

Board Meeting 2004 Congress

Present: Willard Haynes, Dave Weimer, Roy Laird, Bill Cobb, Harold Lloyd, Jeff Shaevel, Allan Abramson, Larry Gross, Mike Lash, Chris Kirschner, Keith Arnold. Lee Anne Bowie, recorder

I Approval of Minutes: Harold Lloyd moved to accept the minutes; Jeff Shaevel seconded. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

II President's Report

- A. Fund-Raising Committee is in formation; no chair as yet. The first meeting is for those interested in participating.
- B. Ing Tournament is running although there is no Mexico representative. There were three attempts to contact looking for an alternate.
- C. No Ing funds have been received yet this year. Yang says to be patient. There is a money crunch due to low interest rate on securities. This is not the first time.
- D. Youth Grants—there were 7 projects. None were denied funding for the second half. Essentially the projects started too late in the school year to be totally successful.
- E. Liability insurance: Roy will handle this in New York; not done yet.
- F. System for regular reporting is not set up yet. Mike and Chris will continue to work together.

III Old Business:

A. Membership Goals. We intend to work toward a tangible goal to measure ourselves against. The Goal: To have 10,000 members in five years. Hikaru has aroused interest, and we will need to work on bringing them in. We must sit down to hammer out how to achieve it. It requires a great deal of thought.

Willard: The current membership is only 2,000; that is a five-fold increase!

Allan: The association has been in existence a very long time. Until recently the average membership was 1500. We need to get out of this rut. The amount may be too ambitious.

Dave: Perhaps we need a more achievable goal?

Keith: Even an unachievable goal helps us to move forward.

Mike: The board needs to dedicate money to this. We must consider how it will reflect on the organization. Will it crowd out other issues? What will be sacrificed?

Allan: For the record, I hope to direct \$25-30k. We are looking for creative methods, and we will evaluate as we go along. I need an OK for the first year as it will be experimental.

Jeff: Pick what it will be and strive toward say, 20%. A big number implies our resources should go there.

Harold: 4,000 in five years.

Chris: USCF now seriously in need because it did not keep track.

Roy: At \$10, more youth members should be joining.

Jeff: What is the data on the number of youth members who convert into adult members? How many disappear as adults?

Allan: Retention rate: We're not retaining a lot. There is enormous growth going into schools, so the past is not a good prediction.

Jeff: We should do it for a five-year program.

Allan: Lots of things to address. Can we adopt the doubling in five years?

Willard moved to double membership in five years as a goal. Harold Seconded. The measure passed unanimously.

B. Fund Raising: In preliminary stages. We need to expand beyond Ing. The discussion is for \$1 million per year. Maybe we should hire pros to do so.

Roy Laird: \$10,000 of Ing money is budgeted for promotion. Typically, \$15-17,000 of Ing funds remain unspent each year. There is also a substantial reserve fund to back up promotion projects. It should be possible to invest in development without cutting current programs and services. If Ing funds continue..

IV. New Business:

A. Two directors have resigned: Jon Boley and Dave Weimer, effective immediately. Secretary gets originals of resignation letters. The election has been completed. Mike Bull and Roy Laird will be the new directors. We need to change by-laws to allow replacing a resigning director before the existing term lapses with the newly elected director.

Jeff Shaevel moved to replace Jon Boley and Dave Weimer with Mike Bull and Roy Laird. Harold Lloyd seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The board thanks Dave Weimer for his service.

Chris Kirschner: It was a pleasure working with him.

Allan: Dave has been a giant for the AGA.

B. Nominations for chairman of the board:

Roy Laird nominated Allan Abramson.

Harold Lloyd (and others) seconded.

Willard moved to close nominations. Allan abstained from the otherwise unanimous vote. Allan Abramson is the new chair. Allan: "Thank you for your confidence."

C. Appointment of Corporate Secretary.

Susan Weir resigned.

Allan Abramson nominated Lee Anne Bowie to serve as secretary.

Roy Laird seconded. Approval for appointment was unanimous.

Lee Anne Bowie is the Corporate Secretary.

D. Redmond Proposal

None Redmond proposed the Ing/Redmond Tournament hold finals on the first Saturday of the Congress, so that they may play face-to-face.

AGA will contribute \$1000 extra to full comp and travel. Discussion ensued on the increment. The prize is the right to play in the Ing. Prize for the runner up is the comp to the congress. It does not provide monetary prizes. The participants will arrive on Friday, and we will need staffing a day early for this.

This is not a policy decision but an operational one. Decision to place on the agenda for the next board meeting. We will need to know how much it really is.

Roy: Redmond: Need nice event to allow youth to play in Ing.

Decision: President will do budget analysis.

Open Discussion

Mike: I'm interested in reviewing committee chairs, structure of AGA, other key organizational items...

Bill will do write up on his proposal.

Allan will place directors on Web Reflector.

Mike: Thank you for considering me and for your confidence in me. Feeling of confidence is worth a great deal to me. Chris has been invaluable. I would have been very nervous without his guidance and talks. He has shown his mettle. Chris is my most valuable resource. I will share goals with the members at the banquet.

Chris: Mike has extended himself for many discussions, 1.5 hours every two days. He always covered every email and attachment prior to the discussions.

Jeff moved to adjourn. Harold seconded. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Anne Bowie