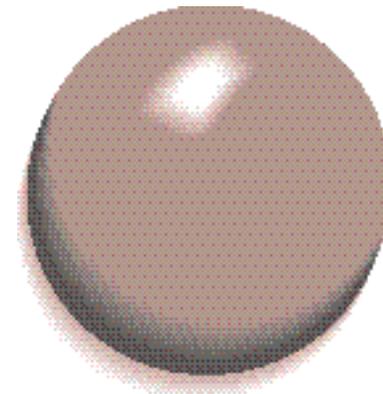


AMERICAN GO ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2000-2001



THE AMERICAN GO ASSOCIATION
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WHAT IS THE AMERICAN GO ASSOCIATION?

The American Go Association is the national organization of U.S. go players, cooperating with similar national organizations around the world.

We:

- ❖ Publish *The American Go Journal*
- ❖ Maintain a computerized rating system
- ❖ Sanction and promote AGA-rated tournaments
- ❖ Organize the U.S. Go Congress, the U.S. Open and qualifying tournaments for international competition
- ❖ Maintain a Web site and organize discussion groups, mentoring programs and teaching ladders
- ❖ Support professional players with tournaments, teaching opportunities and other activities
- ❖ Work to develop a strong national network of chapters
- ❖ Promote go and enhance public awareness
- ❖ Develop projects to strengthen the U.S. go-playing community

The AGA is working to let more people know about this wonderful game and to develop member playing strength and involvement in the American go-playing community.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Roy Laird, AGA President

This has been a year of stability, innovation, and continuing to build our reputation as a leader in Internet go. Players who had wandered off into the "wilderness" of the Internet began reappearing this year at tournaments and events, while others popped up having learned their go online. These newcomers and old friends haven't given up playing on the Net, but they want to balance their playing with a little more human contact. As a result there are more Chapters than ever before, Chapters are connecting more with their members; isolated players are forming new Chapters; and the AGA is working harder than ever to connect interested beginners with their local Chapter.

References to Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* have become as numerous this year as "millennium" references were last year. (Was there a college commencement this year where *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* was *not* played?) Yet Kubrick's message about the threat presented by modern technology seems particularly relevant to the world of go, if only because reality has been so utterly different. Talented children routinely vanquish the strongest programs. Far from being controlled or subjugated, go players have a whole new community of players at their disposal online, where an unprecedented array of teaching materials can also be found.

When the Internet Go Server began operating in 1993, it changed everything, nowhere more than in go clubs and gathering places. As more and more players discovered the convenience of playing at home and the delights of the online go world, these struggling little groups of players dwindled down, in some cases, to extinction.

People learned to play online without ever meeting another player in person. Now the online community, incubated and nurtured by the Internet, is spilling over into real life. As a result, there are more places than ever before where these seekers can connect with a local go community. With over 70 official AGA Chapters in operation, and at least that many informal groups, more and more Americans have a fellowship of players within reach. These Chapters are the lifeblood of American go. By helping each Chapter and club to build a stable local community of players, we can establish go in American culture from the ground up.

As you will note in Chapter Coordinator Bill Cobb's report, there are many new ways to support chapter growth and development. If you don't have a chapter in your area, consider forming one yourself. We can help, and you will meet some very interesting people.

The American Go E-Journal — A New Kind of Go Magazine

In 1949, The American Go Association published the first English-language go magazine with the first issue of *The American Go Journal*. Last June, the AGA continued this pioneering tradition when it began publication of a weekly electronic newsletter, *The American Go E-Journal*. Each Monday morning, Publications Coordinator Chris Garlock produces and distributes a new edition featuring up-to-the-minute news, reviews, tournament/event listings to over 2000 subscribers. Subscriptions are free to all worldwide.

Garlock has also continued to improve *The American Go Journal*, now packed with 48 pages of instructional material from all over the world and much more. Other exciting new publishing ventures include a pocket-sized series of problem books for amateurs, how-to manuals

for organizers and anthologies of material from past issues of *The American Go Journal*.

2000-01 Highlights

Among the more than 60 tournaments, workshops, classes and other go-related activities in the past year, several stood out:

Summer Go Camp: Forty children from all over the world attended the Third Summer Go Camp under the steady hand of Coordinator Susan Weir. Director Mike Samuel and resident professional Janice Kim provided a full menu of fun and go at the Michigan lakeside. The word is out, and children from Korea and Japan showed up this year for an event that really is like no other summer camp in the world. (The 2001 Summer Go Camp will take place in Minneapolis. The principal organizer, Peter Rzepecki, can be reached at AGAGoCamp@aol.com.)

Go Congress 2000: The Denver Go Congress was a huge success in every way. Director Stu Horowitz took a businesslike but slightly whimsical approach that set a relaxed and friendly tone for the week. Assistant Director Ulo Tamm and the entire Denver team earned the highest praise from participants who came from all around the world.

Cuban Goodwill Tour: Last summer, Peter Shotwell and Susan Long, led a group of twenty Americans who met in Havana to enjoy the hospitality of the Cuban Go Club of Havana, and to compete in the first "AGA-Cuba International Friendship Go Match". On behalf of the AGA, Shotwell presented the Cubans with a supply of boards and clocks, which are in short supply there. Afterward, the Americans were impressed to discover systematic programs of go instruction woven into the

curricula of two Havana public schools. Several group members returned in January for another event, and further trips are being planned.

North American Fujitsu Qualifying Tournament: The winner of this exciting pro-am event plays for the US in the World Fujitsu Cup, a pro-am event with a total purse of \$1 million. Hosted by the Lancaster Go Club, this year's event stood out for its unusual outcome, when an amateur won for the first time since pros were admitted to the field fifteen years ago. Thomas Hsiang of Rochester will play for the US this year.

San Francisco Tournaments: The San Francisco Bay Area is home to possibly the largest, most active community of players in the US. Two of their winter tournaments are worthy of special notice. The Ing Cup Children's Tournament in January drew a field of 156 children; and the Jujo Jiang Tournament, featuring five professionals at the top of an field that included more than fifty amateurs. These tournaments were organized by Jujo Jiang with the help of AGA Tournament Coordinator Mike Bull and American Ing Goe President Ernest Brown.

Seimitsu Cup: In this Internet-based competition, top players from Europe and the US compete for the right to play a Japanese professional. The AGA's North American Masters Tournament Committee of Chen-dao Lin, Don Wiener and Jeff Shaevel organized this event for the sponsor in cooperation with the European Go Federation.

In the Media: Articles about local go events appeared this year in *The Dallas Morning News* (8/7/00), *The Washington Post* (3/30/01), *SF Weekly* (5/3/01), and

Santa Fe's *Alibi News* (5/3-9/01), among others. In *Smart Money* (1/18/01), go is featured among a select group of worthy diversions, a theme explored earlier by go-playing writer Fred Baldwin in *Diversion* magazine (1/00). Many of these articles are available at the publication's Web site.

A Plan for the 21st Century

As we come to the end of another successful year, it's time to think about priorities for the coming year, and perhaps beyond. During the election last fall, I outlined three important priorities. Here's a look at where we are and where we need to be in those important areas.

Chapter and Member Services

Developing, Stocking and Distributing Promotional Materials: We have become more and more active supporting Chapters and organizers by providing a wide array of support materials to teachers and organizers throughout the US. That's one reason we have more chapters now than ever before. The generosity of the Ing Foundation has made it possible for us to develop and distribute organizational aids. We have done this so successfully that the demand now exceeds what we are able to produce. To address this situation, Chapter Coordinator Bill Cobb and I have developed a flexible policy that takes a generous attitude toward teachers and organizers that are just starting to promote go in their communities. As they succeed and their programs grow, we will encourage them to cover a portion of the costs or the materials they require.

Growth and Development

Membership Growth: To achieve real growth we need to pursue a two-track strategy. First, we need to tell more people about go, get more people interested, get

more of them to sign up. Then we need to concentrate on holding new members. Past analysis of membership distribution has shown a bimodal distribution. Many people drop out in the first year or so, perhaps daunted by the challenge of learning the fundamentals. Losses of this kind are inevitable, but those who make it through the first few years of membership tend to stay for a long time. We need to make sure these "newbies" get a lot of support and have access to study materials that make it easy to improve.

To get people "in the door," we should embark on a strong Internet-based campaign, while also recruiting and supporting teachers and organizers who are interested in promoting go in their communities. The E-Journal is an ideal recruitment vehicle. Every non-member subscriber is a potential member, and it costs nothing to send them a newsletter every week with a special pitch to join each week.

Holding onto people involves a systematic campaign with lapsed members. We currently send reminder letters, but we should do even more, perhaps a renewal drive with our database of over 8000 lapsed members, or through Chapters.

Related Business Activity: As a 501c4 tax-exempt corporation, we can generate income from "related business activity" without paying taxes. We have already produced a range of products and services that could serve as the basis for an organized business venture. Such a venture could widely disseminate go materials and cover its own costs of operation. Profits could be directed toward product development or "marketing" go and go-related products to the American public. Productive activity seems possible in at least in three distinct areas:

Publications: We currently publish over a dozen books, booklets and pamphlets, as well as a CD-ROM for beginners. Some are sold and some are given away. We have recently formed partnerships with Slate & Shell Publications and the Wings Across Calm Water Go Club to produce new translations of Japanese material. I hope other Chapters and groups will be inspired by their example and produce even more publications.

Equipment: In addition to AGA Starter Sets, we stock a variety of support materials for teachers and organizers such as 9x9 cardboard sets and demo boards. There is also growing demand for an inexpensive 13x13 set.

Promotional items: Many organizations such as ours sell a range of branded items — caps, T-shirts, coffee mugs, pencils, mouse pads, you name it. Congresses invariably run short on these items. Members seem to enjoy them, and promotional items can also be used as inducements in membership campaigns.

This enterprise must not compete with other vendors; it's a partnership designed to grow the market for everyone. Most of these materials will be made available to vendors at a wholesale price. Profits would be applied to new projects or promotional efforts and would not be part of the general operating budget.

Fiscal Responsibility and Restraint

Our reserve fund of about \$100K, as well as the checking account which maintains an average balance of about \$50K, are in a safe, stable money market fund. By gradually moving to a more businesslike approach to production and distribution of materials, we are building a self-sustaining pipeline that will benefit chapters and members alike.

The astute reader will note a disparity between this year's membership figures and the treasurer's report. Membership appears to be up, while income seems flat. These figures never match exactly, but they look more out of step than usual this year. At press time we are studying this complex issue. (It probably has to do with how we keep track of income, and other anomalies, rather than an actual negative cash flow situation.)

More significantly, the expanded 48-page *American Go Journal* costs more to publish, leading to a projected deficit of more than \$10,000. With Editor Chris Garlock's vision and leadership, it could continue to expand, but we must hold the line at 48 pages until we are sure that publication can be funded within the operating budget. With continued membership growth and resolution of the above discrepancies, these items should come into balance shortly. If not, we may have to decide between scaling down the *Journal* and increasing dues next year.

Moving Ahead

Former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill famously said, "All politics is local." Building a national go movement is no different. If you have read this far, you belong to select group of people who understand what a real American go community could mean, and are willing to work toward that goal. What do you want to accomplish this year? Do something new. Lots of help is available. Making new friends, playing more go, sharing the wonders of this game in your community — how does that sound?

Roy Laird
President
June 2001

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Ulo Tamm, AGA Treasurer

I am happy to report that the American Go Association Fiscal year March 1, 2000 to February 28, 2001 has been reconciled. The fiscal year 2000 was a good year for the American Go Association! This year for the first time, the Congress surplus was remitted to the AGA, resulting in an income of \$8,200.00. This will reside in the reserve to assist future Congresses with advance payments and as a hedge against financial losses of future Congresses. The Congress director, Stu Horowitz, decided to keep the hosting club's part of the Congress surplus in the AGA money market while the Mile High Go Club utilizes these funds over the next two years. All unused funds will revert to AGA general fund on March 1, 2003.

As shown in the attachments, our bank balance increased by \$27,635.00 (less \$8,200.00 held for the 16th Congress). The increase was obtained from different sources: Congress surplus, ING Fund unused portion, miscellaneous, and from AGA income.

The increase seems good, but I will point out that there could be some problems. First, the income from full members dropped \$3,000.00, when compared to last year's figures. Our donations were lower, our income for advertising is negligible, and our sales are flat. On the side of spending, The American Go Journal now consumes the total membership fees of our full members. We spent \$3,000.00 more than expected in the area of shipping/copying/phone. I am projecting that for this year the cost to produce and send four 48-page Journal will be \$37,000 for four issues.

Although the proposed budget shows a deficit of \$12,600 I am confident that as work in increasing the membership and other projects come online, the deficit should vanish.

Summary of Income and Expenses			
	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
AGA	\$ 61,804*	\$ 55,730	\$ 6,074
ING GOE Fund	\$ 80,000	\$ 75,052	\$ 4,948
Fujitsu	\$ 18,132	\$ 18,000	\$ 132
Summer Go Camp	\$ 17,625	\$ 7,544	\$ 81
Congress	\$137,945	\$121,545	\$16,400
TOTAL:			\$27,635

*Includes \$201.00 of unrealized income.

Reconciliation of Year F2000

AGA Checking	\$ 5,173
AGA Money Market	<u>\$181,430</u>
Total in All Accounts 2/28/01	\$186,520
Total in All Accounts 3/1/00	<u>\$158,885</u>
Bank Balance Increase	\$ 27,635

AGA INCOME

FISCAL YEAR March 1, 2000 to February 28, 2001

	Projected	Actual	Proposed Budget 2001/02
Membership:			
Full members:	\$36,000	\$31,505	\$32,000
Limited & Special:	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,000
Youth	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Chapters	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,625	\$ 2,500
Life	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000
Sub-Total:	\$42,700	\$42,030	\$40,000
Other:			
Donations:	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,825	\$ 4,500
Dividend:	\$ 4,500	\$ 1,891	\$ -
Interest	\$ 3,500	\$ 6,097	\$ 6,000
Advertising	\$ 999	\$ 150	\$ 200
Sales	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,211	\$ 2,000
Misc	\$ 500	\$ 159	\$ -
Congress Return	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -
BGA	\$ 300	\$ 240	\$ 300
Sub - Total:	\$21,799	\$19,573	\$13,000
TOTAL		\$61,603	\$53,000

AGA EXPENSES

	Projected	Actual	Proposed Budget 2001/02
AGJ	\$25,000	\$30,713	\$37,000
AGAE-J	\$ 500	\$ 889	\$ 1,000
Admin Svcs.	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,970	\$ 6,000
Database Svcs.	\$ 2,750	\$ 2,326	\$ 2,500
Copy		\$ 2,185	\$ 2,000
Postage	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,094	\$ 5,500
Phone		\$ 1,818	\$ 2,000
Supplies/Equip.	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,443	\$ 1,500
Legal	\$ 2,000	\$ 158	\$ 1,000
Web/Org	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,060	\$ 2,000
IGF	\$ 400	\$ 420	\$ 400
Misc.	\$ 1,000	\$ 300	\$ 500
Internet	\$ 500	\$ 404	\$ 500
Storage	-	\$ 548	\$ 500
Transport/Conf.	\$ 1,000	\$ 275	\$ 1,000
Bank	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 200
Credit Card	\$ 450	\$ 536	\$ 500
Annual Report	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,216	\$ 1,500
Congress Advance	\$ 6,000	-	-
Youth News	-	\$ 265	-
TOTAL	\$55,900	\$55,730	\$65,600

SUMMARY

	FY2000/01	Projected FY01/02
Income	\$61,603	\$53,000
Expense	<u>55,730</u>	<u>65,600</u>
Difference	\$ 5,873	(\$12,600)

Ing Foundation Grant

The annual infusion of funds from this grant continues to fund a wide variety of programs and projects, including three distinguished tournaments. (See below for details).

Tournaments: Ing Foundation funds support three of the most important events on the AGA calendar: the Internet-based North American Master Tournament, now in its sixth year; the North American Ing Cup, an invitational that has brought America's top-rated players to the Go Congress for more than ten years; and the Redmond Cup for children, which chooses our contenders in the World Youth Championship.

Doing More for Kids: Nothing was more important to the late Mr. Ing than teaching children. As always, we have devoted a large share of the grant to child-related purposes – Congress scholarships, the one-of-a-kind Summer Go Camp, child-friendly materials on CD-ROM and in other media. But progress is slow. We need to find even more new and effective ways to introduce children to go, and to support their growing interest and help them develop into strong players. Chapters interested in teaching children are encouraged to apply for regional funds to support local teaching programs.

Regional Allotments: Each regional VP disburses up to \$6000 within each of the AGA's three regions, providing support for tournaments that utilize Ing's SST Laws of Wei-chi. Local and regional organizers are also encouraged to think "outside the box", especially about programs that might benefit children. School- or after-school-based teaching programs and other child-based activities would be very much in keeping with the Ing Foundation's mission, as well as our own.

F2000 ING BUDGET AND EXPENSES And Projections for F2001

TOURNAMENTS	Budget	Actual	Proj F2001
N. A. Masters	\$13,000	\$10,280	\$13,000
N. A. Ing Cup	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Redmond Cup	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
TOURNAMENT SUBTOTAL			\$30,000
EDUCATION AND PROMOTION			
Youth Scholarship	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Summer Camp	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000
Shipping/customs*	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,392	\$ 4,000
Purchase/produce	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,802	\$ 9,000
Admin	\$ 1,500	\$ 975	\$ 1,500
"Great GO Spiel"	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,098	-
GO CD-Rom	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,905	<u>\$ 3,500</u>
EDUCATION/PROMOTION SUBTOTAL			\$32,000
REGIONAL ALLOTMENTS			
East	\$ 6,000	\$, 4,500	\$ 6,000
Central	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,100	\$ 6,000
West	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
REGIONAL SUBTOTAL			\$18,000
Total	\$80,000	\$75,052	\$80,000

*These funds are utilized to deliver equipment donated by the Ing Foundation to the AGA from its port of entry to the Congress site for distribution to Chapters as needed after the Congress.

Table 1 - 1985-1990 Membership Growth by Category

Type	'85/6	'86/7	'87/8	'88/9	'89/90	'90/1
Full	623	730	798	879	890	876
Limited	146	213	267	287	332	383
Comp	41	46	45	72	87	91
TOTAL	810	989	1110	1247	1309	1350
Chapters	40	47	47	59	61	49

(12-month averages)

NOTE: Donors are included in general totals before 1994

Table 2 - 1994-1999 Membership Growth by Category

Type	'94/5	'95/6	'96/7	'97/8	'98/9	'99/0	'00/1
				8			
Full	924	974	1043	1127	1100	1138	1183
Limited	406	580	471	316	281	171	156
Comp	99	100	100	105	107	107	107
Sponsor	20	21	22	29	35	42	44
Sustainer	14	27	43	53	69	68	75
Life	8	8	8	9	11	13	17
Rated Non-member*	*	10	130	94	76	81	161
Others	3	4	6	6	6	5	7
TOTAL	1474	1724	1823	1739	1685	1625	1750
Chapters	34	60	65	69	60	60	71
New Members	**	**	**	**	**	384	398
Youth Members	**	**	**	**	**	110	152

(Maximum number from each 12-month period)

NOTE: Figures for 1992-1994 not available

*In 1996 a rating fee was created to enable non-members to play in AGA tournaments. Many Limited Members took this option instead.

**In 1999, the AGA began calculating how many new members signed up during the year, as part of our effort to retain more new members. The database also began to track Youth Members in 1999.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by John Goon, AGA Membership Secretary

Membership Growth

This was another year of modest but sustained growth for the AGA. We achieved record high numbers of Full members, Chapters and in all donor categories. Even more promising, the number of non-members participating in tournaments doubled from last year.

Table 1 provides summary membership information for 1985/6 to 1990/1. **Table 2** provides the latest statistics from the AGA database.

Gross total membership rose significantly in the mid-'90's, peaking at 1823 in 1996/7. Since then, all membership categories have grown slowly but steadily. A sharp decline in limited members began in 1996, when the Limited Membership was raised to \$10 and the \$5 non-member tournament rating fee was created. This caused a steep decline in Limited members, down from a high of 580 to just 156 last year. Clearly, many limited members are switching to this option, with a corresponding rise in the "Non-member rating fee" category. In 2000, this trend seems to have stabilized.

Membership Activities

Membership Outreach Committee. The informal Outreach Committee, formed in 1999 to carry out a Former Members Survey, and an eBay Pilot Project continued their work in 2000. Jean DeMaiffe, David Whiteside, and Kirby Huget were its first members. Joyce Frigon joined the group in 2000 and devoted time to contacting the new non-AGA member subscribers of

Geographic Distribution of Membership

Our membership remained widely, but not evenly, distributed across the country. Not counting chapters and complementary memberships, Table 3 shows that we have 344 players in the Western region, 456 in the Central region, and 570 in the Eastern Region.

State	'99	'00	State	'99	'00	State	'99	'00
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every week. Many AGA members now renew their memberships online; most new members sign up online as well. They are among the 1500 people who visit the AGA Web site *for the first time* every week.

The AGA continues its pioneering work conducting online tournaments. In partnership with the Internet Go Server, Tournament Director Chen-dao Lin and the NAMT team of Don Wiener and Jeff Shaevel produced the Sixth North American Masters Tournament, the first and still the only pro tournament on the Internet. As noted in our Tournaments Report, two professional players moved to the US and 2000 and joined the expanding field of "American professionals." The online Redmond Cup selected two Americans, one under 12, the other under 18, to represent the US this year in the World Youth Championship. NAMT Director Chen-dao Lin also conducted the second all-Internet Seimitsu Open, pitting top European and Western against one another for the right to play a Japanese professional.

The AGA's first Internet Chapter, "Wings over Calm Waters" may be the wave of the future. By providing a reliable presence on the Internet, "Wings" hopes to offer its members services and support they would not otherwise receive. (They meet every Wednesday on the Kiseido server.)

Fundraising. We can point with pride to a long history of dedication, energy, and reliability in the planning and execution of many successful programs, and we are actively seeking corporate, institutional or other sponsorship for a variety of programs. Each Chapter has an untapped resource in their community that could help make community-based go activity possible. More grass roots outreach means more new members.

Membership Services

New volunteers have helped to ease the overall workload, but the demand for volunteers continues to grow. We cannot relax our efforts to identify and train the next generation of members to assume AGA leadership in the future.

Every person, whether new applicant or renewal, should receive a membership card and a cover letter within a few weeks of joining. The cover letter lists AGA materials that can be ordered free or at a nominal charge. It also asks for volunteers to help in various areas. A packet of all the available materials is offered for a nominal fee. We will continue to do this, and to consider ways of reinforcing this message through the Journal and e-Journal.

Chapters continue to receive, upon request, mailing labels for use in promoting their events. And as part of the tournament/rating system support process, we provide lists with members' names, AGA numbers, ratings, zip codes and expiration dates to clubs and TDs for use in tournament registration. Please don't hesitate to request these services for your club or tournament!

A Community Demonstration Project

When I began preparing this report, I thought I would simply update last year's figures and text, but I found it impossible to pursue such an expedient approach. Two years of hard-earned grass roots experience wouldn't allow itself to be left on the cutting room floor. As some of you know, I have devoted considerable time to organizing an aggressive and unified regional outreach campaign in the Washington DC area, to establish a critical mass of ongoing pilot outreach projects and contacts, and to leverage and exploit the opportunities

thereby created. Although we are only in the beginning phase, the initial feedback has been exciting. So with ideas and results like this to share, I decided to revamp the Report by expanding the discussion on new initiatives and their possible impact on AGA membership. This, coupled with a dab of statistical analysis, should provide the reader with a broader view of our achievements and potential.

Capitol Children's Museum (CCM). The CCM of Washington DC held their first go workshop in July and continued to promote go through the year. Local players trained the CCM staff in the spring so that they could teach "First Capture" to the many children who pass through. In addition, the AGA provided the CCM with information flyers, cardboard sets, and many hours of volunteer support. Thanks to the CCM program, hundreds of children, teachers, and parents were introduced to go in 2000. This partnership will continue in 2001.

Chess and Go Collaborations. Another promising area for exploration appears to be the chess/go collaboration. In the past year, I made significant inroads at a number of local chess clubs and I plan to expand this program to other school clubs in 2001.

I was fortunate to have found chess player friends who are willing and able to participate in joint chess/go projects. Our selling point for teachers and parents alike is this: Introduce both chess and go to your students. Most of the students and parents will respond to and stick with chess, but some who are not attracted to chess may find go appealing. If they stick with it they may derive some of the benefits that chess is known to provide in terms of cognitive development. The joint

approach casts a wider net — it embraces a larger cross section of the student population.

Parents with Special Education children are very keen on this approach. Just as important, the chess/go partnership is very appealing to potential sponsors, because the emphasis is clearly on the kids (It matters not if they chose chess or go, so long as they discover something that they can enjoy.) I would encourage and challenge the other regions to give this a try. You will be amazed by how wonderful this approach can be.

Chinese Community Language Schools. There are several dozen of these weekend school programs scattered across the Washington DC region. If your area is similarly blessed, these schools offer a tremendous market for your future outreach programs. We learned that go/weichi is normally missing from the curriculum, in part because parents and staff assumed that their kids would rather play Western chess, but some schools see the broader picture. I've been asked by no less than four schools to teach an 8-week course in the fall. If you have schools like this in your locale, a short visit with the staff just may produce an enlightened miracle.

School-Friendly Go Sets. Intermediate-sized 9x9/13x13 equipment is proving especially useful in school settings. The AGA is looking into ways to encourage their production and distribution. The 9x9/13x13 sets will allow games to be finished in a reasonable period of time, and they can radically change the scholastic landscape. The impact on youth memberships should be equally dramatic.

Grass Roots Go. There is no substitute for hands-on experience. This applies to both teaching and organizing. It means spending time with children and adults going over "the basics." It means creating a

demand for and then delegating tasks to your volunteers. It means keeping everyone as informed as possible about everything. A region with an active and robust outreach infrastructure will answer yes to most of the following questions:

- ❖ Is there a current e-mail distribution list that allows someone to contact all regional players quickly?
- ❖ Are key officials accessible? Accountable?
- ❖ Are there contacts within the public and private school systems?
- ❖ Are there contacts with the city or county recreation department?
- ❖ Are there contacts with any major charitable or fund raising organizations, e.g. Rotary Clubs?
- ❖ Are there contacts with the local media?
- ❖ Is there one clear information source for all of the outreach programs in the region, i.e. is there one person who is being kept informed about everything that is going on?

Staffing Programs with Student Volunteers: The key to success is a long-term commitment to growth. Special projects are easier to staff because they are time limited and well defined. Sustaining long-term commitments poses the real challenge. In the DC area, we are recruiting from local schools both experienced and new volunteers to give introductory presentations at senior centers, community centers and schools. These students get school credit for community service, credit they need in order to graduate. Only authorized, validated, non-profit organizations such as the AGA can tap into this talent pool. By offering these students a range of tasks from which to choose (e.g. teaching go,

admin work, database reports, Internet research, and market surveys) we expect this initiative to attract tremendous interest.

New County Cultural Diversity Center. After six months of sustained promotional coordination in Montgomery County MD, the effort will finally pay off in August/September 2001 with the grand opening of the Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity (Wheaton MD). A major feature of the Center will be a fully resourced, rent-free go program. The County approved \$2000 in grant monies to start the program and the American Go Foundation provided an additional \$1900 in matching funds. The program will sponsor weekly meetings, monthly workshops, and a tentative scholastic tournament in the spring of 2002. The program will be used to leverage sustaining financial support from the surrounding businesses and community organizations. Along these lines, we are working with the local Rotary Club to become a benefactor of their future annual fund raising campaigns.

2001 Goals and Objectives

- ❖ Develop a more active Membership Outreach Committee.
- ❖ Provide chapters with informational materials that will encourage players to join the AGA.
- ❖ Promote the potential of Student Community Service Learning programs as a source of volunteer manpower for go outreach programs.
- ❖ Encourage Chapters to explore collaboration with their local chess community in order to make more effective inroads with schools, recreation departments, and community groups.

- ❖ Explore the capability of fund-raising organizations like the Rotary Club to effectively support local outreach initiatives.
- ❖ Encourage Chapters to expand their contacts with the Hispanic/Latino communities and other non-Asian cultures.
- ❖ Continue to develop new initiatives with the senior citizen community.
- ❖ Generate AGA web pages that will discuss the promotional concepts outlined by this Report in greater detail.

Membership Targets for 2001/02

- ❖ 500 new AGA members. The same target as 2000/01. 398 new members joined last fiscal year.
- ❖ Less than 100 members who do not renew. Again, the same target as 2000/01. 239 members allowed their membership to lapse last year.

A net gain of 400 members in 2001 will push us over the 2000 member threshold!!!

CHAPTER SERVICES REPORT

by William S. Cobb, AGA Chapter Services Coordinator

This past year saw the number of AGA Chapters rise above 70 for the first time in the history of the AGA. California continues to have the largest number of Chapters with eleven, but Colorado has the largest number per capita with six.

The AGA continues to expand the services it provides to Chapters:

- ❖ An automatic matching grant of up to \$250 has been made available from the AGF for books and equipment, available to all Chapters without prior application.
- ❖ The AGA Chapters e-mail reflector has become a moderated list so as to maximize its usefulness for Chapter communication and development .
- ❖ Equipment donated by the Ing Foundation will now be distributed to Chapters by pre-arranged order, assuring more equitable access.
- ❖ New AGA publications available to Chapters, which include a new flyer with the rules for first capture and regular go, were made available free for promotional purposes, as well as game recording sheets for tournament and club play use.
- ❖ Official Chapters are now displayed more prominently on the Web site.
- ❖ *WinTD*, a computer program for directing tournaments developed by Chuck Robbins, was used at almost thirty tournaments last year.

Chuck Robbins' new computer program has been especially important for Chapter growth. Now that running tournaments and reporting results is easier than ever, the number of rated tournaments seems to be increasing, especially on the East Coast.

We look forward to continued growth in the number and activities of Chapters in the coming year.

NEWS OF GO-PLAYING YOUNG PEOPLE

by AGA Youth Coordinator Noné Redmond

America's young people are becoming a larger and larger segment of the AGA's membership. One in ten AGA members is now under 18. Many of these children are doing very well, climbing up the strength ladder, winning prizes at tournaments and studying the games of professionals with their teachers.

More children's names are appearing in the AGJ's "Most Active Player" list, and in the "Most Improved" group. In San Francisco, a ten-year-old won the Dote-Sensei tournament, with four other children and two very young men in the winners list of eleven names. The children are coming to tournaments, and they are playing well.

Young people are also teaching, and in this I see great hope. Two young Californians, both of whom teach, have started up a "Cybercamp" on KGS Sunday afternoons, and the AGA has offered a tempting reward for those AGA children who manage to play 10 games on Cybercamp before our next Congress.

Recently British organizer Nick Wedd dropped in to Cybercamp to see how American children play. Nick is talking about setting up a Children's room on a Saturday at times when children from continental Europe and the British Isles could play with young people across America. When we have Cybercamp fully started, we'll think about a Transatlantic Children's Room.

This year Peter Rzepecki is the director of the highly successful Summer Go Camp for children. This is generously sponsored by the Ing Foundation and scholarships are available for children who might not

otherwise be able to attend. Janice Kim is the professional teacher there, and she has a wonderful way of drawing all of us into her classes and holding us under her spell.

Our go-playing youth contingent is getting stronger and more serious. Many thanks are due to those of you who give generously of your time to teach and to guide these youngsters as they play and study. Club tournaments, interscholastic tournaments, and tournaments on the Net can be very exciting and rewarding for children, and when they participate in these occasions it has other benefits of learning courtesy and respect as well as discovering more about playing the game.

In Asia, as you know, young children who show sign of go talent are often sent to a *dojo* where a master will teach them and groom them into professional players. It's a life of dedication and resolve. It's hard work. The young people have to be serious and they have to love the game. Here in America, there are many demands on our children's energy. Soccer and baseball, dancing lessons and piano class all claim time and interest. We don't have so many professional players. But there is the Internet where a pro can interact with children and although it is not the same thing as a "live-in" *dojo*, it is the next best thing.

So in February an experimental program began for four fortunate young people. They enrolled in a study group under the care of James Kerwin-Sensei. Their homework includes amongst other things studying a professional game, studying life and death problems and playing with other children. Hopefully, their go-playing friends will notice their new understanding of the game and the teaching will spread out to a wider circle.

If this experimental study group is thought to be a success, other groups may be started. The children have been charged a nominal fee for the 16-week program and Mr Kerwin has been characteristically generous with his time. The American Go Foundation is supporting the study group program presently, but if it is opened up to children generally, a scholarship fund drive may have to be launched. I hope that teachers who have students who they think would benefit from this program will keep in touch with me.

Many of the children now studying so well are the children of Asian immigrants to this country; their family names are Chinese, or Japanese, or Korean. We have done a good job by being there for them. Twenty-five years ago, the children of Asian descent wanted nothing more than to become "good little American girls and boys." I remember some of them ridiculing the game of go, terming it a silly out-of-date game for little old gentlemen who would all die soon anyway . . . so why bother?

In fact the American Go Association *did* bother and although, sadly, we are losing some of our older traditional players, there are energetic young tigers coming up, strong in play, courageous in ambition and with both love and respect for the game.

TOURNAMENT ACTIVITIES

by Mike Bull, AGA Tournament Coordinator

The Tournament Scene

An amateur won the 14th North American Fujitsu Qualifying Tournament this year for the first time since professional players began participating in 1985. Thomas Hsiang 7D of Rochester has to thank Ted Ning 7D of Hawaii for beating the favorite, pro 4-Dan Jimmy Cha, in the second round. Ted then lost to Jong Moon Lee in round three. Thomas went on to beat Jong Moon Lee in the final round. (Thomas had a great year — he also won the North American Ing Cup.) This Fujitsu also crossed another historical milestone; the first time a player from Mexico has ever won a game.

Winning the North American Fujitsu is a huge achievement for an amateur. The way to the top became much easier two years ago, when Michael Redmond decided to stop playing so as to focus on his career in Japan. The departure of top professional players has hurt the North American Masters Tournament, too. Nai-wei Rui, the world's top female player, has become a celebrity since she won the Kuksoo title, becoming the first woman in history to win a top title. She and Jimmy Cha are now too busy in Korea for the Masters, and L.A.-based master teacher Yang Yi-lun has also withdrawn from the event to concentrate on teaching.

Then our luck changed. America's fabulous good fortune with professional players hit it big when Feng Yun, the only other female pro 9-Dan in the world, moved to New Jersey with her husband. She has moved quickly to establish herself as a teacher on the East Coast with group and individual lessons, simultaneous games at the

New York Go Center and an upcoming four-day workshop at an Adirondack resort. Jiang Ming Jiu 7-Dan, Zhu-jiu Jiang's younger brother, moved to Northern California this year. Ms. Feng and Mr. Jiang both entered the Masters field for the first time this year, and both players are currently (5/19) undefeated in the challenger round. It is a sure bet that one or the other will play Jujo for the title.

Professionals entered an open tournament in America for the first time last January. Jujo Jiang 9-dan, Feng Yun 9-dan, Ming jiu Jiang 7-dan, Janice Kim 1-dan and Chi-hyung Nam 1-dan all played in the Ing-sponsored Jujo Jiang Goe Tournament in Northern California. Two amateurs put on a strong showing 20-year-old Jie Li, the highest current AGA rated player, and Won Sik Lee.

In the Seimitsu Cup, European player Alexander Dinnerstein defeated our best amateur for the second year in a row. There are players in North America who are strong enough to beat him — players like Jie Li, who beat Jiang Ming Jiu by one point in an even game at the Jujo Jiang Goe Tournament, and Danning Jiang. Unfortunately, these players do not qualify because of their immigration status. The USA is a developing country in the world of go, and we need to do our best to welcome newcomers like Jie Li and Feng Yun and get them involved in tournament go.

Running a local tournament is easier (and cheaper) than ever now, because of some recent developments; a reliable and user-friendly McMahan pairing program created and made available by Chuck Robbins and the responsive and user-friendly tournament publicity provided by Chris Garlock and the AGA's e-journal. In addition to the e-journal the AGA also provides direct email of tournament announcements thanks to Sam

Zimmerman. Tournament organizers can still get mailing labels for those who are still not connected to the Internet. A good TD . . . well, any TD... is hard to find. These developments make running a tournament much easier, and foolproof for those who are doing it for the first time. The AGA appreciates the efforts of everyone involved in the organizing, directing, promoting, supplying with equipment, setting up and taking down of AGA go tournaments.

Youth Tournaments

The Handicap division of the Eighth Michael Redmond Cup was canceled this year because of a shortage of players. Perhaps each AGA chapter should be required to produce one youth player per year. Let's not repeat mistakes made by others, who neglected to promote the game among the younger generation. It takes an exceptional devotion to carry this out. The non-handicap Junior and Senior Internet League divisions of the Redmond Cup are alive and well, and the few who wanted to play the Handicap were incorporated into it.

156 players participated recently in the biggest youth tournament in America, thanks to the work of teacher Joe Lee and professional Jiang Ming Jiu. Wonders can be accomplished once a professional gets involved. We are trying to develop a strategy to make it possible to achieve similar results nationwide.

In the interest of promoting youth go and celebrating our good relationship with the Ing Foundation, the AGA will host the 18th World Youth Goe Championship on the island of Maui, August 5-11, 2001. Michael Bull, and Ernest Brown, president of American Ing Goe, are the organizers of the event. The USA will be well

represented in the tournament by two outstanding young players, Eric Lui and Curtis Tang.

Expansion

A go-playing friend of mine who owns a few games stores remarks from time to time about how many go sets he is selling. "I don't know what they are doing with them", he says, " but they are flowing out at a good rate." I have heard this same comment a few times over the years. There is a go tidal wave building up out there somewhere, and one of these days it is going to hit.

PUBLICATIONS REPORT

by Publications Coordinator Chris Garlock

The secret of a successful publication lies as much in regular publication as it does in interesting content and excellent design. By that measure, 2000 was a tremendously successful year for AGA publications, as we not only kept the Journal on its quarterly schedule, and delivered the E-Journal weekly to 2,500 readers, but also published a special daily E-Journal during the 2000 Go Congress in Denver.

American Go Journal

While continuing to meet our quarterly publication schedule, the Go Journal team made significant advances in content over the last year.

A common complaint in previous years has been that the Journal didn't have enough go analysis: we steadily added such go content in the last year, culminating in a Spring 2001 issue that featured a record number of game analyses by pros and top amateurs.

We've also added new features, most notably beefing up the Go Review section, which in the Spring 2001 issue ran no less than six reviews of go books, software and even a go-themed movie!

The Journal is not just on time and high-quality: there's more of it, as well. The smallest Journal in the last year came in at 32 pages; the heftiest weighed in at a whopping 48 pages, a remarkable achievement by the Journal team and a great value for our members.

All of this, of course, comes at a cost. Bigger Journals not only cost more in cash to produce and distribute, but of course take more volunteer time to create, edit,

design and lay out. Journal contributors continue to willingly give their time and creativity, but if we are not to risk burning out a terrific team we must look at ways to distribute the workload as well as provide compensation where and when necessary.

American Go E-Journal

This publication's success has far surpassed our wildest dreams. At nearly 2,500 readers, it now has 1,000 more subscribers than the AGA has members. This is not only a fantastic publicity tool for the AGA, but provides an expanding pool of "hot prospects" for AGA membership. Turning non-member subscribers into AGA members via special membership incentives has been experimented with in March and April of this year with some success: this is an area that should be explored in much greater depth, as it holds tremendous possibilities for dynamic membership growth.

The E-Journal has become the preferred media for much of the American go scene, from promoting upcoming events to tournament results and reporting go news. A number of local organizers have discontinued their own email listserves, encouraging their members to subscribe to the E-Journal instead. Both of these developments are heartening votes of confidence in the E-Journal, as well as a serious responsibility.

The E-Journal's content has expanded, as well. The Go Review section, begun in March 2001, has now reviewed dozens of go items, from books to software and even a go-themed movie. The reviews are written by E-Journal readers, constituting an important connection with our readership and membership. The \$25 gift certificates for each contributor have helped generate a steady stream of reviews and are an excellent way to support our go vendors.

The Online Go column by Terri Schurter has provided ongoing coverage of the fascinating world of online go, exploring topics from etiquette to new go servers. This column covers and serves a worldwide go resource, providing yet another valuable resource for AGA members.

Web Site

A major re-design of the AGA web-page is now underway. The home page will be streamlined for easier use by both new and experienced visitors. An exciting feature will be a new weekly go problem, which we expect will drive up return traffic significantly. In addition to simplifying the website's design, a standard navigation bar is being added that will enable users to more easily move around the site. Visitors will also be encouraged to sign up for the free E-Journal; by increasing E-Journal readership we build the base of potential members.

Publishing Partnerships

As a result of new partnerships between the AGA and two publishing partners, four new go books will appear this year for the first time in English:

Masterpieces of Handicap Go Volumes I & II feature some of the most popular articles ever published in *The American Go Journal*, a series of historic games between great masters and up-and-coming champions of the next generation. Although new players often find themselves playing handicap go, most game analysis in English focuses on even games. These forty detailed analyses of handicap games help to overcome this gap in the literature in English. The AGA holds the copyright on these books, which will be produced and distributed under a special arrangement with Shell & Slate Publishers.

Keshi and Uchikomi: Invasion and Reduction in Go, a popular book by Iwamoto on middle game technique, appeared in the AGJ for several years in the 1980's. Now the complete book will be available for the first time in English, under a similar arrangement with Shell & Slate publishers.

How to Play Against Stronger Players has been a popular title in Japan since its publication as a "Super Book" in the 1960's, but it has never been available in English before now. Published by the AGA and produced and distributed by the Wings Across Calm Water Club, the AGA's first "virtual" chapter. You can download the first part as a Word or Adobe file from <http://www.wingsgoclub.org/page4.html>.

Other Publications

We continue to distribute the following publications:

The Game of Go: A Beginner's Manual for Teachers, Students and Organizers (48 pp.)

The Official AGA Songbook: Dozens of silly go songs for all occasions

Go Problems for Kyu Players: 4.24" x 5.5" 44 pp.

Volume One: Life and Death

Volume Two: Uplifting Exercises

Volume Three: Whole Board Opening Problems

Learning from the Masters: Kyu Level Game Commentary

AGA brochures: "A Game for the New Millennium"

The Way to Go by Karl Baker: first published by the American Go Foundation twenty years ago, this free handout is in its seventh printing and going strong.

GOVERNANCE COMMISSION INTERIM REPORT

by John Goon, Chairman

The AGA Governance Commission was formed at the request of the President, Roy Laird, in June 2000. The current AGA bylaws were written in 1992 and adopted when the AGA incorporated in 1993, but it had recently become clear that some update was needed. The members appointed to the Commission were: John Goon (Chair), Terry Assael, Terry Benson, John Stephenson, Kirby Huget, Keith Arnold (HKA), Mike Lash, and Chris Kirschner. This Interim Report provides a brief summation of the activities undertaken in FY2000.

The commission convened its first meeting during the US Go Congress in Denver to draw up a general plan, set down some procedures, identify key objectives, and to agree on a milestone schedule. The meeting results were briefed to the AGA National Assembly, which endorsed the Commission's intent to seek input, explore alternatives, and develop recommendations regarding these issues:

Basic structures of governance: In particular, the relationship and roles of the President, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the Chapter Representatives are being reviewed, including the balance of powers and obligations between these elements.

The revision process: Revisions of the by-laws now require a 2/3 affirmative vote of the membership, but the procedure for amending the Articles of Incorporation is

not spelled out. The Commission is also studying this issue.

Selection of officers and directors: Currently, officers are elected by weighted vote of Chapters, and the Board of Directors is self-perpetuating. Alternative voting procedures under which the Board would be more democratically selected are being considered. One method under consideration would involve a weighted vote of chapters to select the Board, which would then select a President, Regional VP's and other officers.

Payment of officers for services: Current bylaws permit this, but the Committee will recommend that officers, members of the Executive Committee or the Board should not hold paid positions within the organization, nor should they receive payment for their services beyond reimbursement for expenses.

Information and opinion was solicited from the membership through the middle of October 2000, and a web site was set up on the AGA server to allow the general membership to view and interact during the early information collection phase. A teleconference was convened in December to air views on the critical issues of organization and elections. In another recent call, we came to consensus on some fundamental issues, though the details remain to be worked out. The Commission will meet on Thursday, July 23, at the US Go Congress to prepare its recommendations for the National Assembly the next day. Observers will be welcome. In the meantime, please forward your thoughts and questions about our work to me, or see me at the Congress if you can.