

# Board Meeting Minutes

American Go Association

Meeting Date and Time: August 8, 2020, 7:00 pm EDT/ 4:00 pm PDT

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# Overview

## Summary

In lieu of a traditional in-person Congress board meeting, the board met virtually joined by board members-elect Stephanie Yin, Les Lanphear, and Ted Terpstra. A major theme of discussion was ongoing and future online activities of the AGA, including a summary of the successful e-Go Congress and leveraging online interest to recruit new members. The board also approved funding for a fellowship program from the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, and expressed a desire to increase membership through professional marketing. Finally, the board said goodbye to outgoing members Gurujeet Khalsa, Paul Celmer, and Chris Saenz, while Lisa Scott and Andy Okun were confirmed to continue serving in their roles as Chair of the AGA Board of Directors and AGA President, respectively.

## In Attendance

### **Current Board**

Lisa Scott (Chair, Central Region)  
Devin Frazee (Central Region)  
Chris Kirschner (Western Region)  
Gurujeet Khalsa (Eastern Region)  
Dan Ritter (Eastern Region)  
Paul Celmer (At-Large)

### **Board Members Elect**

Stephanie Yin (Eastern-Elect)  
Les Lanphear (Western-Elect)  
Ted Terpstra (At-Large-Elect)

### **Officers and Presenters**

Andy Okun (President)  
Andrew Jackson (Executive VP)  
Samantha Fede (Secretary)  
Chris Garlock (VP of Communications)  
Andrew Jackson (VP of Operations)  
Steve Zilber (Congress Director 2021)  
Steve Colburn (Volunteer Coordinator)

## Notable Motions and Decisions

1. The board approved the KOMI proposal as outlined by Samantha Fede.
2. The board entered executive session (including new board members and executive officers) to discuss personnel, including the relationship between the EJ and the AGA,, chair re-election, and presidential re-appointment.
3. The President and VP of Communications agreed to work on a document to formalize the EJ/AGA relationship.
4. Lisa Scott was re-elected as Chair of the Board.
5. Andy Okun was re-elected as AGA President.

# Minutes

## 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:11pm EDT

## 2. President's Report

### a. Increased Online AGA Go Events

- i. Andy starts off with discussion of general plan for increased online AGA go events

### b. Annual Financial Report

- i. We have been converting to JITASA for financial services, expenses are approximately equivalent previous years

### c. Report on Membership

- i. Membership is stable around 2000

### d. Update on Ratings

- i. Andrew Jackson: No new submissions since April. We have a new volunteer to take over as ratings officer, we should take the time to revamp the system and correct the old database. As it pertains to online ratings, our previous approach was to integrate with go servers and our server, but would set up as a separate online system. But now it could be set up as a separate system to go with an online TD approach.
  - Paul: Are we up to date up to April?
  - Andrew: No, I'm working to fix back issues and data corruption issues, but it should be done by the end of the eGo Congress.

### e. Update on creation of Committee for Diversity and Inclusion

- i. Committee formed at June 28 meeting, and currently finalizing membership in the committee (after public notice of creation)
- ii. First project requiring "significant funding" is the KOMI Fellowship program to help increase equity for go players from underrepresented groups. Samantha Fede as chair of Committee for Diversity and Inclusion presents slides on the new program ( [KOMI Fellowship Program Slides](#) )
  - Andy Okun: This proposal has been sent to a lawyer for review
  - Les Lanphear: When was the committee formed? [Lisa: June 28 meeting]
  - Terry: What about youth?
  - Samantha: We would love to work with the AGF to get an analogue going
  - Andy: Would this be 501(c)3 eligible? [Terry: Yes]
  - Andy: The board is being asked because this is considerable funds. The board also approved a Congress Scholarship Fund last year, and that's another chance for folks outside

- Dan: this is an incredible idea and opportunity. I'm sure these opportunities will evolve over time, but this feels like a great program and the spirit of it is excellent. I have nothing critical to say – it looks very well thought out, and is an expense the organization can bear.
- Paul: I agree that this is very clear and well thought out. Thank you to the committee. My question relates to the dollar amount for the congress.
- Samantha: This is just an estimate, we want to make sure there are enough funds to cover anyone (it's an upper bound).
- Les: I have an issue with your use of BIPOC – do you know what that means? I didn't know about it. That also includes Asian people.
- Lisa: This is a term d'art with a specific meaning.
- Samantha: We are not limiting to BIPOC, although BIPOC folks are the particular audience for this program, based on the injustice that precipitated the formation of this committee. We will add a formal definition for any terms used in the announcement.
- Ted: What type of financial disclosures will be required?
- Samatha: We will not require disclosures, people can tell us what they would like to or not like to in the application process
- **Paul: I move that we approve the KOMI proposal as Samantha has outlined it for us. Dan Ritter seconds.**
  1. Dan notes that we are trusting the judgment of the committee, and he personally feels very comfortable with that.
  2. Andy: We will also check criteria with an attorney.
  3. Vote: 5 yay, Devin Frazee nay, Chris Kirschner recuses. **Motion passes.**

#### f. Update on e-Go Congress

- i. Lisa Scott: 280 dan players, 665 kyu players, things have been going well, a lot of amazing volunteers and beginner teaching and hangouts, youth events. A lot of this is participants who we don't usually participate, but a lower ratio of women. Mostly good feedback. The pay pro events were not as popular, but we might reconsider for events like this in the future. No ratings or chapter rewards.
  - Chris Garlock: Streams have been very popular (thanks to Steve Colburn and Stephen Hu).
- ii. Steve Zilber: Working on signing with Case for 2021 congress in Cleveland. Will show the video at closing tomorrow. The question is what type of attendance next year. [Terry: Is the break even point lower?] Hasn't been decided on, we're not going to have any certainty.
  - Les: When would we call it? If the risk is too high? When is that?
  - Andy: No one is going to get sick at our congress, we're not risking that. The risk we're talking about it losing money.
  - Lisa: The dates are July 23-Aug 1, 2021

**g. Fair Play Committee**

- i. Josh Lee and James Pinkerton have been working on the core of a “fair play committee” both for having credible online games and in person games in the world of go Als

**h. Privacy policy**

- i. The President was asked to put together a privacy statement for the Membership Manager (6/28 meeting). Andy Okun has lawyer looking at membership manager question pro bono

### 3. Ongoing Business

**a. Discussion of Long-Term Goals and Priorities**

- i. Discussion of what concrete steps we can take to support the various ways we all understand the mission of the AGA.
  - Devin: We already defined the mission.
  - Lisa: I don't think we have, can you remind us?
  - Devin: I made a document ([available here](#)) but generally, that go is so widespread we can walk into a park and see it.
  - Lisa: I'd like us all to be on the same page, which I don't think we are.
  - Andy: My personal view of the mission is that I'd like to see Go as a regular option for people who are interested in games like this, like Chess
  - Gurujeet: I agree, building on the previous conversation about inclusion, and sort of, coming out of our box.
  - Dan: I'm sort of an evangelical and I want to bring more people in. We mostly focus on developing existing players, I think we should focus more on new players.
  - Chris: Also, we represent American go internationally. But yes, I'd like to see most people in the country knowing it, it becoming part of American culture.
  - Paul: I echo others and I hope to get more corporate sponsorship
  - Ted: The chapters are where we really get new members
  - Dan: I echo Ted that the chapters are how we reach new people – people can walk by when go is played in the cafeteria, etc. In order to support the growth of the game, that's critical.
  - Les: Ted has done a great job of bringing in people, especially Asians who care about the game. AlphaGo has had a big impact as people send me clippings. We are getting the public exposure, but we need to somehow go beyond that. I'm concerned about the AGA surviving after the pandemic, and I don't like to play online, so I'm concerned about that – that's why I'm on the board. I think this is a real serious problem for this organization in the future.
  - Dan: one of the lessons from the e-Go Congress is that there is a lot of enthusiasm for online play. In-person play is the holy grail of go playing,

but we can remain relevant, as an organization, to go players. I am optimistic about the role that online go can play in converting online players to in-person players.

- Chris K: It used to be more like 2 or 3% of people knew
- Terry: It's hard to measure what we do, but even though membership has been flat, there is more knowledge about go.
- Lisa: Absolutely and online events like this eGo Congress have great potential to expand the way we work with go players.
- Gurujeet: I think it's important to professionalize marketing, social media etc.
- Lisa: I think that's a great idea, I support it, what do others think?
- Stephanie: My thoughts about the direction, we like to work with schools teaching many students, and then the kids teach their parents, so the whole family learns.
- Garlock: This marketing question has been discussed extensively in the past, and we support it. We should absolutely consult with a professional marketing person.
- Lisa: It sounds like there's a little bit of a consensus that we should look into this, so Andy, informally, let's look into doing this.

**b. Formalizing the relationship between the AGA and the EJournal**

- i. Many policies we've been operating under have never been written down, and our organizational charts are contradictory and it needs to be finalized.
- ii. **Chris Kirshner moves to enter executive session (including new board members, executive officers) to discuss personnel including referenced topic, chair re-election, and presidential re-appointment, Dan seconds, passed.**  
[Entered executive session at 8:38pm EDT]  
[Exited executive session at 9:25pm EDT]
- iii. **Andy and Chris Garlock will work on a document to formalize the EJ/AGA relationship.**

## 4. New Business

**a. Election of chair**

- i. No new nominations for chair, Lisa is willing to serve again, no objections, **Lisa Scott remains chair of the AGA Board**

**b. Election of president**

- i. Unanimous vote for Andy for another 2 year term, **Andy Okun remains AGA President**

**c. Information about 2020-2021 meetings [Discussed dates]**

**d. Additional Comments**

- i. Les: Are we planning to do more large online events like eGo Congress?

- Lisa: Yes, but the magnitude of it is large, and not sure if we can do something on this scale again anytime soon.
  - Chris: We need more volunteers if we're doing this sort of thing regularly.
- ii. Lisa: Thanks to Gurujeet and Paul for your long service on the board [outgoing board members]. And to Chris Saenz, who couldn't be here today.

## 5. Adjourn

- a. Paul moves to adjourn, Gurujeet seconds, meeting adjourned at 9:45 EDT.

# Addendum

## Board Meeting Schedule for 2020-2021

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Written Reports</u>	<u>This Year Supplemental Issues</u>
Sept. 13, 2020	Fall Meeting	Online	Tournaments, Games, Rules, Ranks and Ratings	1. Annual Tournament Calendar 2. Report on Games and Tournaments Played 3. Report on Pro Play 4. Minutes of Prior Meeting	1.
Oct. 4, 2020	Resumption of General Assembly Meeting	Online	Congress, Chapter Relations, General Discussion	1. Membership Categories 2. Approve August 2020 Chapter Assembly Minutes	
Nov. 15, 2020	Strategy "Retreat"	Online	Long view of the organization	1. Strategy Memo 2. Minutes of Prior Meeting	1. Organizational Structure
Feb. 21, 2021	Winter Meeting	Online	Admin, Communications, Congress, Staff, Education	1. Roster of Positions and Staff 2. Reappointments List 3. Minutes of Prior Meeting	1.
April 25, 2021	Spring Meeting	Online	Budget, Investments, International Affairs	1. Preliminary financials 2. Investment report 3. Budget 4. Report of the VP of IR 5. Minutes of Prior Meeting	1. Proposed reworking of membership categories, as noticed in 2019 Chapter Assembly Meeting (delayed due to Covid-19)



June 13, 2021	Extra Meeting	Online	Goals and Postponed Topics	1. Preparation for Annual Meetings (Board and General Assembly) 2. Goals and Priorities	1.
July 29 2021	Annual Board Meeting	Online	Financial Position, Membership	1. Annual Financial Report 2. Annual Report of the organization 3. Report on Membership 4. Minutes of Prior Meeting	
July 31 2021	Chapter Assembly Meeting	Online	Congress, Chapter Relations, General Discussion	1. Annual Financial Report 2. Annual Report of the organization 3. Chapter Membership and Rewards 4. Prior Year's Chapter Assembly Minutes	