



NANOG Members Meeting
July 20, 2020/ NANOG 79
Zoom Meeting
1:00 PM EDT

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July 20, 2020/Virtual Meeting
1:00 p.m. EDT

L Sean Kennedy, Chair	Edward McNair, Executive Director
Tina Morris, Vice Chair	De' Harvey, NANOG Staff
Susan Forney, Secretary	Valerie Wittkop, NANOG Staff
Benson Schliesser, PC Liaison	Claudia Bristol, NANOG Staff
David Siegel, Treasurer	
Patrick Gilmore, Board Member	
Vincent Celindro, PC Chair	

Start Time: 1:05 pm EDT

- **Welcome (L. Sean Kennedy)**

- The members were welcomed, and an overview of the agenda was presented.
- The membership count is currently 583. The system has been updated, and reminders who are due for renewal will get monthly reminders.
- The NANOG Board met weekly to accomplish the NANOG 79 virtual meeting. Minutes of those meetings are posted on the website.
- Negotiations are continuing with the hotel, but NANOG 80 will be a full virtual meeting in October.

- **Committee Appointments**

Newly appointed members were listed for the Elections and Scholarship committees.

- The Elections Committee appointments were Dan Chioreanu, Tom Kacprzyński, Edward McNair, Kendra Pignotti, Alankar Sharma, Michael Starr, and Steve Ulrich. This committee has been responsible for the current interim election on the By-laws amendments and will be responsible for the Board election in October.
- The Scholarship Committee appointments were Frank Basso, Bryan Brooks, Alicca Hudson, Ron Kovac, Edward McNair, and Benson Schliesser. The committee is performing a final review of the scholarship applicants. The winners will be announced when the review is complete.
- Sean expressed gratitude to all volunteers who serve on committees. Announcements are made when committees are forming, and any member



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wishing to serve will need to complete a brief questionnaire. The Board appoints the Program Committee immediately following the February NANOG meeting.

- **Financial Update (David Siegel)**

The Treasurer's financial update included:

- This year's profit and loss through June 30, with the related pie charts showing the breakdown of revenues and expenses. Both revenues and expenses are down as we only had one in-person meeting in February, which is the driver of sponsorships, registrations, and expenses. The income and expenses from the virtual meeting in June are included, and although the registration was free, we had some sponsors and did fairly well. Profits from meetings cover the overhead costs of programs and salaries, so we will work to improve that in the October meeting. The market has done well, increasing dividends on our investments. Overall, NANOG has a \$177,000 loss for the year, which isn't too bad considering the year.
- The balance sheet looks at the assets and health of the organization, and it is fairly healthy. We have had to use some of the savings, but most of the assets are in the Fidelity account which has not been touched, and we are not anticipating having to touch it this year.
- In the projected cash flow, estimates were made for the October meeting. If everything goes as planned, cash flow will be acceptable considering the challenges we face with running a normal meeting.
- The NANOG 80 sponsorship funnel indicates there are several leads on those wanting to sponsor a virtual conference. It is much lower than what it would be for a normal meeting, but would produce a solid profit on a virtual meeting for the fall.

- **Meetings Update (Edward McNair)**

- NANOG 79 - For NANOG's first virtual meeting, there were 2,119 registrations, 1,535 attendees, with an average viewing time of 27 minutes. The average session was 30 minutes. The top five attendance sessions ranging from 741 to 660 attendees were Networks' responses to Covid-19, Dynamic Flooding in Supernodes, Demystifying Open Source Network Operating Systems, Characterizing Transnational Internet Performance the Great Bottleneck of China, and Whiteboarding 101.



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- NANOG 80 - A survey was conducted to determine expected attendance. If the meeting is held both face to face and virtual, 17% would attend in person versus 46% remotely. Those living within driving distance of Seattle were 13%. The companies of 32% of respondents would not allow travel in October, while 48% were not sure. 51% of respondents would not feel comfortable enough to travel until there is a widely available vaccine. CDC protocols in place would not impact the decision to travel for 61.5% of respondents.
- **Interim and October Elections (Edward McNair & Tina Morris)**
 - SimplyVoting is a new software solution for 2020 utilizing a SSO for better security. It only allows for one submission and there is no option to change your vote.
 - The Special Bylaws Election is taking place now with voting closing at 3 pm EDT on Wednesday, July 22. Results will be sent to members and posted on the website July 23.
 - Board of Director Candidate Nominations and Statement of Support will be hosted on the NANOG website.
 - Candidate election timeline for 2020:
 - August 17 will be the Call for Candidates. The nomination form will be hosted on the NANOG website, but you must be logged in to access. You can nominate yourself or another NANOG member to run for the Board of Directors.
 - September 14 will be the opening for Statements of Support. The form to complete will be available on the NANOG website if logged in.
 - October 19-21 will be the voting time with SSO access to the ballot from your NANOG Member Profile page.
- Tina Morris explained that the Bylaw change is a minor one to allow for a more smooth transition by adjusting the Board term dates to start and end with the calendar year instead of election date. This will provide a period of time for incoming Board members to synch with outgoing Board members before having to vote on issues. The details are on the election page in bold letters for easy identification. This also gives us a chance to test the new voting software. Hopefully, there will be no more bylaw changes for a while.
- **Member Q & A and Closing (L Sean Kennedy)**
 - Question: Will the chat log be published?



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- Answer: The staff is checking into this and will publish if possible.

- Question: Was NANOG able to take advantage of the government stimulus program?
- Answer: No, we have not. The staff looked into it and felt we might have difficulty meeting the burden of proof of being in distress. The deadline for an application has been extended so the staff will look into it further.

- Question: If state or local governments allow meetings at the last minute, is there a contingency for that?
- Answer: We are watching the opening of Washington state and there is no county that has gone beyond phase 3. California has had a huge increase in cases. We are working with the hotel to see if they can accommodate a change. We will likely be doing a virtual meeting, but we are going through all motions required by our legal counsel to ensure we don't incur a major outlay of cash due to cancellation fees. It wouldn't be prudent to have a full meeting, and an announcement will be made when an agreement is reached with the hotel. We would love to see you in person, but we want to get the community together regardless and engage you with exciting content whether in person or virtual.

- Question: Will there be a fee for NANOG 80?
- Answer: The Board has discussed virtual meeting fees, and there will be a fee to attend. However, there will be a fellowship program established for those who are unable to afford the fee. We want to increase attendance, but we do need to cover some costs.

- Question: If maintenance costs are much less for a virtual, would it be better to go all virtual?
- Answer: We have hotels booked out to 2023 and have liabilities on the books for that. Going all virtual would take time and input.

- Question: How many respondents were there to the NANOG 80 survey?
- Answer: 161.

- Question: Were there substantial cancellation costs for NANOG 79?
- Answer: No, there was ultimately an agreement reached with the hotel and avoided financial liability to the organization. Some investments were necessary



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for meeting preparations, but with sponsorships, we were able to maintain a small profit related to direct costs.

- Question: Did you survey members on how much they can pay for virtual meetings:
- Answer: Yes and the results were:
 - 27% - \$250
 - 47% - \$100
 - 5% - \$500
 - 2% - \$750
 - 18% - \$0

- Question: Can we make private donations? Some companies match private donations, so some of us could help make up some of the deficit. What is the process?
- Answer: There is a link on the website with the process for making donations. Thank you for your support!

- Question: Could we have a certain number of virtual attendees per paid ticket?
- Answer: We make it a priority for students to attend, and for junior operators, those new to the industry, we will have a fellowship process if someone wants reduced or free attendance. It was thought that it was the easiest way to do it rather than other formulas, and the fellowships will not be limited. This was based on a Board vote at the most recent meeting.

- Question: It was not a question of an individual having funding, but based on paid attendees. Do we have a criteria limit?
- Answer: It was simpler for us to have a financial estimate of what we can afford. We will accept anyone that needs a fellowship.

- Question: There were a few other questions regarding what we charge for the meetings.
- Answer: Edward responded that we have reports looking at finances for past several meetings. The research looks at many factors to see the actual costs of meetings, but the overhead costs of operating the organization. The annual overhead costs for NANOG to function is about \$1.4 million. We are looking at a



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combination of sponsorships and meeting attendees to determine what it takes to remain solvent. The virtual meetings are throwing us into a whole new realm. NANOG79 was put together in a compressed period of time, and maybe NANOG 80 will give us a better idea. We'll have those numbers available to the community shortly. David Siegel noted that we expect to return to normal in-person and virtual meetings in the future and do not expect to have to sustain the virtual-only model.

- Question: Can there be a jobs section on the website?
- Answer: This has been discussed, but there are no plans at this time. We are working on some website enhancements like an interactive forum for members. The staff is looking at options and seeking input from the NANOG geeks community.

- Question: Is there a method to match up members who have the means to subsidize and foster those who don't?
- Answer: Edward responded that we always appreciate support. We can find a matchmaking service or ask members if they can sponsor students or someone recently laid off. The virtual platform provides a great opportunity to expand the community beyond our face to face meeting. Edward will confer with staff. Thank you for offering!

- Question: Sean noted that there had been no questions concerning the interim bylaws election or the October election. He requested a raise of hands from those who had already voted.
- Answer: Many raised their hands.

- Comment: Matt Petach wanted to thank the NANOG Board and staff for their hard work in pulling NANOG 79 together on such short notice during these challenging times. It was done exceptionally well in comparison to other organizations. Two thumbs up!
- Response: Edward and Sean pointed out that the program committee also deserves a great deal of the credit. They were key players in making it happen!

- Question: As a follow along to the matchmaking idea, and until we have a formal mentorship program in place, can we informally provide a way for people to match up in the community?



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- Answer: Edward and staff are researching adding an online forum for members and participants to interact. Edward notes that he had hoped to have had something sooner, but COVID-19 shifted the priority.
- Question: Will there be a scheduler for virtual meetings?
- Answer: We will be using Cvent for NANOG 80 registration, which was not available for NANOG 79, so you will be able to use the existing meeting scheduler. Edward noted that he had hoped to have something sooner, but COVID-19 caused a shift in focus. The plan is to report to the NANOG Board in the next couple of weeks. It is important and it will be addressed.
- Closing Comments:
 - The NANOG Board has six members, and two seats are up for election each year. If you are interested in running for the NANOG Board, reach out to any Board member, staff, or program committee member.
 - 84 attendees remained for Q&A, but online attendance peaked at 116. We have roughly 583 members, and we appreciate your questions and participation in this meeting. Feel free to send feedback. Notes will be posted.

Thank you everyone!

Adjourned: 1:52 pm EDT