



Northwest Chess 4th Quarter 2021 Board Meeting Sunday, January 2, 2022, via Zoom (online meeting)

In attendance: Ralph Dubisch (director-at-large), Eric Holcomb (retiring Business Manager), Duane Polich (Publisher), Jeff Roland and Alex Machin (directors-at-large), Josh Sinanan (WCF) and Wilson Gibbins (OCF).
Absent: Aniruddha Barua (WCF) was initially absent but joined with the meeting in progress. Time: meeting called to order by Josh at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes – The September (3rd Quarter 2021) meeting minutes were approved after some discussion [Ralph/Jeff]. New OCF officers were noted – see the OCF website for details.

Budget/Finances – Duane and Josh established a new bank account in the name of Northwest Chess. The account was initially funded with deposits from the old NWC account (\$2,000), and from WCF (\$5,000). There is still over \$2,000 in the old account, which is expected to be closed around the end of the first quarter. So, overall, the finances are still in good shape, with about \$10,000 total. Prior to the new WCF advance, the available balance was \$5,482 (excluding reserves for sales taxes and GP prizes) and WCF only had \$22 left over from its previous advance. Also see “Business Manager Retirement” below for compensation issues.

Membership – Eric provided a membership report as of the end of the 4th quarter, which was reviewed. There was a big increase in the second half of 2021, especially for WCF, but also for OCF. Brian Berger was nominated for a life subscription [Ralph/Jeff], which passed unanimously. OCF has the option of accepting this as a life OCF membership.

Bylaws/Nonprofit Status – A filing for IRS 501c3 nonprofit status is still planned. This issue has been on hold for some time. Ralph, who files an annual IRS report for the Free Internet Chess organization, offered to check on what would need to be filed for NWC. Previously it had also been suggested that Neil Bonrud, who assisted the Seattle Chess Club in this regard, could be consulted. (Still not done.)

Magazine Committee – The Google Drive platform for new online editions is working, although a periodic review (audit) of the email list needs to be performed, for example because of multiple emails for some subscribers. This audit was scheduled for the end of the year.

NWC “Premium” (formerly “Prime”) Discussion – This activity is still on hold.

Grand Prix – The 2021 GP in honor of Russell Miller is complete, with results to be reported and prizes sent. There is no new name yet for 2022. We should ask Murlin, and check with the Collyer family regarding possible use of their name. Jeff recommends a new person be honored each year. [The 2022 GP has subsequently been named in honor of Ignacio Perez following his unfortunate death.] Murlin Varner is the statistician again this year but has indicated a desire to retire after the 2022 competition. No action needed at this time but continue thinking about who might become the new statistician.

Hall of Fame – Announcement and publication of the “inaugural class” of six is on hold pending the gathering and editing of biographical information.

Website/Technology Committee – This is becoming an urgent issue! 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 specific 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. (Not completed.)

Business Manager Retirement – Eric retired from the NWC Business Manager (BM) position at the end of 2021, after 19 years of service. Duane will perform accounting and invoicing using new software (FreshBooks), Josh will receive and handle extra magazine copies, and Eric will continue processing memberships until a new automated system is implemented. (See Website/Technology Committee.) Eric will also continue to serve as webmaster for 2022. There was a motion [Ralph/Jeff] that Eric remain on the board as a “managing director” for the immediate future. A second motion split the business manager compensation of \$100/month into \$50/month each for Eric and Duane, while a third motion [Josh/Wilson] awarded bonuses of \$200 each for Jeff, Ralph, and Eric for 2021. All motions passed unanimously, with Jeff, Ralph, Eric, and Duane recusing themselves from the voting as appropriate. The webmaster compensation remains at \$50/month. The issue of how to pay these amounts was discussed, as no one wants to use paper checks anymore. [It has subsequently been resolved that Zelle can be used with the new NWC bank account, and this is now the standard method of payment for contractors.]

Next Board Meeting – The 1st Quarter 2022 board meeting was scheduled for Sunday, March 27.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m. [motion Wilson/Ani; agreed by all].

Recorded and transcribed by Eric Holcomb.