediately: any FIDE rated hybrid event registered does not have the endorsement of the National Federation Zonal 2.1 USA to be used as a playing venue.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-053 – Board** - The Executive Board moves to approve the contract with Hargrove for tables at the 2023 National Elementary.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-054- Board** - The Executive Board moves to approve the contract with the Courtyard Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan for additional hotel rooms for the 2023 U.S. Open.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-055-Board**- It is important, from a policy making perspective, for US Chess to be implementing changes related to the almost-complete Ramirez investigation.

The US Chess Executive Board moves to partner with the US Center for Safe Sport for its safe play training and education needs.

The Executive Director is authorized to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Executive Board.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-056 – Bauer**- All in favor of the May 9 minutes as amended.

**PASSED 6-0**

**EB23-057 – Board** – 2023 Annual Awards

**Distinguished Service:** Harold Stenzel (NY) 10095824. Harold had a significant period of service for a number of years as Chair of the USCF Correspondence Committee. In that capacity he helped prevent an attempt by some USCF officials to sever correspondence chess totally from USCF, although it was a major membership benefit to numbers of adult members at a time when adult membership retention was a significant concern. (One of those officials would have benefited significantly from such a severance, due to a connection with a private correspondence chess organization.) He also worked with USCF staff to create new

and innovative correspondence events. He also served for a number of years as a Delegate. He is a National Tournament Director, who has directed 1630 tournaments with 5231 sections since 1991.

**Outstanding Career Achievement:** Mark Ishee (Tennessee) 10241073 has been active since the 1970's. As a result, many of his earlier contributions are not well known to modern volunteers and he's never received a USCF or US Chess award, though he arguably should have been recognized long ago. Ishee made substantial contributions to chess publishing, working with GM's Alburt and Palatnik and with chess historians, in the production of numerous works on chess theory, instruction, and history. Ishee became a TD in 1975 and directed many tournaments before online US Chess records began in 1991. He assisted in directing national scholastic tournaments, working with the late Harry Sabine in a number of such events. He also organized and directed numerous regional, state, and local tournaments. He became a National Tournament Director in 1998.

Mark Ishee has also been active in USCF governance, serving as a Regional Vice President of USCF before that office was removed from the ByLaws. He served on a number of USCF committees, and was an active member of the USCF Hall-of-Fame Committee in the 1980's, when the newly-established Hall of Fame was struggling to achieve permanent status. His membership on that committee included 1988, when it was named Committee of the Year. He has held various state offices in Tennessee chess and has edited the state chess periodical. He has taught chess in a number of Tennessee schools.

**Meritorious Services:** Kevin Fite (MI) 12948932 was inducted into the Michigan Chess Association Hall of Fame in 2022, for his work in providing teaching and coaching services to numerous schools and organizations in the Detroit area. He was a founder of the Detroit Chess Club. He has won numerous awards both in and outside of chess. For a list of his awards and detailed accomplishments, see the Michigan Chess Association website.

**Special Services:** Jacques Nick Pope (MI) 12474013 has made available to chess historians free of charge over the past twenty years an enormous range of historical documents, including thousands of chess columns from over 150 newspapers across the United States and Great Britain, painstakingly located at libraries, obtained through interlibrary loan, digitalized and made available to the chess public at his website Chess-Archaeology [www.chessarch.com](http://www.chessarch.com). He has created and maintained a digital library of searchable historical chess publications; has written and otherwise made available articles on historical chess matches and figures, with detailed, well-documented sources; and has done significant independent research; including most recently a definitive collection of over 1450 of Harry Nelson Pillsbury's chess and checkers games, complete with citations and text in a two-volume work of nearly 1600 pages. He has made this enormous and well-documented digital work available at his website, free of charge, to the chess history community.

**Special Services:** Jim Marfia (Michigan) 10286891 has provided major service to chess history through his translation into English of a number of significant Russian publications, including the classic book on the 1953 Zurich International by David Bronstein. His numerous important publications include bulletins and books on several US Opens.

**Frank J. Marshall award:** Edward William (Ed) Formanek (Nevada) 10349257 has been a positive representative of American chess for decades in events in many nations. He was one of a handful of Americans who competed regularly in Europe in the 1970's when norm tournaments in the U.S. were few and far between. He continued to play there with success in the 1980's and 1990's. This was done during holidays from his university work as a distinguished professor of mathematics. Formanek represented the USA in the World Student Team Championship in 1968. He has played in tournaments in England, Italy, Austria, Israel, and Canada. Like the great Frank Marshall for whom this award is named, he has been an outstanding ambassador for American chess.



**Organizer of the Year: Renaissance Knights:** Renaissance Knights annually hosts the All Girls Nationals, a significant highlight for school age girls in their scholastic chess careers. In addition, Renaissance Knights works extensively in the Chicago Public Schools, bringing chess to students throughout the city. A highlight of their partnership with the Chicago Public Schools and Chicago Police Department is the Cops and Kids Initiative, aimed at fostering positive relationships between police and children. In 2022, Renaissance Knights hosted the North American Youth tournament and in 2023, will be hosting the Pan-American Youth Chess Festival.

**Chess Club of the Year:** The Grand Rapids Chess Center (MI) is a very active club affiliate which offers weekly rated play, activities for kids including online coaching and classes, and online tournaments. Their activities are summarized on their website [www.grandrapidschesscenter.org](http://www.grandrapidschesscenter.org). Their location in Grand Rapids would make an award this year particularly meaningful.

**Outstanding Team Achievement:** The U.S. Women's team, which finished 3rd-5th in the 2022 Olympiad in a field of 160 nations. The US Military Team, which won a Bronze medal last year in the NATO Championship. This was only the 3rd medal won by a US team in 32 Championships.

**GM of the Year:** Jon Edwards (NJ) 10855659 has become the third American to win the World Correspondence Chess Championship. He is a GM of Correspondence Chess.

**Woman Player of the Year:** Gulrukhbegim Tokhirjonova (Missouri) 17140065. She is a WGM who has played successfully in the American Cup and the U.S. Women's Championship, in addition to the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Championship. She was a key player in the FIDE Olympiad Women's Team Championship in 2022, helping the U.S. team to a 3rd-5th place finish in the 162-nation field, by going undefeated with 4 wins and 6 draws.

**Young Player of the Year:** Christopher Yoo, 15244943 (California) aged 16, is ranked # 20 overall in the U.S with a rating of 2681. He is a Grandmaster and original Life Master.

**Outstanding Player Achievement:** This award category is a relatively recent one. The Recognitions Committee has used this category to recognize US Chess members who have had outstanding competitive careers, ranking among the top U.S. players, but are not in the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame. Because of the recency of this award category, a number of top players who are deserving of this recognition have reached very advanced ages. Accordingly, rather than recommending only one per year to the Executive Board, we are listing four deserving honorees together in this report, all of whom have reached the age of 90. Dr. Popovych in fact died in March while the committee was discussing recommendations.

The four are as follows:

1) **Tibor Weinberger 10439990**, California (age 90) played in five Hungarian championships from 1952 to 1956. After settling in the US, he became the dominant figure in Southern California chess before Anthony Saidy, and has played in the US Championship. He is an Original Life Master and a FIDE Master.

2) **George Kramer 10059232** NJ (age 93) won the 1945 NY State championship at age 16 and represented the US in the 1950 Olympiad, winning the bronze medal for third board. He won the NJ State championship three times, and the Manhattan Chess Club Championship.

3) **Dr. Neil McKelvie (10107598)**, NY) was born in England in 1930. After spending part of his childhood in the U.S. due to war, he returned to England and was 3rd board for England in the 1953 International Student Team Championship, scoring 5.5 from 8. He returned to the U.S., and after earning a Ph.D. in chemistry, became for many years one of the top 50 players in the U.S. He was rated in several years in the top 25, reaching as high as # 21 on the rating list. He won the Manhattan Chess Club Championship in 1975 and 1979 and earned high places in that prestigious Club championship several other times.

4) **Dr. Orest Popovych 10056870** (NJ, Life Member) (posthumous) died at age 90 on March 14, 2023. Born in the Ukraine, he moved to the U.S., earning a Ph.D. from MIT. He became a Master at age 24 and a Senior Master at age 39; and was an Original Life Master and became a FIDE Master. He won the New England Championship in 1957 and 1958 (7-0 score!) He won the Massachusetts championship in 1958 and finished first in the Atlantic Open in 1971. He was nine-times champion of the North American Ukrainian Championship. He was inducted into the Ukrainian Sports Federation Hall of Fame in 2016.

#### **Scholastic Service Award: Individual**

Jay Stallings (CA-S)

\* Founder & Director, California Youth Chess League (1996-2020): <https://cycl.org>; taught 40,000 K-12 players

\* Founder & Director, Coach Jay's Chess Academy (2018 [earlier?]-currently): <https://store.coachjayschessacademy.com>

\* author:

\* Fried Liver and Burning Pants: Curious but True Chess Stories and the Lessons We Learn from Them (2013)

\* Coach Jay's Chess Academy Course (14 books)

\* former member, Scholastic Council

\* current member, Scholastic Committee

#### **Scholastic Service Award: Organization**

Detroit City Chess Club: <https://detroitchess.com>; 2003?-currently

"Over the years, DCCC has grown from a few students from Detroit Duffield to reaching thousands of kids from all over the metro Detroit area. DCCC not only reaches kids but has a large following of adults that regularly play every Friday evening."

#### **Chess College of the Year**

Webster University

#### **Accessibility and Special Circumstances Person of the Year**

Martha Underwood has been a central figure in drafting the Accessibility Guidelines and has been an important contributor to the committee throughout its history. As an NTD, Martha also is tuned into the needs of players and works with player to offer accommodations that provide the player with what they need to play their best game.

#### **Koltanowski Awards**

Gold: Rex & Jeanne Sinquefield

Silver: John D. Rockefeller V

Silver: Lin & Robert Johnson

Silver: David & Maureen Grimaud

#### **Chess City of the Year**

Seattle, Washington.

#### **Dan Heisman Award for Excellence in Chess Instruction**

Todd Bardwick

#### **Tournament Director Certification Committee**

Lifetime Achievement: Larry Paxton

Tournament Director of the Year: Jordan Langland

Senior Tournament Director: Jeff Aldrich

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-058 – Board** - The Executive Board votes to publish the names of US Chess members who have been sanctioned by the organization for violations related to the Code of Ethics, Safe Play policies, Tournament Director Certification requirements, Rules of Chess, FIDE Events, and obligations of State Chapters and Affiliates. The list will name adult members only.

Rationale: US Chess previously published a list of suspended members and Tournament Directors who were sanctioned. This practice ended some time ago (more than 10 years) and in the interest of transparency, the Executive Board will again publish a list that will be regularly updated on the US Chess website.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB23-059 – Bauer** - All in favor of the June 13 minutes as amended.

**PASSED 5-0-1 (Hater abstained)**

**EB23-060 – Board** - The Executive Board moves to adopt the draft charter for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Rationale: The establishment of this committee was a delegate motion approved at the 2022 delegates meeting. Once the charter is approved there will be the opportunity to determine the composition of the committee.

**PASSED 7-0**

**EB23-061 – Board** – The Executive Board moves to adopt the US Center for Safe Sport Member Services Agreement.

**PASSED 7-0**

**EB 23-062 – Fong** - I recommend adoption of the July 12, 2023, minutes.

**PASSED 8-0**

**EB 23-063 – Fernandez** - I move to amend the US Chess Invitational Rules as follows within 2c.:

For the Olympiad and World Team Championships, the Team Captain and Coaches will be selected by the players from a list of applicants that have met both FIDE and US Chess requirements. The players will vote until one candidate captures a majority, and in the case of a deadlock, the office will choose from among the tied candidates.

**PASSED 8-0**

