



Northwest Chess 1st Quarter 2022 Board Meeting Sunday, March 27, 2022, via Zoom (online meeting)

In attendance: Ralph Dubisch (director-at-large), Eric Holcomb (retired Business Manager), Duane Polich (Publisher), Jeff Roland (director-at-large), Josh Sinanan (WCF) and Wilson Gibbins (OCF). Absent: Aniruddha Barua (WCF) and Alex Machin (director-at-large). Time: meeting called to order by Josh at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes – The January 2, 2022 (4th Quarter 2021) meeting minutes were approved [Ralph/Jeff].

Membership – Total memberships/subscriptions are just under 800, which is still pretty good. Brian Berger was previously nominated for a life subscription [Ralph/Jeff], which passed unanimously at the last meeting. OCF accepted this as a life OCF membership as well.

Budget/Finances – Duane and Josh previously established a new bank account in the name of Northwest Chess. Zelle is working with this new account, and the old Wells Fargo account has been closed and the funds transferred via check to the new account.

Status of Transition – This is mostly going OK since Eric’s retirement as Business Manager, however, membership processing (which Eric is still doing) remains time-consuming. Supposedly Desmond Porth is writing a new membership system for ICA; we’ll get more information. Eric also needs to write the specs of what we want in a membership system. Other suggestions? A WordPress “add-in” is possible (and commercially available) but wouldn’t specifically address chess registration needs.

Nonprofit Status/Taxes – A filing for IRS 501c3 nonprofit status is still planned. 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. The answer is that we need to register for, and then file, an “e-postcard” with the IRS each year. Duane and Ralph to work on this; then we can get back to the 501c3 filing.

Hall of Fame – Announcement and publication of the “inaugural class” of six is on hold pending the gathering and editing of biographical information. Ralph to contact John Donaldson for assistance.

Grand Prix – The 2022 GP in honor of Ignacio Perez is in progress. Murlin Varner is the statistician again this year but has announced his retirement after the 2022 competition. To be reviewed later this year (as to what to do, including whether or not to continue the GP, for 2023).

Magazine Committee – Sound Publishing is moving and can no longer print our magazine. (Eric checked back and confirmed this.) We discussed what to do, as well as a possible new business model in which the magazine would be free online, but players would still need a paid membership to compete in most tournaments.

In a subsequent special board meeting on April 3, several possible new printers were discussed, which would likely increase our cost substantially (especially when mailing costs are included). Ultimately Vince H. at Sound Publishing helped get us set up with Wenatchee World in Wenatchee, Wash., and we have transitioned to this new printer, with some difficulties including a slightly smaller page size.

We should review advertising rates once the monthly cost of the new printer is known.

Business Manager Retirement – See “Status of Transition.”

Next Board Meeting – The 2nd Quarter 2022 board meeting will be scheduled for late June or early July.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m. [motion Wilson/Duane; agreed by all].

Recorded and transcribed by Eric Holcomb.