

Minutes -- MCA May 4, 2020 Board Meeting & Subsequent Polling

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, W. Kargher, S. Weiss, G. Perrin (Guest), J. Simon (Guest)

Meeting called to order @ 9:00 AM by President Les Nizin. Meeting conducted electronically via ZOOM.

President's report:

Minutes of April 6 meeting approved by unanimous voice vote.

Les noted that an April 20 poll of the Board on a board member requested change in MCA bereavement policy had been rejected by a vote of 9-7 (Current policy: announcement -- with family request/approval -- of death of member, a member's spouse, or a member's child.) Max Weisberg expanded on the process, explaining that once notified by President of a death or illness he sends physical and electronic get-well or condolence cards on behalf of MCA.

Michael Sobol moved that MCA change its bereavement policy to one of sending out (with family approval) a special e-blast announcing the death of a member or a member's child, spouse, siblings or parent -- after soliciting and receiving the family's permission to do so. Seconded by L. Israelite. President Nizin notes that this issue was already decided -- Sobol says he wants it reconsidered.

After substantial discussion of scope of coverage and privacy issues, motion defeated on a 9-6 roll-call vote.

Treasurer Feldman reports

- **\$16,000 dinner dance income** -- issue previously questioned, has now been reconciled and allocated to correct bucket.
- We will have a **surplus of \$30,000 (+/-)** at end of this fiscal year.
- Artis-Naples has revisited its credits/refund policy. Thus some \$11,000 in ticket purchases that had been funneled through Glenn Perrin for events subsequently cancelled due to Covid, were returned to Glenn, forwarded to JFGN and refunded to the involved individuals via checks being issued by Treasurer Feldman.
- President Nizin requests that in future, the treasurer's report be sent to him directly, "as early as possible" in advance of Board meetings.

President's report continued:

- President Nizin notes that our consideration of how much of our surplus to allocate to "**Room Naming**" at new JFGN building was put off pending the Treasurer's estimate of year end surplus. Jeff Zalasky moves that all "surplus" monies, after prior commitments, in MCA coffers at end of

fiscal year be designated as payments toward room naming. Prosten seconds. Passed unanimously.

- Les reported on **continuing difficulties with *Federation Star* and Ted Epstein**. We are repeatedly slighted on coverage ... even in cases where promised. Most recent iteration is non-coverage of dinner dance despite Epstein's promises of including editorial and pictorial material already in his possession. Queried about this, Epstein told the JFGN head Feld that he'd "lost" the material.
- Nizin reports that he reminded Feld that he had previously told us that he controls what appears in the paper, but had not been aware of our wanting/anticipating dinner dance coverage.
- **Feld proposed rectifying the slight** with substantial coverage in July/August *Federation Star*. Nizin and Sobol thought this insufficient, as readership of that issue is quite low. Michael Sobol suggested front page coverage in September issue, plus an inside the issue photo spread. Steve Weiss feels that September issue will not be heavily read --- perhaps October would be better. Nizin sees merit in that view as, because of Covid, we certainly won't be back to normal.
- **Meir Kehila suggests applying economic pressure** -- place our advertising dollars in a competing publication. President Nizin notes that in correspondence, Sobol had suggested dropping all advertising. Consensus is for Les to "go back" to Feld and say "we want front page + inside spread in September." Israelite feels that by September, dance will be really old news ... that we should "use the real estate in the best possible way". Suggests considering alternative content.
- Les reports that, for security reasons, **Temple Shalom has changed the time slot for Doc Films** to 3PM. Doc Films team does not see this as a problem. Steve Brazina notes the **success of the Golda's Balcony showing/producer Q&A** and based on that would like to show additional films this summer -- May & June for starters -- featuring one of the films we consider a strong contender for next season. Steve feels we should not commit to more at this time -- lest the streaming idea "grow old" -- and we should reassess as time goes on. Les notes that time is short and we should perhaps pass on May and start with June. Larry Israelite thinks we should not pay attention to the number of participants, no matter how few --- as long as those that participate get something out of the film and discussion -- even if it is only amongst themselves --- finds the concept of "zooming" growing old to be "ludicrous".
- Meir suggests possibility of finding a film memorializing anniversary of end of Israeli-Lebanon war -- perhaps including a discussion with veterans of that conflict
- Steve agrees with Les that he'll **stay in touch with film distributors** and report back once there is any success.
- Les reported that he'd discussed the scheduled **November Luncheon speaker** with Jeff Feld, who considered the matter and reported back to Les that the **Federation has no problem** with the man being featured.

Membership

- Larry Israelite reports **776 members** currently. **262 renewals**. Slightly behind last year's numbers, but not a problem given current environment.
- **Membership technology working well** and most user problems are being resolved by users themselves. Letter sent to all non-renewers on 4/21.
- **Zoom groups are also doing well**. No security problems. Need to keep publicizing via e-blast.

Old Business -- by-law change

Sobol says **submitters have decided to withdraw proposal**. Les suggests by-law committee can get back to work this summer. Larry Israelite wonders why what he sees as a small matter would have held up committee. Jeff Zalasky says that it was not a small matter --- its interrelationships with other parts of by-laws are complex.

Report of 1st VP Sobol

- Jeff and Mike are **looking for program content** (speakers, anybody?), as most of previous planning is now moot.
- Each week the E-blast will "Spotlight" a different board member.

(Les interrupts Mike's presentation to ask Glenn Perrin to join the meeting for possible input on program matters.)

Volunteers

Ira Kushnir reports that Don Belmont is working with **Bikes for Tykes** -- collecting them this week --- Ira will put together a note for e-blast. Also a note about encouraging members leaving for Summer to donate food to Harry Chapin or similar groups.

Publicity

Jeff Margolis notes deadline for **July/August issue of Federation Star** is near. Submission of information on Summer and early Fall programs should be in Jeff's hands soon.

Report of 1st VP Sobol -- resumed

(Glenn signs in)

- Michael has discovered (and piggy-backed onto) a few pending WCA programs that feature **presentations by children of MCA board members**. Michael is very disappointed that he had to learn of these talented speakers via WCA e-blast. Encourages Board members to think of home-grown talent for future MCA Zoom presentations.
- **Motion by Michael to make the WCA event a joint MCA event** -- Nizin seconds. Unanimous agreement.

- Another WCA session we can join will be **Sandy Parker talking about local politics** on May 7 -- will likely only be of interest to Collier County area residents.
- On May 17 a group of members that spend summers in Berkshires will do a Zoom session with some **MCA docs on travel related issues in the time of Covid**. All members are invited.
- All of above will be publicized in e-blast with links to the Zoom events.
- Les Notes that MCA is still “closed” in terms of official activities that require in-person participation (and will continue to be, per CDC, Collier County and State of Florida directives). He is aware that some are arranging events (bocce, kayaking, cycling) that might mistakenly be perceived as MCA sponsored. Members are free to get together in person in whatever numbers and fashion they choose ... but cannot bill such events as “MCA”. Jeff Zalasky has put together a note reiterating our policies it has been distributed to coordinators and will appear in e-blast.
- Arthur Sissman (in conjunction with a variety of non MCA/WCA groups) runs a **genealogy group**. Wants to use MCA Zoom channel. He will continue group with or without using MCA Zoom. Jeff has no recommendation on the matter. Morris moves that he be allowed to use Zoom license and that group be allowed to continue in similar fashion once Covid is no longer an issue. Multiple seconds. Larry Israelite notes that allowing this involves more than just Zoom -- reservations and notices via Wild Apricot, mentions in e-blast, etc.). Prosten offers friendly amendment specifying that this case is being grandfathered and should not serve as precedent. Morris accepts. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- Glenn wonders why he has been summoned ... he has called no groups together but does Zoom with some members. Les assures him that his work is both appreciated and vital to MCA ... that his involvement in this meeting was a matter of inclusion, not exclusion.

Retirements

Les notes that this will be Steve Weiss' last meeting and thanks him for his service to MCA since its inception. Les also thanks Jeff Zalasky who is retiring from the 2nd vice-presidency Les makes it clear that he anticipates Jeff's continuing service in some capacity.

President Nizin thanks all for “attending” this meeting, wishes those travelling a safe journey. **Next meeting will be a “special” one on July 6 at 9AM.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Prosten
Secretary

Subsequent Actions

On May 24, President Nizin polled the board about a request that the coordinators of a planned series of virtual travelogues be authorized to invite the WCA to participate with the MCA . The vote was a unanimous yes.