

Florida Chess Association Candidate Information and Campaign Statement

Deadline: July 1st

Requirements for board candidates: Per the FCA Bylaws, all candidates must have been a continuous member of the FCA and US Chess since before March 1st of the election year (see By-Laws Article III Section 3). They must also be a voting member of the FCA . Each candidate must have minimum one-year of Florida residency and in good standing with the FCA (Article VIII Section 10). All potential candidates will be reviewed against the criteria in the By-Laws. See <https://www.floridachess.org/By-Laws>

Note: All information presented will be placed on the FCA website, but only a condensed bio will be included in the Summer edition of the floridaCHESS newsletter. Send this form to the Elections Committee Chair at this email address: elections@floridachess.org.

NAME (First Last): Bryan Tillis
US Chess ID # 12893033

Florida Resident since (year): 2017
US Chess Expiration Date: 2020-07-31

Board Status: New, Returning or Incumbent: [Response:](#) Incumbent

If Incumbent, Positions held: [Response:](#) 2017 – Current, positions held: Secretary

If Incumbent, your accomplishments of note while on the board: [Response:](#)

- First action on the board was to make a motion to save thousands of dollars yearly by eliminating the printing of the magazine for all members except for special cases upon request.
- Created modernized FCA logo as a focal point for our brand as an organization.
- Advertised interests at Local and State level through hosting a booth at multiple Nationals advertising FCA interests.
- Advertised interests at International level through three years of managing and developing the Pro Chess League Miami Champions team to the largest chess market worldwide through chess.com. Multiple great events have happened through connections with the Pro Chess League for Florida youth: GM Julio Becerra, GM Daniel Naroditsky, GM Sandro Pozo Vera, GM Renier Gonzalez, and former US Women’s Champion Nazi Paikidze all came to do events locally from conversations and connection through the league.
- Organized and Directed in three consecutive years the Palm Beach County District Championships setting record numbers of players.
- 2019 Organizer for the Arnold Denker Florida State Championship in Palm Beach Gardens where live streaming will take place with master commentary and analysis with amenities provided for players from local business sponsorship.

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

NM Bryan Tillis

- Highest USCF Rating, 2274
- USCF National Master, (2012)
- USCF Original Life Master, (2016)

Education & Certifications:

- Bachelors Degrees in Sociology & Psychology, (2010)
- Masters in Sociology course work completed, (2011)
- Certified Educator (2016-2021) Florida Department of Education (K-6, 6-9 Social Science)
- Full-Time Chess Teacher at Franklin Academy (2014 – Present)
- Florida Chess Association Board Member, (2017 – Present)
- FIDE Trainer, (2017)
- USCF Senior TD (Pending)
- USCF Certified Level V Coach (Pending)

Tournament Accomplishments:

- US Amateur South Champion, (2011)
- Mississippi State Champion, (2011)
- Alabama State Champion, (2012)
- Florida State Blitz Champion, (2018)

Author:

- Editor of *The Antics* Alabama Chess Federation State Magazine (2013 – 2015)
- Authored Curriculum Text: *Become A Chess Champion*, (2017)
- Authored *Become A Chess Champion Definitive Edition*, (2018)
- Authored *Master The French* with GM Alexander Lenderman, (2018)
- Authored *Alekhine Defense: The Dark Knight Rises*, with GM Roman Dzindzichashvili, (2019)
- Authored *Chess Coloring & Activity Book* with illustrations by Ashley Turner, (2019)
- Chess Life Online & Magazine Contributing Author (Ongoing)

Chess Projects & Partnerships:

- Instructor, Counselor, **Castle Chess Camp** at Emory University – (2007 – Present)
- Partnership in running camps in conjunction with **Chess Educators** in FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled in Orlando, FL (2016)
- Founder of Chess.com Pro Chess League Team: **Miami Champions** (2016 - Present)
- Created Chess events & partnership with **NHL Florida Panthers** (2016 – Present)
- Partnership with Bocachess in running [2019 Arnold Denker Florida State Championship](#)

Team Coaching Accomplishments:

- (5th) Grade Level Nationals 10th Place (2016)
- (K - 5 or K - 8) Palm Beach County District Champions (2017 - 2019)
- (K - 5 or K - 8) South Florida Regional Champions (2017 - 2019)
- (K - 5) Florida State Scholastic Champions (2017)
- (6th) Grade Level Nationals 7th Place (2017)
- (7th) Grade Level Nationals 3rd Place (2018)
- (K - 8) 7th Place Junior High National Championship (2019)

Please list skills or experience of benefit to board service: [Response:](#)

Incorporated in chess Bio*

Why are you running for the FCA board? [Response:](#)

I am running for the board to continue to make a difference in state chess and to have a voice for Florida residents on national matters through performing duties as a delegate to the USCF in annual meetings.

My goal is to grow Florida chess through organizing new events, and finding new paths to take the organization to new levels of excellence. As a tournament director since 2016, I have directed/organized over 100 events in South Florida and I have no intention of slowing down.

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

[Response:](#)

My goal in this term is to find local and corporate sponsorship for major events for the FCA. Currently, as a Non-Profit Board (to my knowledge) we have no major donors or benefactors. My campaign promise is to actively seek out and find contributors which will result in growth for chess in Florida.