

**AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Sunday, April 19, 2009 – 8:00 PM EDT**

Roy Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:07 PM EDT.

Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call

Attendees:

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

**1. Approval of minutes for March 15, 2009 meeting**

Willard Haynes made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2009 Board conference call. Chuck Robbins seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**2. Call for additional agenda items**

Okun asked to add an item to talk about a book.

**3. President's Report**

**a. Policy Decision Review- Policy and Procedures for Selection of Representatives for International Tournaments**

Abramson apologized for inadvertently changing some wording in the policy because he had to change computers and lost the wording. He said he will restore the wording that was agreed upon before. He proposed extending the dates for the professionals until January. There was no further discussion. Abramson said he would write a notice for the e-journal and would notify the affected players.

**b. FYI-Insurance**

The AGA has not up until this time had Directors and Officers insurance, and Abramson got some quotes and recommends using Philadelphia Insurance for about \$800 per year. He said they recommend internet insurance covering slander and sales of goods

for another \$800 per year. He thinks we do not need employment liability insurance because we do not have any employees and use independent contractors for all of our paid work. There was some discussion as to whether independent contractors would be covered by the insurance if they did something wrong. If not, it would not be worth paying for the insurance.

Abramson said he suggests that he purchase the D&O and internet insurance and will look into the employment insurance before deciding whether to get it as well. The Directors agreed in principle to the insurance.

### **c. Status Request: Board Member Calls to Chapters**

During the last Board conference call, Abramson said he would like Directors to call club presidents in their regions to find out:

- 1) What their opinion is about why members drop out of the AGA
- 2) What outreach efforts they have made to recruit new members
- 3) If they have needs for assistance from the AGA that are not being met, and
- 4) What works and what does not work in building membership?

Okun reported that holding face-to-face tournaments seems to be the biggest factor in increasing membership. Those new members are interested in tournaments, but not the AGA as much. Schmidt said he has talked to organizers in Iowa who confirmed that tournaments are the biggest draw for attracting new members. Haynes, Robbins, Kolb, and Celmer had nothing to report this month. (Since Li is the at large director and has no particular region, he is not making calls.)

### **d. FYI/Discussion – Tournament Software**

Abramson said this issue has been controversial. He hasn't found any consensus on a favorite tournament program so far. He thinks there is no one program that is perfect for all users, but would like to propose a contest for a program with the prize being a lifetime membership. The program would have to work with PC, Mac, and Linux and the AGA would own the copyright of the program if chosen. Abramson said one of the controversial issues is whether the AGA should be in a position to judge software. Robbins said if the AGA owns and recommends a program, it wouldn't necessarily mean everyone would have to use it. The goal would be to make organizing tournaments and reporting results easy for a new tournament director.

### **e. FYI – Ratings Clarifications**

Abramson is working to clarify rules about rated games, such as whether chapter sponsorship of tournaments is required, the 30-day window in which to submit rated

game results, the ability to rate chapter members' club games, etc. Abramson said he plans to seek help from Phil Waldron, Paul Matthews, and Chris Kirschner in clarifying the policy on this.

End of President's report. (8:42 PM EDT)

#### **4. Old Business**

none

#### **5. New Business**

##### **a. Book recommendation**

Okun came across a book written by the owner of a Bed and Breakfast he visited titled, Volunteers: How to get them, How to Keep Them. The author is Helen Little. It is available at Amazon.com. He thought it might be helpful for us and our organization.

##### **b. Chess federation lawsuit**

Schmidt said that given the publicized current discord concerning the Chess Federation Board, he is thankful for the harmony among the AGA Board members.

#### **6. Establish time and date for next Board meeting**

The next regular monthly conference call will occur on May 17, 2009 at 8:00 EDT.

#### **7. Adjourn**

Okun made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robbins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 8:53 PM EDT.

Submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary