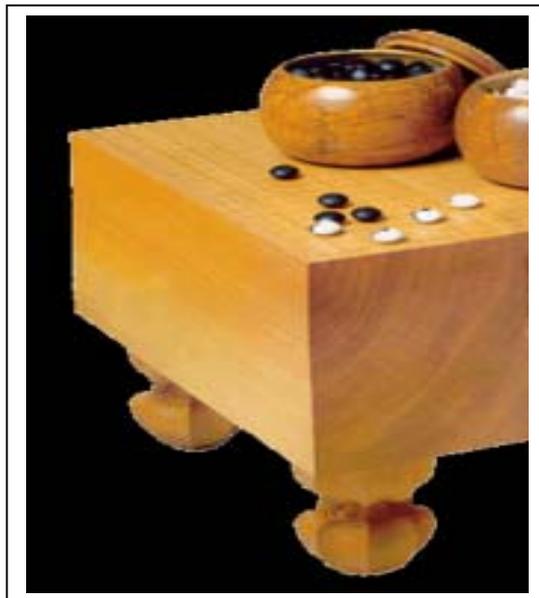


# American Go Association

## Annual Report

2007



## WHAT IS THE AMERICAN GO ASSOCIATION?

The American Go Association is the official national organization of American go players, cooperating with similar national organizations and international federations around the world. Among our efforts to promote the game and support the development of the American go-playing community, we:

- **Provide** a national network for AGA members to play go, participate in tournaments and join AGA chapters.
- **Provide** financial, informational, organizational and material support to AGA chapters.
- **Maintain** a computerized national rating system.
- **Support**, organize and publicize tournaments, workshops and other events.
- **Select** professional and amateur representatives for international competition.
- **Publish** The American Go E-Journal and annual Yearbook
- **Organize** national and international qualifying tournaments all year long.
- **Organize** the annual U.S. Go Congress.

Reach us at:

**American Go Association  
P.O. Box 397  
Old Chelsea Station  
New York, NY, 10113-0397  
Tel. 917.817.7080  
[www.usgo.org](http://www.usgo.org)**

## *Table of Contents*

<i>AGA Officers and Program Coordinators.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Chairman's Report .....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>President's Report.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Treasurer's Report.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Communications Report.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Marketing the AGA.....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>International Go Federation.....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Pair Go.....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Youth Activities.....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Summer Go Camps.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Internet Tournaments.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>AGA Archives.....</i>	<i>32</i>

*The AGA delivers as much as it can to as many go players as possible but only through the labor of a team of go-loving volunteers. They work hard all year every year to make it easier for you to share with others the depth and the fun of this ancient game. Many AGA volunteers donate tremendous amounts of free time and spend an enormous amount of personal energy, collectively and individually, most of which is invisible to average AGA members. It is entirely appropriate, therefore, to publicly express our sincerest appreciation for their dedication and generosity. Listed below are the current AGA officials and program coordinators. Please, take a moment to see who really makes it all possible for you. Find them at the Congress and let them know you understand and value their work.*

**AGA Board of Directors**  
(September 2006-August 2007)

Roy Laird (At large) (Chair)
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)
Robert Barber (Central Region)
Roy Schmidt (Central Region)
Willard Haynes (Western Region)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)

**AGA Officers**

President	Michael Lash
Secretary	Pauline Pohl
Treasurer	Adam Bridges
VP - Communications	Chris Garlock
VP - Operations	Chris Kirschner

**National Services Coordinators**

Chapter Services	Arnold Eudell
Community Outreach	John Goon

Membership Services	Mark Rubenstein
Pair Go	Allan Abramson
Summer Go Camps	Walter Knox
Youth Coordination	Todd Heidenreich

### **International Relations Liaison**

International Go Federation	Thomas Hsiang
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### **Operations Coordinators**

Archivist	David Doshay
Database Management	Sam Zimmerman
Elections Officer	Arnold Eudell
Policy & Governance	Rick Mott
Ratings System	Paul Matthews
Rules of the Game	Terry Benson
Volunteer & Recruitment	Kevin Purvis

### **Communications Coordinators**

EJournal Editor	Chris Garlock
Webmaster	Roy Laird

## *Chairman's Report*

*Dr. Roy Laird*

This has been a year of growth and development for the AGA, with many new events, programs and other additions, due to the energetic collaboration of a team that includes President Michael Lash, Operations VP Chris Kirschner, Communications VP Chris Garlock and dozens of people who have assisted them throughout the year.

- The AGA re-established a stable procedure for funding the promotion and development of North American go through the Ing Chang-ki Wei-chi Education Foundation (**Ing Foundation**), opening the way to continuation of successful programs and trying new projects.
- A new national **US Youth Go Championship** began this year, with financial support from the **Ing Foundation**. The American Go Foundation offered go camp scholarships to top finalists.
- A new national tournament, **The North American Ing Masters Tournament**, was formed by combining the old Ing cup and Masters tournaments into a qualifier-format tournament using eight preliminary events leading to finals at the Go Congress. The prizes total \$10,000, and is also sponsored by the **Ing Foundation**.
- Programmer and go lover Christopher Sira has produced **new tournament software**, a Python-based program called PyTD that enables TDs to automatically pair tournament, check membership and rating data on everyone in the AGA database, and output results automatically for the AGA rating system
- We published our first AGA-copyrighted **Tournament Director's Guide**, drawing largely on the work of former Tournament Coordinator Ken Koester, now available on the website's tournament page.
- President Lash and Operations VP Kirschner worked hard to assure a smooth transition to **new Treasurer** Adam Bridges when Ulo Tamm retired after nearly ten years of outstanding service as treasurer.

While the AGA executives were accomplishing all this, the Board conducted other important AGA business:

- Providing needed clarification of minimum sudden death time limits for rated games;

- Adopting a formal procedure for selecting representatives to international tournaments;
- Adopting a formal safety and security policy for AGA events; and
- Instituting complimentary AGA membership for players with pro credentials from overseas when they become citizens or US residents.

The Board is currently working on several projects we hope to bring to reality before next year:

- A **rank certification program** that will build on the credibility of the AGA rating system to become a highly respected measure of achievement.
- An AGA-affiliated **Professional American Go Association** that will help American pros to build their careers and offer qualified American players the chance to “turn pro.”
- The International Go Federation is working with the recently formed International Mind Sports Association to **promote a “Mind Sports” event under the Olympic umbrella**. The first such event could happen next October in Beijing; the AGA will work with the IGF to make this event a reality.

*What do you really care about? We seldom hear from members but as your elected representatives to govern the AGA, we should. Many of our best ideas have come from you, so don't be shy!*

## ***President's Report***

*By Michael Lash*

It is a pleasure to present my third Annual Report to the membership of the American Go Association. At the end of my first term I felt gratified to express my sincere appreciation for the support I received from the Board of Directors. I am very pleased to reaffirm the continuation of an excellent working relationship. With the Board's support, I have been able to forge a robust and growing team of officers and volunteers that work together to deliver a widening range of programs. As we develop more programs we have more volunteer opportunities, we continue to recruit and the AGA gets stronger every year as a result. With the combination of a healthy growth if volunteers and finances, the AGA is in excellent shape and getting better.

### **Membership Milestones**

I am extremely pleased to report yet another increase in Membership last year. The total number of members grew to over 2,200 and has stayed there. New members for a one-year period, ending June 28, reached a new record - 818! Youth membership itself reached an all time high, surging past 600 in April 2007. The growth in membership was spurred by many incentives, including the Chapter Membership Drive, in which a dozen AGA chapters won rewards for bringing in the most brand new AGA members in their regions. *In total, over 50 Chapters participated and brought in almost 300 brand new AGA members!* This was an incredible accomplishment on its own. And, by having the new members join the AGA through established AGA chapters, we hope to see a substantial increase in the percentage of those who stay members beyond their first year.

In addition to the Chapter Membership Drive and the USYGC, our tireless E-Journal Editor Chris Garlock continues to drive membership numbers up through a series of creative and appealing promotions in the E-Journal.

During the last year, the new Provisional Membership category voted into place at the 2006 National Assembly has taken effect. It is taking hold slowly as Chapters understand its structure and purpose and offer it more to newcomers. We will see in another year or so to measure the impact in encouraging the move from limited to full AGA membership.

## **U.S. National Tournaments**

AGA tournament activity continues to surge at all levels – local, national and international. Most prominent over the past year were the successful U.S. Youth Go Championship and the North American Ing Masters (NAIM) Championship, both sponsored by the Ing Foundation. Both used a network of qualifier tournaments held in more than a dozen cities across the USA that led to the finals of both. Planning and coordination for the USYGC were very ably handled by Nicole Casanta and Chris Kirschner with the finals held in Seattle. Gordon Casanta and Jon Boley put this together and set the standard of excellence for this annual tournament at its very first occurrence.

The NAIM Championship tournament format is a new effort this year to deliver to the American go professionals more competitive opportunities and expose our top amateur players to the highest levels of competition we have in this country. Prize money was increased, more professionals were successfully encouraged to participate, and a first round knock out was organized to generate the 4-round event. This promises to become the premiere U.S. title event.

Look for more information in our national events calendar posted on the AGA Website. You will see an increasing number of events that include qualifier rounds played on the Internet, as well as some online finals. This not only allows those who can't travel to still participate, it also expands the opportunities to organize and hold events quickly to select candidates for short-notice international tournaments.

## **International Tournaments**

On the subject of international events, US professionals and amateurs participated in more events overseas in the last twelve months than ever before, with teams and individuals being invited to play in Korea, China and Japan. In addition to the well established annual WAGC, WYGC, and Pair Go championship, we also had US players participate in the Dai Li Women's tournament, the Fujitsu, the World Student Go Championship, and a new event to the AGA – the Hong Kong Youth Tournament. All of these are likely to continue as annual or biannual events for future AGA participation.

## **Volunteers Rising!**

Last year's Congress saw the second annual Volunteer Job Fair and we were extremely fortunate to have recruited several excellent people into the ranks of national AGA service and administration: Kevin Purvis became the AGA's Volunteers Coordinator, Mark Rubenstein is our Membership Services Coordinator, Arnold Eudell took on the Chapter Services Coordinator role along with his position as Chief Elections Office, Nicole Casanta has gotten involved in coordinating national tournaments and qualifiers, and Dennis Wheeler stepped up to become one of extremely rare and valuable internet tournament directors! A warm and genuine "thank you" goes out to all of these volunteers in particular. I appreciate the efforts, large and small, of all volunteers and look forward to more energized members volunteering for the AGA this year.

The AGA has a new Treasurer, Mr. Adam Bridges, who was Treasurer of the highly successful 2006 Go Congress in North Carolina. He produced a final report that stands as one of the best in recent memory – a fine prelude to what we can expect from him as Treasurer. We say a fond farewell to Ulo Tamm who gave the AGA many years of service before retiring to the joys of good honest work in building go boards and supporting local go activity.

## **Next Year's Focus**

We are going to pursue a major upgrade to the AGA website that will provide newer and more useful functions for AGA members, chapters, tournament directors, players and the public at large. In 2008, you will see new look for the AGA on the internet.

Other programs include TD training materials and programs, identifying new sponsors to support programs such as national high school tournaments, teaching AGA members, and producing more online Go material.

We will continue welcoming new volunteers to share the fun in supporting our programs, and a few key national positions are open for motivated and energetic volunteers with the right kind of experience and time: National Tournament Coordinator, Webmaster, VP of Planning, and more. As always, if you have any ideas you'd like to discuss, feel free to contact me at [President@usgo.org](mailto:President@usgo.org).



***Treasurer's Report***  
*by Ulo Tamm*

The AGA's Balance Sheet and Activities Statement (June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007) clearly show that our corporation is doing very well indeed. Income exceeded expectations and expenses were lower than anticipated. These events resulted in an increase of \$52,753.00 in our total assets and a \$30,636.00 increase in our General Reserves (unencumbered Corporation funds.) I am sure that our new treasurer, Adam Bridges, is pleased to start his tenure in such a fine financial position and with his background we expect to see even better results for the next fiscal year as he applies his accounting and financial management skills.

I thank our President, Michael Lash, and our Board of Directors for having trusted me with our corporate funds and I would like to thank Adam Bridges for accepting this position and wish him the best.

## American GO Association Balance Sheet, Fiscal 2007

	6/1/2006	5/31/2007	change +/-
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and Bank Accounts			
Colorado- Checking	\$ 2,526.00	\$ 7,537.00	
Colorado-Liquid Asset	\$ 220,660.00	\$ 265,574.00	
Colorado-Premier Time Savings	\$ -	\$ 107,926.00	
AGA CD-Bank of America	\$ 104,678.00	\$ -	
<b>Total cash</b>	<b>\$ 327,864.00</b>	<b>\$ 381,037.00</b>	<b>\$ 53,173.00</b>
Receivables:			
MTN Camp '08	\$ 420.00	\$ -	
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 328,284.00</b>	<b>\$ 381,037.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,753.00</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Reserves</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts:			
Chapters	17th Congress 2001	\$ 3,529.00	\$ -
	18th Congress 2002	\$ 2,496.00	\$ 296.00
	19th Congress 2003	\$ 11,094.00	\$ 9,394.00
	20th Congress 2004	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,300.00
	21st Congress 2005	\$ 14,250.00	\$ 6,780.00
	22nd Congress 2006	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 13,915.00
	Total:	<u>\$ 39,369.00</u>	<u>\$ 32,685.00</u>
OZA	OZA -06 Vouchers	\$ 4,955.00	\$ -
	Total:	<u>\$ 4,955.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Other	Payable to 06 East Camp	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -
	Payable to 06 West Camp	\$ 4,451.00	\$ -
	Payable to 07 East Camp		\$ 4,195.00
	Payable to 07 West Camp		\$ 11,616.00
	Fees collected for BGA		\$ 670.00
	ING2006		\$ 3,045.00
	ING2007		\$ 11,500.00
	Unused Pair GO Fund		\$ 728.00
	WYGC		\$ 37.00
	Total:	<u>\$ 5,851.00</u>	<u>\$ 31,791.00</u>
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 50,175.00</b>	<b>\$ 64,476.00</b>
		<b>\$ 50,175.00</b>	<b>\$ 64,476.00</b>
<b>Reserves</b>			
	Reserve- Life Members	\$ 42,425.00	\$ 50,241.00
	General Reserves	\$ 235,684.00	\$ 266,320.00
	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>\$ 278,109.00</b>	<b>\$ 316,561.00</b>
		<b>\$ 278,109.00</b>	<b>\$ 316,561.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Reserves:</b>	<b>\$ 328,284.00</b>	<b>\$ 381,037.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,753.00</b>

## AGA Statement of Activities

Fiscal Year 2007 (June 1, 2006 - May 31, 2007)

### Revenues

Operating Revenue	Actual FY 2007	Budget FY 2007	var. +/-
Membership	\$ 56,720 <small>note 1</small>	\$ 56,000	\$ 720
Congress Share	\$ 13,915	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,915
Interest Liquid Assets	\$ 12,915	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,915
Interest CD	\$ 3,248	-	\$ 3,248
Donations	\$ 4,710	\$ 4,000	\$ 710
Sales	\$ 5,279 <small>note 2</small>	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,279
EJournal Ads	\$ 1,200	-	\$ 1,200
<b>Total operating revenue</b>	<b>\$ 97,987</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 22,987</b>

### Revenue

**Flow-Through Accounts**                    **\$ 332,980** see following pages

### Miscellaneous Revenues

Life Membership	\$ 8,000
Demo Boards	\$ 358
	<b>\$ 8,358</b>

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**Revenues Total**                                    **\$ 439,325**

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## Expenses

Support Services	Actual FY 07	Budget FY 07	var. +/-
<b>Administration</b>			
Casual Labor	\$ 6,370	\$ 5,500	
Travel	\$ 643 See note 3	\$ 3,000	
Travel (other)	\$ 455 See note 4	\$ -	
President funds	\$ 1,318	\$ 2,500	
Legal Expenses	\$ 570	\$ 2,000	
Storage	\$ 560	\$ 1,250	
Treasurer	\$ 1,551 See note 5	\$ 1,000	
Misc	\$ 1,239 See note 6	\$ 1,000	
Postage	\$ 539	\$ 750	
Phone	\$ 409	\$ 750	
Annual report	\$ 660	\$ 500	
Insurance	\$ -	\$ 2,000	
Credit Card fees	\$ 2,202 See note 7	\$ -	
Archive Shipping	\$ 2,404	\$ -	
Conference Phone	\$ 1,738 See note 9	\$ -	
 Subtotal	 \$ 20,658	 \$ 20,250	 (408.00)
<b>Database Management &amp; Warehousing</b>			
Casual Labor	\$ 6,285	\$ 5,000	
Shipping	\$ 3,906	\$ 5,000	
Supplies	\$ 520	\$ 1,000	
Phone	\$ 593	\$ 500	
Postage	\$ 38	\$ 750	
Misc.	\$ 68		
Internet league	\$ -	\$ 1,500	
Elections	\$ -	\$ 1,000	
Misc Projects	\$ -	\$ 1,000	
TD Training	\$ -	\$ 2,000	
 Subtotal	 \$ 11,410	 \$ 17,750	 6,340.00
<b>Program Services</b>			
<b>EJournal</b>			
EJournal	\$ 10,304	\$ 15,000	
Year Book	\$ 15,962	\$ 15,000	
WEB	\$ 6,331	\$ 7,000	
 Subtotal	 \$ 32,597	 \$ 37,000	 \$ 4,403
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 64,665</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,335</b>

**Expenses Cont.**

**Total Operating Expenses** 64,665.00  
from previous page

**Expenses**  
**Flow-Through Accounts** 311,022.00  
see following pages

**Misc. Expenses**

Special Travel 5,025.00 note 8  
OZA Vouchers 2,113.00  
Chapter League 925.00  
Shipping cost  
2006 Congress related 2,822.00

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**Total Expenses** \$ 386,572.00

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**Total Revenues** \$439,325.00

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<b>Change in Assets</b>	<b>\$ 52,753.00</b>
<b>Net Increase in Liabilities</b>	<b>\$14,301.00</b>
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>\$ 38,452.00</b>
<b>Moved to General Reserves</b>	<b>\$30,636.00</b>
<b>Moved to Life Memb. Equity</b>	<b>\$7,816.00</b>

### Flow-Through Account Activity

	Inflow	Outflow	change
06 Congress	181,771.00	173,363.00	8,408.00
05 Congress	0.00	7,470.00	(7,470.00)
04 Congress	0.00	700.00	(700.00)
03 Congress	0.00	1,700.00	(1,700.00)
02 Congress	0.00	2,200.00	(2,200.00)
01 Congress	0.00	3,529.00	(3,529.00)
Miscellaneous	0.00	399.00	(399.00)
06 ING GOE Foundation	46,000.00	42,955.00	3,045.00
06 East Camp	17,513.00	18,913.00	(1,400.00)
06 West Camp	14,927.00	14,927.00	0.00
07 COTSEN	30,000.00	30,015.00	(15.00)
07 East Camp	4,670.00	475.00	4,195.00
07 West Camp	13,990.00	2,374.00	11,616.00
07 ING GOE Foundation	12,000.00	500.00	11,500.00
07 ING GOE Foundation, USYGC	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00
WYGC	439.00	402.00	37.00
BGA	670.00	0.00	670.00
Pair GO	0.00	100.00	(100.00)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 332,980.00</b>	<b>311,022.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,958.00</b>

Notes:

1) Income by type of membership:

Full	\$ 34,750.00	
Full @ 25	\$ 7,500.00	
Youth	\$ 6,515.00	
Chapters	\$ 4,445.00	
Limited	\$ 2,575.00	
Play fee	\$ 535.00	
Journal	\$ 160.00	Journal only and no tournaments!
Internal.	\$ 135.00	
Promo	\$ 105.00	
	\$ 56,720.00	

2) Primarily old GO World magazines and go books.

3) Includes \$188.00 AGA PO Box trips, and \$455 for truck rental fo 2006 Congress

4) Part of Mr. Benson's travel was mostly covered by funds received during last FY were not so designated.

5) Includes \$213 for QuickBooks new accounting system, \$650 for accounting help, and \$72 for the new AGA PO Box.

6) Includes \$485.00 for IGF fees, \$100.00 NY Tax, \$278.00 supplies, \$75.00 PO Box.

7) All fees paid for credit card processing including fees for life members.

8) IGF meeting in Japan and special professional travel to East GO Camp and 2006 Congress.

9) Payments for conference calling extend back to prior fiscal year and were funded

# Final Report 2006 US Go Congress

August 12-August 20

Black Mountain North Carolina  
The YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly

## Income

Registration Income 242,674.00

### Tournament Related Income

OZA Gift Certificates	1,775.00
ING Youth Scholarships	12,000.00
ING Cup	5,836.00
Redmond Cup	3,443.37

Youth Donations 276.00

### Transfers

AGF Transfer for P. Barchilon	760.00
Transfer from Lancaster Club	760.00
Transf. AGA: J. Hilt	250.00

### Miscellaneous

Shuttle Income	780.00
Ancillary Sales	1,425.50
Banquet Income	60.00
Congress Activity Fees	235.00
Additional Cottage Income	300.00
Promo Items	135.00
Misc. Income: J. Pickett	365.00
Misc. Income	1,641.06

subtotal 272,715.93

*Less Refunds* (7,765.87)

**Total Congress Income 264,950.06**

## Expenses

### Site Expenses

Accomodations	(81,663.00)
Cottages	(9,960.00)
Meals	(78,382.00)
Site Fees	(4,180.00)
Misc Site Expenses	(3,839.00)
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>(178,024.00)</b>

### Operating Expenses

Congress Printed Program Expenses, Trinkets	(13,812.95)
Program Activities Expenses, Decorations, Prizes	(15,499.34)
Mailer, Meeting Food	(2,527.96)
Promotional Expenses	(1,753.95)
Fans	(1,556.98)
Shuttle Expenses	(2,564.00)
Food Expenses	(1,768.39)
Insurance	(770.95)
Bank Account Expenses, Paypal Fees, Mailbox	(4,391.00)
Transportation, Customs, Storage, Shipping	(3,016.24)
Internet Services, Wireless	(644.47)
Equipment, Office Supplies	(2,520.75)
Kid's Room Expenses	(328.24)
Professional Expenses, Japanese Tour Coord.	(7,856.43)
Miscellaneous	(84.41)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>(59,096.06)</b>

**Total Congress Expenses** (237,120.06)

**Total Congress Income** 264,950.06

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**Net Income** **27,830.00**

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AGA Fiscal Year 2008 Budget  
6/1/07 to 5/31/08

**APPROVED BY AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
APRIL 22, 2007**

2007 Approved		2008 Approved	
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>		<b>Operating Revenues:</b>	
Membership fees:	\$ 56,000	Membership fees	\$ 55,000
Congress Surplus	\$ 6,000	Congress Surplus	\$ 10,000
Sales/royalties	\$ 1,000	Sales/royalties	\$ 2,000
Sub Total:	<b>\$ 63,000</b>	Sub Total:	<b>\$ 67,000</b>
<b>Other Revenue:</b>		<b>Other Revenue:</b>	
Donations:	\$ 4,000	Yearbook Ad income	\$ 2,000
Interest	\$ 8,000	Donations:	\$ 4,000
Sub Total:	<b>\$ 12,000</b>	MMKT Interest	\$ 10,000
Total income	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	CD interest	\$ 5,000
		Sub Total:	<b>\$ 21,000</b>
		<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 88,000</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
<b>Administration:</b>		<b>Administration:</b>	
Casual labor- records/banking	\$ 5,500	Casual labor - records/banking	\$ 6,500
Travel	\$ 3,000	President funds	\$ 5,000
President funds	\$ 2,500	Travel	\$ 3,000
Legal Expenses	\$ 2,000	Legal Expenses	\$ 3,000
Insurance	\$ 2,000	Insurance - D&O, Corp liab	\$ 2,000
Storage	\$ 1,250	B of D Funds/Misc	\$ 2,000
Treasurer funds	\$ 1,000	Phone	\$ 2,000
Misc	\$ 1,000	Postage	\$ 1,200
Postage	\$ 750	Accounting fees and expenses	\$ 1,000
Phone	\$ 750	Annual report	\$ 650
Annual report	\$ 500	Storage	\$ 500
Sub Total:	<b>\$ 20,250</b>	Supplies	\$ 500
		IGF	\$ 500
		bank fees	\$ 200
		Sub Total:	<b>\$ 28,050</b>
<b>Membership Services</b>		<b>Program Services</b>	
Ejournal	\$ 15,000	<b>Publications/Media</b>	
Year Book	\$ 15,000	Year Book	\$ 15,850
WEBSITE management	\$ 5,000	Ejournal	\$ 14,900
WEBSITE server costs	\$ 2,000	Website	\$ 5,700
Sub Total:	<b>\$ 37,000</b>	Website upgrade	\$ 8,500
		Sub Total:	<b>\$ 44,950</b>
Salary for database mgt	\$ 5,000	<b>Members/Chapters</b>	
Shipping	\$ 5,000	Casual labor database mgt	\$ 6,000
Misc Projects	\$ 1,000	Shipping	\$ 4,000
TD Training Program	\$ 2,000	postage	\$ 500
Internet League	\$ 1,500	Elections	\$ 300
Elections	\$ 1,000	Sub Total:	<b>\$ 10,800</b>
Supplies	\$ 1,000	<b>Tournaments</b>	
Postage	\$ 750	support costs	\$ 1,000
Phone	\$ 500		<b>\$ 1,000</b>
Sub Total:	<b>\$ 17,750</b>	<b>Other expenses</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	Misc Projects	\$ 1,000
Final Balance	\$ -	TD Training Program	\$ 1,000
		telephone	\$ 500
		supplies	\$ 700
		Sub Total:	<b>\$ 3,200</b>
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 88,000</b>
		Final Balance	\$ -

## ***AGA Communications Report***

*By Chris Garlock, AGA Communications VP, Managing Editor of American Go E- Journal and American Go Yearbook: **Bill Cobb**, Assistant Editor, American Go E-Journal and American Go Yearbook: **Roy Laird**, Webmaster*

### **American Go E-Journal**

**10,000 & Counting:** A major milestone was achieved when the E-Journal readership passed the 10,000 mark in March 2007. By any measure, this is a remarkable achievement for the 7-year-old publication, and continues the E-Journal's unchallenged leadership as the most widely-read English-language go publication in the world.

**Photos & Graphics:** Two other significant developments were the switch to



HTML formatting and the integration of the E-Journal and website new coverage. The addition of photos and graphics on March 2, 2007 added a whole new dimension, not only to the E-Journal's look and feel, but to content as well, as we were able to begin including photos of events and players, as well as game diagrams and positions. Reader response has been

uniformly positive and enthusiastic. In May 2007, the Monday general edition and Friday Member Edition returned to once-a-week publication on Mondays and we began updating the website as news came in, often daily. The EJ still has non-member and Member editions, enabling us to provide excellent content to all readers and bonus material -- game commentaries, reviews and other extra content - to members, while using the website to provide up-to-the-minute news updates.



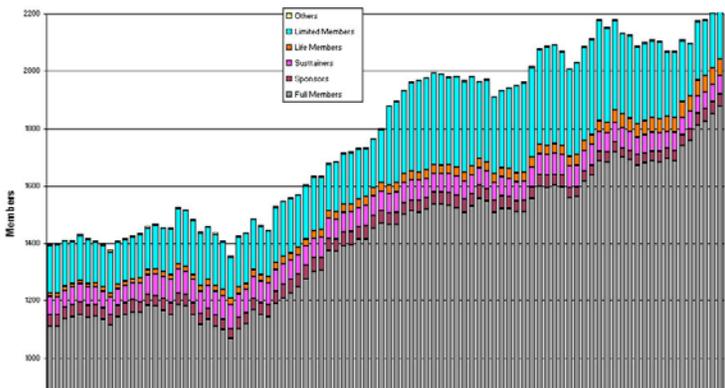
**More U.S. & World Go:** Other highlights of the past year include our recent first-ever coverage of the World Amateur Go Championships in Tokyo, Japan, which included real-time website updates of news and photos (*US rep Andy Liu, above on left, reviews one of his games at the WAGC*). We also significantly expanded our coverage of the annual Go Congress in 2006, broadcasting top boards at both major tournaments, publishing daily updates and ongoing website coverage. This continues an exciting trend toward more thorough coverage of E-Journal go news from around the world.



**Youth Go:** We've also increased our coverage of youth go in the E-Journal, and brought on 2006 Teacher of the Year Paul Barchilon as the EJ's first-ever Youth Editor to coordinate our expanded coverage. Lawrence Ku, a strong young West Coast player, has been a reliable contributor to this effort, often doing double duty playing and covering youth events for the EJ.

**Shodan Challenge:** This program, which originated with EJ columnist Joel Turnipseed several years ago and was then taken up by EJ columnist Aria von Elbe, has developed into a virtual stand-alone program now staffed by Lee Hunyh and Laura Kolb, who have done a phenomenal job recruiting and working with over 50 Challengers each of the last two years. This program continues to develop in interesting and unforeseen ways, building the interest and strength of many AGA members who appreciate the clear goal and schedule to rise to the challenge!

AGA Membership



**Growing Membership:** Special membership promotions were again tremendously effective in 2006, sparking surges of memberships each time they were offered, and helping the AGA finally break through the 2,200-member ceiling. Several initiatives developed in coordination with Membership Coordinator Mark

Rubenstein were discounts for multi-year renewals and offers of special collections of Go Worlds, an effort once again coordinated by Roy Laird. It is now clearer than ever that the huge pool of non-member EJ readers - who now number over 8,000 - are a reliable source of new members when provided with the proper incentives.



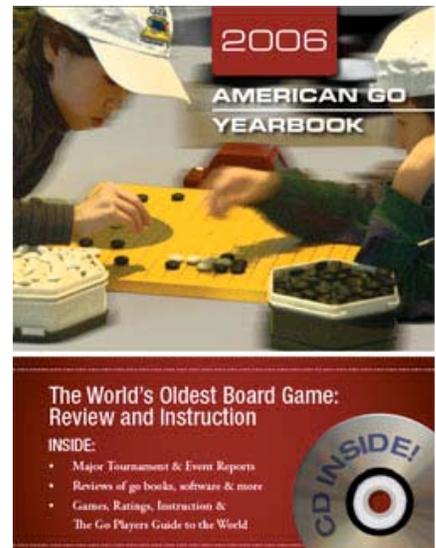
**STAFF:** Managing Editor: Chris Garlock; Assistant Editor & Go News Editor: Bill Cobb. New additions in 2006-07 include FAN HUI 2P, one of Europe's strongest players and official instructor for the French Go Federation; his incisive commentaries have been translated for us by Benoit Roturier; CHRIS DONNER, an American living and teaching in Japan who's been translating Motoko Arai's wonderful Go Weekly column "Can't

Stop the Monkey Jump; OWEN CHEN, who's been translating World of Weiqi material; Youth Editor PAUL BARCHILON and West Coast Photo Editor BRIAN ALLEN, and KEITH ARNOLD revived and reinvigorated the ever popular Go Quiz. Other contributors include game commentators FENG YUN, GUO JUAN, YILUN YANG, THOMAS HSIANG, CORNELL BURZO and CHIHYUNG NAM, President's Report columnist Michael Lash, Online Go columnist ROY LAIRD, columnist JAMES KERWIN, our many reviewers, especially PHIL WALDRON, tech support staff CHUCK ROBBINS and JOHN HILT and Go News Editor BILL COBB. *Pictured: 2006 EJ Congress team (l-r): Chris Garlock, Mario Moran, Lawrence Ku, Aria von Elbe, Lee Hunyh, Laura Kolb, Michael Kyriakakis. Photo by Phil Straus.*

**Future Plans:** Discussions with several major new contributors are underway, as are discussions with sources around the world as we plan expanded coverage in 2007-2008. We're also exploring the possibility of generating income through sponsorship opportunities in the E-Journal.

### American Go Yearbook

The fourth annual American Go Yearbook –



which collects the best of the previous year's EJ content - underwent yet another redesign in 2006, this time by professional designer Paul Fitzgerald, who brought the Yearbook's look and feel up to the level of the content. Our biggest (106 pages) and most comprehensive Yearbook expanded our event coverage over previous years in an appealing and stylish format. Howard Cornett took over CD production responsibilities from Mike Heinich, with some minor formatting tweaks and the much-needed addition of search capabilities. We also doubled our advertising revenue to nearly \$1,500 in 2006 and hope to do even better for 2007.

***Future Plans:*** We plan to keep the current design for at least the next two years while we work on fine-tuning content and usability issues.

***STAFF:*** Associate Editors: Terry Benson, Roy Laird, John Pinkerton; Contributing Editors: Feng Yun 9P, Yilun Yang 7P, Guo Juan 5P, James Kerwin 1P, Jie Li 9d; ***RATINGS:*** Paul Matthews; Yearbook CD Editor: Howard Cornett; ***CONTRIBUTORS:*** Brian Allen, Jon Boley, William S. Cobb, Thomas Hsiang, Mike Lash, Robert McGuigan, Trevor Morris, Phil Straus, Philip Waldron, Yuan Zhou; ***WEBSITE COORDINATOR:*** Roy Laird; ***Design:*** Paul Fitzgerald; ***Production:*** Doyle Printing, Landover, Maryland; ***Database Manager:*** Sam Zimmerman

## **Website Report**

With more than 20,000 unique visitors every month [www.usgo.org](http://www.usgo.org) continues to serve as one of our most important and powerful connections to the go playing community and the world at large. The new Linux platform is much more stable, meaning a steady, reliable presence on the Internet as a major resource for players and interested parties. We've added a number of new features:

- **EJ Archive Search:** The EJ archive page at <http://www.usgo.org/EJournal/archive/ejarchive.html> now has a "Search" feature that lets you find anything ever written in the archived issues. Thank you Liam Royce for maintaining the archive and Dennis Wheeler for implementing the search feature.
- **Host Chapter Sites:** We now host the web sites of more than a dozen AGA chapters, a free service that alone is worth the price of AGA membership to some.

- **Gift memberships:** Now you can use the member application form to give someone special a gift membership; you will receive a confirmation, and the recipient gets a message you write.
- **RSS feed:** For those who prefer this type of EJ subscription, an RSS feed is available from <http://w3.listlynx.com/feed.php?id=62>.
- **Continual content upgrades:** [www.usgo.org](http://www.usgo.org) is known throughout the world as one of the best sources for information about go on the Internet, and we have strived to maintain that reputation, keeping our listings up to date and offering material you can't get anywhere else.

We are embarking on another major upgrade that will make the website more interactive and useful to members and the public. The AGA is actively seeking a **new webmaster**, someone who is familiar with the latest developments in web technology and can upgrade to a true state of the art site.

### ***Marketing the AGA***

*By Paul Jacobs*

*[Paul was the key organizer for the only Go presence in the Great Hall of the annual Origins convention. This report provides an inside view of a major national gaming convention and shows how we can find new ways to increase the exposure of Go.]*

**The Origins Convention - Columbus, Ohio July 2007** - Another huge Origins convention has come and gone, and thanks to our AGA volunteers, we had another successful year showcasing the AGA before 25,000 attendees! In addition to flying the AGA colors, giving lessons, and passing out AGA materials, we also made some important contacts with organizers of other gaming conventions who are interested in hosting Go events. As usual, our main focus at the convention and our main point of contact with attendees was the AGA booth in the main Exhibition Hall. The Origins Exhibition Hall is an ideal place to present Go since Origins attendees visiting the hall are there not only to shop, but to learn new games. The majority of the booths have a demonstration staff dedicated to showing off new products and playing games with attendees; therefore, the booth is an area frequented by a huge concentration of avid game players who are generally open to spending time learning the game. About half of the people who stop to talk to us at the booth each day sit down for a lesson of twenty minutes or more. Most of these people are new to the game, but we also get

repeat visitors from previous years who make a point of dropping by the booth for a few games.

For next year, the consensus of this year's volunteers is to concentrate on our biggest strength - our main Exhibition Hall booth. We will investigate the possibility of running fewer and more finely targeted events, and having a larger and more elaborate booth. The additional space would allow us to have a teaching area, like we have had in previous years, but also a screen to project a computer presentation, a free-play area, and a place to sell merchandise. Also, we could also consider running a "History of Go" seminar similar to the other historical seminars run at Origins, as well as an event coordinated with the exhibitors running Anime events tying in with Hikaru no Go.

To demonstrate howp to bring go back home and make it work in groups, we would also like to present a "Starting Your Own Go Club" seminar to present information on chapter services and support available to members of the AGA. Another avenue of exploration are additional conventions. We also were able to arrange a brief meeting with Peter Adkison, the owner and CEO of GenCon LLC. GenCon is indisputably the largest gaming convention in the country, with an expected 2007 attendance of over 25,000. It is held in mid-August in Indianapolis. Mr. Adkison expressed an interest in having the AGA participate, and this is most likely to happen in 2008

In short, this year at Origins was full of opportunities and possibilities for the AGA. Everyone on the Ohio Team would like to thank the AGA for their support and interest this year, and we look forward to doing even better next year!

### ***International Go Federation/IMSA/Intellympics***

*By Thomas Hsiang, International Go Federation Liaison*

In the 2005 and 2006 reports, we brought to the readers' attention a significant development in international go, namely the movement towards the organization of the First World Mind Sports Games (WMSG), to be held in Beijing after the Olympics in 2008.

Four organizations joined forces in 2005 to form the International Mind Sports Association, or IMSA, as the principal driving force for this historical event. These are the International Go Federation (IGF), the World Bridge

Federation (WBF), the World Chess Federation (Fédération Internationale des Échecs, or FIDE) and the World Draughts Federation (Fédération Mondiale du Jeu de Dames, or FMJD). The first president of IMSA is José Damiani, the WBF president. The secretary general is Eric Puyt, vice president of IGF.

During the past year, intensive negotiations between IMSA and the Chinese National Olympic Committee and the City Government of Beijing have led to the commitment by the latter two bodies to host the WMSG in October 2008. Whether the event will take place and how big its scale will be now depends on the success of IMSA's fundraising effort. There is an agreement among the IMSA members that a final decision will be made by the end of September 2007.

Parallel to this development, the Asian members of IGF are pushing for the inclusion of Go as a sports item in the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games, to be held in Guangzhou, China, and Incheon, Korea, respectively. In particular, the Korean Amateur Baduk Association (KABA) has taken upon itself to spearhead the 2014 Games by founding the Asian Go Federation (AGF) as the international body in charge of organizing this event.

KABA has separately obtained support for holding the second Prime Minister's Cup, to be held in Suwon City, Korea, October 9-16, 2007. It is hoped that this tournament will be secured permanently as an annual international amateur go event.

In addition to helping organize international tournaments, IGF continues its effort to promote go in new countries. In 2007, IGF will start to fund go-teaching teams to travel to countries where there is currently no significant go activity. The first country to benefit from this initiative will be Brunei which, along with Greece, is expected to be among the newest members of IGF.

### ***Pair Go***

*By Allan Abramson, Pair Go Coordinator*

The last year was relatively quiet but activity is certainly picking up as more players come to appreciate the challenge and pleasure of playing with a partner. The US Pair Go scene is slowly developing and US tournaments were held in Denver, Portland and Arlington, VA over the last year. The

Seattle Go Center and the New York Go club have agreed to run pair go tournaments this year and more are on the way. Inquiries are pending with 11 more clubs around the country as the appeal of running pair go tournaments alongside or within traditional events is attracting more attention and players. A national internet pair go championship will be scheduled, either in the fall or winter and interested pairs should begin practicing now! Anyone interested in hosting or directing a pair go tournaments should contact Allan Abramson at [allango@igc.org](mailto:allango@igc.org). as soon as possible. Information is available now on the AGA's website on this page: <http://usgo.org/usa/pairgo.html>.

### ***Youth Activities***

*By Paul Barchilon, Congress Youth Director, AGF Mentor Committee E-J Youth Editor*

#### **Bringing Go to the next generation**

This has been a great year for American go in terms of youth activity. We have seen a continued rise in youth memberships, up to 612 at the end of June, which now represents a whopping 27% of the AGA. This is especially impressive considering that just two years ago we had about 300 youth members. This rise has been fueled by dedicated volunteers all across the country, and greatly aided by the American Go Foundation. To reflect these new numbers, the AGA has shifted more resources towards youth activities and launched new programs. The United States Youth Go Championship (USYGC) got off to a great start this year with eight regional qualifiers and the finals in Seattle. Just over 150 youth participated in the event nationwide. The winners, ten year old Calvin Sun, 6d and 14 year old Will Zhou, 7D, will be competing at the World Youth Go Championship in Boston this August. Prizes (in the form of scholarships for the US Go Camps) for the USYGC contestants were provided by the American Go Foundation (AGF) and funds for travel expenses to the finals were covered by the Ing Foundation. We are also sending a youth team to compete in the Chinese World Youth Cup in Hong Kong. In the communications department, the EJournal added a Youth Editor (myself) to cover all the exciting new youth events. Online, we have plans for a nationwide youth team competition on KGS, and a series of friendship games with children in Romania. A youth oriented GO website for is also in the works.

The Hikaru no Go effect is in fact providing us with lots of new kids interested in learning go, and I am pleased to report that school teachers are stepping up to help them all across the country. Vincent Eisman, a fifth

grade teacher in Oakdale California, has around 80 children playing go at his school. Joshua Frye has 111 of his middle school kids playing in Fort Myers Florida, and other notable teachers are getting similar numbers around the nation. America's professional players have also helped bring in record numbers of youth players this year. Mingjiu Jiang drew 117 kids to his 11<sup>th</sup> annual Jujo Cup, and Feng Yun has 106 kids in her Go school – amazingly all of whom are registered AGA members.

In April, the Ing Goe center in Menlo Park, CA, held its fourth annual High School Go tournament, with nine high schools competing. The Redmond Cup continues to be a prime online competition for our strongest youth and earns them the right to play their finals at the Congress as guests of the AGA. The generosity of the Ing Goe Foundation continues to help the AGA with almost all of these events, and they will continue to be a major partner in the future.

This year at the Congress the youth are getting an unprecedented 20% of the time allotted for professional instruction. We will have two Pros in the Youth Room every day, and will have dan and kyu level game reviews, simuls and lectures throughout each afternoon. Many thanks goes to Todd Heidenreich for his many years of service in the Youth Room. I am honored to follow in his footsteps and hope to maintain the high standards he has set for many years to come.

### **AGF Role in Promoting Youth**

To begin with, the AGF is honoring John Eckelkamp as the 2007 Teacher of the Year for his outstanding work over several years with youth in Texas. Eckelkamp will share what he has learned in a special Congress meeting.

The AGF has expanded its activities as well. After last year's Congress, the AGF created a brand new Mentor Committee, which matches up experienced organizers with new clubs in schools and throughout the Go community. Paul heads that Committee and is actively working to keep up with the demand for services. The AGF received 96 emails seeking help, ranging from kids looking to start a club at their schools to organizers seeking financial support and equipment. In all, an incredible 74 of these inquiries have turned into new programs actually serving kids playing go. The work of multiple AGF Mentors has been invaluable in helping these new programs emerge and come to life. The AGF has sent out free equipment to all of these programs, and offered matching funds and ongoing

support as well. Special acknowledgements from Paul go to them by name: Lee Anne Bowie, Jean DeMaiffe, Ramon Mercado, and Dave Weiss.

In addition, the AGF provided merit and need-based scholarships to both of the AGA's summer Go camps. Most people think the AGF is part of the AGA, but it is a completely separate non-profit organization and its sole source of funding is donations. The AGA and the AGF work in tandem all year long to bring Go to as many new kids as possible, and to provide them with resources become stronger players.

### ***Summer Go Camps***

*By Walter Knox*

With terrific leadership from Bill Phillips, Karen Jordan, Jon Boley and Brian Allen; the East and West Summer Go Camps were a success in 2007. Advertising in Shonen Jump Magazine had a positive impact on attendance but we will probably see a clearer impact through an increase in AGA youth membership due to our published advertisement.

The East Go Camp in Michigan was held in early July had 21 registered campers. The camp was well organized and was a great learning experience with Jie Li, 8D, as the premiere attraction and teacher. The camp may have broken even or better due to the excellent management team even with modest attendance.

The West Camp in Tacoma, Washington, had 33 registered campers and did just as well. With Mingjiu Jiang, 7P, as main professional teacher, this camp drew extremely well from the entire west coast region. The AGA is fortunate to have such "star quality" players support our camps every year.

The AGF provides scholarship, but not the operating costs of the camps, and this meant the camps had to improve their budget controls. They did so this year through planning and careful budgetary management. This effort resulted in a great step forward in having both camps achieve financial self-sufficiency. We thank the generosity of the AGF and all the other private donors who helped support the camps with scholarships. Without them, some campers simply would not have attended a Go Camp.

## ***Internet Tournaments***

*By Dennis Wheeler*

*[Dennis quietly began as an AGA volunteer last year at the 2006 Congress Job Fair, with no prior AGA experience. As his talents became more obvious, we asked him to take on more tasks, which he willingly did. In the circumstances, instead of a typical program review, we present below a genuine account of how an AGA volunteer started with the AGA, expanded his participation, and actually improved his game along the way.]*

Dennis received his first membership card in November 2004 and attended his first Go Congress in Tacoma, near his hometown, in 2005. As a committed fan of Go now, he wanted to find some real go heroes. Being unfamiliar with the Asian scene, and seeing a small arena of live games between strong Western players to observe, he discovered go on the internet and never looked back. Here is his first go fan website: <http://www.eskimo.com/~wheelers/go/namt.html>

Dennis didn't set out to become "the internet tournament guy" as he just wanted to be a fan of the American Go scene, follow the careers of some of our strongest players, and collect as many of their games as he could. How best to collect the games of American pros and strong amateurs than to watch and record their games in person? He kept pestering Tournament Directors about when the next scheduled matches would be, until finally he was asked if he would be willing to help schedule and arrange the next matches. Dennis jumped at the chance to get to know our pros and strong players, as well as being able to record their games, adding them to his private collection.

An almost 2-month round-robin internet qualifier tournament for the NA Masters occurred in 2006 that included most of our American pros and several strong amateurs. The online event was a great success and Dennis achieved a goal he had been chasing - collecting high quality games from western players, and, he said: "I think I gained almost 2 stones in strength just from replaying the games as I watched. I also learned more about Ing rules than anyone should ever know."

This success was followed by a single playoff game made necessary by a tie to select the US representative to the 2007 WAGC. Then there were the online qualifier games for the Fujitsu Cup. In May this year, the finals of the USYGC were broadcast live and as it was close to home, Dennis attended the event in person and helped the world watch multiple games each round over two days. Finally, the new and improved Ing qualifiers schedule

(replacing both the NAMT and the Ing Cup) includes two online qualifiers among the eight qualifiers. These were held without a glitch and added another major internet event to his quickly growing list of achievement.

There are so many questions that have to be reconsidered since playing online is so different from playing live. What if some players don't show up? Do you wait to pair everyone based on whose there on time, and further delay the start of the match? Or do some players just not get to play? Some servers handle the pairing automatically, including assigning color. For those that don't, do you allow the players to nigiri, or let your pairing software assign colors? Some servers will automatically start the matches when it detects the players are online, but on others, the players must start the match themselves. How do you handle disconnects? Or a player who is having trouble even getting his match started, perhaps due to client incompatibilities, or just an unfamiliarity with the language, using computers or the internet? Do you allow matches that can't get started on one server to move to the other server? There's no right answer. Each option has its own set of pros and cons.

Dennis is breaking ground and establishing himself at the same time as an experienced tournament director. As he said most recently: "... maybe I'm not really doing my job as TD properly unless I make everyone mad at me at least once...". Clearly, he's got the concept!

Some of the online Go servers, while great for playing casual games, aren't well suited for running tournaments. It can be quite difficult, for example, trying to start six simultaneous games at the same time, especially when some of the players aren't comfortable with computers or there are language problems. It is a learning process for many in the US but the world of go definitely is moving towards more tournament games online for more events every year.

He sees the value of a dedicated internet tournament server in the near future where more control is given to the TD, disconnected games are easily resumed, and settings are modified when necessary. Spectators would be allowed to watch the games like they do now and games could be automatically relayed to any of the other major servers.

While only wanting to be a fan of go in America, Dennis wasn't seeking attention or responsibility. But an enthusiastic volunteer with excellent

computer skills and an even better attitude towards learning Go and helping others just can't go unnoticed for long. Dennis has been able to watch players from all over the country playing high quality games year and predicts that in the near future we'll be having cross-country AGA-rated games on the internet. That may be a long shot, but with Dennis around, anything is possible!

### ***Archives***

*By David Doshay*

*[The following is another personal account, this one from our new Archivist who has been in position for less than a year. His own (slightly edited) words tell the story best.]*

In April of 2006, responding to a request in the E-Journal, I started an email correspondence with the AGA archivist Craig Hutchinson and AGA president Michael Lash that eventually led to my taking over the position of Archivist from Craig. He has since retired.

I flew from California to Virginia to visit Craig and look at what I was getting myself into. I spent a few days with Craig, listening to his recollections of how the archive grew, picking up bits and pieces of how he managed it, and what the duties of the archivist are with respect to queries about content. After we got the materials ready for shipping, I returned to California still wondering what I had gotten myself into.

There are 70 bushel-sized boxes and metal filing cabinet drawers patiently awaiting my attention. It took longer than expected to get the bookcases installed to make the archives more accessible and that first step is done for anyone wishing to actually research by browsing the shelves directly.

Now that I have lived with the archive a short while, and have responded to a number of email requests for material, I believe that the AGA members and leaders should give more thought to what it wants from the archives and how that would best be accomplished. The questions include how the archive should grow, and the financial commitment to be made for acquiring any new material. I believe that the AGA membership would be best served by an archive with as much material as possible available in electronic form. To accomplish the conversion of the volumes of paper material into an electronic form is a huge project that requires the support of the organization, extra volunteers and some investment.

One item that should be addressed is the quality of the storage medium and its effect upon the archived items. Normal cardboard boxes contain acids that eventually damage paper products. Archival quality storage boxes are available but expensive, and the same applies to other materials used to organize and separate the archived material. Also, many of the paper items in the archive are not themselves acid-free paper and preserving those items may be challenging in the long run.

My immediate plans for the archive are to continue cataloging items in my possession. Anyone who plans to donate go material or collections of any kind – artwork, special equipment, rare books, historical correspondence, trophies, etc., should contact me directly at [archives@usgo.org](mailto:archives@usgo.org). This is an opportune time for the AGA to consider the future use and value of the archives. I look forward to participating in that discussion and gathering together the history of the AGA for future generations.