

Board of Director's Report to the 2003 National Assembly

The newly elected Board of Directors began work at the 2002 Congress and formally took office on January 1, 2003. Much of its effort has dealt with the creation and implementation of the new organizational structure for the AGA, including the arrangements through which the Board will exercise its responsibilities. Considerable progress in reorganizing the AGA has been made, but much remains to be done in the coming year.

Organizational Development

The Board began its efforts by directly appointing two key officers, the President (Chris Kirschner) and Treasurer (Ben Bernstein). In cooperation with the new President, the Board adopted a more functionally-oriented organizational structure (see the AGA Web Page under AGA Organization for the new Organizational Chart and Description of Functions.) The Board helped the President recruit for organizational positions and supported a number of key appointments. The Board is heartened that among the appointments are people new to AGA governance as well as many who have a history of service. *Over the next year, a high priority of the Board will be working with the President to staff fully the new organizational structure. Additionally, the Board will develop a procedure for the appointment and re-appointment of Presidents.*

The Board also began discussion of a mission statement for the AGA. It has charged an ad hoc committee to consider alternatives and make recommendations to the Board. *Over the next year, the Board will adopt a mission statement for the AGA.*

The Board adopted the "AGA Conduct: Standards and Procedures" to help inform those serving in AGA positions about the high expectations of the Board and President that their actions will create an environment that is "open, fair, and inclusive." *Over the next year, the Board will address recommendations made by the Governance and Policy Committee concerning conflict of interest of those serving in AGA positions.*

The Board has been holding monthly meetings by telephone conference. In February the Board adopted a policy of sending agendas by e-mail to Chapter Representatives at least one week in advance of these monthly meetings. The agendas and minutes for meetings are now routinely posted on the Board's web page.

Organizational Resources

Since early in 2002, AGA membership has steadily increased to reach an all-time high. *A Beautiful Mind, Hikaru no Go, and the E-Journal* have probably all helped propel this growth. With this highly desirable growth comes both additional revenues and costs. Also, the Board anticipates somewhat lower levels of support from the Ing Foundation in the future. It also recognizes that an appropriate financial reserve has been accumulated to provide a cushion

against unanticipated costs or reductions in revenue. In view of these considerations, the Board approved a Fiscal Year 2004 Budget approximately equal to the Fiscal Year 2003 Budget.

Substantive Initiatives

The Board has allocated funds for a Youth Outreach Pilot Project. A committee has been formed to design a competition for mini-grants of up to \$1,000 for chapters that have ideas for increasing the number of youths sufficiently committed to Go to play in an AGA rated tournament. The goal of the project is to add 100 new youth members. *Over the next year, the Board will encourage and monitor the program as well as assess its impacts.*

The Board has encouraged the Vice President for Communication to pursue the proposal to enhance the *E-Journal* and replace the *American Go Journal* with a yearbook. The Vice President is currently gathering reactions from the membership. *Over the next year, the Board expects to make a decision about the restructuring of publications and oversee its implementation.*

Looking Ahead

As the transition to the new organizational structure nears completion, the Board hopes to spend a greater fraction of its efforts working with the President on substantive issues. We also need to discover and engage those among our membership with professional skills essential to increasing the organizational capacity of the AGA. The most important challenge facing our organization is recruiting, harnessing, and coordinating people-resources; those who have a love of go and who have professional know-how in the different specialties that now formally exist in the organization chart and who can, thereby, strongly enhance the capacity of the AGA to manage and execute projects successfully.

Increased organizational capacity will enable us to pursue a number of possible initiatives over the coming years:

- * Clarifying and expanding the value of the AGA to its existing members and potential members.
- * Strengthening the bond between chapters and the national organization.
- * Enhancing outreach efforts to spread the word to start building tomorrow's membership today.
- * Strengthening relationships with other national organizations, both professional and amateur.
- * Issuing official rank diplomas for reaching a measured achievement level, for both kyu and dan, and possibly creating a new class of players called "semi-pro."

- * More fully integrating the North American professional players into the AGA.
- * Further leveraging the Internet for the benefit of chapters and members.
- * Supporting continued efforts to improve the operation of the rating system.

In summary, the Board will seek to work collaboratively to set priorities, begin new initiatives, expand and balance resources, and ensure results are delivered, all while functioning transparently and with extensive communication with chapters and members.