

MINUTES OF THE AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, 8 August 2005

Attending: Board Members: Harold Lloyd, Jeff Shaevel, Willard Haynes, Roy Laird, Allan Abramson

Others Mike Lash (President), Chris Garlock, Bob Barber, Chris Kirschner, Phil Straus, Bill Cobb, Larry Gross

1. Recognition of Results of Board Director Elections
 - a. Willard and Allan were re-elected; Bob Barber was elected to replace Harold Lloyd, as of the day after Labor Day
2. President's report
 - a. Budget
 1. The enacted budget was developed without tapping into the reserves
 2. Chris Garlock, the communication VP, was appealing cuts in his budget request
 3. The Board could reconsider the use of reserves, if it wished
 4. The use of reserves appears to have been a communications issue
 5. ING funds have not been received yet; all funds in-hand have been committed to cover Congress costs
 6. Phil asked how much was in the reserve fund; Mike answered, about \$225,000
 - b. 2004 Congress finances update
 1. Terry Benson was great in helping to sort out the issues
 2. He operated in a tenacious, fair, professional and steady manner
 3. RIT could not account for many charges to the Congress
 4. Settlement was reached for a payment of \$12,000 (Note that RIT originally had asked for over \$40,000)
 5. What remains is to make a judgement about what, if any, surplus exists for the overall Congress
 6. RIT mistakenly took \$710 of the Empty Sky club funds for the Congress
 7. The Board approved repaying the club for this \$710; in addition, if the Congress were to have run a surplus, then the usual AGA policy of splitting the surplus with the club would be followed
 - c. Staffing
 1. Need more people to do AGA administrative work
 2. Mike and Allan will be leading "job fairs" twice this week, in hopes of recruiting
3. Old Business
 - a. AGA membership categories: will be discussed at the Assembly later this week

- b. Invitational tournaments - continued discussion of Bill Cobb/Mike Lash paper
 - 1. Bill stated that the hope was to clarify the rules of eligibility for the Ing
 - 2. Issue is determining citizenship, as this information often is not in the database
 - 3. Phil said that we should make life easier for the TD's
 - 4. He has little sympathy for people who do not produce documentation of status, and the AGA should not have to chase people around for this information
 - 5. He recommended sending players a letter clarifying the expectations, in the four main languages: English, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean
 - 6. Allan suggested putting such a letter on the web site, too
- c. Pro policy discussion, will be continued in a special session at the Congress
- d. Future of hard copy of Annual Journal, continued
 - 1. Roy favors keeping the hard copy Annual as a part of the membership dues structure
 - 2. He suggested another option, to continue to ask for \$30 for full membership, with an option to pay less without receiving the hard copy
 - 3. Chris Garlock noted that the labor for producing the Annual is about the same, for either electronic or for hard copies
 - 4. He feels that the hard copy Annual is a very valuable product, and that we should print more and think of better ways to use them for marketing membership

4. New Business

- a. Communication activities, Chris Garlock and Bill Cobb
 - 1. Chris discussed the huge amount of coverage by the communications staff for the Congress, as an advance on previous work, made possible by electronics
 - 2. He noted a great amount of real-time reporting at this Congress
 - 3. There is a pool of about 5000 who get the free EJournal on Mondays; his goal is to move them into AGA membership
 - 4. He requested restoration of his full budget request of \$30,000
 - 5. Phil noted that the EJournal has generated a lot of excitement
 - 6. The Board directed the President to review the budget, incorporating the use of some reserves, to help increase line items such as the communications budget

5. Open discussion

- a. Allan asked the Board members to review the draft Board Report to the Assembly within one day, as it needs to go to reproduction
- b. Transition from one Treasurer to another has uncovered a need to clarify the financial statements; Mike will be following up with both Ben Bernstein and Ulo Tamm

- c. Chris Kirschner noted that Ben is a CPA, and that he trusted him to do accurate work
- d. Jeff volunteered to do a systems engineering analysis of the AGA's Information Technology needs; three months to do a requirements analysis, and 6-8 months for design work to be done; his offer was accepted

6. Adjournment took place at 5:58 PM