

# MINUTES OF THE AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Sunday 9/26/05

Present: Bob barber, Mike Bull, Willard Haynes, Roy Laird, Yuan Zhou, President Michael Lash

In view of the absence of Chairman Allan Abramson, and with no objections, Willard agreed to chair the meeting, which he called to order at 7:07 PM.

Copies of minutes of the August Board meeting had not been distributed, so approval of the August minutes was tabled to the October meeting.

In view of the absence of Chairman Allan Abramson and Jeff Shaevel, election of a Chairman was deferred to the next meeting.

Willard and the Board welcomed newly elected Director Bob Barber from the Central region.

President Michael Lash began his report by noting that final financial statements for the past year have been completed and are now available at <http://www.usgo.org/resources/add2005.asp>. He noted that the draft budget had been amended at the August meeting, increasing the budget for publications to the full \$26,000 that had been requested. The previous draft contained a reduction, in order to fully fund the \$24,000 marketing the fund the Board has established; in August, the Board expressed a willingness to use reserve funds if necessary to fully fund the marketing initiative.

Michael reported on two upcoming international tournaments – a Korean event where expenses will be paid, and there are limited financial prizes; and a Chinese tournament with cash prizes, open to American players but with no expenses covered. He announced the selection of the allotted three players to represent the US in the upcoming Korean tournament, and stated that even players have volunteered to play in the Chinese tournament at their own expense.

The Toyota/Denso Oza tournament is being organized in New York by Roy Laird and in Las Vegas by Ray Kukol on Martin Luther King Day weekend, January 14-15, 2006. Negotiations are underway to secure suitable space to conduct a tournament with \$50,000 in sponsorship.

Selection of the North American contender for the World Fujitsu Cup will involve a knockout tournament about the top rated eight US citizens including pros. The preliminary rounds of the Masters tournament will be conducted next spring in a similar way. Michael stressed the importance of developing and expanding our ability to conduct serious tournament play on the Internet, especially recruitment of volunteers willing to supervise and referee the games.

Yuan asked, if the problem is that Fujitsu stopped funding the tournament, why not fund it out of the reserves? This led a discussion of basic priorities regarding the reserves. Laird questioned the value of using the reserve to fund tournaments, stating a preference to see reserve funds invested with a view to expending and developing the organization. In his view the ideal use of reserves would offers some possible

expectation of recovering the funds invested, such as the marketing initiative, which may lead to an inflow of membership dollars. Michael added that in this case, where the top prize is a trip to Japan and the possibility of winning \$200,000, no additional funding is necessary to motivate players to participate.

There was general agreement on the need to consider how to make wise use of the reserves and put them to more active use, in a separate discussion.

Michael reported that negotiations are ongoing with PandaNet, the owner of IGS, and KGS to establish enhanced AGA presence on those sites. KGS has offered AGA members a discount on premium services. IGS has expressed willingness to work with us in a variety of ways that are being explored.

Michael reported that two projects in the tournament area are behind schedule: a tournament director's manual, and a training course for aspiring TDs. He is actively seeking assistance with these projects.

Michael nominated Chris Kirschner as Executive Vice President under the new by-laws. Mike, Bob and Willard expressed support. Laird said he had heard that part of the thinking when the position was created was to groom a successor. Yuan asked whether a further search for other candidates could be done, do we have to fill the position immediately? Michael said Kirschner is his choice for the position, he has no other candidates, and asked the Board to support his candidate or find an alternative. There was some discussion of deferring the decision to the following meeting but the Board unanimously decided to vote on the candidate, with the following result

Barber: yes

Bull: Yes

Haynes: yes

Laird: abstain

Zhou No

The next meeting will be on 10/16 at 7 PM eastern time. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 OPM.

-- submitted by Roy Laird