

Minutes of Northwest Chess Board Meeting, August 14, 2011

Location: DoubleTree Inn, Portland, Oregon at Portland Centennial Open Tournament.

Members and guests in attendance: Duane Polich (NWC Publisher and former board president), Eric Holcomb (NWC Business Manager), David Yoshinaga (OCF President), Josh Sinanan (WCF President), Dan Mathews (NWC board member from Washington), David Hendricks (WCF board member), Ralph Dubisch (NWC Editor, by phone), Frank Niro (tournament director and Idaho representative), Jeff Roland (Idaho Chess Association board representative), Rusty Miller (former NWC Business Manager).

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by Duane Polich.

Magazine – There was a discussion about *Northwest Chess* magazine and whether or not Editor Ralph Dubisch requires any assistance at this time. Duane will coordinate with Ralph on this issue.

Finances – Eric prepared and distributed a statement which showed an available balance of \$3,360.60 after publishing the August magazine, with typical monthly expenses of \$1,300. This is an improvement over last year thanks to multiple-year memberships.

Membership Totals – Washington currently has a total of 358 memberships (including family members but excluding libraries), whereas Oregon has 149 memberships (before adding new members at the Centennial Open). There are also a small number of subscriptions in other states and Canada.

Dues – Eric reviewed the current dues structure. The one-year membership/subscription options are \$25.00 for adults (with \$4.00 to WCF/OCF), \$17.00 for juniors (with \$3.00 to WCF/OCF) and \$5.00 family (with \$4.00 to WCF/OCF, but no subscription). Discounted three-year options are also available, with the same percentages going to WCF/OCF.

Idaho Proposal – Several of those in attendance at the meeting had done some preliminary work aimed at making the Idaho Chess Association (ICA) a part of Northwest Chess.

Eric's written proposal which was presented for discussion:

- ICA to charge same adult rate (\$25/yr.), but initially keep \$10 (40%); WCF/OCF share increased from 16% to 20% beginning in 2012.
- Junior, family and three-year rates TBD.
- At least four pages of Idaho content in magazine each month (subject to availability).
- NWC logo modified to include Idaho.
- ICA to assist in promoting NWC, but would full membership (with subscription) be required at any events?
- ICA to appoint or elect one NWC board member.
- All three states keep their own websites in addition to supplying announcements for NWC website.

Frank spoke first: He likes *Northwest Chess* magazine and thinks we have a great editor. Apparently there was some issue between NWC and the Idaho board back in the 1980s, but Frank feels that bringing ICA onboard at this time will be a situation where “everyone wins.” The ICA annual meeting is in February, so any changes before that time would need to be optional.

Currently there are about 30 to 35 ICA members (membership is only required for the state closed championship) versus 178 USCF members residing in Idaho.

Jeff's comments: He was pleased that NWC posted a couple of Idaho tournament announcements on the NWC website. The ICA will likely want \$10 of each membership for now. The total amount charged (for magazine plus membership) could eventually be higher, say \$30. There is usually one tournament every other month in Idaho. There might be an issue about tournaments requiring state membership. ICA board approval would be needed for some actions. Jeff was already given authority to accept *Northwest Chess* as ICA's official publication, and agreed to do so. (Currently ICA has no other publication besides the website which Jeff manages.)

Ralph's comments: Ralph does not have a problem accepting approximately four pages of ICA content each month, subject to editorial review, however he does not feel that the content should be primarily of an advertising nature (such as a full-page tournament ad) without payment of the usual ad rates. Eric agreed that the intent was that the four pages be reporting rather than advertising. A couple of free ads will be allowed this year until ICA becomes fully integrated with NWC.

Duane's comments/motion: Duane made a motion to accept the proposal to make ICA a part of Northwest Chess as discussed, with memberships being optional rather than required at least until the next ICA annual meeting in February. Dave seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. There was also general agreement that ICA could eventually have two NWC board members, once it agrees to require memberships at major ICA-run state events (like OCF and WCF do).

Northwest Chess Grand Prix – Idaho would also like to join the Northwest Chess Grand Prix (currently named in honor of Robert A. Karch). After some follow-up discussion after the event in Portland, it was decided that this will happen beginning January 2012. Grand Prix events are normally expected to be advertised in the magazine at a cost of \$20 per event ad.

Online Registration – Eric had also prepared an agenda chart about the NWC online registration system developed by David Hendricks, however there was no time available to discuss this subject. Tournament organizers interested in using the system can contact Dave directly.

The meeting was adjourned at about 5:00 PM.

Minutes recorded by Eric Holcomb, Business Manager.