

Minutes -- May 3, 2021 MCA Board Meeting

In Attendance:

S. Brazina, L. Nizin, M. Sobol, R. Prosten, I. Kushnir, E. Feldman, M. Weisberg, P. Sherman, L. Israelite, J. Simon, Binder, M. Kehila

Meeting called to order @ 8:31 AM by President Les Nizin. Meeting conducted electronically via ZOOM.

President's report:

- President Nizin asks if there are any changes or corrections to **minutes** of the April 5, 2021 meeting as submitted by Prosten. Israelite moves adoption as submitted, multiple seconds. Unanimous voice approval.

Treasurer's report:

- Ed Feldman moves adoption of **Treasurer's report** as distributed. Unanimous agreement.
- President Nizin notes that MCA has a **\$75,000 "room naming" commitment** to the JFGN payable over 5 - 7 years -- more if necessary. Both President & Treasurer have been contacted by Federation noting that "payment is due ". Nizin would like to make a \$15,000 "first" payment at this time. Israelite suggests paying entire current treasury balance of +/- \$26,000 towards that commitment. Nizin says that is a good idea, but would like to hold back at this time pending outcome of current discussions with WCA regarding JFGN's interest in our two groups raising our dues to further fund JFGN.

Israelite moves that "Pending an outcome of discussions with WCA that lead in another direction before June 30, the entire balance be turned over to JFGN towards fulfillment of our \$75,000 pledge." Second Prosten.

Feldman clarifies that there is currently +/- \$39,000 in funds in our checking account, but that \$17,000 of that is monies that have come in since March 1 which will not be recognized as income until July 1, 2021. Consensus is that on or before June 30, \$15,000 as well as any remaining balance of 2020-2021 income be turned over to Federation as monies earmarked towards our room naming commitment. Unanimous acceptance.

- Michael Sobol makes "personal plea" that future Treasurer's reports be in Excel format. Ed says it is already sent to Les and Larry as an Excel report. Nizin explains that he, and not Feldman, has been sending this material to Board.

Report of Membership Chair

Larry Israelite reviews his previously distributed monthly report. Notes that **6,100 people have participated in our events this year** -- estimates 70% of them are MCA members.

Discussion of “open” events vs. “members only”. Israelite states that there are two varieties of MCA membership -- current and lapsed. Affirms that any MCA related participants covered by his report were fully paid up for 20-21 and that no “lapsed members” (those that have not renewed within 30 days of anniversary date) were allowed to sign up for an MCA event.

Feldman asks if a previously “lapsed” member renews in April 2021, what is his next expiration date. Israelite says it would be September 30, 2022. Feldman asks what the situation would be if the “lapsed” member renewed in February, Israelite indicates the situation would be more complicated.

Morris Binder suggests that since we are changing rules, to be equitable, individuals who had previously been members who renew during this period should have their existing anniversary date as their renewal date. Israelite says he would rather extend those who joined in February or March until October 1. He believes there are seven individuals in this category -- a few of them new, first-time members.

Israelite says that upon rejoining, a lapsed member would establish a new anniversary date. Prosten is concerned that this creates the potential for “free riders”.

Sobol moves that we extend the membership year for the seven individuals involved to October of 2022. Multiple seconds. Passed unanimously.

Report of Program Committee Chair

Members are “Zoom fatigued”. We may have extended season one month too long. Only two of the May programs are doing well rest are not. Summer hiatus following those programs, but we will offer **reruns of previous Zooms**. We are assuming we will be able to resume a full schedule of activities -- indoor and outdoor -- next season.

Comedy event is progressing. Temple has indicated desired dates would be available, but costs and terms are not yet explored. Contract with comedian is in place, and we have a hold at Comedy Club. These factors make it hard to budget at this time.

Sobol moves that he should be included in an upcoming Federation “Visions” meeting. President Nizin rules matter out of order.

Report of Member Participation Committee

Ira Kushnir reported a positive response to recent **membership renewal** mailing.

Report of Doc Film & Luncheon Committee

- **Speakers** for next year on track -- pretty much all slots filled
- Awaiting more information on Temple Shalom about occupancy restraints
- Morris Binder suggests that film and lunch programs should be available as both in-person and Zoom events. Larry Israelite says it is not possible to show a film at Shalom and broadcast the event via Zoom, but this is not the time to discuss matter. Michael Sobol notes that the Temple has hired an A-V technician. Prosten suggests that showing the film to a live audience and also renting streaming rights would likely add a substantial expense factor.

Report of Publicity Chair

Jeff Margolis notes that material for **May Federation Star** is due immediately.

President's report

Steve Brazina has raised possibility of awarding an **MCA membership to speakers in lieu of a \$50 gift card**. Prosten asks if it would be lifetime or 1 year? And would we then have to make a \$36 contribution to JFGN for that person? Les says 1-year and

Yes. Israelite says it would be unfair to MCA members that make presentations. No change to current policy.

Steve Brazina is running a film event for JFGN. MCA has been asked to publicize it. In the past, we have not publicized non-MCA programs. Les feels that if we were to do so, it would have to be on a case by case basis -- with each case brought to the board for discussion. Les moves that "**Federation** (but only Federation) **sponsored events, led by an MCA member**, may be included in our eblast. This would specifically include golf tournament (led by Nizin) and Brazina-led discussion of "Shtisel".

President Nizin believes, based on a phone discussion with Jeff Feld, that **Federation is preparing to announce an expansion of permissible activities** -- probably outdoor only, within week.

Les notes that revised by-laws material was sent out that reflects the actions taken at last month's meeting concerning **membership year and renewal dates**. Suggested changes are highlighted in yellow in that draft.

(Full disclosure --- the following issues were raised by the Secretary (me) in my role as a concerned board member. I've attempted to convey the issues raised and responses thereto in as limited and impartial a way as I could. YMMV)

Discussion of Article 2.2

Prosten notes that proposed language allowing the "Common Anniversary Date" to be changed at will, **conflicts with proposed Article 7.2** which says "Dues may not be changed mid-year". Not for or against, but feels articles should be consistent. Simple solution: define "year".

Morris Binder says the October 1 date will disappear after first year. Actual anniversary date of membership will be all that matters.

Israelite says that is not the case, because 780 members with a July 1 anniversary date would now be shifted to October 1. All new joiners will have actual date of joining as "anniversary date".

Les Nizin asks that the discussion be **suspended until we get to Article 7.2**.

Discussion of Article 3.1 and 3.2

Sections updated to remove conflict between old and proposed new bylaws.

Discussion of Article 3.6

Discussion of **malfeasance in office vs. prior to being an officer**. Binder suggests dropping "in office" from second bullet point. Suggestion incorporated into next draft.

Discussion of Article 4.1

Sections updated to remove conflict between old and proposed new bylaws.

Discussion of Article 6.2

At President's suggestion, specific date for appointment of the Nominating Committee is added.

Discussion of Article 7.2

Prosten asks what happened to current bylaw language covering yearly dues review -- seems to be gone. Israelite says it was a purposeful drop -- proposal allows dues to be changed at any time. Nizin and Binder suggest that dues adjustment should be discussed at same time as (and only at same time as?) budget.

Prosten says that is the exact issue raised earlier -- that proposed **2.2** language allowing the "Common Anniversary Date" to be changed at will conflicts with this proposed Article **(7.2)** which says "Dues may not be changed mid-year". Would be helpful if "year" is defined someplace. Israelite says language will be dropped.

Prosten asks about **7.2** language that would enable Board to "alter the membership renewal period on a temporary basis". Israelite says this would only apply to renewals of individual memberships.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM
Next Meeting June 7 @ 8:30 AM

Richard Prosten
Secretary