

AGA Board Meeting

16 May 2003

Present:

Allan Abramson

Dave Weimer

Jon Boley

Harold Lloyd

Jeff Shaevel

Bill Cobb

Willard Haynes

Chris Kirschner

Susan Weir

Sam Zimmerman

meeting called to order 7:07 pm

1. Approval of Minutes: March 21 meeting minutes are approved.

2. Reports

a. Status of Leadership Development Committee (Sam Zimmerman)

Sam has chosen to resign leadership, Steve Burrall is chairing. They've done a definition of the president's job, and how we're going to go about finding candidates. No nominations to report yet.

Motion to accept Sam's resignation, accept Steve as chair. Approved unanimously. (Sam signs off)

b. President's Report (Chris Kirschner) (Note: an e-mail report was sent out prior to meeting to board members.)

1. Budget: Financial results for 2004

Financial report for 2004 report is in. We seem to have accumulated \$67,000, which is surprising. In the future will ask Ben for quarterly reports. This may be due in part to the delay in funding last year cut spending. We also have a substantial increase in membership revenue. I think we need to check the figures, they are rough and may be mistaken. Work is not completed on 2003 Congress figures.

2. Budget: Process for FY 2006

3. Budget: Authorization to continue spending

Ing funds

4. Fund-Raising Committee: Any discussion with David Dinhofer to report?

Chris: No contact made, I did not think it was within my realm, I thought this was going to be a board function, not an operational function. Board discussion: this is operational function, Chris needs to attend to it. Chris responded that he will get to this right away. We are not a 5013c, we need to figure the tax information we'd give to possible donors.

5. Ing fund policy (George Zhou): Status?

Distribution of the funds is mostly a continuation of the past. A couple of items are operational, should not be under the Ing funds. Board discussion: Is the Ing money being used to further the vision of the AGA? We were pretty conservative last year, because of uncertainty, let's use it more fully. We need more discussion about our vision for the AGA. Allan will write an e-mail and start some discussion. Chris replied we should be ready to roll by next meeting.

6. Rules for Children's Room at Congresses: Status?

Chris is responding to None's e-mail, talked to Todd Heidenreich. Todd wanted to be more flexible in how it is run. We need to involve Todd in this discussion. Chris thought nothing wrong with the rules None proposed, but the on-duty staff needs to be able to flex them as needed, as was mostly what we did last year. Board decision: Chris will work out the final version with Todd. Anticipates it will be similar to past years.

7. Membership fee for foreign members: Status?

Chris Garlock didn't think there would be significant change in mailing costs for the journal overseas. Not enough to make a change in the fees. Board discussion: It was noted that Journal costs have not gone down, why? More

people are being paid for articles to better the content. Can we get a budget from Chris G? The board wants to review his budget every year.

Non-agenda items:

Gamers convention: in Ohio, Joe Carl organizing. Sounds like it will be fun, they will try to have a big tournament. Jon Boley will be going as the expert teacher.

Youth outreach: (Willard Haynes) received mid term reports: 5 of 6 are in. Approved second half of the grant, All are doing reasonably well, some have already been in tournaments. Despite the progress, not every group may meet their targets, but I don't think this is a problem. It's still well worth our money, I don't think it should affect the grants.

Should we spend more, less, or the same, next year? Approved a new group for Jason Pon, couple of other new groups are pending applications. How much more we'd need I'm not sure. Chris K: I think we need at least two years to evaluate this program. I think we should expand the program as originally envisioned. If we exceed the line item, in the budget should just be a guideline. Good programs we should find the money for, period.

Edge TV: We need to find someone with some media law contract expertise before we go any further. The issue right now is the letter of intent, so they can move ahead. We are not one of their big games. The real caution is that we don't want to give away any multi year contracts. We want to make sure they actually give go some serious air time. But the intent letter is just the intent to negotiate. We don't have a lot of alternatives, let's just make sure we don't lock ourselves out.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Process/Agenda Items for the National Assembly
(Chris Kirschner)

The board has the draft agenda. There are some contentious issues, I am providing for people on both sides to make a statement. Also, am arranging pre-meeting sessions where we can talk the issues over. The agenda becomes locked 30 days before the meeting. We should have this finalized by the June meeting. Part of the agenda depends on the progress of the governing committee. We need a report from governance first, but don't want to wait on governance, as time is short. I have asked Mike Lash to prod them along.

b. Continued open discussion of representation at professional tournaments (SEE BACKGROUND NOTE AT BOTTOM)

Chris K: wrote on the pro issue in his e-mail board report. We're at a crossroads, we need to stand up and say something. I need to know how hard does the

board want to push on this? Jimmy Cha is taking a pretty solid line on this. We do have control of the pro tournament money to help us.

1. AGA principles for representation at tournaments
2. Open letter with our principles
3. Dave Weimer's latest draft of principles: draft statement fro AGA principles for US representation in international tournaments.

"The AGA should vigorously seek through its own policies and in its dealings with other organizations to promote procedures for selecting representatives to international tournaments that are inclusive, fair, and transparent. Inclusive procedures provide an opportunity to participate to all players who are United States citizens no matter where they reside as well as to all players with permanent resident status who reside in the United States.

Fair procedures rely on competition to the greatest extent feasible to select representatives from among those eligible. Transparent procedures are clearly and publicly stated."

Board discussion:

Jon: We should release Dave's statement ASAP, it needs to be said soon. Seeing what kind of reaction we get will help us figure out the rest of our direction.

Harold, Bill and Willard concurred, we need to move quickly.

Chris: this will be a bombshell, there will be a strong reaction. We want the reaction to lead to the reformation of the pro group to be run much more transparently, and to be run by people who are in the U.S.. This will necessarily create conflict.

Allan: We can minimize the conflict, title the statement a proposed statement of policy. Let's send it out to the pros for their reaction first , to initiate discussion before it's a done deal. Should also send it out to the chapter heads also. This should be on assembly agenda.

Chris: Agree, it would be a courtesy to send it to the pros first. Make sure the pros receive it, and that there's a closed period for feedback. We want a way to certify that they got it. Both e-mail and registered mail. Do we have a follow up move? It doesn't say we're actually doing anything. let's include a timetable of when we want to release it. The Chinese wei chi organization was very clear that they don't want future difficulty, want us to work this out.

Allan will draft a cover letter. Letter should indicate that board has unanimously approved.