

MINUTES  
AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Sunday, October 28, 2007 – 8:00 PM EDT

Meeting called to order by: Roy Laird at 8:05 EDT  
Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call

Attendees:

Roy Laird (At Large) Chairman  
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)  
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)  
Laura Kolb (Central Region)  
Roy Schmidt (Central Region)  
Willard Haynes (Western Region)  
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)  
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent:

Mike Lash (President)

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

Action items: Motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2007 monthly conference call meeting. Approved unanimously.

**2. President's Report- through Roy Laird**

**a) Tournaments**

**Ing Cup**

There are some unresolved issues with this tournament which is held every four years. Some of the issues are the criteria used to select the representative from the U.S. Whether a player is native born, a citizen, or a resident and whether they have professional credentials are some of the issues being discussed. Mr. Yang from the Ing Foundation hasn't responded yet to e-mail requests for information.

### **Ing School Team Tournament**

The American Go Honor Society has agreed to run this event under AGA auspices. Lash is reviewing a contract proposed by AGHS officials spelling out the details.

### **OZA**

Keith Arnold will manage the east coast event (Baltimore) and Andy Okun has been working on the west coast (Los Angeles) site. Roy Laird, who coordinated the previous three Ozas and ran the East Coast events in New York in 2001, 2004 and 2006, is providing assistance and guidance to Keith and Andy. There will be advertisements in "Sushi and Saki" magazine which is handed out in Japanese restaurants in Los Angeles and Baltimore. The Nihon Ki'in is sponsoring the tournament with \$50,000 through the Toyota Denzo Corporation. The tournaments will be held on January 19-20, 2008. The east coast tournament will be held at the Holiday Inn near the Baltimore Washington Airport, and the west coast tournament will be held on the campus of UCLA at the Bradley Center.

### **Youth Go Championship**

This tournament will be run by Nicole Casanta again this year.

### **World Mind Sports Games**

Thomas Hsiang had a meeting with the International Go Federation Board of Directors in Korea talking about the World Mind Sports Games, which will take place in Beijing, China October 3-18, 2008. Representatives from up to 150 countries are expected. The Chinese government has committed a high level of support to this event, including room and board for all players. The organizers would like us to send a 15 to 20 member team. They don't want Bridge and Chess to overwhelm the go events.

The American Go Foundation (AGF) Board of Directors met on October 21 and agreed to establish a fund to send a US team of up to twenty top players to compete in the World Mind Sports Games that will be held in Beijing following the Olympics in 2008. Laird said he and Lash agree that the AGA should allocate up to \$15,000 to send up to ten players even if the fundraising efforts fall short. They are thinking of setting a goal of possibly \$40,000 to send a team of 20-25 players and guest officials to Beijing for the event.

Willard Haynes asked what selection criteria would be used to choose representatives for the U.S. team. Laird said those details are still being worked out. Gordon Castanza said he is against using AGA funds to send American players, because he does not believe sponsoring players is consistent with the AGA bylaws. He thinks competitors should either get their own sponsorship or raise money themselves to pay their own way. Olympic athletes have to get their own sponsors – “even Lance Armstrong had to get the Post Office” - and this should work the same way.

Paul Celmer said he thinks the AGA would get some promotional benefit on the world stage by being represented in a prestigious international event.

Chuck Robbins said that if sponsoring athletes jeopardizes the AGA's 504C status, he would be against doing it.

Roy Laird asked if anyone knew whether the tax status of the AGA would be jeopardized by this sort of activity, and said if it would then it would be out of the question.

Laird said they are still looking at the selection process and what qualifications are required. The International Go Federation has recently adopted an anti-doping policy which will be in effect at the tournament. Willard Haynes noted that any announcements about the tournament should include details of the new policy.

## **b) Web Site Upgrade**

Laird reported that a committee is moving toward selection of a vendor to host the upgraded site. The project leader, Mark Rubenstein, has conducted excellent online research and contacted several companies that may be able to deliver to us nearly off the shelf products that serve membership associations with databases, content management, online shopping, etc. The committee is looking at a company called Internet4Associations.com. The program can add a lot of new capabilities to the current web site and allow us to handle membership services much more efficiently. Chris Kirschner, Sam Zimmerman, and Chris Garlock will look at the product to make sure there are no “show stoppers”. The expected cost is \$3000 per year plus \$95 per month maintenance fee with this company. This is close to the current budgeted amount.

### **c) Equipment for Teachers**

Laird reported that the AGF is considering purchasing 2000 go sets to distribute to teachers across the country. The promised shipment of 400 sets from the "World of Weichi" magazine may be added to that group if they do arrive here.

### **3. Resolution to establish a merchant account for the 2008 Congress**

Laird said that the organizers of the 2008 Go Congress would like the board to pass a resolution to establish a merchant account so the organizers will be able to accept credit card payments. Laird reported that Chris Kirchner had been unhappy with the fine print in Authorize.net's merchant account agreement, and said that he is worried about some of the fine print in the Costco contract. Paul Celmer said he thinks the board should support the local organizers and assume that they have researched their options and have chosen a reasonable deal.

Celmer made a motion to have the AGA co-sign a merchant agreement along with the Congress organizers with Costco. Laura Kolb seconded the motion.

Willard Haynes suggested a friendly amendment to authorize Mike Lash to review the agreement in detail and to sign it if he thinks it's appropriate. The Board voted on the amended motion. The motion passed with all cast votes in favor with one abstention. (Robbins)

This motion was subsequently amended as follows:

AGA president Michael Lash is hereby authorized to:

A) execute of behalf of the AGA a Merchant application and any agreements or other necessary documents including any amendments;  
B) execute any document requested from time to time to be executed in furtherance of the Merchant Application or relationship resulting therefrom;  
C) perform all acts that may be necessary to carry out the intent of the Merchant Application and this Corporate resolution.

2. Resolved, that the Merchant Application and the resulting relationship is ratified and approved;

3. Resolved, that all entities receiving this Merchant Application are authorized to rely upon the Corporate resolution until Advised in writing by

a like certification of any changes and are authorized to rely on such changed certification.

This resolution was adopted at a meeting of the board of directors of The American Go Association, a duly authorized 501c4 corporation chartered in the State of New York, in accordance with the AGA's bylaws, held on October 28, 2007.

#### 4. Rank Certification

Laird reported that Paul Matthews has been working on the details of how to certify members' rankings. It should be ready to roll out in about a month.

#### 5. Tournament Director Duties

Paul Celmer has reviewed why some tournament data hasn't been reported. One set of results were rejected because they were out of compliance with published standards for reporting game results, and could not be corrected. He said that we should have e-mail contact information for all organizers. Celmer is working on getting all results in less than one week.

#### 6. New business

None.

#### 7. Schedule next monthly Meeting and Adjournment

The next monthly Board meeting will be held Sunday, November 25, 2007 at 8:00 PM EST.

Gordon Castanza made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Celmer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:09 PM EDT.

The minutes were submitted by: Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary