

AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Sunday, May 17, 2009 – 8:00 PM EDT

Roy Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM EDT.

Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call

Attendees:

Jie Li (At Large)
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Roy Schmidt (Central Region) Chairman
Laura Kolb (Central Region)
Andrew Okun (Western Region)
Allan Abramson (President)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent:

Willard Haynes (Western Region)

1. Approval of minutes for April 19, 2009 meeting

Andrew Okun made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2009 Board conference call. Laura Kolb seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Call for additional agenda items

None

3. President's Report- 2010 Budget Discussion

Abramson said he was very conservative in his income assumptions. He is discussing with Adam Bridges (Treasurer) how to report life member dues. He did not assume income from on-line sales because we are not generating any sales yet.

Okun asked if the report he saw was for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year and Abramson said it is. He said membership income is lagging this year compared to last year. Abramson said he is assuming that this year's Congress will make a small profit in line with other years. So far, the AGA portion of last year's Congress looks like it will be about \$2000.

Registration is 10% lower than last year at this time, but higher than the years before 2008. Schmidt said he thinks the sales of multiyear memberships last year may explain the lower income this year. Abramson said he is working to make sure reporting of multi-year membership dues is in the calendar year that applies.

On expense side, Abramson has been looking for areas to cut. The official travel budget has not been spent lately and he would like to do away with it. The insurance expense is new and will be carried over year-to-year. The legal budget has been reduced, because he does not expect to need much in the way of legal advice this year. He proposed reducing the Board's discretionary money. Schmidt said \$0 would be okay for this year, but he probably will need some in other years.

Okun asked why \$1500 is required for telephone service. Abramson explained the money is to pay for the conference calls. Tokens are used by Mary Laird to ride the subway to check the post office box. Administration covers her time and expenses.

Abramson said he plans to have a less expensive annual report this year. It will be posted online, and people can print out their own copies if they want them.

Okun asked about IMSA dues of \$5000. Abramson said it will probably be less than that this year. If it costs \$5000 every four years, he will start prorating the item in the budget.

Chris Garlock has adjusted the e-journal budget slightly. There appears to be a duplicate entry for postage that appears in the yearbook and the e-journal categories.

Abramson said the yearbook is expensive and although people like it, we may not be able to afford it. Robbins said the yearbook is very late this year, as the 2008 yearbook hasn't been delivered and 2009 is almost half over. Robbins suggested that maybe it's too much for one person to be responsible for both the yearbook and the e-journal. Abramson said he does get complaints about the lateness of the yearbook. Abramson said he will invite Chris Garlock to join next month's conference call to discuss the yearbook and the e-journal.

The database costs are for data entry for membership data.

Abramson said that up until now as a policy, tournaments have not been financed by the AGA in their budget. Abramson is asking the Board to consider funding tournaments at least while the Ing Foundation is not contributing. If the AGA doesn't provide funding, professionals might not participate in the Master's Tournament and the Redmond Cup may disappear.

Robbins said he wouldn't mind funding youth events like the Redmond Cup, the Youth Championship, and the High School Honor Society, but is opposed to funding the Master's Tournament. Celmer said he doesn't mind funding the Master's Tournament, because he wants to continue to attract the top players. Abramson asked Jie Li if he had an idea what level of prize money would be required to attract the top players. He said \$1500 for first prize and something for second and third would be required to get any significant level of participation. Celmer suggested having the AGA match funding that is raised from other sources, either from individuals or vendors. That way, we will discover how important the Master's Tournament is to our members. If people care a lot it will be well funded, and it may disappear if there isn't interest in supporting it.

The equipment budget is for computers, which are purchased as needed. Robbins said computers shouldn't be under the equipment budget, but rather under supplies and the storage expense should be \$500 rather than \$1000.

The chapter services marketing materials haven't been used for years, so Abramson is removing that. He is also opposed to the Miscellaneous category so he is removing that.

Okun asked what the marketing line item is about and Abramson said he'd like to generate interest in go and the AGA through magazines and advertising and viral videos. Abramson received a letter from the Japan Pair Go sponsors offering \$2000 in honor of the 25th anniversary Go Congress. Abramson would like to use the money to advertise in magazines targeting girls or women.

Abramson has gotten comments from some committee leaders so far and is waiting for others to get back to him. He will report on the budget again next month.

End of President's report. (9:08 PM EDT)

4. Old Business

none

5. New Business

a. Congress Meeting Scheduling

Abramson is working on putting AGA meetings on the schedule. Okun would like to see a meeting to help potential volunteers such as, "How to run a tournament". From his conversations with club leaders, he has found that the biggest incentive to join the AGA is the desire to play in tournaments.

6. Establish time and date for next Board meeting

The next regular monthly conference call will occur on June 14, 2009 at 8:30 EDT.

7. Adjourn

Okun made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robbins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 9:18 PM EDT.

Submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary