

In Attendance:

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

Meeting called to order @ 8:30AM 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 February 1, 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.
- **Budget.** Nizin moves adoption. Second Kargher. Israelite notes that in the future Federation will underwrite Zoom fees, so item should be removed from budget.
 - Israelite suggests changing designation of \$1,000 for “new member” activity to “member engagement” as re-enrolled “lapsed” members are considered new members.
 - Sobol wonders about creating a specific line item reflecting **commitment to new Federation building**. After discussion, President Nizin suggests addition of a “Federation room naming” item of \$15,000.
 - Israelite feels allocation of **luncheon costs/extent of subsidization** should be decided in advance of budget approval -- believes all events should be break-even. After substantial discussion, consensus is to leave question subject to further information on Covid restrictions and vendor costs. (At very end of meeting, Meir Kehila reports **Audubon will be charging \$33** next season.
 - President Nizin asks for vote on concept of **no subsidies. Idea rejected 6-7.** Motion to approve proposed budget is approved by unanimous show of hands.

President's report (resumed)

President Nizin reports that he received and rejected a **request from Federation** to have Schiff, Feld have and Saperstein address this (MCA March board) meeting about the benefits of the new building for our members. Les declined. He believes they want to convince us to further fund an anticipated **\$100,000 shortfall for maintenance** once building opens. Not clear exactly how much is expected from us. Not an immediate issue but will be on table.

Report of Membership Chair

- Larry Israelite reviews his previously distributed monthly report. Bottomline: **Final membership number for this year is 582.** A loss of 24% year to year. Nizin notes that WCA membership dropped from 1600 to 1300.
- 142 events so far this year with 7000 participants. **70% of registrants are members.**
- Per request by Steve Brazina, Israelite will **determine how many non-renewers are Canadian.** (Curiously, some have signed on from as far away as South Korea.)
- Larry notes that upon joining, members can check interest areas, such as “Men’s discussion group”, and explains how this enables **group leaders to send notes to their groups** as they

wish. Nizin suggests Larry advise all group leaders of this capability. Prosten suggests that there should be a way for those who express interest in, or participate in such activities in the course of the membership year to be added to these lists. Larry indicates he will not do that. But if group leaders want lists for their own use he will supply.

- Sobol would like to **poll attendees at next luncheon** about post-inoculation Covid comfort levels. Michael feels we should have our own rules about attendance -- not tied to Federation or CDC. Nizin notes that Federation is still working on this and we have to operate within their guidelines. Israelite indicates that polling can be done, but individuals that have been signing in as "Zoom 1 and Zoom 2" would have to cease that practice. Les would like to see questions in advance -- Israelite says he does not want to entertain discussion or edits of questions, but encourages Board members to submit their ideas.

Report of Program Chair

- Michael Sobol announces tentative contract with **Comedy Club** for December 1 candle lighting show. Looking for comedian.
- Sobol has established "under his control" a **centralized repository for speakers** so we can best use speakers -- luncheon, speaker series, medical series, science group and "zoom track we plan on running next season" would be covered. Group leaders would be free to choose their own speakers.
- Proposal to start a **Great Decisions** group within MCA may need clarification. Formal discussion group using materials prepared by Foreign Policy Association. \$35 per person for materials. Unlike most other Great Decisions groups, ours would not require affiliation with Naples Council on World Affairs. Steve Brazina seeks stipulation that there be no connection between, or mention of, our group and Naples Council. Nizin reminds that the measure has already passed 11-3. Assures there will be no connection. Nobody wishes to change vote.
- Sobol believes **Federation Star ad** this month is "great ad" --- was produced by Larry, Ira and Max.

Report of Member Participation Committee

- Ira Kushnir and Max Weisberg discussed their previously distributed **strategic membership plan**. They highlighted goals and strategy for recruiting 219 "lapsed members" as well as attracting new members, and plans to retain existing members. Past measure of success was number of members -- committee is adding a goal of greater involvement in programs. Ira & Max plan to bring all significant questions to Board.

Report of Doc Film & Luncheon Committee

- **April film** will be a relatively new one -- "Til Kingdom Come" -- about evangelical support for Israel. Since the filmmaker resides in Israel (time problem) and wants \$1,000 to participate, we will forgo live Zoom with her. However, there is already a recorded zoom with the film's 2 principals that will be offered to registrants to view at their convenience. Discussion of potential for live Zooms with offsite panelists after we are able to resume in-person screenings.
- **Next lunch speaker is Jeff Rice**, NFL referee who has been with us before.. 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.

Report of Publicity Chair

Jeff Margolis notes that material for **May Federation Star** is due immediately. Brazina will expedite descriptive material about Til Kingdom Come to Jeff. Jeff notes that getting information about Summer programs into future Federation Star issues will require group chairs to feed it to him.

- **President's report (resumed)**
By-laws have been discussed by committee of 5, **Major changes**.

Board would shrink by attrition from 14 to 13.

5 elected officers would elect a vice-president.

Some changes in timing and elections -- which would not necessarily be held at a luncheon.

Outgoing President can stay on board.

Separate appendix designates duties of elected officers.

Guest policy not included as a by-law.

Because proposal would eliminate Executive Board, nominating committee would include 3 board members.

Standing committees eliminated.

Very specific term limits being instituted.

- Jim Simon questions whether elimination of Executive Board means **all decisions would be made by full Board**. Larry Israelite says that is the intent.
- Ira Kushnir wonders about **staggered elections**. Nizin says no staggering of elections. Next/all elections will be in April, 2022.
- Prosten sees variety of problems with draft, but primarily concerned by “immediate” effectiveness of proposed by-laws -- akin to a mid-term coup -- as their **implementation would violate existing by-laws**. However, if phased in to become effective when current terms expire on June 30, 2022, (although radically changing structure) would effectively replace current by-laws and structure, and therefore not violate current by-laws.
 - Five incumbent officers have terms that expire on June 30, 2022. Proposal would depose the two duly elected by membership vice-presidents.
 - Wants to see a listing of which provisions would become effective on which dates.
 - Proposal would allow a subset of newly configured board (the proposal having also eliminated the Executive Board) to “elect” a single new “vice-president”.
 - Proposal would allow immediate past president to become a member of board (at his discretion). In instant case this would require Brazina to give up his current seat and he would be forced off board upon expiration of Nizin’s term.
 - “Appendix” was not part of charge to By-laws committee. If it is appropriate, than all MCA policies should be incorporated into it and the document considered separately.
- President Nizin indicates that there is validity to the concerns raised and says committee will have to reconvene and reconsider.
- Jim Simon asks if this means material would not be subject to vote until June meeting. Nizin says reconfigured material would be presented to next (April) meeting and could be voted on at May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM
Next Meeting April 5 @ 8:30 AM

Richard Prosten
Secretary

