

Minutes -- MCA December 7, 2020 Board Meeting

In Attendance:

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

Meeting called to order @ 8:35 AM by President Les Nizin. Meeting conducted electronically via ZOOM.

President's report:

- President Nizin notes with dismay, that **a few board members have lobbied for shorter meetings/early termination of meetings** because of scheduling conflicts. He reminds Board that for many years the Board has met on the first Monday of each month, at 8:45 or 9:00 AM. So, in the absence of an emergency, members are expected to be present for the entire meeting. He is uncomfortable with the idea of curtailing a meeting to accommodate a member's social schedule -- he wants everything to be discussed thoroughly and all to have the opportunity to be fully heard. Going forward, it would be appreciated if board members kept their **schedules free until 11:00 AM on the days when Board Meetings are scheduled.**
- **Jeff Zalasky has resigned** from the Board, despite appeals from Les to remain.

Report of Treasurer Feldman:

President sent out a revised version of the budget yesterday, which Feldman notes was prepared in response to prior request from Board. Sobol questions the revised budget -- wants a revision that reflects only events, revenues and expenditures that are actually likely to occur, given the restrictions placed on us by COVID. We'll likely have a big surplus at end of year -- we should use as much as possible to pay off our commitment to JFGN. To facilitate the update, Israelite will provide an updated estimate of licensing fees, credit card costs and related matters. Film costs should remain at \$3,000 (not \$300 -- which is a typo). Feldman will redo for next meeting.

Nizin moves, Kargher seconds, acceptance of report.

Report of Doc Film & Luncheon Committee Chair Brazina

- **December 17 luncheon/JBF event should go well**, but Steve is having a hard time getting definitive answers about who will do what (and when) in terms of leading discussions and asking

questions. They keep telling him that they'll "let him know". Les's understanding is that Steve will be doing this. Larry has a special source -- will get back to Steve with info.

- This event will start at 1 PM, not our traditional 11:30 AM. Also, both MCA and Book Festival are accepting reservations, so there may be some confusion, as those that register through MCA will be receiving links to both the JBF/MCA luncheon event and the MCA's Q&A "afterparty".
- Films are getting good response, but we have a problem with reservation cutoff. Registration cutoff is currently at "start of event", but event may be days in length and some, who decide to attend in advance of the time they want to participate, may find that registration has closed because the multi-day event has commenced. Larry Israelite notes that Wild Apricot technology cannot handle the Zoom situation. He believes we need to force some discipline because people deciding to attend close to the actual event necessitate an aggravating flurry of activity. That individuals that think to call him can be registered by hand. He believes we should set firm cutoffs and train users to respect them. Les does not want to punish people who are late deciders. Asks that Steve, Larry & Richard work out a solution and present at next board meeting.

Report of Membership Chair Israelite

- **Current membership is 557 including 33 new**
- **Membership down 20%** overall -- big shortfall is in new members
- **28 events in November** 543 Registrants -- mostly members -- 283 active, 7 lapsed, 253 non - members (mostly WCA)
- **Over 70% of current members have participated in at least 1 event**
- As many WCA members as MCA members attend our events -- due to Doc Films and Travelogue
- Eblast goes to 979 people -- 55% open--162 click on a link
- Next 50 programs gets most clicks

President's report (continued):

- **JFGN will follow CDC guidelines on Covid-19.** No in person activities until infection rate is 5% or less for 2 consecutive weeks.
- **One MCA member is known to have virus** -- other members were with him when he was likely contagious. No reports of additional infections.
- Les notes that **meeting frequency and election timing bylaw changes** offered by himself, Morris Binder and Michael Sobol, having been properly introduced at the November MCA meeting, it was now in order to consider them.

- Proposal would **amend Article 5** so that there would be a Board meeting in each month of the year, instead of current requirement of November-April.
- Proposal would amend **Article 12** to change date President appoints nominating committee from Dec 1 to Feb 1. Additionally, the Nominating Committee would be required to deliver its report to Board and membership in March, not January as required by present bylaws. Furthermore, officers would be elected in May, not March and sworn in June.

After discussion, following actions taken:

- Proposed change to monthly meeting is approved: 9 in favor, 1 abstention
- Change to Article 12: Move Nominating Committee appointment to February 1. Passes: 10 in favor, 2 abstention.
- Change date Nominating Committee presents nominees to March -- passes without dissent. Change date of election to April -- passes without dissent.
- Change date of swearing in to April as well.
- Changes effective immediately

Discussion of process for handling proffered bylaw changes. Les says change(s) must be submitted to meeting by 3 members and can be voted on at the next meeting. Consideration of multiple articles at same time could be difficult.

Les says the **nominating committee**, which he has appointed as of December 1, will now be changed to February to reflect bylaw changes just adopted.

Board will have to act to **fill the remainder of Jeff Zalasky's term**. Bylaws require taking that action within 30 days. Term would last until June 30, 2022.

Report of Mike Sobol

- The **Sarge event** has been cancelled. Disappointed that only 3 Board members and very few regular members signed up
- Trivia Day
- Canasta Tournament
- Contract with *Fed Star* for next year
- Our members can sign up with 1 Day University for \$2 per month
- Planning conversation with folk singer Jonathan Edwards who had a popular song in 1971

President's report continued

- President Nizin notes that in past many **luncheon speakers** have been given a \$50 gift card...but that hasn't happened lately. Steve Brazina reports our contact person to last month's speaker has suggested an **honorarium** to the organization he represents (Mark Hetfield of HIAS). However,

this would violate MCA bylaw prohibiting contributions. Steve Brazina moves, multiple seconds, that we send Hetfield a check for \$100. Unanimous support.

- Nizin announces that per the bylaws, the **nominating committee** is Feldman & Prosten from the Executive Board, Wayne Kargher from the Board and from the membership: Sam Roth and Dr. Robert Maisel.
- **New members event** will be at 4PM this Wednesday. Ira Kushnir explains that 8 new members have signed up. Ira and Max Weisberg have reached out to all new members, and his takeaway is that the new members feel very comfortable already. They follow the e-blast and do not feel any need for orientation. Max concurs with Ira's impressions. One Of those contacted said he does not like to participate in Zoom meetings. Les says they'll be invited to next year's new member breakfast for the lox and bagel they're missing out on this year.
- Les has been asked by Jeff Feld to chair **Federation Cup golf tournament**, sponsored by JFGN. scheduled for October 19, 2021 to be held in Marco at Lely Championship Golf Course. Federation believes tournament will attract many MCA members.

Report of Badge Chair Sherman --

Nothing to report at this time.

Report of Lecture Series Chair Simon --

Nothing to report at this time.

Report of Publicity Chair Margolis --

Deadline for February issue of *Federation Star* is the end of December.

Report of Volunteer Coordinator Ira Kushnir

Nothing new

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 AM

Next Meeting January 4 @ 8:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Prosten

Secretary

