

Approved Minutes for AGA Board Meeting December 19, 2004

Present: Mike Bull; Bill Cobb; Willard Haynes; Roy Laird; Mike Lash, President; Lee Anne Bowie, Secretary

Willard Haynes agreed to chair the meeting in Allan Abramson's absence. The meeting was called to order by Willard Haynes at 7:09 EST, 4:09 PST.

1. Approval of Minutes

General agreement that minutes should be approved before being sent to other than board members. No amendments or emendations. Roy Laird moved the minutes be approved as written; seconded by Bill Cobb. No further discussion; no nays or abstentions. Minutes were approved.

2. President's Report

General consensus that the president should only discuss additions to his report.

Marketing plan: Please read the ideas for the marketing plan. President would like feedback from the board as to what the board wishes to focus on.

Internet league: This is just about ready to go. Please keep promoting that. January will be sign up period; the tournament begins Feb 1.

Ing regional budgets: East and West have gone over budgets. Central has spent none. If Central is not using it, I propose to let East and West use Central's.

2004 Congress status: No progress with Rochester to get the books from previous congress. Greg or someone at Empty Sky needs to designate the AGA. Mike Lash is hamstrung without any connection to RIT.

Policy for non-player reps: Sent policy to board for non-player representation. Should officers and president be excluded? President requests clarification of this issue.

Fujitsu: thanks to Chris Kirschner, Joe Carl, Jon Boley for setting up technical end, game monitoring, etc.

Bylaw revision: This needs to go out. President will forward revision to the Secretary, who will send it to Sam Zimmerman for distribution.

Bylaw revision - Voting: Nothing yet from Keith Arnold on changing articles on voting.

Vendor relations: Letter sent to all vendors; heard only from Janice Kim and Bill Cobb. Non-payment issue was taken care of.

Legal counsel: After a referral, the president received a proposal from a small law firm. They primarily do real estate, family law, some criminal, corporate, media, and merchandizing work. The firm may practice law in several East Coast states: New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Florida, etc. The board had no objections to sending them a retainer for \$1500. The retainer is to ensure that we have someone on hand for now, if needed. The president will continue a search for other options, but for now we are covered.

3. Old Business

a. Leadership Development Committee status:

Tabled until next meeting.

b. Vendor Liaison status:

There are some perceived problems with allocation of vendor space at the Congress, financial arrangements, etc. The president will again ask the vendors for comments on what bothers them, and the issues brought up by the vendors will be discussed next time.

c. Marketing Funds:

The president requested feedback for a focus for marketing strategy and a general approval of ideas and permission to proceed. A request was made that they make a distinction between policy and operational decisions, i.e. board develops policy; president makes operational decisions. A further discussion stated the need for more members to become involved.

Roy Laird moved, Mike Bull seconded, to table the discussion until next time to allow time for the board members to read the marketing ideas. The motion passed; no nays; no abstentions.

The president will ask his brain-storming committee if any would like to volunteer for a marketing committee.

d. Role of Board members on committees: (Email thread on appropriateness of people on board being on committee.)

The president declared that we want to avoid conflicts of interest, keeping open for others, and avoid spreading members too thin. We want to rid ourselves of the appearance of the AGA being run by good ol' boy network, to encourage others to step up and help run the AGA. We need more people to come in and support us, and we need an expanded group of potential officers.

Bill Cobb commented that the proposed Bylaw revisions may be putting very severe restrictions as to what board members can do other than be on the board, so that this discussion may be moot.

Copies of the Bylaw Revision will be sent to all board members and the secretary for perusal. There were no objections to carrying this discussion over to next meeting.

e. Focus on children: None's suggestion for early school year involvement was tabled until next time.

4. New Business

a. Status of annual calendar of invitational/foreign events, for planning purposes, and need for an overall tournament coordinator (discussed above):

We received from Mary Laird a proposed calendar of events, especially of international events, including dates on the website for the whole year, and upgrading in general. The idea was met with a positive response and urging to go ahead.

b. Concept of setting up a pilot Tournament Director's school:

Materials need to belong to the AGA for future use. There was a general consensus that more directors are needed and this would be valuable.

Mike Lash informed the board that Ken Kostner has written up a slide presentation/power point for teaching people, and Dwayne Burns and Chuck Robbins are interested in participating and running some courses. No action was taken.

c. AGA representation at international events:

Extremely difficult to make eligibility a mechanical process. President must be given flexibility and latitude to judge who best deserves to go according to his discretion, considering level of service, diplomacy, and requirements stipulated by hosting organizations.

Bill Cobb proposed amending the policy statement by striking the clause "AGA officers should not be eligible." Mike Lash asked to add language stipulating that the president would make the choice with board confirmation.

Roy Laird moved to accept the policy statement with the two proposed amendments; Bill Cobb seconded. Motion passed with no nays or abstentions.

5. Open Discussion:

Mike Bull expressed concern that he had not heard back on an Ing grant for an upcoming tournament. Mike Lash suggested they take care of it by phone.

6. Adjournment:

Mike Bull moved the meeting be adjourned; Bill Cobb seconded. The vote was unanimous. The board thanked Willard Haynes for acting as chair. Next meeting is set for January 9th. Comments made that this was too soon. Holiday Greetings all around. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM EST, 5:12 PM PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Anne Bowie, Corporate Secretary