



## **Northwest Chess 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2019 Board Meeting Sunday, September 29, 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 7:45 p.m.; and was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Minutes – The June (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter) meeting minutes were read in summary and approved [Duane/Jeff].

Budget/Finances – Eric presented a summary showing the current NWC available balance as \$4,259.34, which should be enough to meet expenses at least through January. However, expected revenues for 2020 may only be enough to cover about 10 months of expenses. There was a discussion about ICA, which is planning to push “premium” memberships (with a NWC subscription) this fall, including at the major Norman Friedman tournament in October. ICA member Jef Leifeste will reportedly help Jeff Roland with promotion of the magazine, along with David Baumann at Idaho scholastic events. The financial report was approved [Josh/Chouchan].

Memberships/Subscriptions – Eric presented a summary showing 794 memberships/subscriptions as of September 29. (The most recent mailing was 741 magazines.) These totals are down about 50 each for Oregon and Idaho compared to the end of 2018. Chouchan inquired about which Washington libraries are receiving a free subscription from the WCF. A list is available and can be sent to Josh and Chouchan. The membership report was approved in the same motion as the financial report.

Bylaws – Due to the change in status of OCF and ICA, NWC Bylaws changes are needed. Eric previously suggested 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. Jeff expressed that he wants the ICA to be part of NWC, with representation (probably one board rep), but not control. There was extensive discussion; for example, how many “premium” members would be needed for a state organization to qualify for board representation? Should there be state reps, or a completely independent board? Duane doesn’t want a fully independent board; and suggested that a return to a WCF-only publication is possible, if there is insufficient support from other states. Eric will draft Bylaws changes for review before the next (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter) board meeting in December.

OCF Negotiations – OCF members at the annual meeting voted to postpone formally amending their bylaws to exclude NWC. New negotiations were requested as soon as possible, preferably with Josh leading the NWC team. There are a number of issues: Who will promote magazine in Oregon (currently no one does); should there be an optional digital edition of NWC at a lower cost (and if so how much lower); will a “premium” membership be required for some events? Chouchan mentioned problems with digital editions, and that she doesn’t read the online edition of *Chess Life*. Duane still thanks it’s

advantageous to offer a digital edition to Oregon subscribers. There was additional lengthy discussion of digital publications, what OCF members want, how to obtain more Oregon chess news, and how negotiations should proceed. It was generally agreed that there should be a framework for discussion, and that Josh should proceed with contacting longtime OCF/PCC member Mike Morris. Eric will assist by working on a budget spreadsheet for 2020. We should also stay with a monthly magazine.

Labor Day Weekend – The issue of tournaments over this holiday weekend was briefly discussed. The Oregon Open lost money this year (with lower attendance) due in part to a conflict with the independent Pacific Northwest Chess Center tournament in Seattle.

Advertising – NWC magazine ads are currently underpriced (according to Ralph), and represent a good value for tournament ads. Previously the board decided to increase the full-page ad rate (after the Oregon Open) to \$200 for non-affiliated organizations. Discussion centered around making the \$200 rate the “standard” rate, with discounts down to a minimum of \$100 allowed for our most regular and preferred advertisers, such as the WCF and the Seattle Chess Club. Motion [Jeff/Chouchan] to make the new “standard” rates \$200 (full page), \$150 (annual business card), \$30 (two-month TA) and \$20 (one-month TA, non-GP), effective in 2020, with Eric to adjust the partial-page ad rates accordingly. The motion passed unanimously. The website-only ad rates of \$10 and \$15 (full TA) remain in effect.

Women and Girls Events – Chouchan initiated a long discussion of topics relating to chess for women and girls, including how to promote these events, and if there should be special promotions (such as prizes) for women participating in open events. Jeff was involved in much of the discussion on behalf of ICA. For example, ICA has an annual scholastic championship for girls, as does WCF. The possibility of inviting out-of-area players to a special seminar or workshop in the Puget Sound area (perhaps in conjunction with the Washington Class Championships and Thanksgiving Scholastic) was also discussed. Chouchan will work with WCF and let us know if a workshop is scheduled.

Magazine Committee – The committee still needs to meet over pizza, perhaps will follow-up meetings online. There is a clear need to determine which, if any, online platform will be used for a digital edition of NWC magazine.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m. [motion Duane/Jeff; agreed by all], with limited extra unofficial discussion after adjournment.

Recorded and transcribed by Eric Holcomb.