



## **Northwest Chess 1st Quarter 2019 Board Meeting Sunday, March 3, 2019 via Zoom (online meeting)**

In attendance: Chouchanik Airapetian (WCF), Eric Holcomb (Business Manager), Alex Machin (director-at-large), Duane Polich (Publisher), Adam Porth (ICA), Jeff Roland (ICA), Josh Sinanan (WCF) and David Yoshinaga (OCF). Absent: Brian Berger (OCF). Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.; and was adjourned at 9:14 p.m. Chouchan

joined the meeting late at about 8:30 p.m., and David left early at about 8:03 p.m. due to other obligations.

Minutes/Bylaws – The December meeting minutes were read in summary and approved [Eric/Jeff]. Although revised Bylaws for the Northwest Chess Foundation have been posted online, there will be a delay in filing for IRS nonprofit status due to more urgent matters as discussed below.

Budget/Finances – Eric presented a summary showing the current NWC available balance as \$7,583.28. More detailed data for prior years is available on the Dropbox. ICA reported that it is doing better financially, with its records now in better order. Eric was requested to send ICA a summary of balances currently owed. Duane asked about how we can improve our bookkeeping procedures, for example by using software intended for this purpose. This will require further study, and there may be significant time and expense in implementing new procedures. Currently Eric uses Excel spreadsheets.

Memberships/Subscriptions – Eric presented a summary showing 885 total memberships/subscriptions as of the end of February. This is down from 911 at the end of 2018, which is normal since a lot of memberships typically expire at the end of the year. The most recent mailing was sent to 811 addresses.

ICA Status – The Idaho Chess Association board recently decided to no longer require NWC magazine subscriptions for ICA members. However, this was a vote to “leave nicely,” as many ICA members see the magazine as a benefit and intend to continue subscribing via a “premium” membership option. But the ICA needs to manage its own funds; and recognizes that not everyone wants the magazine. Idaho residents currently have about 100 subscriptions, and we expect this will drop into the 50 to 80 range.

After some discussion (and after the OCF discussion reported below), there was a motion [Eric/Duane] to approve ICA offering optional “premium” memberships for at least 3 months, with NWC to receive \$25 from each of these memberships. The motion passed unanimously (although with David and Chouchan not participating at the time). Adam was pleased; and will get premium membership updates to NWC by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, for the next month’s mailing list.

The NWC Bylaws will need to be revised again to accommodate different levels of participation, such as offering optional premium memberships. Most likely ICA will end up with one (instead of two) representatives on the NWC Board after this revision, but that has yet to be decided. A special NWC board meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 7, to address this and other issues. There was a brief

discussion that WCF might end up in complete control of NWC again after this revision (and if OCF leaves NWC), but it was agreed that this is probably not the best option.

OCF Status – The Oregon Chess Federation board voted in December to leave NWC on April 1, 2019 if certain conditions (primarily rescinding pay increases granted last year) are not met. David, as OCF president, initially voted against this motion along with OCF treasurer Mike Morris; but was outvoted.

According to Duane, WCF and OCF have been equal partners in NWC since at least 1998, and it should not be acceptable to dissolve the partnership so easily. Duane also alleges that one of the OCF board members is not qualified to serve of the OCF board, per the bylaws of the federation. Duane was given permission by Josh to speak on behalf of the WCF.

An argument ensued between Duane and David. According to David, although he personally reads some of the magazine and sees it as a benefit, most OCF and Portland Chess Club members don't. The OCF would prefer to charge only about \$10 for an annual membership. David said that he is open to calling a special OCF board meeting; but would need more information and more cooperation to take this action. Nothing was resolved, and the OCF still intends to leave NWC on April 1. David left the meeting at 8:03 p.m., due to another obligation which he announced at the start of the board meeting.

Magazine Committee – The committee to study online magazine publication options consists of Duane (Publisher), Jeff (Editor) and Chouchan. Eric (Business Manager) will serve as a technical consultant if needed, along with Jacob, a member of the WCF board. The committee promises to have a meeting in the Seattle area over pizza. Duane would like to take better advantage of the InDesign software which Jeff uses. Adam offered that the ICA website is edited using Wix, which also offers a digital magazine feature. Josh, as WCF rep to US Chess, will inquire about a special print deal which US Chess may have for *Chess Life* magazine. The committee will need to consider a variety of issues including frequency and format of publication, and the participation of other organizations, for example the British Columbia organization, and Reno Chess. Everyone agreed that it would be appropriate to offer in the April magazine a \$25 nonmember subscription offer for new subscribers at the Larry Evans tournament in Reno, where copies of NWC will be available. Jeff offered that we will adjust and continue to publish!

Other Topics – Unless NWC reverts to exclusive WCF control, an IRS nonprofit application is still needed this year, and should be done as soon as possible after the next Bylaws revision.

Next board meeting – A special board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 7, at 7 p.m. PDT.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m. [motion by Jeff, seconded by Adam, agreed by all].  
Recorded and transcribed by Eric Holcomb.