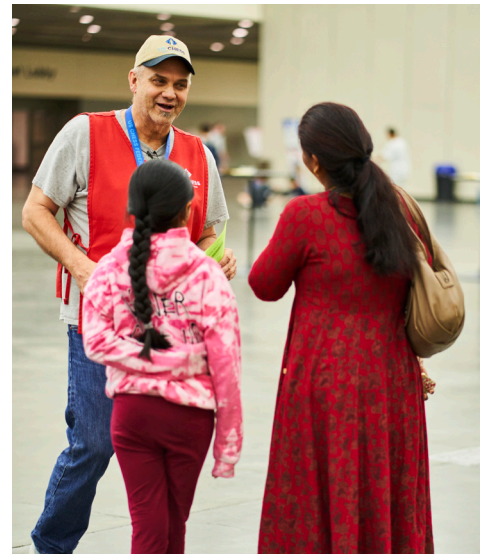
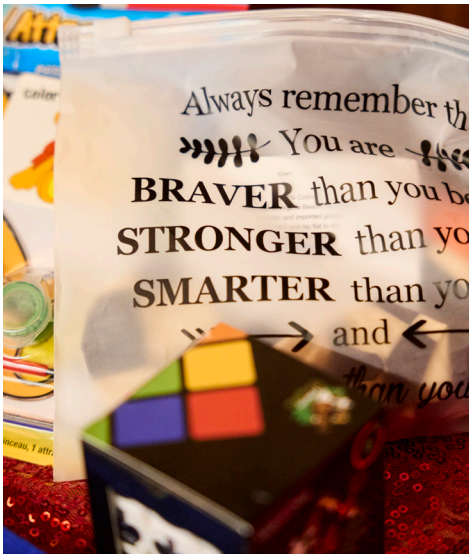




US CHESS
FEDERATION



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

US CHESS MISSION

Empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess.



US CHESS VISION

Chess is recognized as an essential tool that promotes inclusiveness and benefits education, rehabilitation, recreation, and friendly competition.

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PHOTO CREDITS

Caroline King: various tournaments (front cover, 1, back cover), Rockefeller (17), Grimauds (17), Safe Play Committee (19), Orlando (20), various, K12 Grades (26), Khanbutaev (27), Jammalamadaka (27), Li (28), Dalton (28) ■ **DCPG Photography:** US Chess Board (3, 5, 7, 9) ■ **Shutterstock:** various (13, 14) ■ **Freepik:** icons (15) ■ **Danny Rohde:** Harding (18) ■ **Valeria Kaidanov:** Senior Team (19) ■ **Courtesy of FIDE:** Nakamura (21) ■ **Courtesy of the Saint Louis Chess Club:** Caruana, by Ootes (21), Yip, by Ootes (21, 24), Lee, by Ootes (21), Caruana/Yip, by C Fuller (23), Caruana, by Ootes (24), Mishra, by the Fullers (25), Lee, by C Fuller (25), Khachiyan, by C Fuller (25), Ladan, by A Fuller (29), Guo, by Bryan Adams (30), Yan, by Ootes (30), Stearman, by Bryan Adams (31) ■ **Jim Hollingsworth:** Salinas (21) ■ **James Cullen:** Acer (21) ■ **Courtesy Deshaun Adams/Renaissance Knights:** Zhao (25), All Girls (27) ■ **Courtesy Las Vegas International Chess Festival:** Zhou (26) ■ **Mark Cieslikowski:** Kumar (27) ■ **David Llada:** Liu (28), Vemparala (28) ■ **Daniel Day:** various U.S. Invitationals (29, 30), various U.S. Open (31) ■ **John Hartmann:** Another Bacon (32) ■ *All other photos are either courtesy of the subject or property of US Chess.*



WE SET A NEW
MILESTONE OF OVER

1 MILLION

RATED
GAMES

IN THE
PAST YEAR!

DEAR CHESS FAMILY,

During my first few months as Executive Director, many of you have reached out to me with encouraging words and offers of support. Our staff is exceptional; they have made my transition seamless, and they are the key to maintaining the professional level of this organization. I am grateful to our community, as it will take all of us working together to meet aspirational goals, especially as we embark on a new strategic plan and chart the course for our entire organization.

One key initiative is our Safe Play Policy, which went into effect in January 2024, with a deadline for all tournament directors to become SafeSport-trained by June 1. US Chess showed its commitment to keeping chess a safe and welcoming environment by creating the new position of Safe Play manager, with Melinda Matthews promoted to the position. We have extended the application of the Safe Play Policy to all US Chess-rated events, and the numbers show it was the right thing to do: We have found that 89% of all Safe Play complaints arise from the local level, with very few complaints originating from national events. This is no time to retreat: Those who fail to move forward are destined to be left behind, and as US Chess moves forward to make chess a more welcoming environment for all players, the chess world is looking at our leadership in this arena.

US Chess also created the position of Director of Programs at the start of 2024. We hired DeV Vaughn Croxton to take the reins, and he quickly got to work solidifying our charitable and educational commitment toward programs that advance the nonprofit mission of US Chess. Our At-Risk Youth/Title I School Support program continues to show the best of what we can accomplish when we work together. Last fiscal year, thanks to your support, we donated 619 chess sets and 1,112 memberships to students. The programs department is also leading a new Chess Coach Certification Working Group, designed to revive and improve our previous program, as well as expanding our Chess In Education initiatives.

The US Chess Women's program continues to shine, with support from the Saint Louis Chess Club. Women's Committee Co-Chairs Kimberly Doo and Maureen Grimaud remain steadfast in their efforts to empower women and girls, offering a variety of programs to grow our female chess population. Women's program grants have enabled the creation of events just for women and girls and offered training stipends for our top female players.

National events are a key method of outreach and programming for our organization. My introduction to US Chess was attending the 2013 SuperNationals V, and we anticipate a record-setting SuperNationals VIII in 2025. The standard our members have come to expect from national events presents challenges as inflation and increased costs bring a new bottom line to the business of events. Without increased revenue, national events become harder to conduct, but they are an integral part of our mission that introduces future players, grandmasters, and executive directors to US Chess.

US Chess continues to grow in membership, which translates into more tournaments held and games played. In fact, we set a new milestone of more than 1 million rated games in the past year! Rating games is a core function of our organization, and we are devoting significant resources to develop a new ratings server that will be operational in 2025. We are also focusing on enhancing the member experience on our website by improving the user interface, making it more user-friendly and less prone to allowing the creation of duplicate memberships.

Thank you for the part each of you play in keeping our organization strong.

Warm regards,



Ranae Bartlett, Executive Director



US CHESS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

RANDY BAUER

President

president@uschess.org

KEVIN PRYOR

Vice President

vp@uschess.org

CHUCK UNRUH

**Vice President of
Finance**

chunruh@aol.com

MIKE HOFFPAUIR

Secretary

secretary@uschess.org

LEILA D'AQUIN

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chessnola@gmail.com

JOHN FERNANDEZ

Member-at-Large

john.fernandez@gmail.com

DAVID HATER

Member-at-Large

dhater1@aol.com

LAKSHMANA VISWANATH

Member-at-Large

vish@viswanath.us

RANAE BARTLETT

Executive Director

ranae.bartlett@uschess.org

The US Chess Federation (US Chess) is the official governing body and non-profit 501(c)(3) organization for chess players and chess supporters in the United States. Our mission is to empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess. Our vision is that chess is recognized as an essential tool that promotes inclusiveness and benefits education, rehabilitation, recreation, and friendly competition.

US Chess represents the United States in the International Chess Federation (FIDE), connecting our members to chess players around the world. Founded in 1939 with the merger of the American Chess Federation and the National Chess Federation, US Chess reached 100,000 members for the first time in February 2023, and was over 110,000 by the end of this fiscal year.

US Chess sanctions and rates more than 16,000 tournaments and more than 1,000,000 games annually. We host more than 50 national championships and award titles to amateurs and professionals, ranging from elementary school students to senior citizens.

This is the 2023-2024 Executive Board. For the current 2024-2025 Executive Board, please see new.uschess.org/about/board.



LAST YEAR,
WE ECLIPSED

100,000

CURRENT MEMBERS FOR THE FIRST TIME
AND GROWTH HAS CONTINUED THIS YEAR.

MOVING FORWARD

It has been an honor to serve as president of US Chess for the past two years. When I was first elected to the Executive Board in 2004, the organization was in serious financial distress and nearly ceased to be a going concern. Since then, a lot of hard work by US Chess staff, the Executive Board, and our countless volunteers has put us on much more solid ground financially and organizationally.

Last year, US Chess membership eclipsed 100,000 for the first time. Growth has continued this year, along with an increase in tournament activity, and the need to provide services and to uphold our mission “to empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess” requires resources and commitment.

One example of the resources we are providing is a contract for a significant upgrade to our ratings information technology system that will greatly improve service for tournament directors and players.

Our Safe Play Policy represents one of the commitments we've made. While the Safe Play program might seem recent, it was first put into place in 2019. COVID-19 diverted some attention from it, but we have devoted significant staff to the program, and it represents a commitment to all of our players and everyone who attends events sanctioned by US Chess. Every player and participant in US Chess activities should feel welcomed and comfortable in those events, period. We should not go backward, or create exceptions to that commitment.

The U.S. has experienced significant cost inflation over the past three years, and that has affected US Chess. Our national events last year were a significant drag on our finances — hotel and other charges for events grew, and event revenue did not keep pace. Services provided to the membership as a whole have also gotten more expensive. For US Chess to continue to grow and provide the services its members want and deserve, it is necessary to increase dues, or else our organization will likely return to the financial difficulties of 20 years ago.

We face challenges, but also great opportunities. Our programs that target at-risk youth tie directly into our mission, and those programs have received very strong donor support. The growth of the women's and girls' program has also been notable, with the girls room at national events drawing larger numbers of participants. Chess has captured the attention of the national media, and next year's SuperNationals promises to be another great opportunity to highlight our game and our organization.

We have accomplished a lot for US Chess over the last 20 years. If we work together, and with sufficient financial and organizational support, the next 20 years can be years of unprecedented growth and success.



Randy Bauer, President

THE FINANCIAL PATH FORWARD



The budget process is our organization's first financial plan for the fiscal year. Although we believe with some clarity in our best-effort forecasts, the actual financial results that come in just 12 months later seldom align with current projections. Fiscal year 2023-24 was one of those years. When compared to actual bottom-line results, our original budget forecast was overly conservative in hindsight.

What went right was a post-pandemic boom in over-the-board (OTB) play, coupled with generous donations/ sponsorships and good investment results. The actual surplus for the year was a strong \$1,135,445. Meanwhile, the net worth of US Chess continued its decade-long rising trend with a year-end value of \$5,514,325. (See graph.)

The increase in OTB participation spilled over into excellent membership revenue numbers. At year's end, membership revenue comprised 42.4% of total revenue. The budget for next year forecasts membership revenue growth in the range of 2-4%. Pre-pandemic membership revenue was a resource with little year-to-year variance. Post-pandemic membership revenue likely stabilizes and continues with small variances from the previous year.

Membership revenue is the life blood of operations. Membership net revenue after expenses saw an expected loss in the 2023-24 fiscal year. The operational outcome is a little surprising in consideration of the excellent fiscal results. Of the \$1,135,445 net fiscal surplus, restricted donations posted \$744,000; unrestricted donations, \$332,000, and investments gained \$386,000. The surplus minus donations and investment activity

US CHESS' NET WORTH CONTINUED THE DECADE-LONG RISING TREND WITH A YEAR-END VALUE OF

\$5,514,325

Vice President of Finance's Report

is an approximate operational shortfall of \$327,000. Yet operational expenses were under or near the amounts budgeted at the start of the year.

Losses from operational activities primarily were the result of increased event costs. In general, prices across the economy are approximately 20% higher than at the time of the last membership dues increase. US Chess leadership is financially proactive, proposing revenue increases at a time of climbing costs in the national economy.

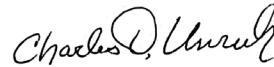
For years, one-third of past surpluses constituted savings from unfilled staff positions. At times, Executive Board members acted as hands-on volunteers in management and staff roles. Organizational growth, complexity, and increased professionalism no longer afford the luxury of patching problem areas with more Executive Board volunteer hours. The solution for the inflationary pressure is on the revenue side, with a catch-up increase

of the membership dues and event entry fees.

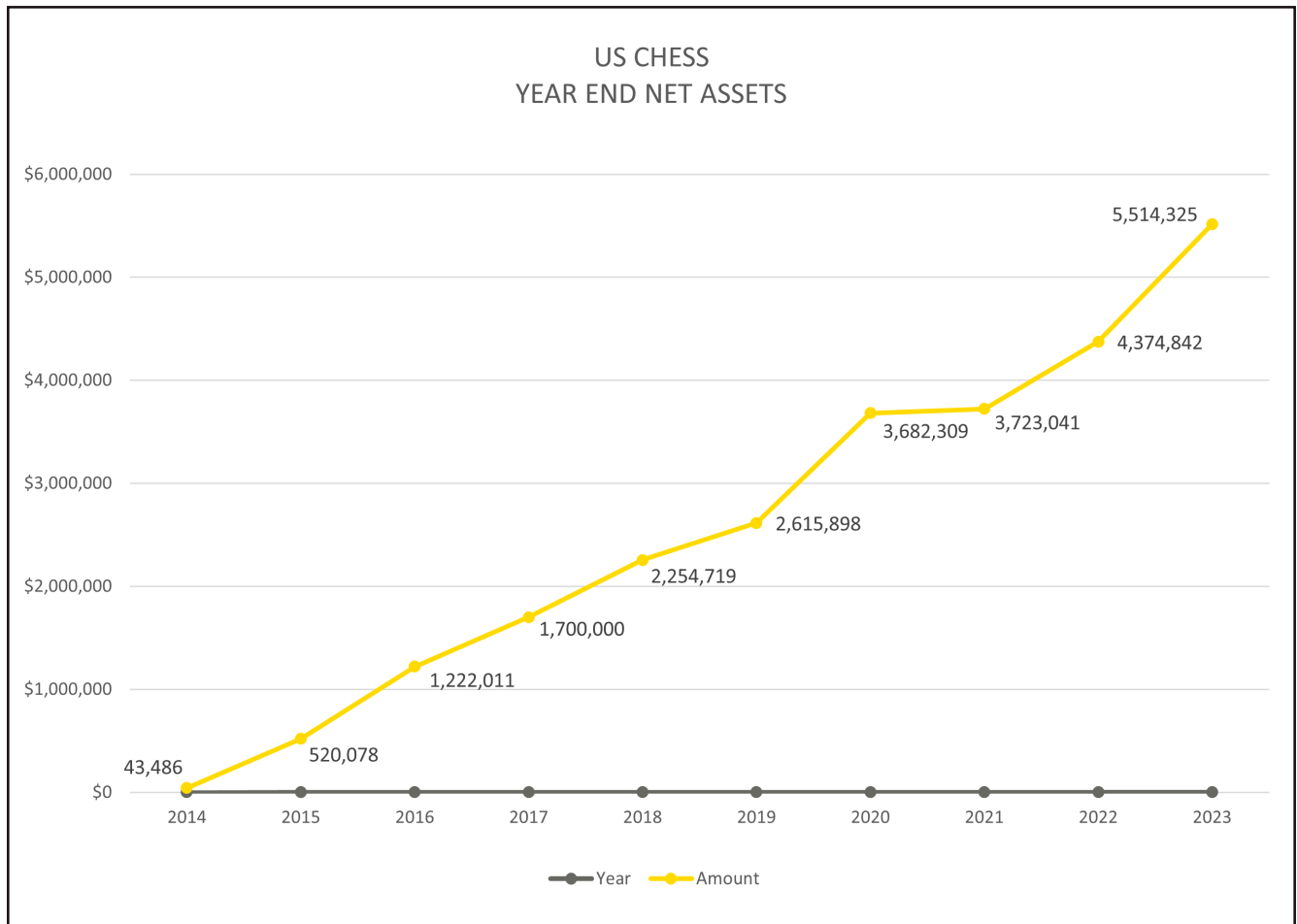
US Chess is financially solid, with an excellent balance sheet. My message is about our path forward since the vote expanding the mission beyond a membership organization. The expanded mission retained a heritage of volunteerism and a general membership active in governance. In summary, the US Chess expanded mission goals set in the last decade show excellent progress.

During the Delegates Annual Meeting, the Finance, Investment and LMA Trust Workshop met on Friday, Aug. 2, at 1:00 pm EST. We reviewed the financial year-end results along with a detailed discussion of the upcoming 2024-25 budget.

Respectfully submitted,



Chuck Unruh, Vice President of Finance





LAST YEAR, **WE INVESTED** **\$192,905** ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

BROADENING HORIZONS

The fiscal year 2023-2024 has been transformative for US Chess, marked by significant progress in advancing chess education and engagement across diverse demographics. This report highlights key programs and initiatives undertaken during this period, demonstrating our commitment to serving various communities and promoting chess in the United States.

Women's Programming

- **Top Women's Player Grants:** Supported six top women players with \$18,000 for Olympiad preparation.
- **Women's Programming Grants:** Awarded \$53,391 to nonprofit affiliates promoting women's chess.
- **Girls Club Room Initiative:** Provided safe spaces at national tournaments with \$23,908 allocated.
- **Online Girls Club Initiative:** Launched an online community fostering interaction among female players.

At-Risk Youth Programming

- **Title I Travel Grants:** Provided \$80,000 to 10 schools for attending national tournaments.
- **At-Risk Youth Affiliate Program:** Allocated \$16,030 for chess sets and memberships to Title I programs.

Senior Programming

- **Group Health Insurance Partnership:** Offered free memberships to seniors through health insurance, enhancing chess engagement.
- **Chess Coach Certification Working Group Program:** Establishing standards for certification to elevate coaching proficiency and professionalism.

Financial Overview

- **Total Expenditure:** \$192,905 across all programs.

The programs department's work over the fiscal year 2023-2024 symbolizes US Chess' expansion and impact through strategic initiatives aimed at diverse populations. As we continue to evolve, our commitment to fostering a vibrant chess community and promoting educational benefits remains steadfast.

Best regards,

DeVaughn Croxton, Director of Programs

This summary encapsulates the key achievements and initiatives of US Chess during the fiscal year 2023-2024, focusing on its efforts to support women in chess, engage at-risk youth, promote senior chess participation, and establish coaching standards.

SAFE PLAY

Creating welcoming spaces

Safe Play is a comprehensive player safety program consisting of education, screening, reporting tools, and policies for appropriate conduct in chess.

US Chess developed its Safe Play program in 2019 after recognizing we did not have a mechanism to effectively address an entire category of legitimate complaints. Additionally, the complaint process before Safe Play did not maintain confidentiality or anonymity. Because many Safe Play complaints are highly sensitive, adding this component to the process was vital.

The Safe Play program quickly expanded to encompass proactive and protective measures. US Chess contracted with the U.S. Center for SafeSport (SafeSport) to access their nationally recognized training modules, and required training for all tournament directors and anyone working at our national events. In 2024, US Chess adopted the Safe Play Policy (formerly guidelines) and named its first Safe Play manager to oversee the program.

US Chess is committed to providing a safe environment for all chess players. We are guided by our mission to “empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess.” We have zero tolerance for abuse and misconduct within the US Chess community.



SAFESPORT VERSUS SAFE PLAY

Members often use the terms “Safe Play” and “SafeSport” interchangeably when discussing the Safe Play program. However, they are completely separate entities with different purposes. Here's a brief description of each:

The U.S. Center for Safe Sport (SafeSport)

is a congressionally chartered organization dedicated exclusively to ending sexual, physical, and emotional abuse on behalf of athletes everywhere. It offers training and education resources to organizations outside the Olympic movement.

Safe Play

is the program established by US Chess to provide a safe environment for all chess players. The Safe Play Policy governs Safe Play procedures and implementation. US Chess has contracted with SafeSport to access their training modules.

THE U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT (SAFESPORT) HAS NO JURISDICTION OVER US CHESS SAFE PLAY POLICY OR HOW IT IS IMPLEMENTED.

SAFE PLAY ADVISORY GROUP

WHAT IS SPAG?

The Safe Play Advisory Group (SPAG) was formed in May 2023 to support to the overall Safe Play program. Group members were selected for their diversity of views and their commitment to parity, equality, and fairness within the chess community.

PURPOSE

SPAG's intent is to create safe and welcoming spaces for all chess players by helping to formulate appropriate policy, increase educational opportunities, and, in the longer term, to begin to reshape our approach and understanding.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In its first year, SPAG focused on reviewing and revising the Safe Play guidelines, and helped shepherd the guidelines into policy. SPAG also championed SafeSport training requirements and worked to ensure they were continued. In recognition of their accomplishments, the Executive Board selected SPAG as its 2024 Committee of the Year.



*Children want to be relieved and have someone **hear their problem and listen to them.**" -Ursula Byrd*

US CHESS HAS REVIEWED

38

SAFE PLAY COMPLAINTS SINCE MAY 2023.

89%

OF SAFE PLAY COMPLAINTS REPORTED TO US CHESS HAVE OCCURRED AT THE STATE OR LOCAL LEVELS.

58% OF SAFE PLAY COMPLAINTS REPORTED TO US CHESS ARE ABOUT BULLYING AND EMOTIONAL MISCONDUCT.



THANKS TO THE 2023-2024 SPAG MEMBERS

Kim Cramer, Sabina Foisor, Pete Karagianis, JJ Lang, Emanuel London, Melinda Matthews (Chair), Rebecca Rutledge, Brian Yang.



| Safe Play

Although Safe Play's initial focus has been to address policy and procedural issues, our long-term goal is to improve the environment for our members and the other chess communities we serve. This includes developing processes and procedures that de-escalate or prevent potential Safe Play situations.

Open communication is key to maintaining a safe environment. US Chess affiliates should consider adopting proactive measures that help players feel **more** safe or **more** included. Organizers and tournament directors can let their players know they have a welcoming and supportive space where they can speak freely. A suggestion box that allows people to submit comments or concerns anonymously could spark meaningful dialogues without identifying the initiating person.

Announcing Safe Play procedures at the beginning of each round is another proactive measure that empowers players to assert their rights. The announcement could include language such as: "If you feel unsafe or uncomfortable interacting with anyone during this event, please report the problem to a tournament director or [other Safe Play designated adult] and they will be able to assist you." Encouraging your staff to complete SafeSport training adds an additional layer of depth, knowledge, and protection to your events as well.

Finally, develop a plan for when and how to share information with your chess community. Contact US Chess if you have a question. Remember, there is strength in unity and power in knowledge!

AT EVENTS RUN BY US CHESS:

- Listen to the Safe Play announcement so you know what to do if a situation arises.
- If you encounter a Safe Play situation, look for someone wearing a yellow Safe Play button and ask for help. You do not have to solve a problem on your own!
- If the situation can't be resolved immediately, the onsite US Chess Safe Play representative will be available to offer support, take statements, and provide reporting options, if necessary.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Encourage players to share what would make them feel more safe or more included/welcome.



ASK FOR FEEDBACK.

Consider a suggestion box where people can anonymously submit comments, concerns, and praise!



ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO TRAIN.

Suggest that all staff members, not just tournament directors, become SafeSport trained.



OUTLINE PROCEDURES.

Announce your Safe Play procedures at the beginning of each tournament or round.





Gold & Silver Affiliates



US CHESS would like to recognize and thank
all of our Affiliates for their commitment and hard work.

US CHESS GOLD AFFILIATES

Bay Area Chess

San Jose, CA
408-409-6596
www.bayareachess.com

Berkeley Chess School

Berkeley, CA
510-843-0150
www.berkeleychessschool.org

Capital Area Chess

Centreville VA
703-627-5314
www.capitalareachess.com

Caveman Chess, LLC

Park Ridge, IL
224-985-5244
www.cavemanchess.com

Charlotte Chess Center

Charlotte, NC
980-265-1156
www.charlottechesscenter.org/

CHESSanity

Jericho, NY
917-678-2077
www.chessanity.org

Continental Chess Association

Pelham, NY
201-347-2269
www.chesstour.com

Hamden Chess Club

Hamden, CT
203-680-8456
www.playmorechess.com

King Registration

Chicago, IL
773-317-8347
www.kingregistration.com

Manasota Chess Center

Sarasota, FL
941-900-3296
www.manasotachess.org

Marshall Chess Club

New York, NY
212-477-3716
www.marshallchessclub.org

New York State Chess Association

New York, NY
646-232-3155
www.nysca.net

Ocean State Chess Association

Riverside, RI
401-212-1335
www.oceanstatechess.com

PaperClip Pairings

Brownsville, TX
956-621-0377
rrferrari@bisd.us

Saint Louis Chess Club

St. Louis, MO
314-361-CHESS (2437)
www.saintlouischessclub.org

San Diego Chess Club

San Diego, CA
619-752-4377
www.sandiegochessclub.org

Washington Chess Federation

Redmond, WA
206-769-3757
www.wachess.com

US CHESS SILVER AFFILIATES

Boca Raton Chess Club (FL)

www.bocachess.com

Downriver Chess Club (LA)

www.downriverchess.com

Rochester Chess Center (NY)

www.chessset.com

CDA Collin County Chess Club (TX)

www.coramdeoademy.org/chess

Evangel Chess Club (AL)

www.evangelchurch.me

Sparta Chess Club (NJ)

www.spartachessclub.org

Chess Core (TX)

ChessCore@yahoo.com

Little House of Chess, Inc. (NY)

www.littlehouseofchess.org

Texas Chess Center (TX)

www.texaschesscenter.com

ChessPalace (CA)

www.chesspalace.com

Michigan Chess Association (MI)

www.michess.org

TLA Chess (VA)

jack.scheible@verizon.net

For all information on becoming a Gold or Silver Affiliate, please visit <https://new.uschess.org/gold-and-silver-affiliates>.

| Annual Awards

AWARDS

US Chess exists because of its members, but it thrives through the work of its volunteers, delegates, and donors. Each year we celebrate these unsung heroes with a series of annual awards. We also recognize the tremendous achievements of our top players and teams. Congratulations to all the winners!



JAMES RACHELS

Distinguished Service

Rachels was involved in chess in every capacity as a player, director, and organizer, as well as a (reluctant) chess politician. (posthumous)



CAROL MEYER

Distinguished Service

“I think that chess, and particularly US Chess, provides community, often to people who haven’t experienced being part of a chosen community before. That sense of belonging that chess provides is special.”



DEWAIN AND SUE BARBER

Koltanowski Gold Award

The Barbers have a long history of supporting and involvement with scholastic chess. This year they have generously endowed the GM Arnold Denker National Tournament of High School Champions.



JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

Koltanowski Gold Award

John D. Rockefeller V has made significant contributions to US Chess, both personally and financially. He is an active volunteer, serving as Vice Chair of the Scholastic Council as well as Vice Chair of the Development Committee. He has endowed four US Chess national scholastic tournaments and sponsored several Title I schools to compete in national scholastic events.



DAVID AND MAUREEN GRIMAUD

Koltanowski Silver Award

The Grimauds are formidable partners with US Chess. David is Chair of the Nominating Committee while Maureen serves as Co-Chair of the Women Committee. The Grimauds give generously to Women & Girls, Seniors, Invitationals, and At-Risk Youth Programs.



ERNEST NIX

Meritorious Services

“I greatly enjoy introducing others to the game, remembering the wisdom of World Champion Max Euwe: ‘Whoever sees no other aim in the game than that of giving checkmate to one’s opponent will never become a good chess player.’”



JIM HOLLINGSWORTH

Meritorious Services

Hollingsworth had an extensive chess resume as a player, organizer, volunteer, and journalist. His philosophy was to design epic championship events from the chess player’s perspective. (posthumous)



CHRISTINA SCHWEISS

Meritorious Services

Schweiss’ affiliate Hampton Roads Chess Association has upwards of 700 players across seven cities. “I’ve watched chess change the lives of countless children and adults as players and developing leaders, and I thank God every day for this unexpected calling in my life.”



KALANITHI BAGLEY

Meritorious Services

“Chess is not just a game; it’s a language of its own, a universal language that allows individuals to communicate and express themselves without words. Whether played casually among friends and family or in competitive settings, chess has a way of uniting people and creating lasting memories and that’s what inspires me. Chess has had a profound impact on me.”



ROBIN RAMSON

Meritorious Services

“I believe chess is a wonderful instrument to connect communities at so many levels. As a community organizer, my vision is to prepare youth to be global citizens and work together as leaders through chess activities.”



IA ANDRE HARDING

Meritorious Services

Harding was an active player, teacher, and tournament director before his death. He started his professional chess work in New York as a tournament director for The Right Move Chess Foundation in 2002, and eventually became the assistant manager at the Marshall Chess Club. (posthumous)

| Annual Awards



JEFF BULINGTON

Scholastic Service Award: Individual

“My first-grade teacher introduced me to chess during the Fischer boom in the fall of 1972. I suppose I have been concerned with the intersections of chess and school ever since. For me, chess is an infinitely engaging world unto itself and a vital complement to traditional curriculum and instruction.”



THE RIGHT MOVE (NY)

Scholastic Service Award: Organization

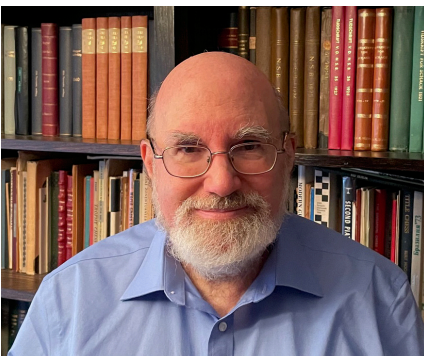
The Right Move Chess Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation which serves scholastic chess players in the New York City and Greater Capital District area of Albany, NY, by providing a series of free chess tournaments during the school year. Their mission is to provide youth with the opportunity to grow and learn in a positive environment through chess.



ANDREW “ANDY” ANSEL

Special Services

“Chess is a way to connect with people. I feel chess has helped me professionally as it really increases one’s ability to problem solve, analyze situations and deal with hard problems — all of which we have faced across the chess board. I cannot imagine my life without chess.”



ICGF GM JON EDWARDS

Special Services

“The game provides me with never-ending comfort and beauty, and I cannot imagine life without it.”



SAFE PLAY ADVISORY GROUP

Committee of the Year

The Safe Play Advisory Group was formed in May 2023 as part of the overall Safe Play program. Its goal is to create safe and welcoming spaces for all chess players by helping formulate appropriate policy, increase educational opportunities, and, in the longer term, to begin to reshape our approach and understanding.



US SENIOR TEAM

Outstanding Team Achievement

The U.S. Senior Team won the 2023 FIDE World Chess Championship 50+ in Struga, North Macedonia, on the heels of a 4–0 sweep of Poland in the last round.



ORLANDO

Chess City of the Year

Over the last 20 years, US Chess has placed 25 national championships in Orlando, and in 2025 the SuperNationals will be contested there.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, COLUMBIA

Chess College of the Year

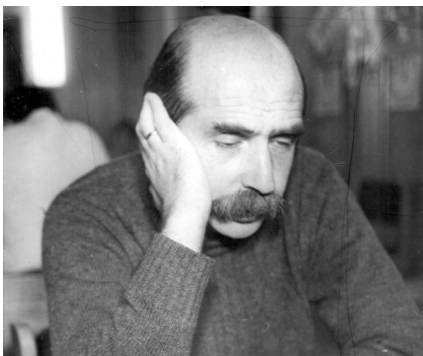
The “Mizzou” Chess Program was founded in 2019. It is a partnership between the University of Missouri and the Saint Louis Chess Club. Mizzou Chess continuously works towards bringing the university’s ethos of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery, and Excellence to the chess board.



CHARLESTON CHESS CLUB (SC)

Chess Club of the Year

The Charleston Chess Club (CCC) was founded in 1885 and became a US Chess Affiliate in 1972. Since 2009 it has expanded and has inspired the establishment of several new clubs in the area, making Charleston a very healthy chess environment.



IM IGOR FOYGEL

Outstanding Player Achievement

“Chess is the most important thing in my life apart from my family and has continued to remain that way to this very day.”



FM FRANK THORNALLY

Outstanding Player Achievement

Thornally surpassed the 2400 rating threshold in 1974. He played on U.S. Student Olympiad teams and is an Original Life Master and FIDE Master.



IM ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Outstanding Player Achievement

“The best thing [about chess] has been the meetings with remarkable men (and women of course!)”

Annual Awards



GM HIKARU NAKAMURA

GM of the Year

Starting play at the age of 7, Nakamura was 10 when he became the youngest to receive the Master title. He reached grandmaster at 15, has earned five U.S. Championship titles, and finished in shared second the 2024 Candidates. In recent years “GMHikaru” has become one of the world’s most prominent chess streamers.



WGM/IM ALICE LEE

Young Player of the Year

“I’ve come to love chess for its beauty and the opportunities it has given me. Along my journey, I’ve met countless people and traveled to places I would not have without chess.”



GM FABIANO CARUANA

GM of the Year

“At some point — to my parents’ regret — I got my first video game. So, then I wanted to play video games all the time, and that’s when I started playing chess. I started around the age of between 5 and 6 because I had some problems with my attention. It was suggested as a way to maybe improve my ability to concentrate and my attention span, and I just started playing with kids in an after-school program, and then got noticed by a chess coach there ...”



FA/IO LUIS A. SALINAS

Outstanding Career Achievement

Salinas was a FIDE Arbiter, International Organizer, Senior Tournament Director, and US Chess Life Member. (posthumous)



WGM/IM CARISSA YIP

Woman Player of the Year

“I began playing chess when I was 7 years old; my dad taught me how the pieces moved in first grade. Ever since then, for the last 13 years, chess has been central to my life.”



CM JUDE ACERS

Frank Marshall Award

There have been many showmen in the history of chess. None outstrip “the man in the red beret.” Acers has held court at his table on Decatur Street in New Orleans for more than four decades, offering lessons and playing against all comers daily.



IA/IO ANAND DOMMALAPATI

Organizer of the Year

“I enjoy every aspect of organizing chess events through my US Chess Gold Affiliate, Capital Area Chess, from hiring the best staff to creating an optimal playing environment. My goal is to ensure that the players, parents and my staff have a positive experience and are eager to return for future events.”



JEFF L. SMITH

Tournament Director of the Year

“At the scholastic level, I believe chess can teach values such as sportsmanship and the necessity of work to succeed. It is a hobby unlike any other that can be enjoyed for a lifetime. Through chess, I have met individuals from all walks of life, many of whom I would never have had the good fortune to know.”



IA MAYA MYERS

Senior Tournament Director of the Year

“Chess has not only taught me how to think about the decisions I’ve made on the board but has opened up amazing relationships I’ve made with other organizers and TDs all over the country.”



IA/IO ALAN LOSOFF

Lifetime Tournament Achievement

Losoff is best known as the organizer of the National Open and Las Vegas International Chess Festival. He has organized and directed chess events for over 50 years.



CRAIG TIMMONS

Local Tournament Director of the Year

“I am able to provide the opportunity for people of all ages to play chess. Having worked and organized scholastic tournaments, state championships, and having the opportunity to work at national tournaments, I really enjoy seeing the young players progress to more mature and stronger players.”



TIM TUSING

Dan Heisman Award for Excellence in Chess Instruction

Tusing has taught chess to kids from pre-K to fifth grade at Oak Hall School in Gainesville, Florida, since 1997. Twenty-seven years later his school’s club has won 25 National Scholastic Championships.



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

US Chess sanctions more than 50 national championships every year. Here is this year's distinguished list.

Note: Listings based on our fiscal year of June 2023 to May 2024.

U.S. Champion | October 2023

GM Fabiano Caruana



U.S. Women's Champion | October 2023

IM Carissa Yip



National Champions

U.S. Junior Championship

July 2023

Abhimanyu Mishra

U.S. Junior Girls' Championship

July 2023

Alice Lee

U.S. Senior Championship

July 2023

Melikset Khachiyan

U.S. Senior Women's Championship

September 2023

Anjelina Belakovskaia

U.S. Cadet Championship

June 2023

Erick Zhao



Abhimanyu Mishra



Melikset Khachiyan



Alice Lee



Erick Zhao

National Champions



Zijun Zhou

National Open Chess Championship

June 2023

Illia Nyzhnyk, Vasif Durarbayli, Yasser Quesada Perez, Mikhail Antipov

U.S. Senior Open Chess Championship

July 2023

Jesse Kraai, Doug Eckert, Alexander Fishbein, Nikola Mitkov, Steven Szpisjak, Peter Gilruth

U.S. Women's Open Chess Championship

June 2023

Zijun Zhou

National K-12 Grades Championship

December 2023

K: Mehmet Yilanli; 1: Darren Wu, Mustafa Muhammad; 2: Sriansh Katta, Samanyu Alluri; 3: Sasha Schaefer; 4: Linxi Zhu, Santhosh Ayyappan; 5: Tariq Yue, Megan Paragua, Kyle Dong, Yuvraj Sawhney, Glenn Zhang, Derek Zhang, Phineas Weingarten; 6: Kyle Wang; 7: Aditeya Das, Bobby Qian, Andrew Jiang, Vihaan Saxena, Alexander Sukhiashvili; 8: Eric Chang Liu; 9: Brewington Hardaway, Aiden Reiss, Erick Zhao; 10: Marvin Gao, Bach Ngo; 11: Avi Kaplan; 12: Gus Huston, Maximillian Lu



Avi Kaplan



Erick Zhao



Brewington Hardaway



Aiden Reiss



Mehmet Yilanli

National Champions

All-Girls National Championship

April 2024

Individual Winners: U18: Asha Kumar; U16: Iris Mou; U14: Nandini Prakash; U12: Anisha Saha; U10: Miranda Meng; Chloe Liu; Scarlett Kong; U8: Abigal Zhou, Gracie Yan

Team Winners: U18: Columbia Grammar & Prep (NY); U16: Stuyvesant High School (NY); U14: Hunter College High School (NY), Success Academy Midtown West; U12: The Speyer Legacy School (NY); U10: P.s. 77 Lower Lab (NY); U8: The Speyer Legacy School (NY)

National Elementary (K-6) Championship

April 2024

Individual Winners: K-6: Artemii Khanbutaev; K-5: Ted Wang; K-3: Sasha Milo Schaefer; K-1: Devansh Vallanki, Ajay Beuria Sreenivasan, Mustafa Muhammad

Team Winners: K-6: Speyer Legacy School (NY); K-5: P.s. 77 Lower Lab (NY); K-3: Oak Hall (FL); K-1: Trinity School (NY)

National Primary (K-3) Blitz Championship

April 2024

Individual Winner: Albert Li

Team Winner: Elizabeth M. Baker Elementary (NY)

National Elementary (K-6) Blitz Championship

April 2024

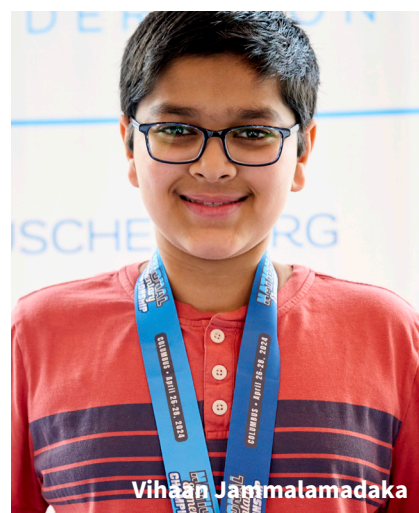
Individual Winner: Vihaan Jammalamadaka

Team Winner: P.S. 77 Lower Lab (NY)

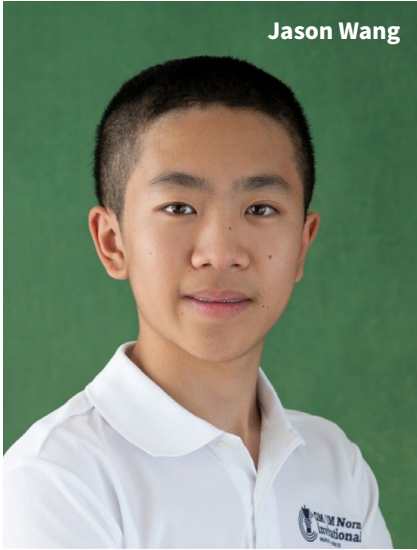
National Elementary (K-6) Bughouse Championship

April 2024

Tommy Kozlek and Leon Li



National Champions



Jason Wang



Albert Li

National Middle School (K-8) Championship

May 2024

Individual Winners: Nikash Vemparala, Eric Chang Liu

Team Winners: Columbia Grammar & Prep (NY), Speyer Legacy School (NY)

National Middle School (K-8) Blitz Championship

May 2024

Individual Winners: Ethan Guo, Nikash Vemparala

Team Winner: Speyer Legacy School (NY)



Eric Chang Liu



Nikash Vemparala

National Middle School (K-8) Bughouse Champ

May 2024

Hunter Hong and Tommy Kozlek

National High School (K-12) Championship

April 2024

Individual Winner: Jason Wang

Team Winner: The Dalton School (NY)

National High School (K-12) Blitz Championship

April 2024

Individual Winner: Nico Chasin

Team Winners: Columbia Grammar & Prep (NY), Speyer Legacy School (NY)

National High School (K-12) Bughouse Championship

April 2024

Lucas Jiang and Kitana Olson, Gus Huston and Maximillian Lu



The Dalton School (NY)

National Champions

U.S. Class Chess Championships

September 2023

Master: Jianchao Zhou, Arman Mikaelyan, Sharvesh Deviprasath; Expert: Avery Yu, Max England, Neil Bhaduri, Alaa-Addin Moussa; A: Yuqi Wang, Davit Gevorgyan; B: Ryan McCloskey, Noah Mcqueen; C: Mark Torosyan; D: Iniya Mathivanan; Nandha Rajesh

U.S. Junior Open

July 2023

Under 21: Nicholas Ladan; Under 15: Vidyuth Kamesh; Under 11: William Ahn; Under 8: Siddharth Parthasarathy

U.S. Junior Chess Congress

July 2023

6 & Under: Steven Yan, Chloe Dong; 8 & Under: Winston Wu; 10 & Under: Aashish Jagan; 12 & Under: Wesley Luo; 14 & Under: William Wu; 16/18 & Under: Akshat Suresh

U.S. Armed Forces Championship

October 2023

Peter Jackson

U.S. Blitz Championship

August 2023

George Li

U.S. G/15 Chess Championship

August 2023

Jackson Wahl, Hersh Singh

U.S. Blind Chess Championship

July 2023

Alexander Barrasso



National Champions |

Denker Tournament of HS Champions July-August 2023

Arthur Guo



Arthur Guo

Barber Tournament Of Middle School Champions July-August 2023

Erick Zhao, Brewington
Hardaway, Jasmine Su



Harshin
Jagirapu

Haring Girls Tournament Of Champions July-August 2023

Ruiyang Yan



Ruiyang Yan

Rockefeller Tournament Of Elementary Champions July-August 2023

John Abraham, Andrew Jing,
Harshin Jagirapu

Irwin National Tournament Of Senior State Champions July-August 2023

Jesse Kraai, Nikoloz Managadze

Weeramantry Blitz Championship July-August 2023

Championship: Terry Luo, Gus
Huston; 1800-2199: Eric
Feng; 1400-1799: Kushagra
Bhargava; Under 1400: Varun
lyengar



John
Abraham



Andrew Jing

National Champions

Pan-American Intercollegiate Individual

January 2024

Josiah Stearman

Pan-American Intercollegiate Team

January 2024

University Of Missouri A

Final Four of College Chess

March 2024

University Of Missouri

National Collegiate Rapid Championship

October 2023

Grigoriy Oparin, Aram Hakobyan, Mikhail Antipov; University Of Texas Rio Grande Valley, University Of Missouri

National Collegiate Blitz Championship

November 2023

Benjamin Gledura, Andrew Hong; Webster University

U.S. Amateur Team East

February 2024

Another Bacon, Egg, And Cheese, Please! (Gus Huston, Nathaniel Shuman, Ryan Peterson, Kevin Stern)

U.S. Amateur Team West

February 2024

Team 1 (Derek Wu, Rochelle Wu, Brandon Yang Xia, Jayden Xu)

U.S. Amateur Team North

February 2024

U Chicago C (A wonder Liang, Praveen Balakrishnan, Kapil Chandran, Bradley Li)

U.S. Amateur Team South

February 2024

Deviprasath's Doomsayers

(Bach Ngo, Marvin Gao, Aniket Shukla, Quintin Tanksley)

U.S. Amateur Team Championship / Play-Off

November 2023

U Chicago (A wonder Liang, Praveen Balakrishnan, Kapil Chandran, Will Eastwick, Runzhe Cui)

U.S. Open Championship

July-August 2023

Andrew Tang, Aleksey Sorokin

U.S. Masters Chess Championship

November 2023

Mikhail Antipov, Gleb Dudin, Justin Wang, Bryce Tiglon

U.S. Armed Forces Team

October 2023

Army





Another Bacon, Egg, And Cheese, Please! (L to R: Kevin Stern, Ryan Peterson, Nathaniel Shuman, Gus Huston)



Webster University (L to R: Josiah Stearman, Grigoriy Oparin, Harshit Raja, Cristian Chirila, Mikhail Antipov, Luka Budisavljevic)

2023-2024 Financials

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CHESS FEDERATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS - MAY 31, 2024

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,053,616
Accounts Receivable	17,573
Prepaid Expenses	83,906
Total Current Assets	1,155,095

LONG TERM ASSETS

Investments	1,394,981
Property and Equipment, net	257,222
Right of Use Assets, net	114,193
Total Long Term Assets	1,766,396

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS

Cash	67,521
Investments	1,655,278
Total Life Membership Assets	1,722,799

ENDOWMENT FUND

Cash	162,960
Investments	2,266,809
Total Endowment Cash & Investments	2,429,769

TOTAL ASSETS \$7,074,059

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 71,748
Accrued Expenses & Other Liabilities	258,930
Lease Liability, Current Portion	36,934
Total Current Liabilities	367,612

Deferred Multi-Year Memberships	368,551
Deferred Sales and Tournament Income	236,124
Deferred Scholarships	156,873
Deferred Revenue - Life and Sustaining Memberships	552,706
Lease liability, net of current portion	81,962
Total Liabilities	1,763,828

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	
With Board Designations	3,617,181
Without Board Designations	(661,496)
With Donor Restrictions	2,354,546
Total Net Assets	5,310,231

**TOTAL LIABILITIES
& NET ASSETS** \$7,074,059

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CHESS FEDERATION STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2024

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	With Donor Restrictions	Without Donor Restrictions	Total
Memberships	\$ 2,677,785		\$ 2,677,785
Tournaments	1,352,286		1,352,286
Magazine Revenues	380,802		380,802
Sales Revenues	120,000		120,000
Donations	444,378	566,500	1,010,678
Rating fee revenue	247,447		247,447
Other Services	59,993		59,993
Royalties and miscellaneous revenues	41,821		41,821
Total Revenues & Support	5,324,512	566,500	5,890,812
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	336,288	(336,288)	0
EXPENSES			
Program services	3,286,754		3,286,754
Supporting services	2,058,165		2,058,165
Total Expenses	5,344,919		5,344,919
OTHER INCOME			
Investment return	48,261	77,236	125,497
Interest income	175,148	88,851	263,999
Total Other Income	223,409	166,087	389,496
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS			
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	539,290	396,099	935,389
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING	2,416,395	1,958,447	4,374,842
NET ASSETS - ENDING	\$ 2,955,685	\$ 2,354,546	\$ 5,310,231

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CHESS FEDERATION STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED

MAY 31, 2023 (continued on next page)

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change in Net Assets	\$ 935,389
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash	
Provided by (Used In) Operating Activities:	
Depreciation	77,444
Unrealized (Gain) Loss on Life Membership Investments	(31,994)
Unrealized (Gain) Loss on Investments	(93,503)
Change in Operating Assets and Liabilities:	
Accounts Receivable	50,015
Prepaid Expenses	(52,624)
Accounts Payable	(161,820)
Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities	188,895
Deferred Multi-Year Memberships	(150,364)
Deferred Sales and Tournament Income	215,552
Deferred Revenue—Life and Sustaining Memberships	58,883
Deferred Scholarships	(990)
Right-of-use asset and lease liability, net	2,223
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	1,037,106

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CHESS FEDERATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED
MAY 31, 2023 (continued from previous page)

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Purchase of Investments	(1,151,927)
Proceeds from sale or maturity of investments	245,751
Purchase of property and equipment	(100,000)
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities	(1,006,176)

NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

EQUIVALENTS	30,930
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING	1,253,167
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - ENDING	\$ 1,284,097

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Life Membership Asset Cash and Cash Equivalents	67,521
Endowment Fund Cash and Cash Equivalents	162,960
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,053,616
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,284,097

For the full version of the 2023-2024 audited financial report, including the accompanying notes for these financial statements, please see new.uschess.org/financials.

2023-2024 Financials

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CHESS FEDERATION STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2024 (continued on next page)

	PROGRAM ACTIVITIES			
	Magazine	Tournament	Programming	Total
Personnel Expense	460,615	-	448,756	909,371
Tournament Expense - Domestic	-	1,123,270	-	1,123,270
Printing, Mailing and Postage	488,599	-	-	488,599
IT Expenses	-	-	-	-
Tournament Expense - International	-	404,529	-	404,529
Programming	-	203,173	203,173	-
Professional Fees	-	-	-	-
Bank and Credit Card Charges	-	-	-	-
Contract Labor	109,527	-	109,527	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
FIDE International Representation	-	-	-	-
Office Rent	-	-	-	-
Commissions	-	-	48,285	48,285
Development	-	-	-	-
Executive Board Meetings and Travel	-	-	-	-
Insurance	-	-	-	-
Utilities	-	-	-	-
Office Supplies	-	-	-	-
Advertising and Promotions	-	-	-	-
Equipment Rental	-	-	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses before Depreciation	1,058,741	1,527,799	700,214	3,286,754
Depreciation	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,058,741	\$ 1,527,799	\$ 700,214	\$ 3,286,754

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CHESS FEDERATION
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2024 (continued from previous page)

SUPPORTING SERVICES						Grand Total (Program + Supporting)
Membership	Governance	G&A	Fundraising	Total Supp. Svcs.		
-	-	876,338	876,338	-	-	1,785,709
-	-	-	-	-	-	1,123,270
-	-	-	-	-	-	488,599
-	-	471,744	-	471,744	-	471,744
-	-	-	-	-	-	404,529
-	-	-	-	-	-	203,173
-	-	165,667	-	165,667	-	165,667
-	-	158,373	-	158,373	-	158,373
-	-	-	-	-	-	109,527
-	-	54,303	-	54,303	-	54,303
-	50,664	-	-	50,664	-	50,664
-	-	48,522	-	48,522	-	48,522
-	-	-	-	-	-	48,285
41,775	-	-	-	41,775	-	41,775
-	37,521	-	-	37,521	-	37,521
-	-	22,777	-	22,777	-	22,777
-	-	21,504	-	21,504	-	21,504
-	-	12,521	-	12,521	-	12,521
-	-	-	12,275	12,275	-	12,275
-	-	3,969	-	3,969	-	3,969
-	-	212	-	212	-	212
-	-	2,305	251	2,556	-	2,556
41,775	88,185	1,838,235	12,526	1,980,721	-	5,267,475
77,444	-	-	-	-	-	77,444
\$ 119,219	\$ 88,185	\$ 1,915,679	\$ 12,526	\$ 2,058,165	\$ 5,344,919	

US CHESS DONORS

2023-2024

Due to space limitations, only donors of \$50 or more are listed from the most recent fiscal year. Every gift to US Chess plays an important role in continuing our mission to “Empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through Chess,” and we are grateful for each and every donation. US Chess is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations to US Chess are tax deductible. If you would like to make a donation to US Chess or view a complete list of programs and funds to which you can designate your donation, please visit us at uschess.org/donate. We also thank those who have donated to US Chess using payment methods offered through third-party chess events or various social media platforms. We regret being unable to recognize those donors individually.

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