

Candidate Profiles for Delegate-Appointed Nominating Committee Members

David Grimaud (SC)

Attending 14 consecutive delegate meetings as the South Carolina Chess Association (SCCA) delegate, I've served on both ends of the US Chess spectrum — the Scholastic Committee and the Senior Committee (its Chair).

After receiving a BSEE in 1983 and working in industry, I joined my father in 1987, operating under a franchise called Precision Tune Auto Care. We are the brand's largest area developer and franchisee, focusing on our core values of integrity, perseverance, ownership, service, and growth.

As an officer of the SCCA (15 years), I've sought to enhance chess quality and activity. I believe in leading through a team of diverse background and experience, believing "the strongest organizations encourage the expression of conflict and proactively manage it." (Bob Wilson, *Managing Through the Paradox of Conflict*.) We should seek determined board nominees with unique strengths who are mature enough to listen and adopt the best solutions.

Thank you,

David

Randy Hough (CA-S)

The Nominating Committee will help US Chess find potential EB members with the vision and skill sets needed to leverage our 501(c)3 status and better fulfill our mission. As a Delegate at Large, I'm independent and not beholden to anyone.

My broad experience would make me a valuable committee member:

- 37 Delegates meetings
- Six years on EB
- Served on numerous committees, currently Awards, Bylaws, and Ethics
- Three years on the US Chess office staff
- 31 years of state board service
- NTD and IA; directed US Open, Invitational, National High School
- Many years organizing American Open and state and club tournaments
- Award winning journalist
- Active player with NM title
- Distinguished Service Award recipient
- Professional experience in government relations, budgeting, and organization development

As I seek your support for this vital task, please address any questions to randallough@gmail.com or (626) 282-7412.

Michelle Martinez (AZ)

For the past decade, I have served the chess community in a variety of roles in chess-focused organizations:

- US Chess Delegate (six years)
- Current Scholastic Committee member
- Chess Control staff for multiple scholastic Nationals; recent Manager
- Director of Marketing, ChessKid (five years)
- Board member/officer for several non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations (Southern Arizona Chess Association, current President; 9 Queens, past Treasurer; Legends Chess)
- Region II Representative, Arizona Chess Federation (state affiliate)
- Assistant Director, National Chess Camp
- Active backroom TD, local and state tournaments
- Organizer of several notable OTB and online events

Having forged many meaningful relationships globally, I'm honored to work with a diverse and inclusive network of individuals.

If elected to the Nominating Committee, I pledge to be a conscientious custodian to each of the organization's 96,000 members. I'm dedicated to identifying potential Executive Board candidates with skills and experience commensurate with the mission of US Chess.

Steven Morford (CA-S)

I first experienced competitive chess through scholastic programs in Pennsylvania. A life member, my adult residences and chess playing have rotated between southern and northern California.

I am a local tournament director with experience as an organizer. My tenure on the Southern California Chess Federation board includes six years as president. I am president of a scholastic chess affiliate. I serve on both the Clubs and Accessibility & Special Circumstances Committees. I have been a regular attendee at delegates meetings.

I spent most of my career as senior manager of large school district and county-wide special education programs. I hold an Ed.D. in educational psychology.

The Nominations Committee seeks out new leaders. Candidates should exhibit capability and experience. They should possess leadership skills suitable for an organization which is both non-profit and composed of members. The best board is one which is diverse in background and view point.

Kevin Pryor (FL)

My Fellow Delegates:

I am willing to work to achieve the aim of this committee in any capacity. I have the requisite skillset for a committee member. I have been a corporate leader directing operations, benchmarking teams and implementing strategic solutions. I know the importance of the need to care for people with every decision made. I retired in February after almost 40 years of successful corporate life.

I joined USCF in the 80's for the magazine and bought a fidelity computer to play with during that time. In 2014, I rejoined to play in a local tournament. I've peaked with a modest 1400 regular rating, but I'm more focused on serving chess than playing chess. My chess achievements have been to revive the Jacksonville Chess Club, become the current Florida Chess Association President, run a 130-student scholastic training program in North Florida and become a Senior Tournament Director.

Kevin Pryor

Sophia Rohde (NY)

As a member of the Executive Board Candidates Nominating Committee, I will draw upon my 45 years of experience as a teacher and organizer to seek out worthy Executive Board candidates. I especially hope to help find people that share my passion for encouraging women and girls to become active in Chess, who support my goal of increasing opportunities for players with special needs and circumstances, and who also have a strong commitment towards expanding the role of chess clubs and chess leagues in our society.

I was honored to be [recognized by the mayor of New York City](#) in some of my endeavors.

Respectfully,

Sophia Rohde, IA, IO, NTD US Chess Life Member

Daa'im Shabazz (FL)

My chess journey began as a scholastic player at Chicago Vocational H.S. Eventually, I rose to first board, leading our team to a city championship as a senior. In 2001, I launched "The Chess Drum," which demonstrates the universality of chess and provides a platform for the underserved African Diaspora. As a chess journalist, I have covered several U.S. Championships, Grand Chess Tour events (including Côte d'Ivoire), the 2016 World Championship, and six Olympiads. I have also contributed chess content to Chess Life, ChessBase, and New in Chess. I currently serve as a professor of Global Business at Florida A&M University (22 years) and a board member of the Florida Chess Association. For the Nomination Committee we will seek progressive-minded candidates who can devise outreach marketing strategies for untapped membership segments. In my view, we also need individuals with a keen global vision. It's time we hosted a Chess Olympiad!

Jonathon Singler (AK)

Alaska laid dormant and forgotten for years by US Chess. In the process of national reunification, I have learned as Alaska's State Delegate that it takes a tribe to build a village, but many tribes to sustain its integrity and purpose. My passion for accepting the nomination to serve on the Nominations Committee is rooted in the story of Alaska.

I aim to ensure that the endorsed Executive Board candidates by this committee will demonstrate a sense of initiative beyond traditional duties, who do not wish to see an incomplete organization as a means of acceptable standards. My experience with chess in Alaska includes the search for most suitable Executive Board candidates to ensure a prosperous chess-future for Alaska. US Chess is playing the same game of tribal chess.

A vote for Jonathon to serve the US Chess Nominations Committee IS a vote for those not represented in US Chess.

Chris Wainscott (WI)

I'm Chris Wainscott from Milwaukee, WI and I'm happy to be considered for inclusion on the nominating committee.

Why should you select me? What do I bring to the table that will help US Chess continue to prosper and grow?

First, I have a strong chess background. I'm an active tournament player, tournament organizer, owner of a scholastic chess teaching business, president of my local chess club, chess journalist, and serve on the Wisconsin Chess Association board. I understand members' needs on many levels.

More importantly, I dislike a "business as usual" approach. My day job is in credit and banking and in that industry you learn to continuously adapt to increase performance, or you soon find yourself well behind the competition. This means I never assume something can't be done, or that poor ideas should continue to be implemented because "it's always been done that way."

Let's grow together!