

Meeting summary for Northwest Chess Board Meeting (7/5/2026)

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This meeting was scheduled as the end-of-quarter meeting for the 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2026.

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

The meeting was called to order at about 7:05 p.m. by Josh. The minutes of the January 2026 meeting were approved [motion Duane/Wilson – passed].

Quick recap

The Northwest Chess Board meeting focused on organizational changes and operational updates. The board discussed and voted to change the organization's name back to "Northwest Chess" (removing "Foundation") to simplify the process of obtaining 501c3 status, which has been pending for approximately eight years. The group reviewed membership system issues and discussed the removal of expired first-quarter members from the online subscription list. They also addressed possibly inviting Jeff Price, president of the new Idaho Chess Federation (or Idaho Chess Network), to join the board as a state representative. Financial reconciliation concerns were raised, showing a net loss of approximately \$5,000 (for 2025 as reported in January), with discussions about proper accounting of membership shares between organizations.

Summary

Idaho Chess Organization Status Update

The meeting participants discussed the status of Idaho Chess organizations, with Jeff explaining that the previous Idaho Chess Association (ICA) had dissolved due to board resignations and legal issues. He described how a new organization called Idaho Chess Federation (ICF) was formed under the Idaho Chess Network (ICN) structure, with Jeff Price serving as president. The group discussed the need to review Northwest Chess bylaws regarding official affiliation with Idaho organizations, as ICF is seeking to become the official state affiliate with U.S. Chess Federation.

Idaho Chess Association Transition Discussion

The board discussed the transition of the Idaho Chess Association to the Idaho Chess Network/Federation and the resulting implications for board representation. Eric explained that the bylaws need to be reviewed regarding how state directors are elected and whether the editor position automatically qualifies for board membership. The group agreed to temporarily recognize Alex as a board member for the meeting, though he had not yet joined (he joined late), while noting that Jeff's continued participation would need further review of the bylaws. [Eric subsequently found that the bylaws as amended Jan. 3, 2021, do provide for one state director selected by each additional state-level chess organization accepted by the NWCF board, so Jeff and Alex can remain on the board as at-large members (along with Ralph) even if Jeff Price is accepted as the new Idaho representative, once the board has recognized and accepted the new Idaho chess organization.]

Organization Name Change Discussion

The board discussed changing the organization's name from Northwest Chess Foundation back to Northwest Chess to simplify the 501c3 filing process. Duane had agreed to handle the original name change submission (from NWC to NWCF) to the Secretary of State, but the group decided to consider reverting to "Northwest Chess" in their bylaws instead, which would require only a simple board vote rather than making changes with multiple agencies. The board voted [motion Jeff/Wilson] to change the organization's name to Northwest Chess, with Duane being the only one opposed.

Membership Records

The group discussed membership record issues in the new WCF system, where several memberships were apparently lost or incorrectly recorded, including problems with sales tax payments that need to be addressed through an audit of last year's records. The team agreed to have someone audit the membership records to ensure proper recording and sales tax compliance.

CJA Awards

Ralph and Jeff confirmed that CJA award entries are complete for the current year, and that there was no balance owed from last year.

Membership and Board Updates Discussion

The team discussed removing 70 expired members from their online subscription list, with plans to proceed after giving them one more week to respond. They also addressed the need to disable WCF membership requirements for non-Washington residents and discussed potential changes to the board composition, including inviting Jeff Price to join as a director at large (or as the Idaho director). The group agreed that Jeff would ask Alex about stepping down from his board position to make room for Jeff Price, if necessary. [However, it appears that Alex can remain as a director at large.]

Financial Reconciliation Between Organizations

The meeting focused on financial reconciliation issues between Northwest Chess and WCF, with Duane presenting a report showing a net loss of approximately \$5,000 for 2025. Ralph expressed concerns about Eric's approach to balancing the books by arbitrarily assigning WCF membership credits, arguing that any changes should be made through proper negotiation rather than administrative decisions. The group discussed WCF's outstanding debt of around \$12,000-\$13,000 based on memberships (if no credits are given for 2022-2025 membership shares), with Ralph emphasizing the need for a more formal and professional approach to financial tracking as a nonprofit organization. The meeting also revealed that WCF has been covering \$400 monthly in mailing costs for extra (mostly promotional) magazine issues, which Josh agreed should be properly reflected as a Northwest Chess expense rather than as a WCF expense.

Financial Management and Payment Options

The team discussed financial matters including a bank account balance of \$8,673.25 and an issue with Washington Media not charging printing costs in the last three months despite sending invoices. Duane identified that WCF had made three advances to NWC totaling \$10,000 this year (to cover WCF memberships and advertising expenses), and Jeff reported that tournament organizers were paying their advertising invoices promptly. The group explored payment options for Washington Media, discussing the potential benefits of using a business credit card versus debit card or ACH transfers, with ACH being the most cost-effective at only a \$1 fee per transaction.

Financial Planning and Expense Review

The team discussed financial matters, including a \$3,000 debt (for printing as discussed above) and monthly expenses of approximately \$3,000, which includes printing, postage, and editor fees. They examined a \$5,000 loss from the previous year, attributing the loss to printing costs and uncertainty about revenue from WCF. The group also addressed the issue of extra promotional magazine copies being printed and mailed (for example to clubs), agreeing to reduce the number sent. Finally, they discussed managing a list of 460 unknown email addresses (in Google Groups), deciding to cross-reference these with email request records to identify subscribers.

WCF Membership Rate Increases

The group discussed WCF's new membership rates, effective September 1, which were approved by the WCF board as approximately a 20% increase to offset rising expenses. [The annual rate for adult members receiving a printed magazine will increase to \$40 while the Oregon rate remains at \$33.] The board addressed how these changes would affect Northwest Chess revenue, with Eric noting the need to define specific amounts allocated to the magazine to determine taxable portions. The team agreed to work with WCF to create a table outlining which membership categories would provide funding for Northwest Chess, though the exact percentages and amounts were still pending negotiation.

The team agreed that Jeff will update the rates chart in the magazine to reflect the WCF change, while Eric, Josh, and Duane will negotiate a new revenue-sharing arrangement between WCF and Northwest Chess.

Nonprofit Website Proposal Discussion

The board discussed a proposal from a nonprofit organization to build a new website for free, which would integrate online registration and include features like a calendar and games viewer. While the proposal seemed promising with no upfront costs, concerns were raised about the custom Java/JavaScript platform versus standard options like WordPress, particularly regarding future support and maintenance. The group decided to defer the final decision pending consultation with Allen Messenger, who handles the current online registration system written in PHP, before proceeding with any implementation. [The meeting with Allen, Josh, Duane, Eric and representatives from the nonprofit organization was subsequently held on Friday, July 10, with Allen accepting the new proposed system providing more flexibility than WordPress, which Eric had previously planned to use.]

Next steps

Duane

- Contact Washington Media (Wenatchee World) to resolve the issue of unpaid printing invoices and investigate alternative payment methods (e.g., ACH, credit card).

Eric

- Update the bylaws to reflect the name change back to “Northwest Chess” and prepare a new signature page.
- Work with Josh to construct a proposed table defining the amount of WCF membership fees that go to Northwest Chess, for negotiation with WCF.
- Send the list of 460 unknown Google list members to Ralph for cross-referencing with email request records.

Jeff

- Remove the 70 expired first-quarter members from the Google Groups list next week, after receiving confirmation from Eric or Josh.
- Ask Alex if he would be willing to give up his board seat for Jeff Price. (No longer required.)
- Invite Jeff Price to attend the next Northwest Chess board meeting as a guest, with the possibility of being selected as the Idaho representative on the board.

Josh

- Follow up with Allen to disable the requirement for Oregon residents to have a WCF membership in the tournament registration system.
- Reach out to Allen to get his input and blessing on the proposed new website project. [Meeting completed on July 10 – see discussion on previous page.]
- Provide financial data to Eric for the reconciliation of WCF accounts with NWC, including the cost of extra mailings covered by WCF.

To be determined

- Audit the WCF membership and sales tax records from last year to identify any lost memberships or payments. [Allen has been provided with examples of this issue that Eric identified.]

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. [motion Wilson/Ralph – passed].