

MINUTES
AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Sunday, January 21, 2007 – 8:00 PM EST

Meeting called to order by: Roy Laird

Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call

Secretary: Pauline Pohl

Attendees:

Roy Laird (At Large) Chairman

Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)

Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)

Robert Barber (Central Region)

Roy Schmidt (Central Region)

Willard Haynes (Western Region)

Gordon Castanza (Western Region)

Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent: Mike Lash (President)

Agenda Topics:

1. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Action items: Motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2006 meeting

Motion- Bob Barber

Second- Gordon Castanza

Approved unanimously

2. President's Report

Roy Laird led a discussion about Mike Lash's written report.

a) Ing Funds

Roy Laird reported that Chris Kirschner spoke to Mr. Yang, of the Ing Foundation.

Mr. Yang reported that money was sent to Ing Goe America. He suggested that the

AGA should resubmit funding requests now that the money is there. Chris Kirschner

and Mike Lash are continuing to work with Ernest Brown of American Ing Goe.

Paul Celmer asked if things might go more smoothly if there was a new liaison, maybe

one who speaks Chinese? Chuck Robbins pointed out that delivery of Ing

Foundation support got less reliable after the move to an elected board, with Chris Kirschner being the first President. Roy said that Chris and Mr. Yang know each other well, having met together face-to-face several times at International Rules meetings sponsored by the Ing Foundation where Chris has represented the US. He is not opposed to bringing someone else in, but unless it's someone who is already familiar with the issues and history, and personally known to Mr. Yang, it will take time to become effective."

b) US Youth Go Championship Qualifiers

Roy Laird reported that six qualification tournaments are scheduled and we are looking for two more, so there could be two winners from each venue to fill the 16 seats for the finals at the Seattle Go Center over Memorial Day weekend. \$12,000 is budgeted to pay for the final.

Bob Barber asked if the glitches had been worked out with the time controls, whether to use Ing Goe rules, etc. Chuck Robbins said that if we hope to get Ing Foundation funding to support the tournament, we should use Ing rules. Gordon Castanza said he has already printed fliers for his tournament in March, and since there was no promise of funding, he didn't include Ing rules as part of the tournament announcement. Willard Haynes said that last year, we funded events that would have been funded by Ing Foundation money in the past using surpluses from previous years and we got reimbursed for those expenses. We should continue to use Ing rules as long as we are using Ing donation surpluses or are hoping to get support from the Ing Foundation after the events.

Chuck Robbins made a motion, "The Board should instruct Mike Lash to get a consistent set of tournament parameters including use of the Ing rules and ask Nicole Casanta to communicate them officially to tournament directors."

Paul Celmer seconded the motion.

The Board voted 6-1 to approve the motion. (Bob Barber was opposed.)

c) Free Chinese Go Sets

Roy Laird reported that it looks like the AGA will get the free go sets and will only have to pay for storage and shipping. Gordon Castanza will store them on the west coast for free and the east coast supply will be stored at Chuck Robbins' warehouse for a fee. Willard Haynes asked if there appear to be any strings attached to the donation. Roy Laird said there are no requirements other than to pay for shipping and storage of the sets.

d) New Initiatives for 2007

Roy Laird asked if anyone wanted to comment on Mike Lash's fund-raising proposal. Chuck Robbins asked why Mike Lash suggested putting \$25,000 aside for the fundraising. Roy Laird said it is considered inappropriate for fundraisers to work on commission, so a flat fee is more common.

Willard Haynes mentioned that as a member of the US Chess Federation, he knows that they get 60% of their revenues from membership dues, 20% from tournaments, 6% from sales, and 6% from magazine income. It seems like the most appropriate and likely source of income for the AGA would be from growing membership.

Roy Laird said that we could spend the \$25,000 on a study of how to grow membership, but we know what we need to do. We need to chase expired members, help new players stick to the game, and reach out to niche markets. Let's spend the money getting someone to do what we know we need to do rather than figuring out what to do. He suggested hiring a PR firm rather than a fundraising effort. Bob Barber said it appears that there is more support for Laird's approach over Lash's fundraising approach, but maybe we should table the discussion until next month when Mike Lash is present. The Board agreed and moved on to the next item.

3. 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.

4. New Business

Chuck Robbins reported that the web site is almost ready to take Congress registration, so he needs to know whether to include Ing Foundation funding. He made a motion that we pursue Ing Foundation funding to subsidize children's registration and commit reserve funds to pay for the subsidy if the Ing Foundation decides not to support the Congress. Bob Barber seconded the motion. Roy Schmidt wondered how to plan for the expenses, since we don't know how many children to expect at the Congress. Chuck Robbins said the trend is up, with \$10,000 spent on children's registration in 1997 and \$17,000 in 2006. The Board voted in favor of the motion. (6-0 with one abstention, Chuck Robbins)

5. Schedule next monthly Meeting and Adjournment

The next monthly Board meeting will be held February 25, 2007 at 8:00 EST. (one hour later than usual.)

Willard Haynes moved to adjourn the meeting. Roy Schmidt seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:21 EST.