

Minutes -- MCA Board Meeting January 6, 2020

In Attendance:

J. Zalasky, S. Brazina, P. Sherman, L. Nizin, M. Sobol, R. Prosten, I. Kushnir, R. Price, M. Binder, W. Kargher, E. Feldman, S. Weiss, M. Weisberg, M. Kehila, G. Perrin (Guest), J. Simon (Guest), L. Hecht (Former Board Member - Guest)

Meeting called to order @ 8:45 AM by President Les Nizin

President Nizin moves adoption of December 2, 2019 minutes as distributed. Second Weiss. Unanimous approval.

President Nizin appoints Founders' Award Committee.

Report of Treasurer Feldman:

Disparity between receipts and expenses is due to many payments showing up significantly in advance of events. As events occur, the expenses will be recognized and balance things out. Mike Sobol wonders how we are doing compared to budget. Feldman says he'll prepare a report for next meeting.

Dues increase, per by-laws, will be discussed at March meeting.

Second Vice President Zalasky noting that it is likely that ongoing by-law review will take many months, reintroduces the partial rewrite submitted at last month's Board meeting, for discussion and vote, per our current by-laws:

Proposed: Nominating Committee to report results of deliberations to January board meeting and membership meeting; additional nominations to be accepted at February membership meeting; elections to take place at March membership meeting; new officers to be installed at April meeting and assume new positions on following July 1. Amended by-laws to be effective upon adoption.

Sobol moves adoption as read, Prosten seconds. Motion passes by voice vote. President Nizin notes these provisions will take place immediately, so Nominating Committee should plan to report to membership meeting in two days.

First Vice President Sobol reported that:

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Comedy Club Menorah Lighting event was sold out -- 251 attended. Due to significantly higher than expected Regfox costs (\$5.25 vs. \$4), we exceeded \$600 budget by \$293. Another unexpected cost was a room for the talent --- who ended up staying at President Nizin's. This Year's Menorah Lighting event will be on Monday, December 14. Program Guide & E-blast are continuing activities that are going well -- hard to stuff all our events into newsletter.

Increasing number of simultaneous events -- Jeff Zalasky notes that, despite trying to space events out, increasing overlap is unavoidable as we continue to grow.

(At this point there was an off topic discussion about luncheons. Content of this discussion is included in the "Luncheons" section below)

Report of 2nd Vice President Zalasky

Jeff will compile a report for next meeting distilling status reports from each of the activity coordinators.

3 New programs --- euchre, backgammon and ping pong. Popularity to be determined with time. Art program is now co-ed and according to coordinator (and \$ underwriter) Albert Ellickson, is now going well enough to move ahead. Sobol believes WCA publicity about event is responsible for the success. Question arises --- is this still an MCA event? Must registrants be MCA member or "significant other" of MCA member????? Les notes this is a gray area and that we should clarify and present to board.

Recognition event for program coordinators, which would be a new event, is in development stages. Glenn Perrin is planning it with Jeff.

Report of Nominating Committee

Richard Prosten reports that committee (Binder, Feldman, Prosten, Roth, Schaab) met to recommend officers for the 2020-2021 year. It determined that the two individuals who seemed to be the best fit for the office of President had other commitments that they felt prevented them from serving in that capacity next year. Moreover, Jeff Zalasky asked that he not be considered for any elected office next year. As a result the committee deemed it advisable to draw upon the clause in the by-laws that allows an incumbent but "timed out" President to serve one additional year in situations where a successor cannot be readily identified.

Thus the committee recommends that incumbents Nizin (President), Sobol (1st Vice President), Feldman (Treasurer) and Prosten (Secretary) be retained in their offices -- 1 year for Nizin and 2 for the rest. The committee also recommends Glenn Perrin for a 2 year term as 2nd Vice President (Program Vice-President).

President Nizin notes that unelected Board members have 3 year terms, serving at the pleasure of the President, and that all but Weisberg have now served longer than that. He asks if any wish to step aside at the end of this year, they so notify him.

Luncheons:

Steve reports that luncheon speakers have already been lined up for all sessions of the 2020-2021 season: November 12, Mark Hetfield -- the CEO of HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society); December 10, Lew Paper, a new MCA member; January 14, Criminologist Larry Siegal; February 11, Avi Goldstein, expert witness in dental trials; March 11, NFL referee Jeff Rice; and April 8, John Handlin, former FBI agent.

We will need to reassess the luncheon prices as the current level of subsidy may not be adequate going forward.

Meir Kehila notes that when Mark Hetfield speaks, we should invite Joe Bianchi to attend, as he was the connection to the speaker.

Doc Films

Next offering is 93 Queen. Ira Kushnir, Morris Binder, Michael Sobol, Mel Kaplan will join Steve's regular crew in ushering.

Hamilton Unplugged

The Ellen Katz presentation is coming up in a few days, President Nizin recommends using the facility's overhead projector for \$200 and that we will be providing some modest refreshments. Prosten moves an appropriation of \$500 for the event. Multiple seconds. Unanimous approval. Max Weisberg, Morris Binder, Wayne Kargher, Richard Prosten and Jay Lieb to assist.

Speaker Series

President Nizin notes that many of the events attract enough sign-ups to be listed as "sold out", but end up with many, many empty seats. He recommends removing reservation caps. He also reports that Beth Tikvah has made its facilities available for some of our events. The April 2 Steve Schrier lecture will be held there.

Membership

Reporting for Larry Israelite, Les reports that as of this date (January 6) we have 729 members. 30 members joined in December, 19 of them new. 54 new members have signed up for new member breakfast, which has been moved to Siena Lakes. Perrin, Prosten, Binder, Zalasky agree to help.

New member badges will be brought to the event for distribution.

Volunteers

Ira Kushnir reports big uptick in Harry Chapin and Habitat activity. Some members seeking solo participation in various activities. Ira helping direct them.

Badges

Discussion of how to get members to pick up badges.

New Business

President Nizin welcomed former board member Hecht who thanked all past support and discussed upcoming events he will be leading including Luxury Car tour, Collier County Special Ops and Collier County EMS.

Nizin also discussed end of year funds distribution --- WCA buying a room at new Federation building.

Max Weisberg suggests further personalizing Sunshine Committee contact with bereaved families by sending physical condolence cards as well as electronic.

Discussion of possible additional safety and security measures that might be employed at Temple Shalom during doc film showings. Brazina to check and report to February meeting.

Next Meeting Feb 3, 2020, 8:45 AM

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM

Richard Prosten, Secretary