

AGENDA  
AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Sunday, September 7, 2008 – 8:00 PM EDT

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 by Roy Schmidt.

Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call

Attendees:

Jie Li (At Large)  
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)  
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)  
Laura Kolb (Central Region)  
Roy Schmidt (Central Region) Chairman  
Willard Haynes (Western Region)  
Andrew Okun (Western Region)  
Allan Abramson (President)  
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

**1. Approval of minutes for August 7, 2008 meeting**

Willard Haynes made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting at the Congress August 7, 2008. Chuck Robbins seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**2. Call for additional agenda items**

No items were added to the agenda.

**3. Election of Chairperson for 2008-2009**

Willard Haynes nominated Roy Schmidt. Paul Celmer seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous in favor of electing Schmidt the Chairman.

**4. President's report**

**a) Personnel**

- a. Approval of move of Chris Kirschner to position of VP, Planning
- b. Approval of Thomas Hsiang as VP, International Relations
- c. Notice of appointment of Phil Waldron as Tournament Coordinator

- d. Notice of intent to advertise for VP-Services, VP—Operations
- e. Request for the Board to advertise for Executive VP

Abramson asked for approval of the appointments of Kirschner and Hsiang, and notified the Board of the other plans.

Celmer asked if the VP Planning position includes the Congress liaison duties Kirschner has been performing for the past few years. Abramson said no, but Kirschner will continue to do that job until a volunteer comes forward to fill that position. Schmidt asked when the moves would be official. Abramson said immediately upon approval. Okun made a motion to approve the appointments. Kolb seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the appointments.

**b) WMSG visa status**

Abramson reported that the Chinese government has been requesting that an extra form be filled in when travelers report that they will be attending the WMSGs. There have been delays getting copies of the extra form, and he is concerned as the deadline approaches. He hopes the forms can be faxed this week, rather than having to wait for them to go through the mail.

**c) Call for pledges to appear in EJ**

Abramson reported that he will write an article for the E-Journal asking members to recruit new members to the AGA. He plans to have twice-yearly membership drives similar to what National Public Radio does. Gordon Castanza heard about Abramson's idea for a membership drive and has already attracted five new members since attending the Congress.

**d) Congress Web Photo Album**

Abramson reported that he would like to start a new tradition of collecting photos from the Congress to make a web album. He will announce this idea in the E-Journal.

**e) Congress vendor security**

Abramson reported that there has been an alarming amount of losses due to theft from the vendor room at the Congresses over the past few years. He would like to buy a security camera system to help the vendors stop the problem. Haynes said a good 4-camera system with video monitor will probably cost \$600. Abramson said at the next Congress, they will probably provide two vendor rooms, which will give the vendors more room to organize their products and will give them clearer views of what goes on in the room. Schmidt suggested having security at the door checking bags, but agreed it would be difficult especially when the room is crowded following the banquet. Abramson said they may have vendor hours on Sunday next year to cut down on the

crowds. Okun asked if there was any need for Board action at this time, and Abramson said this was just for informational purposes now.

#### **f) Congress organization**

Abramson reported that following this year's Congress, director Peter Freedman wrote a memo stating his view that the Congress has grown so large that it is getting unrealistic to have unseasoned local organizers run it each year. He thinks it may be time for more central control by the AGA. Freedman's memo stimulated a great deal of interest and e-mail traffic, and we soon will be able to extract key points and move forward. Allan expects that this process will be evolutionary, with this year providing more support to the local organizers, as we work out the issue of more AGA involvement and control.

Abramson said the new website may be able to handle the registration by next summer.

More central control rather than local organizer control would raise the issue of possibly changing how revenue would be split between local organizers and the national organization. In the past, complimentary attendees have been decided by local organizers. There may be reason to make standard criteria for all Congresses to use.

Abramson suggested having the Policy and Governance Committee (headed by Keith Arnold) look at these two issues and make recommendations. There was consensus among the Board members that this was a good idea. (no formal vote)

#### **g) AGA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Abramson said he'd like to have a celebration of the AGA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010.

#### **h) Tournaments**

Phil Waldron (Tournament Coordinator) announced that Eric Lui will be the U.S. representative to the WAGC this year. Thomas Hsiang will be our representative to the Korean Prime Minister's Cup.

Jie Li asked how the determination was made as to who was going to the Korean Prime Minister's Cup? Abramson said Waldron followed the published procedures to determine who was eligible and made the appointment. Schmidt said all of the selection procedures can be found by clicking on the tournament of interest on the following web page:

<http://usgo.org/usa/invitational.html>

#### **i) Introduction to Go Pamphlet for children**

Feng Yun volunteered to help come up with a system to introduce go to children. Paul Barchilon is working with her to set up a process to edit and test brochures to be printed by the AGF.

#### **j) AGA Hall of Fame Web site**

Abramson would like to form a panel of past presidents to make nominations and recommendations to the current president and Board of possible candidates for a new AGA Hall of Fame.

Robbins asked how a Hall of Fame would differ from the Lasker award or other established awards. Abramson said the Hall of Fame would recognize volunteers to the AGA over the years. Robbins suggested this might work as a tool to attract new volunteers. Abramson said a good start would be to make a list of Congress Directors and AGA Presidents to consider.

End of President's Report.

#### **5. Old Business: Revision of Selection Procedures for International Representation.**

Schmidt reported that there have been a lot of e-mails and discussions over revising the rules for selecting representatives to international tournaments.

Okun asked if these rules are only to select representatives or are to determine who is eligible to represent the U.S. in tournaments. Schmidt said the policy decides both who is eligible and who will be selected. The goal of the policy is to make an open, fair, and inclusive method to choose representatives.

Haynes said this policy only applies to tournaments that do not have their own procedures for selecting participants.

Li clarified that the policy is for tournaments where travel, room, and board expenses are provided by sponsors.

Abramson said the intent of the policy was to apply to all international tournaments, but recognizes that there are differences between major, formal tournaments and smaller, more informal events.

Li asked why the policy requires amateurs to play ten games against high ranking players, but doesn't require the same from professionals. Abramson said it was out of respect to the professionals, because their qualifications have been established and to not require them to take time away from earning their livings as professionals.

Li said the travel to tournament is expensive and he thinks internet games should be rated too. Schmidt said there has been talk of having observers to monitor on-line games to verify that there are no outside references being used. Robbins said players can get most or all of their ten games simply by attending the Congress each year. The original intent of the policy was to help attract players to tournaments so more players can get the chance to play rated games against strong players.

Okun said he is in favor of allowing on-line games to be rated.

Li said his main concern in the policy is the ten-game requirement. Schmidt reported that several professionals (Janice Kim, Feng Yun, James Kerwin, Ming-jiu Jiang, Jujo

Jiang, etc.) have said the two tournament limit per year is confusing and unfair. Since some qualification tournaments may span several weeks or months, it's difficult to determine if someone is eligible, because another tournament may be decided in the middle of the qualification process, and the player may not be eligible by the time they win the qualification tournament. Haynes said the original intent of the rule was to "spread the wealth" and allow more players to compete internationally. The Fujitsu qualification rounds happen the year before the tournament, and you may not be eligible to play in the qualification tournaments even if you would be eligible by the time the actual tournament happens, so it raises confusion.

Okun proposed sending this task to Waldron and Arnold to rework. Haynes seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to have the committee rework the policy.

## **6. New Business**

### **a. Clarification of WAGC Procedures**

Phil Waldron sent a .pdf file explaining his problems. It's unclear to him whether the requirement of "continuous, full AGA membership for one year" refers to the period before going to represent the AGA or whether it's while they are accumulating the points.

Haynes said that although it is possible to come off the street and earn points, it's more likely that the points would be accumulated over a period of time. Schmidt said that leaving the wording of a "significant lapse in membership" is vague, and there should be consistent enforcement of the policy. Abramson said the residency requirement is six months, so maybe the same number of months should be used to consider a lapse in membership significant. Haynes said that is way too long to allow a lapse in membership and once a member starts earning qualification points they should have to maintain their membership to avoid having them dropped. Abramson asked if there was consensus among the Board that three months of a lapse should be the maximum. The Board agreed that three months is a reasonable period of time. Kolb made a motion to have Waldron update the policy to reflect the three month rule. Okun seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to have Waldron update the policy. Abramson asked if we want Waldron to look at the ten-game limit too, and Li and Kolb said yes.

### **b. Status of Rank Certification Initiative**

There was a final draft from the committee in September 2007. There hasn't been activity since then. Okun was on the committee, and he said the initiative was approved and we were waiting for it to be implemented. The question now is how to get it moving. Okun said Chris Kirschner was the last one working on getting it implemented. There was discussion about how low the sigma needs to be before the rank certificate could be issued. The new members on the Board thought the certificate should be issued immediately upon reaching a rank.

Abramson said the purpose of the certificates is to give encouragement to players who work hard to improve. At the kyu level, the statistical standards should be lowered or

eliminated to provide positive reinforcement. At the Dan level, players should understand that the requirements should be more stringent. Robbins and Okun agreed. Abramson said that given this direction, he should be able to move forward with the program.

#### **7. Establish Date and Time for Next Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be Sunday, November 2 at 8:00 PM EST.

#### **8. Adjourn**

Haynes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Okun seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 10:04 EDT.

Submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary