



Northwest Chess 1st Quarter 2020 Board Meeting Sunday, April 5, 2020 via Zoom (online meeting)

In attendance: Chouchanik Airapetian (WCF), Ralph Dubisch (director-at-large), Eric Holcomb (Business Manager), Alex Machin (director-at-large), Duane Polich (Publisher), Jeff Roland (director-at-large) and Josh Sinanan (WCF). Absent: none. Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.; and was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Minutes – The January (1st Quarter special) meeting minutes were approved [Ralph/Chouchan].

Bylaws – The NWC Bylaws changes presented by Eric were previously approved at the January meeting, and have been posted online, however board members agreed to give the Bylaws one final review. Once that review is complete, Eric is authorized to proceed with the planned IRS nonprofit application. (The application will be for 501c3 tax-deductible nonprofit status.)

Mailing – The April magazine was mailed on April 2. There was a brief discussion regarding reports that the USPS could run out of money and shut down in June. It seems unlikely this will happen, but we need to be prepared and consider online magazine options.

Budget/Finances – Currently the NWC and WCF budgets are OK: NWC has an available balance of \$7,661.13 (after the April magazine), and WCF has about \$28,000. However, this could change rapidly due to the situation this year and loss of membership/subscription income. NWC at least has enough funds to publish the May-August magazines.

Washington Open – There was a discussion about the possibility of the Washington Open being moved online this year due to the coronavirus situation. A flyer will be published in the May magazine; but could be modified for an online event. This could be an opportunity to get more players from out of state to subscribe to the magazine.

Memberships/Subscriptions – OCF and ICA subscriptions to NWC are both down between 50% and 60% due to subscriptions no longer required. There is still some Oregon chess news in the magazine, but apparently not enough to keep subscribers. The board discussed an idea that online lessons or similar activities could be offered to subscribers as an incentive. (There could also be an online chess club.) It was decided to try this idea at least one time, with a ½-page ad in the May magazine. A committee was established consisting of Josh, Chouchan, Ralph and Alex.

OCF Status – There have been no recent communications with the OCF board.

ICA Status – All ICA activities are currently on hold, with scholastic events cancelled. It was suggested that Idaho scholastics could be combined with WCF online events, and that Josh should coordinate with the Idaho reps. Washington has a scholastic event next weekend, and the Washington Elementary

Championships will now be held online on May 2 at chesskid.com. Junior discounted subscriptions to NWC could be offered, although the board did not approve any details.

Magazine Committee – Discussion topics included:

- (1) What happens in September if OCF members don't vote to require subscriptions?
- (2) What is our plan for a digital edition? Will it be digital only?
- (3) We need individual organizers to require subscriptions. [Ralph]
- (4) "Don't draw state lines." (We should try to sell subscriptions throughout the region and elsewhere regardless of what the state organizations do.) [Ralph]
- (5) We need more writers, annotators and photographers in Washington and elsewhere. [Ralph]
- (6) The board should help to promote the magazine. [Ralph]
- (7) Chouchan said that the magazine committee did have a couple informal meetings, but there is nothing to report. The committee needs to have a Zoom meeting.
- (8) There was a discussion of what games to include in the May magazine.
- (9) Eric will prepare a spreadsheet of various magazine options.
- (10) Further discussion tabled until the 2nd Quarter meeting in June.

Advertising – (1) Frank Niro has not paid for his ads. It was agreed that we should not accept any more of his ads until paid, however, Eric will remind him again. (2) Emil Anka requested an advertising discount (for his business card ad), in part because past ads have been unsuccessful, according to him. A motion [Eric/Ralph] passed authorizing Josh to negotiate with Emil, for example by offering discounted ads in return for writing one or more articles for NWC. His ad will still appear in the May magazine.

WCF Dues – A proposed WCF dues increase is on hold, and will probably not happen this year due to the current economic situation.

Women and Girls Events – There was a brief discussion. [Chouchan]

Other notes from Chouchan – Chouchan reminded us that we have been working on related topics (such as state dues) for about two years. In 2019, a survey was distributed at the Washington Open, with results presented to the board, and most respondents still prefer paper copies of the magazine. Also, the board and committee have been waiting since early 2019 for the outcome of any negotiations with OCF. We still need a decision from the NWC board regarding a possible online version of the magazine (and how it will affect the paper edition), and we need to work on the details. See above regarding the magazine committee needing to have a meeting via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m. [motion Jeff/Duane; agreed by all]. This was followed by some informal mostly WCF-related discussions, including about promotion of the Northwest Chess Open.

Recorded and transcribed by Eric Holcomb.