

AGA Board Meeting
Friday, August 5, 2016

Attending Board Members and Officers

Bob Gilman (Central Region)
Edward Zhang (At-large, by Skype)
Ted Terpstra (Western Region)
Diego Pierrottet (Eastern Region)
Martin Lebl (Central Region)
Gurujeet Khalsa (Eastern Region)
Chris Kirschner (Western Region)
Lisa Scott (Congress Coordinator)
Andrew Jackson (VP, Operations)
Andy Okun (President)
Peter Schumer (Recording Secretary)
Bob Gilman (EVP)
Steve Colburn (Server Admin)

Guests

Stephen Hu
Mark Rubenstein
Brian Lee (Online ratings, ACGL, Boston congress tech coordinator)
Akita Noek (OGS developer)
Matthew Jones (OGS developer)
Nicholas Prince
Bill Gundberg

We open by thanking Ted & Bob for their service, round of applause.

June 5th Board Minutes approved unanimously.

1st order of business, approving our new president. With no other nominations other than Andy, Andy is re-approved for a two year term.

Next: Outgoing treasurer Roy Laird. Candidates for replacement needed, hardworking detail oriented folks with CPA/accountancy training needed. Could also be two slots -- bookkeeping & 990/tax returns.

GK: This is an essential position and we need folks to ask around, alternately shop around for the prices for professional services. (AI for AO or delegate: get cost estimates from accountants)

CK: Do we know the time commitment for a competent accountant?

AO: Roy is putting in ca. 5 hours per week, more when tax (and other) forms are due. We can ask. (AI for AO: Ask Roy what his time commitment is)

Gundberg?: There are services that can help with this.

GK: If anyone knows anyone who has the appropriate training and interest, please pass them on to Andy Okun. This will be a topic in the next meeting.

AO: Thank you for reappointing me as AGA President, I am really enjoying the position. I look forward to being able to delegate more in the future. (AI for AJ, LS, others: Nag AO to get an administrative assistant)

GK: EVP Position is currently held by Bob Gilman. The term coincides with the president's term and is therefore ending now, unless he would like to be reappointed.

BG: Is about to undertake a personal project and is stepping back from the board to establish how much time he has available. If the board would like me to continue i am happy to continue to serve as i can with the understanding that i may need to resign depending on the load from my personal affairs.

GK: Calls for nominations & offers recusal to executive session, none, Bob is nominated. All in favor of Bob renewing his term for Executive VP [passes by voice vote]

GK: Bob has been working on a project involving past congress funds (funds held by prior congresses in escrow until they establish projects to use them)

BG: Congress profits are split between the AGA and the local organizers, who can submit to spend their proceeds on go-related events. There are 9 escrows currently.

2003 - Houston, \$9,394

2004 - Rochester, \$1,115

2007- Lancaster - 2007, \$9,197.92

2009- Washington - 2009, \$4,869.50

2013- Both Tacomas - 2013, \$6,116.27 and \$2,389.36

2012 - Black Mountain - 2012, \$6,101.43

2014 - NYC - \$16,018.41

2015 - St. Paul - \$10,577.15

Several tens of thousands all together. Contacted Houston, Lancaster, Rochester. Waiting for MOUs; Houston, the situation is that the original organizers are no longer in the Houston area, no longer a current AGA chapter. Contacted members nearby and informed them of the

outstanding escrow asked them to develop plans. 4-5 expressed interest, am corresponding with them to develop MOUs, etc.

AO gives history on MOUs, sunset/expiration clauses.

BG gives background on his correspondence. Hasn't given a deadline, emphasized nature of the focus on broader go playing community.

LS: 5 year deadline, 3 year deadline for us to notify them, they don't have to use it all, just use anything within 5 years.

CK: Valid uses are anything within our mission as a 501(c) 4

SC: Rochester has money, and it is odd that we have not been informed about this money before this week. Why not?

AO: We only think of it when we do our books, basically.

LS: (delivers figures above)

GK: Do we feel that the clubs that ran Congresses but no longer exist are still due this money?

AO: It is my feeling that continuing to encourage these funds to be used for local events is in the spirit of the Congress and go promotion. At some point we'd like it to be spent. If we start spending it and someone fights us to spend it themselves, we'd be happy to let them win and spend it themselves.

LS: Congresses before 2001 have their funds with the AGF. Larry Gross says that they have the same issue.

GK: For multiple Congresses, there is some question of how clubs who collaborated on these Congress should share the proceeds.

BG: From my discussions with clubs, it does not seem that this will be an issue, although of course it always could be in the future.

LS: we should track these informal agreements between local clubs. As it is, we don't know the details so we have difficulties years later

GK: (basically repeats LS' points)

BG: The AGF has a similar problem getting people to spend their money. A follow-up process is needed.

TT: How is the money moved? AO answers that the bank accounts are all owned by the AGA.

GK: A task for the new board coming in is to find a better way to manage these funds.

AO: We should also note that Lisa Scott has agreed to become the Congress Coordinator, previously the congress liaison position, which Chris Kirschner has gratefully resigned after many successful years, and 3 years after expressing an interest in resigning.

GK: President's report?

AO: Many small items:

- Tournament coordinator position is challenging, we always need help. If you feel interest or know someone who does, pipe up
- Archivist: Was David Doshay (ph), has done a tremendous job, stepped down, Karoline Li will be taking over the job as a trained librarian and archivist.
- San Diego Congress (2017). The venue is not giving us information as quickly as we would like, but progress is being made. Ted Terpstra will be Congress Director.
- International news: WMSG delayed until end of 2017 prior to the winter olympics (& hopefully in assoc. with them). Chris & AO will extend the point system to include the top 4 vs the top 3. [side discussion on how "top tournaments" in the system are defined. AI for Andy to write story on point system, updating the page on the site with the current information] [Sidebar continues on gender information available in MM]
- [AI: EJ story that members should mark their gender in the Membership Database for women specific tournaments, etc.]
- AI: jackson: automate congress data (w/ gender) to update member database.
- AGF thanks for sending Stephanie and Gansheng to mexico. The 3rd Annual Mexican Go Congress was a great success and they are appreciative.
- IGF leadership has changed. [Background on IGF] China has taken over; new president is **Chang Zhenming (7p) (no idea if that's right)**, Sec. General is **yuan yi (?)**, the new leadership are the ones who suggested the award given at the keynote. Look forward to developing a relationship

Edwards' agenda items

- State championship proposal email with details, followups with Andy. [State Championships in each state put on by a club in that state, with Women's champions as well. Also to be introduced could be age-specific winners such as Under 12, Under 18, Over 40, Over 65, etc.]
- GK: How would tournaments such as the NJ Open and the MD Open fit in?
- AO: The idea would encourage existing tournaments to be used.
- BG: Would that mean restricting these tournaments based on residency? The consensus is no.

- BG: Would this be limited to only AGA members? The consensus is yes.
- EZ: It might be possible to add championship rounds to the existing tournaments for top 2 or 4 resident finishers to determine the winners.
- CK: The particulars of each state should be determined by that state and run by that state.
- AJ: The proposal is very detailed, covers funding, etc. The question is who would be responsible for organizing these events? We have more work than the Tournament Coordinator can currently handle. The proposal could be modified so that everything is done by the people in the states, and our job is simply to provide prizes and compile lists of results. [CK Concurs] We still need to find a person who will be the point person for this project; Edward, would you like to take this on?
- EZ: This is also a great opportunity for us to recruit and support local organizers. Some organizers may be very passionate about their *own* states' tournaments. I might take on the initial work, but would like to find regional coordinators.
- LS: We have regional directors on our board, why not use those?
- EZ: [addresses his ability to drive to WV]
- AO: we need someone at the national level to own it. Any member of the board is welcome to do any amount of work; as a member of the board their powers & obligations are limited to these meetings, although you represent your constituencies.
- AO: The European go countries each have country-level organizations that are very strong and very developed, and good sources of volunteers. These state championships may be a way to develop these networks here.
- [long side-table on hypothetical work no one is clearly interested in owning, as well as specific logistics for large and small states]
- CK: Andrew Jackson was right that we need to have an administrative infrastructure, and that needs to be developed first. [AI: CK should draw up a proposal/outline of how this will work.]
- AJ: Rather than top-down planning, we should just provide money and clear criteria, and let the states decide. One person can field the questions on the national level, but not do the organizing.
- BG: The AGA will need to have some criteria, which is what CK can draw up.
- AO: Question 1 for the board is should we pursue this, and the second question is should we take Edward's proposal as a starting point?
- GK: I think so, we should poll the board.
- ML, DP, CK, EZ support.
- TT: This already exists to some extent - with a SoCal Championship
- GK: asks if BG thinks it should move forward, BG assents. CK to draft possible starting point.

Additional Items for Board Consideration

- MR: [AI for AJ: Feature request for add state to congress "Who's Coming" page]
- Discussion of how to distribute Congress funds that have reverted to the AGA.

- AJ: Every board member should have an @usgo.org email address. This facilitates many things, such as google apps for business, meeting approval, etc.
- LS: Hiring someone on a part-time basis to help Andy with the time-consuming work that he has, possibly having them help with marketing. Possibly entry-level position.
- Peter Schumer: Work on corporate sponsors?
- AJ: We have this pot of money from Google (related to AlphaGo). It would be great to stretch it by getting other funding to supplement. We have permission to use their name on events that use the funds, so it would be great to figure out effective ways to use this money to assist our fundraising. Now is the time to redouble our fundraising efforts
- BG: Something like 90-95% of fundraising for non-profits comes from individuals not corporations, so we should be thinking about fundraising among individuals as well.
- AO: AGF now fundraising 40k a year, up from 30k, clearly effective at working the small-donor lists. As a "sports" org, we're not as biased towards individuals; i would like to be able to show corporations that there are major corporations that will fund mind-sports, and that this is a worthy cause for private companies to sponsor.
- BG: In my opinion, in addition to looking at who is giving the money, we need to think about projects that would be well-positioned for this support.
- SC: Over the years we've had difficulties retaining volunteers, so the board could consider paying the membership for volunteers who do a significant amount of work for the AGA. Rewards for volunteers (including volunteers) would be great and easy.
- EZ: Andrew Jackson, Stephen Hu, and his team are doing great YouTube work. There is lots of great new material for high-level players, but less for kyu and beginner players. There is lots of material for this level player that would be great to have in translation.

[AI for AJ: Get a list of Board AGA email addresses and provide if needed.]

ML moves to adjourn, TT seconds. Unanimously approved.