



Northwest Chess 2nd Quarter 2019 Board Meeting Sunday, June 23, 2019 via Zoom (online meeting)

In attendance: Chouchanik Airapetian (WCF), Eric Holcomb (Business Manager), Alex Machin (director-at-large), Duane Polich (Publisher), Jeff Roland (ICA), Josh Sinanan (WCF) and Ralph Dubisch (Games Editor – not a board member). Absent: Adam Porth (ICA). Time: The meeting was called to order at about 7:30 p.m.; and was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Minutes – The April special meeting minutes were read in summary and approved [Duane/Jeff].

Bylaws – Due to the change in status of OCF and ICA, NWC Bylaws changes are needed. Eric made a revised suggestion that there could be three board members at large, in addition to the two WCF reps and the Business Manager and Publisher. The intent is that the NWC (to be NWCF) board should be more independent, with directors at large who support the magazine. The WCF board was to review this recommendation, then the revised Bylaws will be drafted for review.

Budget/Finances – Eric presented a summary showing the current NWC available balance as \$3,657.21, which is down significantly, however with one more advance from WCF (now received in the amount of \$5,000), NWC should be OK until at least the end of the year. Josh suggested a membership drive.

Magazine – Duane would like a decision about changes to the magazine well before the end of the year. The magazine committee is supposed to meet and study the options and come up with a recommendation. Ralph was named as a consultant to the magazine committee. The WCF reported on a survey done at the Washington Open: most respondents prefer 12 magazines per year; and retaining a print edition. The vote on the print edition was 76 to 40 in favor, with some people also wanting both print and digital editions. Ralph and Duane noted that online-only magazines and newsletters often die.

ICA Issues – The ICA status was reviewed. ICA paid all balances owed for 2018; and offers “premium” memberships as an option. Eric promised to send a membership/subscription list update as of the end of June. The most recent membership list was prepared in August, and another will be prepared and distributed at the end of September. ICA has requested monthly invoices; which Eric will try to provide. There was no decision about any permanent change in ICA’s status with NWC. This will be part of the Bylaws changes discussed above.

Oregon Open/Editorials – Ralph suggested contacting Oregon subscribers, going to the Oregon Open (OCF annual membership meeting), and having an editorial in the August magazine. *Update (Sept.):* This has been accomplished, and OCF members at the annual meeting voted to postpone formally amending their bylaws to exclude NWC. New negotiations should begin as soon as possible, preferably with Josh leading the NWC team. The Oregon Open lost money this year due in large part to the conflict with the independent Pacific Northwest Chess Center tournament in Seattle.

Memberships/Subscriptions – It was decided to continue offering the promotional non-member annual subscription rate of \$25 until two weeks after the Oregon Open. Update: This rate has now expired, and the rate has returned to \$30. Only a very few people took advantage of the \$25 rate.

Advertising – The current \$100 full-page rate is cheap (and is usually discounted 15% to \$85); should the rate increase to \$150, and should it be higher for out-of-area (non-affiliated) ads? The board also began a discussion at 8:50 p.m. of the Oregon Open full-page ad request. Eric initially responded to Mike Morris that the board would review this request, and that future ad rates could be higher. Duane said that advertisers need to be part of NWC in some manner, and that we should make our position clear. There was a suggestion that NWC should have its own ad next to the Oregon Open ad (and we did subsequently have an editorial). Motion [Eric/Chouchan] to keep \$100 rate for now; but increase to \$200 afterwards for non-affiliated organizations. Duane wanted to amend to \$200 now, but there was no second. There was additional lengthy discussion, and the original motion passed by 5-1. The exact implementation date of new ad rates needs to be decided. The OCF has not yet requested any more ads, and presumably advertising would be part of the negotiations. Until the end of the year, we are still charging the old rates to WCF, the Seattle Chess Club, the PNWCC, and to Reno Chess. A smaller rate increase for these organizations is recommended. For example, just the 15% discount could be eliminated for regular monthly advertisers, whereas others could increase to \$150. The previously approved website-only ad rates (\$10 or \$15) are in effect, but very few tournaments organizers have requested this. Scholastic listings are still free. The TA ad rate is still \$25 for two listings of GP events.

Magazine Committee – The committee to study online magazine publication options consists of Duane (Publisher), Jeff (Editor) and Chouchan. Eric (Business Manager) and Ralph (Games Editor) will serve as consultants if needed, along with Jacob, a member of the WCF board. The committee promises to have a meeting in the Seattle area over pizza, but this had not happened yet.

Next board meeting – The 3rd Quarter NWC board meeting will be scheduled for a Sunday evening in September. The NWC logo should be added as a topic for discussion at this meeting. *Update:* Since there are expected to be new negotiations with OCF, it is recommended that discussion of the logo be delayed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m. [motion Jeff/Chouchan; agreed by all], with limited extra unofficial discussion after adjournment.

Recorded and transcribed by Eric Holcomb.