

# MINUTES

## AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

### Sunday, December 17, 2006 – 7:00 PM EST

Meeting called to order by: Roy Laird  
Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call  
Secretary: Pauline Pohl

**Attendees:**

Roy Laird (At Large, Chair)  
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)  
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)  
Robert Barber (Central Region)  
Roy Schmidt (Central Region)  
Willard Haynes (Western Region)  
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)  
Mike Lash (President)  
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

**Agenda Topics:**

**1. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

Action items: Motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2006 meeting  
Motion- Gordon Castanza  
Second- Willard Haynes  
Approved unanimously

**2. New Treasurer**

Mike Lash announced that Adam Bridges is interested in taking the job of AGA Treasurer. Roy Laird said that Adam Bridges did a great job as Treasurer for the Go Congress, and asked if anyone wanted to discuss the matter. When there were no comments, Roy Laird asked if the Board was ready to vote. He made a motion to confirm Adam Bridges as the new Treasurer. Gordon Castanza seconded the motion and Adam Bridges was unanimously voted the new Treasurer.

**3. President's Report: Mike Lash**

**a) Ing Funds**

Chris Kirshner drafted a letter to send to the Ing foundation asking whether they intend to fund Congress events in 2007. He is asking for a decision as soon as possible so the Congress organizers can plan accordingly.

Paul Celmer said the uncertainty is frustrating and wondered if getting a new Ing Foundation liaison might help the communication. Mike Lash said that we have had the same liaison since he became President, but that Chris Kirshner has stepped up unofficially to try to improve the relationship.

Mike Lash said that youth scholarships to the U.S. Go Congress have been funded in the past by the Ing Foundation. He said the Board will have to decide whether to: 1) fund the scholarships in the future using AGA funds, 2) ask the Congress to fund youth scholarships out of their budget, or 3) discontinue the youth scholarship program.

Willard Haynes asked if we still have Ing funds in reserve and if we could continue to fund the youth scholarships using those reserves?

Mike Lash replied that since receiving the \$46,000 last month, the AGA is in the same position we were in last year when we decided to fund the Ing events at the Go Congress from reserves and hope to be reimbursed after the fact. He said that Chris Kirshner's letter may imply that if no commitment is made in advance that the tournaments and scholarships will end or if they continue may not be labeled as Ing events.

Chuck Robbins said that if the events are not advertised as Ing sponsored events, we will lose the ability to even ask for funding and wouldn't it be worth it to try to get sponsorship retroactively?

Mike Lash said that is what we did last year, and we can try it again.

Roy Laird said that nothing happened with the foundation's sponsorship until Mr. Yang was in town to push through the request. Without his help, it may be difficult to get help.

Mike Lash wondered if the letter is too harsh. Maybe instead of asking for a commitment by a certain date, we could just ask to change the channels of communication that haven't been effective lately.

#### **b) Trip to Japan**

Mike Lash reported that his trip to Japan was a success. He met people from various international go organizations and was impressed with the Japan Pair Go Association. He attended the Professional Pair Go Tournament, which had live television commentary by Michael Redmond.

#### **c) Summer Go Camps & AGA Financial Report**

Mike Lash reported that since the last Board meeting, the AGF settled their part of the finances from the summer youth go camps. The AGF paid \$7000, which made the net cost to the AGA \$900 for the two camps. In 2007, the AGF will provide more money (\$9000), but it will be restricted to providing scholarships for the 16 finalists from the Youth Go Championship. They will not provide any money for operational expenses or losses.

Chuck Robbins said that he found an error in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report from Treasurer Ulo Tamm. He also questioned the decision to reduce the liability, "life member reserve". Roy Laird suggested that with Adam Bridges coming in as the new Treasurer, perhaps there can be a finance subcommittee for those on the Board who want to get more involved with the financial reports.

#### **4. Rank Certification Proposal**

Roy Laird said there wasn't any new activity by the Rank Certification Committee since the last meeting. Willard Haynes moved to table the discussion until next meeting. Gordon Castanza seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

#### **5. Complimentary Membership for Professionals**

Roy Schmidt said that the last remaining decision to make on this proposal is whether to offer complimentary membership for professionals not residing in the U.S.

Chuck Robbins said he thinks we should start small with the program and limit the participation to professionals residing in the U.S. for at least six months of the year. Bob Barber said that the cost is small, and it creates good will, so he thinks the program should be broadly applied. Roy Laird said he's inclined to be more liberal with the memberships, because there's no possible harm and the cost is small. Roy Schmidt said it's better to build bridges than to build walls. Willard Haynes agreed he'd like to be liberal with memberships, but he's concerned that professionals who don't live in the U.S. will feel entitled to represent the U.S. in international tournaments. Mike Lash said that the policy on selecting

representatives is clear about the residency requirement, but that sponsors have asked Michael Redmond to play as a U.S. representative in the past without consulting the AGA, so this policy wouldn't change things for the worse.

Roy Schmidt made a motion to vote on the following proposal which includes the membership for non-resident U.S. citizen professionals:

The AGA will award complimentary annual membership to any person meeting one of the following three categories of criteria:

Category A

1. Holding professional certification from one of the professional associations in Japan, Korea, China, or Taiwan, and
2. Currently residing in North America by virtue of a resident visa (e.g., work visa, "green card," etc.).

Category B

1. Holding professional certification from one of the professional associations in Japan, Korea, China, or Taiwan, and
2. Is a U.S., Canadian, or Mexican citizen.

Category C

Deemed deserving, through service to the AGA, upon majority vote of the AGA Board.

Complimentary membership is given without any obligation on the part of the recipient. Membership in the AGA is one of several prerequisites to representing the AGA in international tournaments. Complimentary membership satisfies one prerequisite, but is not sufficient in itself to earn the right of representation.

Bob Barber seconded the motion. There were five votes in favor and one opposed (Chuck Robbins). The motion passed.

**6. New Business**

There was no new business.

**6. Schedule next monthly Meeting and Adjournment**

The next monthly Board meeting will be held January 21, 2007 at 8:00 EST. (one hour later than usual.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 EST.