

I first learned to play Go nearly five years ago, and have been an active member of the AGA for the past four years. I have been a member of the Hopkins Go Club for the past four years, as well as president of this Go Club for the past three years. During this time, I have run our yearly tournament and assisted with other area tournaments. I have also attended go clubs in Kansas City while working over the summers, and have encouraged the creation of local clubs by Kansas City youth. Additionally, during July 2009 I taught a Go course at the Summer at Barstow day camp. As a teacher this year, I introduced my students to the game, and had a number of students return before and after school to learn more.

I am the co-director of the 2011 US Go Congress, which will be held in Southern California, and have been involved in every US Go Congress since I learned of their existence. I have run the US Women's Tournament at the US Go Congress since 2007, and also served as the Deputy Registrar and Assistant Pro Coordinator during the 2009 US Go Congress. During the 2009 US Go Congress, I also attended all open Board meetings, as well as the General Assembly.

I have traveled extensively in Europe, during which time I have made contacts with go clubs and go players in Spain and the Czech Republic. From the attendees of these clubs, I have been able to learn a great deal about the international appeal of the game; how styles can differ between regions and countries; about the universality of a game which can be understood, enjoyed, and can provide learning opportunities for speakers of different languages; and about the importance of international and cross-cultural cooperation.

I believe that the AGA Board of Directors has an important, and changing, role to play in the promotion of the game of Go through its countless, behind-the-scenes decisions that affect every AGA member. The administration and role of the AGA has changed a great deal over the past ten years; while many of these changes have affected the way that Go is played in the United States, many AGA members have not been aware of these changes, and have not had the option to truly voice their opinion on such changes. I believe that I would make an outstanding addition to this group of decision makers, in part because of my belief in openness, fairness, and honesty. I will perform my duties with creativity, youth, a strong work ethic, determination, dedication, and an appreciation for the needs of American go players.