

Minutes

AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday, January 27, 2008 – 8:00 PM EST

Meeting called to order by: Roy Laird at 8:04 EST
Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call

Attendees:

Roy Laird (At Large) Chairman
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)
Laura Kolb (Central Region)
Roy Schmidt (Central Region)
Willard Haynes (Western Region)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Mike Lash (President)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent:
None

1. Approval of minutes

Gordon Castanza made a motion to accept the minutes from the December Board meeting. Chuck Robbins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. President's Report

Mike Lash presented his monthly report:

a) Tournaments

World Mind Sports Games (WMSG) – Chris Kirschner set up a point system for players to qualify for the WMSG. The two Oza events (east and west coasts) will generate points. Details on the events are slowly coming in. The preliminary plan is to budget up to \$35,000 to send up to 24 players and 4 officials, including an IGF liaison, AGA official, and 2 coach/managers for up to the two weeks. Different events occur over a two-week period. Fund raising plans are being made. Room and food are being provided by the hosts, so the only money needed is for transportation, players fees, uniforms, visas, representational gifts, hospitality, and other items.

b) Financial Status

The first half of fiscal '08 results have been reported. There is a surplus of \$11,562. Coincidentally, the AGA portion of the '07 Congress surplus was approximately \$11,500.

c) Congress Policy Statement

There is a draft version of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the AGA and future Congress organizers being discussed. There was some discussion on some of the controversial aspects, such as tournament director selection and uses of profits. Willard Haynes made a motion to table the discussion of the MOU until next month so Lash can incorporate the suggestions from the Board into a new draft. Roy Schmidt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to table the discussion until next month.

d) Web Site Upgrade

Lash reported that the upgrade isn't proceeding as quickly as he had planned. When he read the fine print of the contract with Internet 4 Associations, there were a lot of questions about charges and fees, I4A's limited responsibility and liability, our rights to our own content, and other items that affect the AGA's financial interest. Lash plans to continue working out the details of the contract with I4A. He anticipates that the costs will be higher than initially expected, but he hopes they will still be within our budget.

(End of President's report)

3. Finances

Roy Laird suggested that the fact that we have a surplus in the first half of the fiscal year budget makes the web upgrade still possible despite the higher costs. Lash reported that most of the surplus comes from higher interest on the AGA's cash balance rather than membership growth. He said membership revenue has been steady between \$55,000 and \$65,000 since he began his term as President.

4. Presidential Search Process

There was a discussion off the record about potential candidates for the soon to be vacant position of President.

5. Book Publishing

Hinoki Press has requested permission from the AGA to pursue rights to the translation of a book that was serialized in the American Go Journal over several issues in the 1980's. Laird asked the Board if there was any objection to allowing the project to go forward. There was discussion of what rights the AGA has to the copyright of the book and the translation. The publisher would have to negotiate separately with the original Japanese publisher as well as the original translator, but he wants assurance from the AGA that we will not pursue profits if he proceeds with the project. Chuck Robbins said that if the AGA has copyright ownership of the material, then we should be compensated on a percentage basis with royalty payments.

Laura Kolb made a motion that the AGA not make any claims with respect to future publication of the book. Gordon Castanza seconded the motion.

Chuck Robbins said he thinks we need to find out what ownership we have first before giving up the material. Roy Schmidt proposed a friendly amendment that we should ascertain whether Bob Terry believes we own the rights, and that if Mr. Terry asserted he owns the rights, then we should follow through on Laura Kolb's motion. The Board voted unanimously on the motion.

6. Archives

Tabled until next meeting.

7. New Business

none

8. Schedule Next Meeting

The next monthly conference call will be Sunday, March 2, 2008 at 8:00 EST.

9. Adjournment

Gordon Castanza made a motion to adjourn. Chuck Robbins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 9:13 EST.

Minutes submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary