

Webmaster's report for period ending January 25, 2023

SUMMARY

- Online payment for HRSC events is working.
- Website migration to Linux is complete.
- Mail system migration from SmarterMail is complete.
- routine website maintenance and eBridge distribution tasks performed; no significant issues.

DETAILS

(1) Online Event Payments.

The online event payment form is working and descriptive information has been added to the website home page. As agreed by the board, the form refers the member to the detailed event description for cost per Attendee, and number of guests allowed.

(2) Website Migration to Linux

This has finally been completed, but took excessive elapsed time because of Newtek delays.

We have now been running on it for three weeks, (including online payments, which are no longer on Tom Sparks's server), and no one has reported any problems.

(3) Mail System Migration

All email functions have been migrated from SmarterMail, but this took excessive elapsed time because of Newtek delays.

Tasks completed were:

- hrcaz .org aliases for hotline, bridge_editor, treasurer, and membership_secretary, were converted to cPanel forwarders. (cPanel is a Linux collection of apps and tools.)
- The board mailing list has been converted from SmarterMail to MailMan, a cPanel app. On its first test, two Yahoo addresses failed to receive the message, which we think is because Yahoo's spam filter blocked the message. Mary Barkl's Jan 18 message about the upcoming board meeting used the new board mailing list, and everyone reported receiving it except for Barbara Rippstein whom I have not heard from. (She has a Yahoo address, but the other Yahoo address on the list received it.)
- eBridge distribution is now done from our emadmin@hrcaz.org account integrated into Apple mail, instead of from SmarterMail. This has four advantages: 1. Apple mail has distribution features lacking in SmarterMail, 2. I am familiar with Apple mail,

- 3. I can distribute the eBridge from any of my Apple devices, and 4. I don't have to log in to it for eBridge distribution, or to respond to hotline requests with emadmin as the return address.

(4) Website Maintenance and Updates

Updated the Home page, including instructions and FAQs for online event payments, did check for bad links, and posted reports and other documents on the Archives page.

(5) Online Bridge

Posted the January online Bridge. There was a small area of corrupted text due to a Microsoft bug, but Tom Sparks caught it and I fixed it quickly.

The online Bridge was introduced when the only other version was the paper bridge—since then, the PDF eBridge has been introduced, so there is less need for an online Bridge. I suspect the main users are Honeywell retirees who are not HRSC members.

What could be useful to members is an event schedule that is updated when new information becomes available.

I am considering dropping the online bridge, but maintaining the summary event schedule from it.

For the first few months after the online Bridge was dropped, the current left-side online Bridge button would lead to a page explaining that the online Bridge has been replaced by the PDF eBridge, and giving a link to the membership application form so non members can subscribe to it. The Event Schedule button would lead to the summary event schedule, which would be updated when I received new information.

What does the board think?

(6) eBridge Distribution

The January eBridge was distributed using the new mail system mechanism. There was a slight mailing list glitch that Kay Nye alerted me to which I corrected. I have added a step to my new eBridge mailing list process to prevent this from happening in future.

Kevin