

# Meeting summary for Northwest Chess Board Meeting (6/29/2025)

*Generated automatically by Zoom and edited/corrected by Eric Holcomb.*

*This meeting was scheduled as the end-of-quarter meeting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2025.*

*In attendance: Ralph Dubisch (at large), Wilson Gibbins (OCF), Eric Holcomb (OCF/NWC retired Business Manager), Duane Polich (WCF/NWC Publisher), Jeff Roland (ICA/NWC Editor), Josh Sinanan (WCF/NWC President). Absent: Ani Barua (WCF), Alex Machin (ICA).*

*The meeting was called to order officially at 7:05 p.m. by Josh.*

## Quick recap

The board reviewed several administrative matters including award submissions, payment structures, and membership issues for both Idaho and Oregon chess associations. Editorial discussions centered around content management, including interview policies, subscription rates, and the handling of submitted articles, with the board supporting Jeffrey's editorial decisions. The conversation ended with discussions about upcoming events, magazine coverage, and the need for better photo documentation of tournaments, while also addressing the organization's name change to "Northwest Chess Foundation."

## Next steps

(Some routine steps already completed or deferred have been deleted.)

- Josh: File the 501c3 application after business name update is completed.
- Duane: Update business name with State of Washington from "Northwest Chess" to "Northwest Chess Foundation."
- Eric: Wait for Allen to recover from a short illness and obtain the complete WCF membership list with emails.
- Josh/WCF: Discuss and propose a new membership share split percentage with Northwest Chess.
- Board: Develop a proposal for Idaho Chess Association's online membership rates.
- WCF: Supply complete mailing addresses and email addresses for all new members in a timely manner. [Allen is now handling adding new members to the database.]
- Eric: Continue working on magazine scans project to increase completion percentage from 53% to 60%.
- Josh: Attend the U.S. Open in Madison, Wisconsin and the CJA meeting.
- Wilson: Continue working with OCF's new online membership registration system.
- Ralph: Contact John Donaldson about writing Hall of Fame article for Robert Karch.
- Ralph/Duane: Write Hall of Fame article for Rusty Miller.
- Wilson: Ensure more pictures are taken and collected from Oregon chess events for future magazine coverage.
- Eric: Update the People Page on the website as new Hall of Fame articles are published.

## **Summary**

### **Northwest Chess Financial Report**

Duane reported a Northwest Chess bank account balance of approximately \$9,800.

### **CJA Awards Entry Discussion**

Jeffrey and Ralph discussed their extensive work on submitting entries for the CJA awards, which took them about 8 hours on Saturday and all day Sunday. They entered 17 categories, with Jeffrey mentioning a new approach of creating folders first before sorting files. Ralph suggests entering an additional category for a special project interview. NWC paid a total of \$168 in award entry fees.

### **Chess Award and Payment Updates**

The board discusses Wilson's article submission for a national award in the "Best Single Article of Local Interest" category. Jeffrey and Ralph clarify the award entry details and costs. The board reviews the meeting minutes (from May), confirming the inclusion of Jeffrey's compensation for editing and administration. Jeffrey proposes a new payment structure for 48-page issues, suggesting an increase from \$700 to \$800. The conversation concludes with a brief discussion about the financial aspects of chess-related work.

### **Subscriber List Management Delays**

The group discusses issues with obtaining and managing subscriber lists for their mailing and email distribution. Eric has requested a complete monthly list from the WCF, but it hasn't been received yet. Josh informs that Allen, who is responsible for creating the list, is currently ill, causing delays. The team agrees to put the matter on hold for a week. [This issue has subsequently been resolved.]

### **Ken Lee's Interviews and Website Links**

The board discusses the issue of Ken Lee's interviews for *Northwest Chess* magazine, mentioning that Ken has requested to write more articles for the magazine. Ralph emphasizes that decisions about content are the editor's responsibility, not the boards. Jeff, the editor, considers publishing two interviews per issue but acknowledges the risk of burnout. The group agrees that local interest interviews are more suitable for the magazine. Eric raises the question of linking to Ken's [chess.com](http://chess.com) blog on the Northwest Chess website, but the board decides not to act unless Ken requests it.

The discussion about WCF balance and membership share is tabled for further consideration, as the WCF has not made a formal request for changes.

## **Idaho Chess Subscription Rate Discussion**

The group discusses the issue of Idaho Chess Association (ICA) membership and *Northwest Chess* magazine subscription rates. They acknowledge that no one has spoken to Adam, the ICA president, about the proposed online subscription option. Eric suggests a \$17.50 online-only subscription rate for Idaho members, like Oregon's rate. The group also considers incorporating ICA's quarterly newsletter into *Northwest Chess* as a potential solution to increase Idaho subscriptions and reduce Adam's workload. They agree that someone needs to discuss these proposals with Adam, but no one volunteers for the task. [Task deferred.]

## **Membership Fees and Advertising Payments**

The group discusses financial matters related to membership fees, taxes, and advertising. Eric mentions that Idaho wants a larger portion of membership fees compared to Oregon. Jeffrey reports that all advertisers have paid their invoices on time, with one exception which has subsequently been resolved. The team also discusses the process of tracking payments through Zelle and checks.

## **Northwest Chess Foundation Name Update**

The board discusses updating the organization's name with the State of Washington to include "Foundation" before filing for 501(c)(3) status. Josh and Duane agree to work on changing the name from "Northwest Chess" to "Northwest Chess Foundation" with the State.

## **Magazine Scans**

Eric mentions the need to continue working on magazine scans, aiming to increase the completion percentage. This is still on hold due to Eric's other work for Northwest Chess.

## **Google Group**

The board notes the need to audit the Google Group (used for online magazine distribution) list once they locate the Washington Chess Federation information. Eric has subsequently produced a list of Google Group emails which are not on any membership list, but no action to remove anyone will be taken until 2026.

## **Content Rejection and Editorial Policies**

The board discusses a complaint about a submission not being published in *Northwest Chess*. Jeffrey explains that he considered publishing the article but ultimately decided against it due to its inappropriate content, including religious references. The board agrees that the decision was correct and discusses potential policies to avoid similar situations in the future. The board decides not to take any further action or explain the decision in the magazine, as Jeffrey makes many editorial decisions that don't require explanation.

## **AI Meeting Summaries Confidentiality Discussion**

The board discusses the confidentiality of AI-generated meeting summaries, agreeing that these should not be made public and should be edited before any content is posted on the website. [This document is an edited version, for example.] They address the need to be cautious about who receives meeting invitations.

## **U.S. Open**

The conversation shifted to the upcoming U.S. Open chess tournament in Madison, Wisconsin, which Josh planned to attend for a week. Wilson mentions that Carl H. would be representing OCF at the event.

## **Magazine Content Planning and Photography**

The group discusses upcoming magazine content, including coverage of the Washington Open. Josh mentions a deal where one person provides annotated games in exchange for comped entry fees. Jeffrey expresses the need for early submission of content and explains his approach to organizing articles chronologically. The conversation then shifts to the importance of including more photos in tournament coverage, with Ralph emphasizing how pictures enhance the visual appeal of articles. They praise photographer Mei Ling Chang's work and discuss a specific photo that was nominated for an award.

## **Hall of Fame Awards Discussion**

The board discusses the upcoming awards, expressing concern about being the only submission in the State Print Magazine category. They adjourn the meeting after reviewing the Hall of Fame inductees and discussing who will write the remaining profiles for Robert Karch and Rusty Miller. The group agrees to consult with IM John Donaldson, a chess historian, for assistance.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. [motion Wilson/Ralph – passed].*