

Minutes -- MCA September 8, 2020 Board Meeting & Subsequent Polling

In Attendance:

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

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

President's report:

Minutes of July 6, 2020 meeting presented. Approved as corrected (deleted S. Weiss as attendee and \$ amount potentially involved as "Sarge" performance fee). Moved Israelite, Second Zalasky. Voice vote in favor is unanimous.

Report of Treasurer Feldman:

- Some had trouble reading report as distributed. Future reports will be sent in formats readable by all. Larry Israelite suggests that the problem is Les is opening file in a "numbers" program and sending it out in that form.
- No significant change from last report. Income for 2019-2020 year was \$118,853 and expenditures were \$91,217. So previously predicted **surplus of \$30,000 (+/-)** proved accurate.
- Brazina wants to know if reported numbers include payments already made towards films for coming season -- particularly curious about \$ paid directly to Fiddler distributor by direct transfer. Ed will get back to him on that.
- Sobol asks that all reports and budgets reflect "net". Ed says it is already on the budget report, but he will add to the monthly report as well.

Morris Binder moves, Ira Kushnir seconds approval of report. Voice vote in favor is unanimous.

President's report, continued:

- Our Board policy has been that **all in-person activities are suspended** due to Corona virus. MCA members, of course, are free to get together for whatever activities they may choose, but those activities cannot be sanctioned by MCA. Exec Board reconfirmed that policy a few days ago. Furthermore, JFGN's policy is that its offices are closed and no in-person activities of any sort between now and end of year will be scheduled.
- General agreement that **all MCA notices should emphasize our policy** of not sanctioning any in-person events.
- **New waiver** (updated to reflect Covid concerns) has been approved, and will be distributed electronically by Larry Israelite. (see below).

- Les notes that Ted Epstein is no longer the editor of the **Federation Star**. Current issue does not follow through on JFGN promise of coverage. Sobol piece on dance bumped to back of paper. Sharon Hood is the new editor.
- Jim Simon notes that our online calendar currently lists events that would violate this policy. Larry Israelite says he will correct/delete those entries.
- President Nizin reports JFGN's expectation that new building will open in Feb or March of 2022. **Maintenance of the building will run \$600,000 per year**. While \$200,000 of that will be paid by the interest off an existing annuity -- leaving \$400,000 which the **Federation maintains should be the responsibility of MCA & WCA**. Not clear how many members in those organizations going forward, given Covid-related membership losses. **JFGN's initial suggested number is \$180 per member** as our dues level going forward. Both MCA and WCA find this untenable. JFGN subsequently suggested **\$180 per year dues for every JFGN member** and that membership in MCA and WCA would be included in those dues. Les indicates that is equally untenable, and that JFGN view of the extent to which we use building is inflated. MCA uses little in the way of space and WCA is concerned that its "Northern" contingent will not want to continue if forced to use new building for events.
- Les notes that **these costs will not be incurred until Spring of 2022** at the earliest, so there is no need for us to raise dues before then.
- Meir Kehila wonders about our commitment to paying off **\$75,000 to JFGN for "naming rights"**. Les has been assured that "the money will be there" for us to honor the commitment.
- We will continue to work with Federation to find a way to meet anticipated needs. Our officers suggested to JFGN that it reach out to educate members -- no fund-raising -- and explain plans for building and its use. Les anguished that Federation tried to turn this idea into an MCA sponsored Oct 5 fundraiser. After his dismay was made known, the event was turned into a Federation-wide event to which all members, including ours will be invited. We will not be sponsoring and have advised JFGN we will not carry their blurbs advertising this event.
- Discussion of new format for "**Sarge**" **presentation**. From his studio -- for us exclusively -- @ cost of \$30 per view. We will do intro and candle lighting. Sarge will do all accounting. He will not see our members during presentation -- canned laughter will be provided by him. Larry Israelite is concerned presentation will be on Facebook Live.

Report of 1st VP Zalasky

- Working on "operations"
- Identifying areas of immediate need for backup personell
- Building a pipeline of individuals for various jobs that are now being performed
- Working on bylaws -- put forth a template which will shortly be completed and presented to Board

Report of Mike Sobol

- Sarge and Federation Star have already been discussed.
- **Programming Committee** meeting soon --- doing a great job.
- Training individuals to host Zoom meetings (meeting next Friday). Larry makes a distinction that this **training is only to open meeting and pass off to speaker.**
- Larry is working on breakout rooms for **virtual luncheons** (Zoom events). Guests will be randomly assigned to groups.

Report of Membership Chair Israelite

- **Current membership is 512 including 21 new**
Last year at this time 565 including 59 new
So we are running about 10% less overall --
 - Recent note sent to 320 “lapsed members” (non-renewers) -- pointing out ineligibility for member events. 63 renewals and 1 new member since that mailing
 - 18 events since July 1. 633 Registrants
 - 45 Zoom events going forward
 - **Working on getting new Covid rated waiver signed.** Can't just send waiver. Need to 1) e-mail to members for typed signature (which will constitute a legal signature for our purposes) and have them mail it back. We need to create two spreadsheets -- the first of which will list the member's name, email address and whether their response was “yes” or “no” -- a report from that spreadsheet will have to be generated to provide information that will be then be entered onto another spreadsheet so that Larry can update the Wild Apricot member info (Meir Kehila volunteers); and 2) determine at what point do non-signers get locked out of Meetings? (Les notes that all of our activities are now virtual, so its not really a current issue) -- deferred to Oct 5, 2020 Board @ suggestion of Mike Sobol.
 - Ira Kushnir discusses his recent interactions with new members -- getting very positive responses.
 - Wild Apricot has a phone app -- Larry wants to send a direct (not from Wild Apricot) note to members describing use and availability.

Report of Luncheon Committee Chair Brazina

- Breakout rooms for luncheons -- Steve wonders if we can have them both before and after the speech. Agreement that this would take too much time -- will stick with before only.

- Sobol -- we have to form a committee to make “luncheons” different from other zoom events. What else can we do? Committee, chaired by Les, is created. Les asks for volunteers. Many volunteer. He will be in touch with them to schedule.
- Should we pay honorariums to luncheon speakers? Steve feels a note suffices. Morris moves to offer gift card to luncheon speakers. Seconded by (?). Motion fails
- Last speaker of year (April) does not wish to do Zoom. Consideration of a replacement speaker postponed to Dec. Meeting.
- December luncheon speaker (Lew Paper) is an MCA member. Program will be intertwined with Book Fair. We will be the sponsor and there will be no charge for this particular session. There will be a special Q&A for our members. Prosten suggests a pre-populated separate Zoom breakout room.
- Larry Israelite sees no difference between our various zoom events -- wonders if we should lump them together as a class instead of current categories.
- November 10 Documentary Film (about making of Fiddler on the Roof) will be limited to 250 views ... should not be a problem, but we can buy additional admissions if needed.

Report of Jim Simon on speaker series

This year we are concentrating on members. Current schedule:

1 is WCA member

5 are MCA members

(+ 2 Israeli updates -- shared with WCA)

Report of Publicity Chair Margolis

Deadline for November issue of *Federation Star* is end of October

Report of Volunteer Coordinator Ira Kushnir

Don Belmont wants to work with Ira

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Prosten

Secretary

Subsequent Actions

On July 21, President Nizin polled the board, asking “Does the MCA want to sponsor a second program as we did last year?” The vote was 3 opposed and 2 in favor.