

Minutes -- MCA Board Meeting April 6, 2020

In Attendance

J. Zalasky, S. Brazina, P. Sherman, L. Nizin, M. Sobol, R. Prosten, I. Kushnir, R. Price, M. Binder, E. Feldman, M. Weisberg, J. Margolis, M. Kehila, L. Israelite, J. Simon (Guest), Jeff Feld (JFGN - Guest)

Meeting called to order @ 9:13 AM by President Les Nizin. Meeting conducted electronically via ZOOM.

Swearing In of Officers Jeffrey Feld, President/CEO of JFGN swore in recently elected officers (Nizin, Sobol, Prosten, Feldman. Feld describes how Federation is operating under the isolation regimen brought on by Coronavirus. Federation will be licensing a number of Zoom channels, some of which will be assigned to the MCA. Federation policies are not in place yet but will be shortly.

President's report Les discussed genesis of pending vacancy in 2nd V-P office By-Law and that although Jeff Zalasky will be completing the balance of his term, there will be a vacancy later in the year. That vacancy will, per the bylaws, be filled by the board. Separate and apart from the ongoing deliberations of the bylaw committee (Zalasky, Binder, Prosten) three members (Sobol, Israelite, Weisberg) have **proposed a bylaw change** (item #12 on agenda) that can be discussed and voted on at our next meeting. Les asks if there is anyone who wishes to discuss. Sobol says he wants to hear from Zalasky.

Jeff indicates he is personally opposed to the proposal because A) it is a circumvention of the existing committee, B) the proposal does not adequately address the 2nd V-P issue and does not take into account the implications its passage would have on other sections of the bylaws, C) If we are going to consider this change without running it through the committee, we should do away with bylaw committee, and he would no longer want to be on it and D) the proposal creates a situation in which there are no job descriptions and that is not how candidates for executive positions are recruited.

Binder says he completely agrees with Jeff. Israelite takes responsibility for the current submission and says it was intended to solve a problem in advance of the committee's completing its work. Prosten concurs with Jeff Zalasky's position, noting that the current bylaws do not provide for succession and makes motion to refer to the bylaws committee, second Binder. President thinks motion would be out of order, but would allow it if the proposers of the change concur. On behalf of the proposers, Israelite says they will confer about the approach and get back to Les by tomorrow.

President Nizin updates board on **room naming**, given likelihood of diminished membership in immediate future, we may not be able to fund \$75,000 as quickly as was previously anticipated. Feld has indicated to Zalasky that we may not have to come up with entire amount. Consensus to fund entire amount, even if it takes longer than originally planned. Treasurer Feldman to work on projection of our ability to fulfill pledge.

President Nizin reminded the board that a few months ago he had created a **long-range planning committee**. Given the restrictions imposed by the corona virus situation, he asked Mike Sobol to convene that committee to look at short range problems/needs. Mike notes that he had submitted a report on the meeting to Les.

1st Vice President Sobol reports that **dance** came in \$1000 better than expected. Committee recommended staying with the same venue (Audubon) as event was so successful. Thus Sobol attempted to back out of prior contract with Vineyards. Vineyards will not refund \$600 deposit but will allow it as a credit going forward. Sobol anticipates major dance coverage in next *Federation Star*. Spring brochure will be going to printer soon. Steve Schreier has agreed to do his scheduled Beth Tikvah update

lecture as a video. When we had to cancel Doc Films screening because of lockdown/loss of venue, distributor would not grant refund of \$500 rental. Reached agreement to allow us to stream to membership.

The long range planning committee met. Anything we might previously have come up with would now be useless. While nobody has any idea of what conditions will be going forward, there have been **cancelled programs and speakers**. We have contacted many of those that had already agreed to present and asked that they present via Zoom. Favorable responses so far from two ... optimistic about others. Jim Simon suggests that prior speakers might like to present again.

So, Mike noted: 1) we will need **training programs for participants and speakers**, 2) some of our discussion groups already doing video conferencing (wisdom, cigar). Next meeting is on July 1, at which time the social distancing horizon may be clearer.

Richard Prosten added that the committee also identified another need -- finding a virtual way to integrate newer members socially. Feels our past growth has been premised on facilitating **integration of interested newcomers into community**. How to do so going forward is important challenge.

Steve Brazina wants to "round up" **doctors that are MCA members** and find a way to integrate them into local health care situations. Sent note to Ira Kushnir suggesting same. Ira does not think this is a good candidate for MCA sponsorship, as our most successful activities are group in nature, and, in any case, doctors are already aware of needs. Jeff Zalasky noted that he knows Docs that have tried to volunteer locally, but have been rejected due to malpractice insurance complications.

2nd V-P Zalasky reports that volunteer appreciation event has been cancelled and after discussion with President Nizin, some of the dollars allocated to the event will be used to purchase t-shirts as gifts for the volunteers (Sobol had previously ordered note pads). Larry Israelite suggests we can sell shirts to members through Wild Apricot.

Zalasky reports programming has ground to a halt. Working with Sobol on rescheduling some speakers as video presenters. **Schreier as joint presentation with WCA discussed with Patti Boochever** -- agreement to allow previous session enrollees and those WCA members that heard him last year to sign up. Questions will be filtered through Jim. Jeff also trying to set up remote medical event.

In response to question from Jeff Margolis, Les Nizin informs board about **Artis-Naples ticket rebate problem**. Artis-Naples has cancelled all events going forward. Glenn Perrin had previously purchased approximately \$12,000 in tickets that Artis will not refund to individuals that were purchased by others. Artis is offering to apply original price as credit towards next year's events.

Les says Glenn will never do this again. On a much lesser scale (about 10 tickets) WCA has agreed to take refund as a future credit, and refund to individual members from treasury. Ed Feldman feels that MCA has no responsibility in this case. These were individuals that purchased tickets through a third party (Perrin), not the MCA, and that we are in no way responsibility here. Larry Israelite suggests that, as a practical matter, we (MCA) effectively own the event. To the extent there are individuals that will be unable to use a credit next year, we should make them whole and apply the banked credit to some future event at Artis. Prosten says if that is a motion, he seconds.

Feldman says there will be adequate \$ to do this. Zalasky says we are not guarantors and any compensation will expose us to endless liability -- let's not open door.. Richard Price agrees. **Nizin suggests waiting to see how many people end up being involved**.

Treasurer Feldman reports probable \$30,000 surplus for this year, but impossible to seriously budget for next year until Fall when we have better fix on quarantine.

Mike Sobol moves that we allocate \$7,500 of surplus to room naming. Second Simon. **Motion tabled** until later budget figures are available.

Jeff Schein has taken on the **room reservations** function. Trying to move some groups to Wednesday

Nizin moves **approval of March 2 minutes**. Multiple seconds. Approved

Membership Larry Israelite reports that \$5,600 in refunds to MCA from credit card processor. About 27 members received refunds to credit cards of monies that they had prepaid for luncheons. Company did not know how to handle the transaction, so some received more than they were due.

Currently **778 members** (including 7 new) and **157 renewals**. It may be necessary to have registration assistants to help members negotiate Wild Apricot sign-ups for membership and events.

Federation is acquiring 10 ZOOM licenses, of which 2 will be dedicated to MCA. Programmers will need to clear times. Security issues have received much publicity, but there are many protections we can invoke that should negate problem.

Doc Films Steve Brazina discussed results of surveys about viewership of April film streaming. Outlined plans for streaming **Golda's Balcony** with a subsequent online discussion via Zoom. Board discussion of expanding online offerings for members. Les Nizin moves we allocate \$2500 for more films.

Badges Phil Sherman reports that we are entirely up to date. Transitioning badge types for new members...needs Larry to supply location information.

Luncheons Meir reports he has nothing to report as all luncheons for the season have been cancelled.

Les Nizin says that he has officially cancelled April & May luncheons. Chanukah party is likely to be sacrificed as well. Steve Weiss has resigned from Board. Les wonders if luncheon speakers would be willing to do video presentations.

Speaker Series Jim Simon reports speakers are lined up for next year. Due to space problems, events will be held at staggered dates and times, but facilities have been secured. Schreier presentations will be coordinated with WCA.

Publicity Jeff Margolis notes that articles for May/June *Federation Star* are due immediately. Anything can be added to article if supplied quickly. Sobol has also contributed an article about dance. July/August also likely to be a combined issue.

Volunteers Ira Kushnir reports that all volunteer activities have been suspended .

President Nizin thanks all for "attending" this meeting. **Next meeting will be on May 4 at 9AM**, depending on Larry's response to Les this afternoon re: bylaw change.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42AM

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Prosten
Secretary