

Minutes
AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Sunday, December 13, 2009 – 8:00 PM EST

Meeting called to order by: Roy Schmidt at 8:14 PM EST
Type of meeting: Regular Monthly Conference Call

Attendees:

Jie Li (At Large)
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)
Roy Schmidt (Central Region) Chairman
Laura Kolb (Central Region)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Andrew Okun (Western Region)
Allan Abramson (President)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent:
None

1. Approval of minutes

Gordon Castanza made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 25, 2009 Board meeting. Andrew Okun seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Call for additional agenda items and new business

Allan Abramson asked if all were aware of the Go set President Obama presented as a gift to Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, when he visited China last month. Roy Schmidt suggested Abramson send a letter thanking President Obama for bringing attention to the game of go. Abramson said he will write a

letter to the President and he also will forward copies of the news articles about the gift to the Board.

There were no additional agenda items.

3. President's report

a. Information item: 2010 Congress

There have been difficulties negotiating with the school Karen Jordan originally presented as the site for the 2010 Congress. However, she found a small college in Colorado Springs that appears to be a good fit and she hopes to come to an agreement with them by the end of 2009. If she is successful in negotiating a contract with this new school, the date of the Congress will likely change to start at the end of July and continue into the first week of August, which is the traditional week to hold the Congress. Jie Li noted that the AGA web site should be updated with the latest information so people don't buy plane tickets for the wrong time. Abramson said there isn't much detail up there yet and the plans aren't solid, but he'll make sure there isn't any misinformation on our web site and say the plans are developing for the Congress.

b. Discussion item: Intellectual Property Clause

Postponed until the end of the meeting.

c. Discussion item: Youth-time Membership

All of the chapter representatives who weighed in on the youth-time membership idea liked the concept, so we will go forward with the plan to offer this category of membership.

4. Old Business

a. Volunteer Recognition Program

Abramson said he would like to have several categories of volunteers to recognize each year and the Board should not be the ones to identify the nominees, because we may not be aware of the contributions of members doing important work at a local level. After nominations are made, someone—the president, the Board, or a committee will choose the winners based on the nominations. He chose categories in line with the priorities of the AGA. Each category may or may not have a nominee or a winner each year, but the existence of the categories may give volunteers some ideas.

Okun said he thinks there are two things going on here, and the one shouldn't get lost in the other. Recognition and thanks are not the same thing, and we don't do either very well. Aside from recognizing volunteers, we need to thank all volunteers regularly without going through a process of elimination. Robbins said someone should keep a list of volunteer activities on a monthly basis so we don't forget at the end of the year things that have been done. Celmer said that is a good idea, and that should be the responsibility of the volunteer coordinator—a position that remains vacant. Celmer doesn't want to spend so much time on a process to thank volunteers that it becomes another big job for another volunteer. Abramson said it shouldn't be complicated. There would be a call for nominations once a year with awards given in each category once per year at the Congress. Okun said he wants there to be personal thanks verbally (or written) to each volunteer privately rather than publicly. Abramson said we could send letters systematically. He suggested developing a standard letter with signatures of the Board members, the President, and the Vice President of the organization and add details of the task and send it when a volunteer does something for the AGA. Schmidt said if everyone is in favor of sending a thank you letter, we can agree to do it without working out all of the details on the conference call. Abramson said each person who thanks a volunteer could simply cc the Board and the President with each letter. Okun said that he would be satisfied with this way of thanking volunteers in addition to recognizing a few volunteers in the categories Abramson suggested.

Abramson said he is looking into pins or other awards for the winners in each of the following proposed categories with the criteria for selection:

- The chapters bringing in the greatest number/percentage of new members
- The individuals, outside of chapter affiliations, doing the same.
- The chapters with the greatest number/percentage of renewing members.
- The individuals teaching the greatest number of school classes, and/or the greatest number of students.
- The chapters/individuals bringing in the greatest number of new female players.
- The individuals with the best new ideas for advertising Go.
- Individuals with best media publicity for Go
- The individuals finding the greatest dollar of sponsorship funds for the AGA.
- The individuals contributing most to AGA operations.
- The individuals contributing most to their chapters.
- The single individual/group recognized by their peers as “Volunteer of the Year.”
- Best outreach to minority communities
- Best outreach to the Asian communities
- Best outreach to youth

Recognition could include:

- Listing on the AGA web site
- Recognition at the Congress
- Volunteer recognition pins or trophies/plaques

b. Intellectual Property Policy

Abramson said that, while there had been a few instances where the AGA got into disagreements, it would be better to determine terms of ownership for each project that comes along rather than try to come up with a comprehensive policy which will be controversial and time-consuming. Okun said he has plans to talk to a few copyright lawyers to get some ideas, and he will report back next month with some suggestions. He said the main issue is not getting ownership of

materials, but ensuring that the AGA continues to have the right, albeit non-exclusive, to use materials that were parts of its continuing operations. Castanza said our policy should be consistent with what we want to do with the materials. For example we should come to agreement before work is done to make sure we can use the product the way we need to, which is more important than owning the intellectual property outright. For example, we are allowed to freely use “The Way to Go” pamphlet without owning it.

Abramson said the item coming up that will require some form of agreement is the plan to certify pairing programs to be used by the AGA. In asking for proposals, Abramson said he would include language specifying that the AGA will be able to use the program going forward. Gordon asked if we can just pay for a license to use the software. Robbins said that isn't good enough, because we may want to change the program over time. Okun said paying for an item erases a lot of uncertainty. Schmidt said we may want to request the actual source code. Okun asked what payment we would offer. Abramson said we offer lifetime membership, which doesn't cost us too much each year but has a large tangible value. Abramson said we agree on the general direction of the plan and Okun will report on his research next month.

5. New Business

None.

6. Establish time and date of next meeting

The next monthly conference call will be January 31, 2010 at 8:00 EST.

7. Adjourn

Kolb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robbins seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM EST.

Minutes submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary