

Florida Chess Association Candidate Information and Campaign Statement

Deadline: July 31, 2022

Requirements for board candidates per the FCA Bylaws <https://www.floridachess.org/By-Laws>
Every nominee must meet each item 1-5:

1. Been continuous member of the FCA and US Chess since before March 1st of the election year
2. Must be 16 years or older
3. Meet **one** of the following:
 - a) Have a USCF or FIDE chess rating, either over-the-board or correspondence.
 - b) Be a certified tournament director with one (1) USCF event in the previous two (2) years.
 - c) Participated in the Florida State Championship tournament or at least one (1) of its side events (G-29, G-15, G-5 championships, for example) in the previous five (5) years.
4. Minimum one-year of Florida residency
5. In good standing with the FCA (Article VIII Section 10).

Save and send this form to the Elections Committee Chair at this email address: elections@floridachess.org. You can also use this email address for any questions about the vetting criteria.

NAME (First Last): Nicholas Lewis **Florida Resident since (year):** 2012

US Chess ID # 15477295 **US Chess Expiration Date:** 01/31/2023

Board Status: New, Returning or Incumbent: NEW **Years:** 0

If Incumbent, Positions held: N/A

If Incumbent, your accomplishments of note while on the board: N/A

Chess Bio: (Player Accomplishments, Current Rating/Peak Rating, Coaching, Author, Organizer, Parent, Tournament Director, other applicable info):

Nicholas Lewis is the founder and executive director of the Manasota Chess Center, a destination for chess players to learn, compete, and connect. The MCC is a non-profit (501(c)(3)) organization with a mission to vigorously expand chess in the community and in Florida and introduce chess to all segments of the community (children, adults, seniors, woman, etc.).

On a personal level, I love connecting with people over chess and really want to see chess grow in our community. I think Florida can be the hotspot for chess in the country if we all come together – more chess is better chess for everyone.

Please list skills or experience of benefit to board service:

Aside from being the Executive Director of the Manasota Chess Center, I'm product lead for a major tech company and have extensive skills in business operations analysis, marketing, and technology. I was a public school teacher before taking a job as a tech product lead, so I have experience working with youth and hold a Bachelor of Education from Florida State University.

Why are you running for the FCA board?

I am running for the FCA board because I believe I could be a valuable addition to help grow and govern chess in Florida. In just one year, the Manasota Chess Center has acquired over 90 members, sustained positive cash flow, offer numerous classes for scholastic kids, attained Gold status with USCF by submitting over 50 USCF memberships, hosted tournaments of up to 24 people (3 tournaments a month), hosted summer camps, and much more.

I have the energy, consistency, dedication, and drive to be part of the representation for chess in Florida.

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

There are a lot of things I would like to see in Florida chess, but there are three concrete goals I'd like to see through in 2023 (whether I am part of the board or not):

- Operate well-organized chess leagues so that different cities and clubs can compete against each other. Here is an article of a recent event we organized internationally at the MCC: <https://new.uschess.org/news/manasota-chess-center-builds-bonds-israeli-sister-city-club-match> I think we can do similar things locally in Florida
- Host a FIDE Norm Tournament. I already have four grandmasters from different nationalities who have committed to playing such an event.
- Improve the social conditions to make woman feel more comfortable playing chess. My girlfriend plays chess (kind of!) and has really improved the social atmosphere of the club to make it so other girls come play. I think that it's