

MINUTES OF THE AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sunday, 30 April 2006, 7 PM, EST

Conference call convened at 7:00 EDT

Attending: Board members: Bob Barber, Mike Bull, Willard Haynes, Roy Laird, Yuan Zhou

President: Mike Lash

Secretary: Polly Pohl

Not attending: Jeff Shaevel

1. Select New Chairman of the Board

Roy Laird nominated Bob Barber as new chairman

Bob Barber declined, because he is a new board member and doesn't feel ready.

Willard Haynes nominated Roy Laird.

Roy Laird nominated Willard Haynes.

Mike Bull seconded Roy's nomination

Bob Barber seconded nomination of Willard Haynes

Willard said he didn't think he had enough experience.

Roy said he would be willing to do it until new board members are elected at the Congress. Roy was unanimously elected interim chairman.

2. Select new Board member to replace Allan Abramson

Roy Laird nominated Peter Nassar

Bob Barber nominated Paul Celmer

All agreed both candidates were strong and capable.

Discussion focused on the demands on the time of a Congress Director. Paul Celmer is currently working as Congress Director. Peter Nassar will likely be Congress Director for 2007 Congress. Based on that, most people thought it would be best to elect Paul Celmer this time and if Peter still wants to be on the Board next time, there would be a lot of support for him then.

Willard made a motion to vote

Bob seconded the motion

Paul Celmer was unanimously elected new director.

3. President's Report

3.a Membership contest

Mike Lash proposed a plan to add \$7500 to the operating budget under the line item "National Marketing and Membership Growth"

He would like to try a contest among AGA chapters to increase their AGA membership.

He'd allocate \$2500 to each region.

He asked the Board for ideas on implementation.

Ideas included rewarding chapters for absolute number of increased AGA members and percentage increase so as not to penalize either established clubs or those in less populated areas.

Questions to address include what restrictions to put on the use of the funds. Suggestions included workshops, equipment, and tournaments. Another question was how many clubs in each region would get prizes. If clubs work hard to get members, they shouldn't be discouraged by having only one prize per region.

There was some talk about how many new members it would take to earn \$7500. It depends on whether people join for one year or several years. It was agreed that it may or may not pay off in near future, but it is an interesting idea that could be good for the organization.

Roy Laird said there was a consensus that Mike Lash should continue to work on this plan and submit more details at next month's meeting.

3.b Establish policy on chapters using their portion of Congress surplus funds.
(deferred from last meeting)

Mike Lash said that the goal of the AGA is to use surplus funds to achieve AGA goals, not to sit in the bank earning interest. He suggests setting up a timeframe to use some percent of the surplus within the first two years after the Congress where it was earned, or the AGA would start authorizing the use of it for purposes consistent with AGA goals of education, growing membership, etc. It should not just be transferred to the AGA bank account and earn interest there, but should be spent in a timely manner.

Mike Bull said it takes about a year to recover from running a Congress, so two years is okay to start spending it.

Willard said it was a good idea, but is concerned about the details of the plan.

Bob Barber is in favor of a plan.

Yuan Zhou said it is a good idea and wondered if we know how much each club has?

Roy Laird said the Treasurer knows exactly how much each club has to their credit.

Roy Laird said the Board agrees in principle with Mike Lash's plan, and he should go ahead and develop a proposal to encourage clubs to use their portion of Congress surpluses.

3.c Appointment of new Archivist

Craig Hutchinson wants to transfer responsibility for the AGA archives soon. There is a volunteer, David Doshay, who has volunteered to take it over. He seems enthusiastic, but he is relatively unknown within the AGA. There is concern about turning over all of this valuable material to someone without doing some investigation. Mike Bull agreed to try to meet him or find out more about him within the next two weeks, since Mike lives

in northern California, pretty close to Mr. Doshay. Mike Lash will wait for more information before making a decision on the appointment of an archivist.

End of President's report.

4. Discussion of IT issues

This item was postponed because Jeff Shaevel was absent.

5. Nakayama Award

This discussion centered on what kind of award this would be. How often will it be awarded? Who will decide who gets it? Where will the money for the award come from? Will it go only to professionals or to others who have contributed a lot to Congresses?

Bob Barber is going to talk to Yoshi Sawada about his ideas for this award, because it was his idea originally.

6. Policy re: Access to Corporate Records

Mike Lash said the policy for releasing AGA corporate data needs to be clarified. Roy suggested there should be a formal request for any specific information that is desired.

Willard said he is a member of the Chess Federation, and will find out how they handle this issue. The AGA would probably want to use similar procedures. Willard will report on this at the next meeting.

7. Publishing Go Tournament Guidelines on the AGA web site.

Mike Lash said that Ken Koester has written a comprehensive guide for use by tournament directors. He will allow the AGA to post the guide on their web site, but will insist that no changes be made by anyone but himself.

Willard Haynes says that the AGA should own any document that is about running an AGA rated tournament.

Mike Lash said that Chris Kirschner is willing to write a new tournament guide and give it to the AGA, but is only willing to do it if he is assured that it will become the official AGA guide.

Willard warned that anyone writing an AGA guide should not look at Ken's guide, to insure there is no suggestion of plagiarism.

Polly Pohl asked if anyone actually wanted to make any changes to Ken's document or if people think it is good as it is?

Mike Lash said so far, it is very good, but there is concern about not being able to change it if the need arises.

Roy asked whether we should be practical and use Ken's as it is until a problem arises or fix the problem now, before any problems arise?

Mike Bull suggested offering to buy the guide from Ken Koester.

Mike Lash said he would like to defer a decision on the Tournament Guide until he gets a chance to talk to Ken Koester about possibly buying his guide.

Willard made a motion to have Mike Lash pursue a deal with Ken Koester to use his guide. Bob Barber seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

8. Adjournment

Willard Haynes moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Bull seconded the motion. By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM EDT.

Submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary