

For Immediate Release

Lincoln Chess Foundation

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102nd Annual Lincoln City Chess Championship: Zeljko and Nelson tie for First Place

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Mirko Zeljko and Kent Nelson tied for first place in the 102nd Annual Lincoln City Chess Championship on Saturday, April 2 at Southeast Community College in Lincoln. Nelson took home the first place trophy after becoming the nine-time Lincoln City Champion. Zeljko retired the traveling championship trophy after winning the tournament for the third straight year. Tom Dorsch won second place and five players tied for third place: Doug Given, Ray Kappel, Doug McFarland, Keith Motschman, and Bob Woodworth.

The Lincoln City Chess Championship began in 1909 and is sponsored by the Lincoln Chess Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes the game of chess as both a sport and an educational activity. This three-round tournament is open to all local chess players who are members of the United States Chess Federation, and this year 24 area players participated. International Chess Master John Watson served as tournament director. Watson commented that “this year’s tournament was a real nail-biter. The competitors were terrific and the results depended completely on the day’s final round of play.”

Chess is a game of strategy and stamina that enjoys tremendous popularity in Lincoln. Latvian immigrants first brought the game to the area in the late 1800s and today Lincoln boasts a growing and active chess community. The Lincoln Chess Foundation sponsors scholastic activities and has twice hosted the US Open Chess Tournament, which attracts the best chess players from around the world. The Lincoln Chess Club meets for pick-up chess games on Tuesdays at 7 pm at the Meadowlark Coffee House at 16th and South Streets. These informal gatherings are free and open to the public; all chess players from beginner to master are welcome.

For more information about the Lincoln Chess Club and the Lincoln Chess Foundation contact john@lincolinchessfoundation.org or visit www.LincolnChessFoundation.org



Clockwise: Mirko Zeljko, Kent Nelson, Ray Kappel, and Doug Given in the final round of play for the Lincoln City Chess Championship on Saturday.