



Northwest Chess 4th Quarter 2020 Board Meeting Sunday, January 3, 2021 via Zoom (online meeting)

In attendance: Ralph Dubisch (director-at-large), Eric Holcomb (Business Manager), Duane Polich (Publisher), Jeff Roland and Alex Machin (directors-at-large), Josh Sinanan and Aniruddha Barua (WCF) and Wilson Gibbins (OCF). Absent: none. Time: The meeting was called to order by Josh at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes – The October (3rd Quarter) meeting minutes were approved [Jeff/Duane].

Budget/Finances – We still have over \$5,000 available after January magazine expenses, so we are OK for the 1st Q of 2021. It is desired to upgrade our financial record keeping system from Excel spreadsheets to QuickBooks or some other accounting software. Duane and Eric to research and decide.

Bylaws/Board – The Bylaws revision for OCF still needs to be completed; then we can finally make the IRS nonprofit filing for 501c3 status. After some discussion, a motion was made [Ralph/Duane] and passed unanimously to add one director to the NWC board for each additional state-level organization, and to accept Wilson as the current OCF representative on the board. A motion was also made [Ralph/Jeff] and passed unanimously to accept Ani (Aniruddha) as a new WCF rep, replacing Chouchanik Airapetian (Chouchan), who was thanked for her service. She continues to serve as the WCF secretary and WCF women and girls director.

Advertising – Should the TA page in the magazine be eliminated? A possible motion to do this was withdrawn; we will keep the TA page for now, once over-the-board events return. It was agreed, however, to add a new 1/3-page (one column) advertising option in the magazine, at a cost of \$40.

Magazine Committee – The Google Drive platform for the new online edition was discussed. It seems to generally work well, although Ralph reported some “weird limits” such as 100 persons per day. Ralph and Jeff are working towards having all subscribers on a single list. It was moved [Ralph/Jeff] and passed unanimously that the magazine will now be posted on the website (for public viewing) after a 3-month delay, rather than the current 1-month delay. An exception may be necessary each year for the Chess Journalists of America competition.

NWC “Premium” (formerly “Prime”) Discussion – This activity, including individual personal contacts to promote the idea, is on hold until in-person events return, as reported by Ralph.

Website/Technology Committee – There was a discussion of recent upgrades made by David Hendricks to the online registration system, based on requested changes to allow the system to be used for membership and subscription management. The WCF board will need to meet with David, who is also implementing a \$1/player fee for tournaments. Wilson and Josh may request a test account on an alternative tournament registration system. There was also a discussion about publishing games, which

can be done on our website or via ChessBase, for example. Josh is still planning to call a meeting of the technology committee.

Grand Prix – Naming of the 2021 GP in honor of Russell Miller was approved unanimously [Ralph/Jeff]. OCF will not participate in 2021; ICA participation is uncertain. “Other” states will remain lumped together (as in 2020) for now. There was a suggestion to have a Russell Miller trophy, which would list each year’s overall GP winners, along with the person for whom the GP was named. However, it was agreed that this information (once researched) could simply go on the website for now, with a trophy or other hardware to be decided later.

Hall of Fame – Ralph made a proposal to establish a NWC Hall of Fame, which would honor famous players, organizers, etc. in the Northwest. A committee would be established to develop the criteria and awards and report back to the board, with the board to vote on nominees each year. A motion was made [Ralph/Duane] and passed unanimously to establish the NWC Hall of Fame. As with the Miller trophy, the HOF will be on the website initially, with any physical presence to be decided later.

Oregon Chess Federation (OCF) – As a result of the proposal approved last quarter for OCF to rejoin NWC and require either a “basic” or “premium” membership with a NWC magazine subscription, we are getting quite a few “basic” memberships, including those who had already paid for a \$10 OCF membership (or \$5 junior membership) before the proposal was agreed. The number of such “basic” memberships is now about 45 and is expected to increase. Content submission (reporting on Oregon events) should continue to be encouraged.

Next Board Meeting – A decision on the exact date for the 1st Quarter 2021 board meeting was postponed. It is desired that important committee meetings, including especially the technology committee meeting, should take place well before the next quarterly board meeting. The WCF board is also expected to meet first and will help decide the important issue of which tournament registration system to use.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m. [motion Jeff/Eric; agreed by all].

Recorded and transcribed by Eric Holcomb.