

AGA Board Meeting Minutes
03/12/2017

Present:

Andy Okun (President) (AO)
Andrew Jackson (Western Region) (AJ)
Lisa Scott (Central Region) (LS)
Gurujeet Khalsa (Eastern Region) (GK)
Diego Pierrottet (Eastern Region) (DP)
Chris Kirschner (Western Region) (CK)
Robert Gilman (Executive VP) (RG/BG)
Martin Lebl (Central Region) (ML)
Edward Zhang (At large) (EZ)
Samantha Fede (recording secretary)

Meeting called to order 8:03pm EDT

LS: Minutes from 1/29/2017 will be re-circulated and approved by 3/17/2017.

President's report --

Discussed "new things to promote go" ideas with Andrew (J) last week. Wanted our own tutorial site to direct people to. Heard owner was willing to let us use it, makes it a site we can use w/ our own social marketing, get bounce-rates, analytics, etc.

AJ: Way2Go is problematic because it requires Java and doesn't have a mobile version. We have permission to modernize and I have a volunteer to do it. Steve has said we can host it. We can also access the analytics if it's our site.

AO: We don't have a good landing page for any marketing campaigns, social media efforts, etc. This will be useful in giving us our own thing, help us A/B test, etc.

GK: Sounds good.

AJ: The communications director should be involved in the fact that we don't have a good landing page for new players on our website. Have we run this by Chris Garlock (communications director)? This seems like he should be concerned about this.

AO: No, not everything involving the website involves Chris.

Re- Lending of equipment. We have a large supply of boards etc that go to each congress. In LA there's sets for about 200 people. 35 ing sets.

Occupied Larry Gross' garage for many years, until he tricked me into taking them into my garage, so i moved them to a storage unit. My threats to put them on ebay did not get a response from the board at the time. Beyond that, we have journals and archives in chuck robbins' closet and Karoline's archive in northern CA. That's our approximate equipment situation. The Ritter brothers [boston] did a group purchase of inexpensive clocks that joined the storage unit.

Two questions were asked: Should we resume the practice of distributing equipment to chapters every year? We used to, when the ing foundation gave us money. It's a nice incentive for chapters to join up.

Do we want to lend equipment to chapters who want to do tournaments? This hasn't come up yet.

CK: Distributing to chapters was nice when we got 200 new sets a year, but I tried to set it up as a long-term loan but that didn't really work. There are 1200 sets out there, but we've mostly lost track of them.

AO: I don't think we can keep track of items going out to chapters, as you indicate. Was it a good thing that we distributed 1200 sets?

CK: It is really hard to say, because we don't know what happened to most of them. We could ask for them back, but I don't know what we'd get.

BG: Ask TDs who run tournaments with 20-30+ players and ask about their need for clocks.

LS: We could send a survey about where their equipment came from?

GK: And what their current equipment status is.

AO: What are we trying to accomplish with this? I'm not sure what gathering this information will do for us.

GK: I'm for it if there's a need. Is there one?

BG: I know for example that the Dallas club has a good number of ING clocks that they will need to replace soon. Santa Fe is in a similar situation.

AO: There's a situation then where there are clubs who are getting thin on supplies

AJ: This dovetails with questions about the budget. If we are running a surplus, spending \$1000 a year on equipment to active chapters/new chapters/whatever seems like a no-brainer. But do we have the budget?

AO: This should be part of the budget discussion coming up. This is the time of year when the president should be preparing a budget for approval well-before the July 1st start of our fiscal year. We only have a draft for this year. What we have for the moment is not a budget but our current financials from Roy, which indicate we've been in much the same position we have been in. Would the board please instruct me forcefully to prepare a budget in the coming weeks?

AJ: Prepare a budget in the coming weeks!

LS: Please do! Seconded!

BG: It is my feeling that the budget and our financial reporting should be organized so as to make it clear what are basic operating expenses, and what are other expenses.

AO: I agree. I tried to do that in the previous budgets I prepared. To have prior years and actual to distinguish between things that are discretionary (dues, e-j) and things that are flowing through us (like city league)

LS: We should instruct Andy to do this.

AO: Another thing, there were emails going back and forth... actually let's talk about this later. In the broader sense, what are we aiming to provide to members in proportion to their dues? E.g., providing marketing through Way2Go vs. providing equipment to chapters.

GK: Let's save that for the dues conversation. What about treasurer nominations?

AO: I don't have a nomination. I send three names to Roy, but it's a hard position to fill.

GK: We have a definite cut off date.

BG: Did you ask Barbara Calhoun?

AO: no, I didn't, i made a note of it **(FOLLOWUP AI FOR ANDY)**

GK: Do we have other recruitment thoughts? We won't be able to clarify the budget until then.

LS: When will she leave?

AJ: September

CK: When was the last time we advertised in the EJ?

AO: We only got responses that were for paid accounting work

GK: I'm willing to pay for accounting work.

AO: (Tim Hoyle?) I had a candidate a year and a half ago, but he doesn't have any formal accounting training. Roy and him discussed it and it wasn't a good fit. Maybe we could go back and get him, and then supplement him with an accountant for forms.

GJ: That seems like a good solution.

BG: He seems like a good guy, and if it's cost reasonable, I think it's a good solution.

CK: Hiring someone who could do the 9-90 but could also act as a mentor to give Tim design advice. At the go center we do our own accounting but farm out the tax stuff

GK: Sounds like we should put a budget line item for the accountant in the upcoming budget.

AO: Regarding pros, I have polled the US pros for their schedules in the upcoming year, I am waiting for responses. For the pro qualifiers, I am talking with Myungwan (Kim) and we're looking at August for the event rather than winter.

BG: Does the google grant cover american pro tournaments or?

AO: We asked for it for american pros in general. It was designed to be for young american players, not for other pros, but I think we can still invite some.

BG: What about inviting some of our near(?)-pros.

AO: At the moment, we're doing the qualification for the 3rd M.Lilly(?) cup that we can send 2 for. But, there's some things they're not eligible for as pros.

BG: Does google have to approve our plans?

AO: Not legally, but we are going to ask for approval.

AJ: We've got the check already.

BG: What do we know about what INF(?) is doing in the next year?

AO: I attended the meeting, most of what they're focused on is the National Go Center, and inbound/outbound teaching programs. Teachers arriving from Japan, US teacher training in Japan.

BG: For the pro tournament, where should we hold it? (Google tournament)

AO: We don't know

BG: I'd suggest not holding it at the congress, but a local place to get local interest. Maybe something involving INF teaching, they could submit proposals to take advantage of that.

GK: Let's move on.

AO: That's all on my agenda.

GK: Next thing on the agenda- request for update on rank certificates

CK: It's ready to go, in terms of function. Interpretation of results is up in the air. Jon is preparing a presentation. Problem: Many games are outside of the parameters we've set. 1200 people+ are on the rank list for the current run. Many have gotten several ranks, but we're going to deal with the best one.

GK: What do we expect for timing?

CK: We could have a preliminary run this week, but Jon Boley wants more checks first. If there's real pressure to get it out, we could get it in 3 days, but there would be a few things difficult to explain (we're working on that now). I'd like to say we can get it out before the next Board Meeting, but that might be optimistic.

GK: Next meeting should be the goal.

EZ: Are there more issues with kyu level or dan level?

CK: The issue was that games were being thrown out that shouldn't have been, but Jon fixed it pretty promptly. We'd like to have a roll out where people aren't concerned about what games aren't included or they can get an answer as to why online.

GK: Will you give us weekly updates?

CK: Yes.

EZ: How do people get their rank certificates once awarded? Do they need to go to a tournament?

CK: Rankings are pulled from older dates.

AO: Our capacity to award ratings has been delayed due to us, me, leadership, I don't want to tell people that because it took an extra year to do, they would have to play more to get ranks. Sticking to 2010 and going back that far is the least we can go.

CK: That's as far back as the data would support. The data older than that is too flaky.

GJ: Update on go center- Announced opening of National Go Center today. Delays for a variety of reasons. April 29th/30th is the new opening weekend. New facility is under construction now, focused now on PR/announcements.

AO: Let's chat about PR in case I have contacts.

GK: We brainstormed this afternoon, and let's have a call this week.

AO: We used to have a fire marshall, I think it's vacant now. Should I look into that?

GK: Tournament on saturday, children's match on sunday/ student things, haskell small will play a go composition.

CK: Is there a plan for the computer stuff?

GK: We'll have broadcasting things set up in many rooms. Will consult with Andrew J. Would like to have tournaments there.

AO: Are you in city limits?

GK: Incorporated in Dc. 4852 Wisconsin avenue over 2 restaurants

GK: What about code of conduct

LS: Slightly revised so doesn't contradict Tournament Regulations. Clarified/separated tournament vs. non-tournament things. Incorporated comments issues, but we're hoping to get that done soon so it can be part of the Congress registration site, so it needs to happen soon.

GK: What do recent events mean for our policies on the relationship between chapters and the federation?

CK: I think that we should avoid discussing the specific incident, it is more administration than board, but we should discuss the existing policy I circulated which could be useful.

GK: Should we say, if you want to be an AGA chapter here are the things you have to do/maintain/meet standards rather than just pay dues.

BG: One question that it's raised is what is the relationship between chapter members and chapter leadership. For example, the chapter rep (who pays the dues) does the voting, decisions etc, but there's no specifics on consulting membership.

GK: Right. In fact, a chapter member is anyone who just identifies as a member on the site, but doesn't have more formal membership. Should we evolve as an organization to have more strict standards.

CK: That's usually a feature of a larger organization. Anything related to this will be related to a change in bylaws.

BG: We have a large variety in structures of chapters, small to large corporate structures. How can we make rules to cover all of these. If we need to define things, I'd like to see it evolve to particular problems.

LS: Because we have such a variety, we need more general guidelines to apply to more. We don't need more specific rules, particularly since we aren't a strong enough organization to risk alienating people/chapters

BG: How do we change bylaws? Who votes?

LS: At general assembly meetings.

GK: What are people's opinions? (No response.)

LS: We should possibly revisit the by-laws, but we probably don't have the manpower to do so right now. Changing them, for example, to make Nebraska (NE) be a member instead of New Brunswick (NB) would be good – but this should be in our 5 year strategic plan.

CK: We need to gather information about appropriate changes if we want to do that. Then we need to get a group together to draft it. It's a 2-3 year processes. It shouldn't be done on an acute or immediate basis. I would approve and participate starting it.

LS: I'm not sure we have the resources now, but maybe in 6 months.

EZ: I agree with Lisa and Chris. Should we consult Keith Arnold as Chair of the Governance Committee?

LS: He resigned from that position a few years ago, but we haven't found a replacement so he has provided help when desperately needed.

DP: I have to leave. When is our next meeting?

AJ: Can it be early in April?

LS: Can we do the 2nd of April?

DP: I'm out of town, can we do the 9th?

LS: I'm at a wedding, I can't do it.

DP: 16th?

LS: That's Easter. I can't.

BG: The 30th and after is bad for me. The rest are open for me.

AJ: Can I send out a Doodle? (Group agrees)

CK/LS: Can we consider a Saturday?

Next meeting time TBD

-Diego Leaves-

BG: What prompted my analysis is that we were thinking about what our potential projects and capabilities were, and our basic funding is member dues, so we should have a good handle on that. My figure on cost per member is \$27, but I'm not sure that's correct because it's not considering special funding. For youth members, the dues are \$10-- even with lower costs, that's cheap. It might be good for attaching young people to our organization. Maybe after 3 years, they're in or not. Maybe we should get rid of it?

LS: I think it's more about families with multiple kids or college students, it makes a difference in what they can afford. That's why it goes to 22, because that's when most people end college, because until then they're not really in control of their finances.

AO: 2 things- My impression is that the \$10 is specifically a subsidy. A pop-up membership was started by Alan in response to children having a lapse in membership due to parents not renewing continuously, so they weren't eligible for international tournaments.

AJ: And we didn't have email notifications.

AO: So I would keep the youth memberships the same.

GK: I feel strongly that doing things that would discourage youth membership is the wrong direction. Unless we were in a financial crisis.

AJ: I second that. We need to see what our financial needs are before we can decide if this is necessary to do.

AO: I can put some per member calculations into the budget.

AJ/LS: Please do.

BG: Youth membership dues aside, a per member analysis is important for planning.

AJ: Yes, also operating costs are low because basically ratings, the website, and congress are our operating costs.

BG: I'd like to do more to promote regional tournaments and recruitment. For example, the equipment things we've discussed today.

LS: Taking away youth subsidies is counterproductive.

EZ: For youth, their parents might want to pay more for putting things on college apps, and they'll pay for rank certificates.

GJ: That's all on my list.

AJ: I'll give my operations report next time.

GJ: We have time.

BG: For congress, the information is in the email.

AJ: I have a volunteer for the membership manager. We're going to try to recover our \$500 for the previous person who was going to do that, but it fell through. We also have a technical volunteer for translating Way2Go. For the videos/broadcasts, the new broadcast person has been doing a great job, the videos on AlphaGo are up and getting good reviews

GK: We have some people who would like to pick your brain about broadcasting

AJ: Sure, contact me.

EZ: Let me know if there's anything I can help with regarding National Go Center opening.

GK: We need lots of volunteers.

LS: I circulated minutes from 1/29 and please send approval this week.

GK: AJ sent out a doodle poll for next meeting

LS moves to adjourn. AJ seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.