

Minutes for MSCA Board Meeting, 17 July 2023 7-8 pm, via Zoom



Attendees: Jenny Bourne, Tim Radermacher, Scott Carpenter, Dane Zagar, Vanessa Lee, Nels Truelson, Ed Bourgeois, Jiten Patel.

We approved minutes from last time. Tim presented a brief financial report showing that we are in very good shape. We approved flyers for the Northern Open and TCCL (which will be held on two separate Fridays for gold and open sections at the Chess Castle) and flyers will be posted shortly. Tim will explore the possibility of holding the class championship at Rochester this year.

We discussed drafts of changes to the bylaws regarding affiliates as well as possible language for forms. Tim will work on standardizing the affiliate forms and we will ask for bylaw change approval at the annual meeting. For the moment, we will feature the Chess Castle briefly on the home page but will likely change that to a note pointing to the affiliates page, where the Castle will lead the list. MSCA will retain control over announcements made on the homepage. Discussion on safe play policy will occur at the next meeting.

As of January 1, 2024, we will change our policies regarding TD compensation and membership. We will eliminate free entry for TDs in exchange for a small increase in the TD fee. MSCA membership will return to mandatory status, moreover, and we will also look into various automation enhancements for collecting these membership fees.

We agreed that the Rochester leg of the Grand Prix was a big success. The Superior event turned a small profit but we will plan more in advance for this tournament so as to obtain the possibility of better lodging.

We have set dates for zoom meetings through December. We tentatively agreed to meet in person in January; Jenny and Dane are working on a time that will work to meet at the Castle.

Our mystery item: KUDOS TO SCOTT! [The MSCA Board recognizes Scott Carpenter for his stellar work as our new Webmaster over the last 4+ months. Scott has generously invested his time to modernize the MSCA website and increase traffic. The MSCA has experienced significant player participation growth over this period of time and Scott's efforts with the website and the on-line registration tournament set-ups have been key drivers. Scott also goes above and beyond by responding to the majority of e-mail questions that come in from MSCA members / potential members. Scott demonstrates incredible patience, resilience and a "can do" attitude to help our customers. It has been noticed that there is a strong correlation between Scott's thoughtful responses to potential new members and their subsequent participation at MSCA chess events. Way to go Scott!!](#)