

In Attendance:

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

Meeting called to order @ 8:32 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 January 4, 2021 meeting as submitted by Prosten. Feldman moves adoption as submitted, second Sobol. Unanimous approval .

Treasurer's report:

- Ed Feldman moves adoption of Treasurer's report as distributed. Second Michael Sobol. Unanimous acceptance.

Report of Program Chair

- Michael Sobol wants to reiterate that he likes program chair position. Wants to stay with it for a while. Will not seek presidency at this time. Not a health issue. No other reason besides interest in sticking with current position. Will require a technical compliance adjustment to by-laws.
- Given that Covid situation in SW Florida has shown little improvement, Board must make some decisions on going forward with Zoom events. Creating new program committee with broader charge than in the past. Current Committee members invited to stay on committee. Anyone interested in joining the new committee is welcome.
- Polling of activity leaders about returning to traditional format has produced mixed results.
- Recent events like canasta tourney and trivia were successful --- full load of activities scheduled through April. Director of RSW airport authority Ben Sigal scheduled for Feb 10.
- Should MCA try to bring Sarge back next December as a live event (last attempt did not work out). Michael asks how many would like to bring Sarge back -- he counts "about $\frac{2}{3}$ ", but unanimous approval for another such event, talent to be determined. Michael noted that Sarge is much more popular on the East Coast. We can find less expensive talent.
- Sobol negotiating with Hayes Hall and Sarge (who currently wants more than we can pay).
- Les Nizin suggests that questions abound. Event, if held at Hayes Hall, would not involve food as such. Maybe hoursdouters. Would people wish to sit in a hall? Social distancing?
- Ira Kushnir wonders if WCA will be planning anything at same time. Les will ask them.
- Sobol polls Board about Off the Hook as a venue **if** CDC/Federation etc.,. allow/approve. Unanimous support (nobody was "opposed").

President's report (resumed)

- MCA Is sponsoring Jewish book fair event featuring Alan Zweibel. President Nizin wonders if there are any prospective members to whom we can offer a ticket. Larry Israelite suggests Bob Stein. Les asks that other suggestions or Board members that might be interested themselves send him an email
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- No reason to consider dues increase at this time. But Federation "Strategy Group". Bottom line is that the Federation is looking for more money from us. Building opening approx March/April, 2022. Cost keeps going up as expenses not previously anticipated arise. Anticipated operating cost shortfall of at least \$100,000 once open. Federation suggests: raising dues; give greater percentage of current dues to JFGN; charge ourselves and members for any use of any room. These proposals did not go over well with WCA. Ed Feldman wonders if meeting the JFGN's requests will discourage additional membership. Meir Kehila wonders why JFGN didn't anticipate expenses better.

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- However, Federation has hired a fundraising group (individuals that have had Federation connections in the past) that may make all of this academic. These individuals claim they can tap additional income sources to meet an anticipated \$6 million need. In the meantime Les is working with WCA President to maintain a joint front.
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- President Nizin notes that the only reason WCA exists as a part of Federation is that, in its prior incarnation as a part of Brandeis Women's Clubs, it tired of Brandeis' escalating monetary demands. He further notes that there are current WCA Board members that remember that and see the situation in a similar light.
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- Present Nizin reports that the by-law committee (Nizin, Kargher, Binder, Feldman & Israelite) have had numerous meetings, continue to meet but not yet ready to report. Les notes, per Michel Sobol's earlier comments, that one of the suggested by law changes submitted last month would extend the incumbent President's term until June 30, 2022, to expire coincidentally with the terms of other elected officers. Michael Sobol moves acceptance of that amendment. Ira Kushnir seconds. Motion passes by unanimous show of hands.
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- Larry Israelite thinks all items referenced at meetings should be made a part of minutes when posted to website.

Report of Membership Chair

- Larry Israelite reviews his previously distributed monthly report. Bottomline: current membership is down an additional 1% (from last month's 20%)
- 125 events so far this year with 6100 participants. 70% of registrants are members. Discussion of standard e-mail procedures.
- Larry discusses participation of "lapsed member" and "former member" participation. Only "active members" can sign-up for "member only" events. Larry will supply a list of non-members that have attended multiple events.
- Israelite reports that 72% of current members open eblast and 258 of them "clicked" on something therein; lapsed members opened 49% of time and few "clicked" --- mostly to local health departments; 1/3 of former members read e-blast with almost no "clicks". Discussion of who should get e-blast going forward. Larry feels that this is an unusual year so we shouldn't make any decisions based on current data.
- Morris Binder asks how it is that non-renewers are able to register for MCA programs. Answer is that many of our programs are open to public. Prosten wonders where the threshold is between "lapsed" & "former" members. Israelite says it is a function of prior database, and will be corrected going forward.
- Chair summarizes discussion as authorization to continue mailings to all.

Report of Doc Film & Luncheon Committee

- Steve reports Avi Goldstein will be next virtual luncheon speaker -- on being an expert dental witness. Three luncheon speakers already in place for next year: Sanford Greenberg (February), Michael Farr (March) & Michael Hetfield (January) Nov., Dec. & April still open. Discussion of live MCA gatherings with speakers participating from afar
- Covid has worked out well for Doc Films, with many subject experts and filmmakers have readily agreed to participate on Zoom panels. Discussion of continuing Zoom programs after live-programming resumes.

Report of Dance Chair Sobol --

2022 Dance scheduled for first Saturday in March at Vineyards. Same band

Report of Member Participation Committee

- Ira Kushnir and Max Weisberg working on presentation for March meeting -- written report will be mailed prior to that meeting. All new members have been contacted and are already participating.

- 230 non-renewing/lapsed members will be contacted between Ira & Max.

Report of Lecture Series Chair Simon --

February speaker (Dov Wagman) went AWOL. Has been cancelled.

Report of Badge Chair Sherman --

Nothing to report at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM

Next Meeting March 1 @ 8:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Prosten
Secretary

Actions subsequent to meeting

On February 8 President Nizin polled the Board, asking it to consider making the Ethical Wills and the proposed Great Decisions programs co-ed.

The results of the poll as announced by President Nizin on Feb 9:

On the Ethical Wills -Yes 12, No1, Abstain 1.

On the Great Decisions, the vote has been tabled, and will be considered at the March 1st board meeting, where additional information will be available to answer questions that have been raised.