

USCF Election Faces Snag

Posted by eric on Friday, June 17 @ 09:59:38 CDT



Cal Chess Pres. Elizabeth Shaugnessy with Kasparov

By Eric Hicks

The upcoming election for USCF Executive Board Members is underway. All current USCF members must decide four seats of the leadership of the new USCF. This has tremendous consequences since right now Northern California has representation in Cal Chess President Elizabeth Shaugnessy and she is up for re-election this session.

Among others Shaugnessy is running against East Coast chess giant Bill Goichberg. This is the materialization of the age old West vs East Coast and unlike rap music, Chess has traditionally been dominated by the East coast. I remember when starting Academic Chess how difficult it was to get support from the USCF, since back then they were mostly a New York "old boys" Club. In fact I got a letter from them telling me

that they don't offer support to programs outside of New York. I think it has been a fresh of breath air in the last years that the west coast has been getting representation with Bay Area noteworthies such as Tom DorschIM John Donaldson and NM Jim Eade.

In fact it was x-calchess president Tom Dorsch who was USCF treasurer and tried to stop the loose spending by the USCF warning it would lead to future bankruptcy..a prophecy that ended up close to true. So everyone get out your vote, and preferably vote for our own Elizabeth Shaugnessy!

The Executive Board is decided by the membership of the USCF which includes most Cal Chess members.

In the midst of this election, a voting scandal has broken out. It seems that the Chess Life magazine containing the ballots was not printed with the names and membership #s of the people receiving the magazine. If people were to send in these ballots, their vote would be effectively nullified. This printing problem especially hit hard in Northern California, so voting members should be aware. If you send in a ballot from your chess life magazine you should take care to write your name and membership # for your vote to count. Also, the USCF is on top of this situation and is mailing every USCF member a ballot in the mail to try to rectify the situation.

Here is a clipping from the USCF website regarding this matter:

"Because of production problems during the assembling and binding of the June issue of Chess Life, some of the ballots in the magazine were not personalized with the voting member's name and address. There may also have been some cases of voting members who did not receive a ballot in their magazine.

USCF Secretary Don Schultz, Executive Director Bill Hall and Director of Publications Glenn Petersen have decided that the problems at our printer warrant sending out a new set of ballots to all voting members.

A replacement ballot form is being prepared. It will be printed and mailed out via first class mail as soon as possible.

We'll update this notice as we have more information.

We apologize for any inconvenience."