

Name: Ray Ratliff

Florida resident since: 1999

US Chess ID: 17346590

US Chess Expiration Date: May 30, 2022

Board Status: New

Chess Bio:

I am first and foremost a Chess dad of two amazing kids. I also proudly serve as a dedicated tournament director, a club president, chess coach, and the founder and owner of Chess for Charity Jacksonville. I play rated events when able but my focus is primarily on organizing, promoting chess in Florida, coaching and acting as the tournament director for my organization. My current regular rating is 845 and my peak rating was 865. I have only been actively playing for less than a year. Once a week I offer a free beginner chess class where I coach 15-20 players. Chess for Charity Jacksonville has organized 29 tournaments since Jan 2021 averaging 4 a month including over 50 sections.

Please list skills or experience of benefits to board service:

Outside of my Chess experience listed above, I am a retired military pilot with 20 years of experience in organizing, developing, and leading groups of individuals toward mutually beneficial goals through teamwork and compromise.

Why are you running for the FCA board?

I have a passion for what I do and my intentions are to do whatever it demands to promote chess in Florida. Just last week I hosted an event which included members of the FCA, a US Chess representative, FM Peter Giannatos of the Charlotte Chess Center and close to 50 players and family members at a free event and book signing. This event was designed to bring attention to chess in Florida and start to work with prominent Chess figures in our southeast region. I plan to explore these ideas with the board to bring attention to the wonderful pockets of chess we have all over our state.

Campaign statement: If elected, what will I seek to accomplish for the Florida Chess Community?

If elected, I will continue to strongly promote chess in Florida through creative ideas and inclusive priorities. Chess is a game of passion and a game of class. I will showcase both to the state and drive to create purpose driven events that both inspire and give back. We will continue to demand attention in the state of Florida during my time on the board and work together with other southeastern states to create comradery and healthy competition within our region. We have the opportunity to push the envelope and bring Florida chess to the forefront of the mind of all Florida residents and the rest of the world. Lets do this!