



Northwest Chess 2nd Quarter 2021 Board Meeting Sunday, June 27, 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 7:14 p.m.

Minutes – The April (1st Quarter 2021) meeting minutes were approved with corrections regarding the Editor Compensation paragraph [Duane/Wilson]. The corrected minutes will be distributed tomorrow.

Washington Annual Nonprofit Corporation Report – Duane to do this week. The cost is still \$10 annually.

Budget/Finances – The finances are still OK, with over \$5,000 available after current magazine expenses, however, there is some concern due to declining WCF memberships. There was a discussion of the WCF policy regarding entry fees. The recent Rusty Miller Memorial tournament only had eight entries, and lost \$200, however, the upcoming Vancouver Open has a wait list, and WCF is expecting to accommodate about 50 players in person.

Membership – Eric presented a report. All three states have seen declines in either 2020 or 2021, although OCF is recovering. The biggest decline is for ICA “premium” memberships (which include a NWC subscription). The overall membership/subscription decline is from about 900 at the end of 2018 to 700 now. We could use some ideas for more memberships elsewhere (besides Washington).

Bylaws/Nonprofit Status – The NWC Bylaws revision, to provide for an OCF representative on the board, was reported previously, and has now been posted on the website. A filing for IRS 501c3 nonprofit status is still planned. It was suggested that Neil Bonrud, who assisted the Seattle Chess Club in this regard, could be consulted.

Magazine Committee – The Google Drive platform for new online editions is working, although periodic review of the email list is recommended, for example because some people use different emails than recorded in the official subscription database. The Chess Journalists of America (CJA) used Google Drive for its award entries for the first time this year. Jeff and Ralph prepared our NWC entries.

NWC “Premium” (formerly “Prime”) Discussion – This activity is still on hold. Jeff suggested making everything premium. Ralph noted that we will need additional content, webinars, etc., before implemented the “Premium” concept.

Grand Prix – Naming of the 2021 GP in honor of Russell Miller was previously approved, and the 2021 competition is in progress. Murlin Varner is the statistician again this year but has indicated a desire to retire after the 2022 competition.

Website/Technology Committee – Should we switch to Dr. Sisira’s membership and registration system (<https://onlineregistration.cc/>), which is used by some other states including Michigan? The details need to be worked out, including monthly and per-player rates, initial setup fee, sub-headings for our three states, etc. WCF is probably in favor of the new system. Eric will prepare a requirements document, which should include the need to handle NWSRS as well as US Chess ratings. Wilson will review the requirements to ensure they meet OCF needs, and other board members will have the opportunity to review as well. Dr. Sisira is expected to respond to the requirements with a setup cost estimate, after which the board can decide.

Hall of Fame – The NWC Hall of Fame committee met multiple times on Zoom and obtained assistance from IM John Donaldson. An “inaugural class” was discussed, probably of 5 to 7 deceased persons, followed by another group of inductees currently living, followed by a smaller number of new inductees each year thereafter. However, we need a plan and procedures for choosing, including special procedures for anyone currently serving on the board. There was a long discussion. A separate board meeting will be scheduled for Sunday, August 22, limited to the Hall of Fame topic. Assuming that the “inaugural class” is selected, they will be announced in the October magazine and on the website.

Business Manager Retirement – Eric has announced his intention to retire from the NWC Business Manager (BM) position at the end of 2021, after 19 years of service. He is willing to continue as webmaster for 2022. It will be hard to obtain a new person for the BM position. A suggestion was made to contact WCF member Jerrold Richards, who has nonprofit accounting experience. Josh will contact Jerrold, and Eric and Wilson may also follow up.

Next Board Meeting – The 3rd Quarter 2021 board meeting has not yet been scheduled but should take place by the end of September.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m. [motion Wilson/Ralph; agreed by all].
Recorded and transcribed by Eric Holcomb.