

Minutes

AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday, July 13, 2008 – 8:00 PM EDT

Meeting called to order by: Roy Schmidt at 8:04 EDT
Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call

Attendees:

Roy Laird (At Large)
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Laura Kolb (Central Region)
Roy Schmidt (Central Region) Interim Chairman
Willard Haynes (Western Region)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Mike Lash (President)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent:

Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)

1. Approval of Minutes

Gordon Castanza moved that the Board approve the minutes from the June 8, 2008 regular monthly conference call. Willard Haynes seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Call for additional Agenda Items

Roy Laird suggested the Board consider getting a speaker phone so Directors not attending the Congress in August can still participate in the Board meeting Thursday, August 7 at 1:30 PM. The item was accepted and added to the agenda.

3. President's Report

Mike Lash presented his monthly report.

a) Tournament: World Mind Sports Games (WMSG)

The 22-person roster of players, coach, and officials has been sent to the organizers. Lash said the WMSG team is working on getting uniform designs settled and ordered.

There was a playoff game between the Canadian and US Pair Go teams to determine which pair would get their plane tickets purchased by the tournament sponsors. The Canadian pair won the game. Both teams will attend. There was a playoff game

between Jie Li and Joey Hung to determine which player would get free airfare for the Open Amateur representative. Both players will attend, but Mr. Li won the game and he will get his ticket paid for by the sponsor.

Fundraising will continue to try to support the team. Lash hopes that there may be added interest now that the team has been named.

b) Website Upgrade

Lash predicts that the new AGA website will be operational before the Go Congress this August. The new membership database will be completed by then and the ratings database will be coordinated soon after. Lash believes that the ratings will be available faster after tournaments once the ratings database is fully operational than has been the case before, adding more value to AGA members.

Some of the new features will be an online store and the ability of members to opt in as a regional contact for people looking for new players and teachers. Steve Colburn will be the new webmaster.

c) Vice President for International Affairs

Lash proposed creating a new position: Vice President for International Affairs. This person would answer to the President as other V.P.s do. The main responsibilities of this V.P. would be to coordinate all AGA international activity starting with the IGF and all foreign go associations. The President-elect, Allan Abramson, is aware of Lash's proposal and fully supports the new position.

Roy Laird made a motion to create the position of VP for International Affairs. Paul Celmer seconded the motion. There was some discussion where Lash clarified that there could be a person in charge of communicating with a particular organization, for example the IGF, who would report to the new V.P.

The Board voted unanimously to create the new position of V.P. for International Affairs. The next President will submit candidates to the Board for approval.

d) Policy on Agreement for Overseas Representatives

Lash circulated a proposed agreement for overseas representatives in an e-mail prior to the Board meeting. He recommended that the Board adopt as policy a requirement that all AGA members who represent the AGA overseas sign an agreement expressing the respective duties and responsibilities of the AGA and the traveler. This proposal reflects the fact that we have no official regulations to deal with incidents where tournament attendees cause problems or have difficulties while overseas. In this regard Lash informed the Board of a particular instance where a player overseas for the AGA got into some trouble which resulted in additional expenses that had to be temporarily covered by the AGA. As a result, the player was suspended from playing in any international qualifier tournaments through the December 31, 2009, and may not play in any AGA events until he has reimbursed the AGA for the money spent. In response to a question from Laird, Lash also confirmed that there had been problems with the player's

membership status for some time and he had behaved poorly in resolving that issue as well. With a large group preparing to represent the AGA soon at the World Mind Sports Games, Lash recommends that such a policy be adopted as soon as possible.

Roy Laird made a motion to adopt Lash's proposal requiring everyone to sign the agreement before traveling overseas to represent the AGA for any purpose. Paul Celmer seconded the motion. Willard Haynes said he has been having trouble getting e-mails, so he didn't get to read the proposed agreement. Lash said he would fax it to him tomorrow. Haynes abstained from the vote, but the other 5 Board members voted in favor of the proposed agreement and the motion passed.

Lash said he would make sure a copy of the agreement and an announcement of the policy would be in the next ~~journal~~.

e) Policy on Guest Officials for International Events

Lash said that a policy on selecting guest officials has existed for several years, but recently Thomas Hsiang (see minutes from June 8, 2008 Board meeting) suggested a revision might be in order. He said that in some cases, official business needs to be conducted and it may be appropriate to have more rigorous standards for choosing guest officials rather than using the trips as a way to reward volunteers. Lash said we have two choices: 1) to keep the existing policy but be careful when choosing representatives so that they will be appropriate for the event, or 2) change the policy.

There was some discussion where Board members said they thought the current policy was fine as long as the President uses good judgment when selecting representatives to match the nature of the event and the expectation of the organizers.

4. Old Business

a) Confidentiality Policy

A proposed Board communications confidentiality policy had been circulated and commented on through e-mails. Gordon Castanza made a motion to approve the policy as developed in the e-mail exchange. Paul Celmer seconded the motion. Four Board members voted in favor of the policy, two members abstained, and the motion passed 4-0-2. Roy Schmidt said he would post the policy in the ~~journal~~ so members will be aware of it.

b) Two-Tournament Limit Policy

This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting so all of the Board members could have a copy of the policy before discussing it or making any decisions. (Castanza moved to table, Haynes seconded the motion and all voted in favor of tabling.)

5. Ming-Jiu Question

Roy Schmidt reported that Feng Yun has expressed her dissatisfaction with the Board's decision not to penalize Ming-Jiu Jiang for getting to represent the AGA in international three times this year instead of the maximum two trips allowed under AGA policy. Roy Laird asked if we know what other pros think. Schmidt said most have been silent on the matter. Since the Board had already considered this issue and made a decision, Castanza made a motion that the Board not reconsider the issue and let the previous vote stand. Haynes seconded the motion.

There was discussion reviewing the reasons for the original decision. Since the consensus was that it was an AGA error that led to Ming-Jiu being allowed to attend the three events it was deemed inappropriate to punish Ming-Jiu. Although damage was done, there hasn't been a suggestion that fixes the error without causing more damage.

The Board voted unanimously not to reconsider the earlier decision.

6. New Business

Laird asked that a speakerphone be provided in the Board meeting at the Congress. There was discussion about possibly switching to a web-based conference system. Pauline Pohl (AGA Secretary) said she would send an e-mail to the Congress organizers asking for a speaker phone in the meeting room.

7. Set New Meeting Time and Adjourn

The next Board meeting will be in person at the Go Congress in Portland, Oregon, Thursday, August 7 at 1:30 PM PDT.

Laura Kolb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roy Laird seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM EDT

Minutes submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary