



Northwest Chess 4th Quarter 2019 Board Meeting Sunday, December 22, 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) and Josh Sinanan (WCF). Absent: Adam Porth (ICA). Frank Niro was invited in regard to OCF issues, but wished to remain neutral, and continue working “behind the scenes” with Mike Morris and others.

Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m.; and was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Minutes – The September (3rd Quarter) 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 drafted Bylaws changes for review, and these were discussed. It was pointed out that OCF is no longer an equal partner; but might be “sensitive” to coming back on board without the previous board representation. A motion [Josh/Jeff] was passed 5-1 to give Frank Niro one additional month to make progress before any Bylaws changes are adopted. Duane and Josh are in communication with Frank, and Eric will also speak with him prior to the next board meeting.

Memberships/Subscriptions – Eric previously presented a summary showing 794 memberships/subscriptions as of September 29 (with 741 magazines mailed.) Currently the number of magazines mailed each month is down to the low 700’s, and NWC is almost out of money (less than \$200 available balance not including amounts reserved for taxes or grand prix prizes). Suggestions included a tournament fundraiser (we will hold the NWC Open again in 2020 with membership prizes), a raffle (for equipment, lessons, etc.), sale of life memberships, and an encouragement for everyone to sell five subscriptions per person. (Josh will commit to doing that; and has subsequently made a generous donation of memberships/subscriptions.)

Budget/Finances – As noted, funds remaining are very low (prior to Josh’s donation); and would not last beyond January. Discussion topics included: How much discount (if any) for online magazine subscriptions? Minimum required periodicals mailing quantity (need to ask USPS)? Possible dues increase – to be discussed by WCF board. What to do for February and March? Option of fewer number of 48-page magazines? To be revisited at a special board meeting in January, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 26. A business plan is also needed. This is a topic where Frank Niro has professional expertise and can assist.

Magazine Committee – Discussion topics included: Magazine available in online registration system? Online only? What problems would there be? Would any more people subscribe, and at what rate(s)? Duane presented an example of an online magazine using the “Flip magazine” software/service. There is still a clear need to determine which, if any, online platform will be used for a digital edition of NWC magazine. An inquiry will be made with David Hendricks regarding the online registration system.

OCF Negotiations – Duane and Josh are in communication with Frank Niro, Mike Morris and the Portland Chess Club.

Advertising – Should PCC and OCF receive any ad discounts? The board agreed that OCF should probably not receive any discounts at this time. However, Frank Niro is being given the most favorable ad rates for now, and has advertised on behalf of PCC.

Women and Girls Events – The special women and girls' chess seminar/workshop held in conjunction with the Washington Class Championships and Thanksgiving Scholastic was well-organized and successful. Chouchan submitted an article for the magazine; and will continue working with WCF. Chouchan also mentioned that women and girls' chess topics have been discussed at conferences, including one held in England.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m. [motion Jeff/Josh; agreed by all].

Recorded and transcribed by Eric Holcomb.