

Minutes

AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday, March 2, 2008 – 8:00 PM EST

Meeting called to order by: Roy Laird at 8:04 EST
Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call

Attendees:

Roy Laird (At Large) Chairman
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Laura Kolb (Central Region)
Roy Schmidt (Central Region)
Willard Haynes (Western Region)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Mike Lash (President)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent:

Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)

1. Approval of minutes

Gordon Castanza made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 27 Board meeting. Willard Haynes seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. President's Report

Mike Lash presented his monthly report:

a) Tournaments

World Mind Sports Games (WMSG) Lash reported that the organizers of the WMSGs have asked that the names of the 24-member US team be submitted to them by June 30. This is a problem, since most of the qualifying events are to take place at the Go Congress in August. He plans to request an extension.

Allan Abramson is running a tournament over the internet to determine representatives for the pair go event. This program is limited to US citizens and will generate finalists to play at the Congress. The winning pair will be the "US Pair Go Champion" and will join the winners of the Congress Pair Go tournament who can compete against pairs from all over North America and against non-citizen pairs.

b) Ranking Certificates

Although the rank certification program has been approved by the Board, there is a significant delay in implementation. The next step is to develop the actual certificates and an order fulfillment procedure; then a function will be implemented to inform members of their eligibility when they check their ratings. To prepare certificates, we need: 1) A list of people eligible for rank certification, and 2) To notify people that they are eligible so they can order certificates if desired. It will be much more manageable to successfully implement the program with the new website and the automation of the payment systems and administrative processing will ensure the cooperation of the database manager. There was some discussion about the risk of having such an important benefit of AGA membership being so dependent on one person and what the organization could do if something should happen to that person. Although the AGA and its members own the tournament data, it does not own the algorithm that calculates the ratings.

c) Ing Grants

Lash reported that he has heard that Mr. Yang of the Ing Foundation is harboring concerns about the AGA's use of ING funds. The new procedure requires that the AGA submit requests through the American Ing Go Association on a project-by-project basis, and we followed this process last year with good results. No requests have been denied yet. There are reserves to conduct the usual Ing tournaments at this year's Congress if necessary, so no action is required at this time. Lash will follow up on the status of the grant applications review.

d) Congress Management

The Board considered a draft version of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), proposed to be signed annually at the General Assembly, between the AGA and future Congress organizers. There was discussion on some of the topics covered such as tournament director selection, financial responsibility and use of Congress profits. Willard Haynes made a motion to table the discussion of the MOU until next month so Lash can incorporate suggestions from the Board into a new draft. Roy Schmidt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to table the discussion until next month.

d) World Pair Go Association

A new organization was formed recently called the World Pair Go Association, independent of the Japanese Pair Go Association. The AGA is a charter member of the WPGA. Its goal is to increase promotion of Pair go on a global basis and may support the efforts of all national associations to advance pair go in each country.

e) Web Site Upgrade

Lash reported that the contract with Internet 4 Associations is ready to be signed. Mark Rubenstein is working on the upgrade, and the transition should go smoothly. The project team is beginning to form and the design and architecture of the new website and this will take a few months. .

f) 2009 Congress Proposal

Preparations for the 2009 Congress are progressing slowly. Allan Abramson, of the NOVA GOClub in Virginia, sent an e-mail seeking volunteers for key positions to support a proposal to host the 2009 Go Congress in the Washington, D.C. area. No complete proposals have been received to date.

(End of President's report)

3. Hinoki Press Agreement

An agreement has been reached with Hinoki Press so that they will sell books with material previously published in the "American Go Journal" and they will pay the AGA 1% of the gross sales of the book.

4. New Business

None

5. Presidential Search Process (closed session)

6. Schedule Next Meeting

The next monthly conference call will be Sunday, April 6, 2008 at 8:00 EDT.

7. Adjournment

Gordon Castanza made a motion to adjourn. Willard Haynes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 9:33 EST.

Minutes submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary