

**AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Sunday, June14, 2009 – 8:30 PM EDT**

Roy Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:33 PM EDT.

Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call

Attendees:

Jie Li (At Large)  
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)  
Chuck Robbins (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)

Absent:

none

**1. Approval of minutes for May 17, 2009 meeting**

Andrew Okun made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2009 Board conference call. Laura Kolb seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the minutes were approved with Willard Haynes abstaining because he was absent from the meeting.

**2. Call for additional agenda items**

None

**3. President's Report- 2010 Budget Discussion**

**a. 2010 Budget**

Abramson presented his revised proposed budget, explaining the changes from the last version. He merged Ing budget items with the operational budget for more clarity and added an item representing a donation from the Japan Pair Go Association. The budget currently shows a deficit of \$1190.

Questions were raised about the high administrative costs associated with keeping the AGA P.O. Box. We pay someone to take the subway on a round trip that takes about an hour at a rate of \$15 per hour plus the tokens for the subway. Various alternatives were discussed including getting a new P.O. Box within walking distance and having the

mail go to the current Treasurer. Schmidt said he thinks we need to keep an address in New York since the AGA is incorporated there.

#### **b. Discussion of e-Journal**

Chris Garlock joined the conference call to discuss the publications budget. He said he is reducing costs this year by designing the Yearbook himself saving \$1000. He reported that the Go World promotion netted an extra 200 members. He fielded questions about the e-journal and the Yearbook.

Celmer asked how a yearly report is superior to a quarterly publication. Garlock said there is no news function to a quarterly magazine, because all the news would be old by the time the magazine is delivered and the expenses would be higher because of increased postage.

There are currently 14,000 readers of the e-journal. Garlock recently hired a few new copy editors. He hopes the Yearbook will come out faster next year because he is doing the design work himself and he can do the Congress section right after the Congress and the Oza section right after that instead of waiting until the end of the year to do all of the sections. Garlock hopes that next year the Yearbook may come out as early as February, compared with May this year.

#### **c. Motion to Approve the Budget**

Celmer made a motion to approve the budget. Robbins seconded the motion. Schmidt noted that it wouldn't be proper to approve a budget that isn't balanced. Abramson said he would add a line of Income saying "from Reserves" to balance the budget. (\$1190)

Okun asked if Abramson was going to include the budget item "Volunteer appreciation fund" as suggested by Phil Waldron. Abramson said he would use his discretionary funds.

Okun made a motion to accept the amendment to the budget. Robbins seconded the motion, and all approved.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the amended budget.

#### **d. Status Report from Board members**

Abramson asked if any Board members had information to report from their member phone calls. Okun said he spoke with David Whiteside in Ventura, California, who said that although he doesn't hold tournaments, he has had some success getting his club members to join the AGA by appealing to their desire to benefit the larger go community. He also said that in the past, Whiteside and his wife have offered to print TD training materials for the AGA. The offer was rejected before, but he asked if the AGA might be interested at this time. Abramson said he is interested and hopes the offer is still out there. Whiteside also said that often people are initially enthusiastic about go but they get discouraged when they realize it is difficult to improve. A "resident teacher" at local clubs to coach and teach might help.

Kolb said members in Chicago usually join so they can participate in the quarterly tournaments.

Haynes said he spoke with a member from the Anchorage, AK go club. He said that the Yearbook is the attraction to join there. He would like to have instructional materials available to members such as pamphlets on how to play for example. He thought something to supplement "The Way to Go" would be nice.

Celmer said Bill Cobb has a trifold pamphlet he hands out that might be useful.

End of President's report. (9:35 PM EDT)

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

##### **a. 2010 Budget**

Covered under President's report

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

##### **a. Board Member Nominations**

Kolb said she is running for re-election in the Central Region. Gordon Castanza is running in the Western Region. Celmer is running for re-election in the Eastern Region. There is a challenger in the Eastern region who is a relatively new member, Ke Lu.

Celmer said he has been getting inquiries from members about getting equipment from the AGA. He thinks that if the AGA could distribute equipment to chapters, it could be an incentive to get more members. Okun suggested offering equipment to Chapters in exchange for them running tournaments. Robbins said he thinks we need to hold on to any equipment we have because we don't know if Ing funding will ever resume and we will need all the equipment we have for future Congresses. Haynes said that he asks people to bring boards to his tournaments and it has worked well so far.

Li said that last year at the World Mind Sports Games, the publisher of World of WeiChi said they were sending 400 sets to the AGA. Abramson said he would ask Michael Lash if he knows anything about it.

##### **b. Congress Meeting Scheduling**

Schmidt said he would like to set up a speakerphone for the Congress Board meeting since he will not be attending. Kolb said it is possible that she will have to cancel her trip to the Congress because of work commitments. Abramson said the Board meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday afternoon at 2:00 EDT and that he will make sure there is a speakerphone available.

##### **c. Chapter Information updating**

Okun said he has been getting questions from chapter representatives asking how to update their information on the AGA website. Robbins said corrections and additions should be sent to [Database@usgo.org](mailto:Database@usgo.org).

**6. Establish time and date for Congress Board meeting**

The next Board meeting will be in person at the Congress Thursday, August 6 at 2:00 PM EDT.

**7. Adjourn**

Okun made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Haynes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 9:53 PM EDT.

Submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary