



Alberta Chess Association

2018 Annual General Meeting

October 7, 2018

Calgary Chess Club, Calgary

President Vladislav Rekhson calls the meeting to order at 3:38 PM on October 7, 2018. More than sixty members are in attendance, including the following board members: Vlad Rekhson, Vice-President Jim Daniluk, Secretary Ian Findlay, Directors Wojtek Kowalczewski, Jordan Rohatynski, and Dale Haessel, and Executive Director Leah Hughey.

Vlad speaks about the recent death of Jina Burn and the loss to the Alberta chess community. She is described as tireless and an inspiration for hard work, especially in organizing. Vlad calls for a moment of silence in her memory. Those wishing to honor Jina can sign a booklet in her name at the Edmonton or Calgary Chess Clubs. Vlad speaks about bringing the AYCC to Fort McMurray in 2019.

Next Vlad introduces the current officers, and Leah reads the minutes from the 2017 AGM. Frank Kluytmans motions to accept the minutes, Ian F seconds. Passes.

Next Vlad gives his Presidential address. He speaks to not wanting to continue in the role; there will be a special election for a one-year Presidential term. He also speaks about the loss of funding for the Executive Director position and the recent denial of the ACA's appeal to Minister Miranda. The official reason for the loss of funding is that chess is not considered "active recreation" by Alberta Culture and Tourism. Funding loss is expected to occur in one year; however, only operating funding is affected. Casino funding is still intact. Vlad describes the overall workings of the ACA as very good. There is solid attendance at tournaments.

Ian F thanks Vlad for his three years of service as President.

Leah speaks about efforts to keep funding, including applying for another grant in September which would fund the Executive Director position through the end of 2020. However, the results of the grant application will not be known until March 2019.

Next, Leah presents the operating statement and briefly goes through each category. Wojtek asks about the women's funding given through RPAD, however that will be on the 2018 operating statement instead. Frank motions to approve the operating statement. Wojtek seconds. Approved.

Jordan brings a motion to the floor regarding background checks. Leah has requested that all board members with access to the bank accounts or membership list be required to have background checks on file to be updated every ten years. The cost to the ACA is minimal, as most of the positions can get volunteer background checks. Wojtek seconds the motion. It is approved with one opposing.

Dale has requested to use the travel reimbursement he won at the Alberta Seniors Championship to attend the World or PanAm Seniors Championship. Jordan motions to accept, Jim seconds. Passes with one opposed.

Next up are the elections. Vlad begins describing the duties of the President. There is a debate over juniors voting in the election. The bylaws state that members in good standing are allowed to vote. In the past, juniors were allowed to vote. The Societies Act does not allow a junior to hold an executive position. Lawyer Walter Watson states that he does not believe the Societies Act would prevent juniors from voting. Other views are presented. Wojtek wants an immediate board ruling on whether juniors can vote. Vlad declines to allow this as the AGM is currently in progress. Another member believes the rules of Canada regarding voting should apply if juniors are not explicitly given the right to vote. Another member questions at what age a junior would be able to make an informed decision. A final member speaks to precedence of allowing them to vote.

Vlad notes that no evidence has been presented that bans juniors from voting, also notes that the corporate registry has not objected to the bylaws as written. He suggests that the board could potentially take up the issue in the future. Wojtek takes the floor and the issue becomes heated. Vlad asks people to not address juniors without their parent's consent.

Vlad returns to the matter of the election. He speaks to the ACA being a non-profit; board members are supposed to act in the interest of the entire chess community. He details the job responsibilities of the President: to run meetings, set agendas, sign documents, and provide oversight for the Executive Director position. He then opens the floor for nominations.

Dale nominates Wojtek. Maxim Vasic seconds. Accepted.

Ian Zhao nominates Angelo Tolentino. Frank seconds. Accepted. There are no other nominations. Both are given the opportunity to speak. Angelo describes his experiences serving as a chess coach and as vice president of the CJCC, as well as with the Chess in the Libraries program.

Wojtek thanks Angelo for his efforts. Wojtek wants to focus on the business side of chess and on juniors. He wants to bring more funding to the CJCC, also to other juniors. He wants to create structure across the Alberta chess community.

There is some delay and initial missteps as the board tries to figure out how to count this many votes while verifying that only ACA members are voting; this is the largest AGM that anyone remembers. Ian Findlay, as secretary, takes charge of the voting. Leah and Vlad work to check the memberships of everyone, Leah hands out voting papers to members, and Ian F collects the completed ones. Leah and Ian F count the votes: Angelo wins 47-13 and becomes the new President of the ACA.

Up next is Vice President. Angelo nominates Jim. Jim wants to see who else is running. Dale nominates Neven, declined. Jim is nominated again, he accepts. Acclaimed.

For the Secretary position, Frank nominates Ian F to return to the position. Jim seconds. Accepted, acclaimed.

There are four director positions up for election. Terry Seehagen is willing to return to the board. He is nominated by Dale and seconded by Jordan. Vera Li nominates Guoliang Wu; seconded and accepted. Ian F nominates Rafael Arruebarrena; seconded and accepted. Ian Z nominates Frank, seconded and accepted. Wojtek nominates Magda Marais, who has indicated that she will run. Seconded.

Leah speaks on Terry's behalf. Vlad speaks for Magda, who is the current President of the Fort McMurray club. Frank declines to speak. Rafael speaks about his interest in getting more involved with organizing, Guoliang speaks about his experience as a webmaster.

Voting is done again, in the same way as before. Members are allowed to vote for up to 4 directors. In the end, the new directors are Guoliang, Magda, Frank, and Rafael.

There is no other business. Ian moves to adjourn. Seconded, no objections. The meeting adjourns at approximately 5:15 PM.