

Minutes

AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday, July 11, 2010 - 8:00 PM EDT

Meeting called to order by: Roy Schmidt at 8:12 PM EDT
Type of meeting: Regular Monthly Conference Call

Attendees:

Jie Li (At Large)
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Roy Schmidt (Central Region) Chairman
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Andrew Okun (Western Region)
Allan Abramson (President)

Absent:

Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)
Laura Kolb (Central Region)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

1. Approval of minutes

Castanza made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 9, 2010 Board meeting. Okun seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Castanza made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 23, 2010 Special Meeting of the Board. Okun seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Call for additional agenda items and new business

None.

3. President's report

a. 2011 Budget Proposal

Abramson said the budget document distributed to the Board prior to the meeting was not complete. There were

several areas where additional information would be required before a final budget proposal can be submitted.

Abramson called the Board's attention to a carryover of expenditures from the previous year's budget due to late committal of funds. This would necessitate a shift of the funds approved from the Reserve to the 2011 budget. Additional funds from the Reserve would also be required to balance the budget. Schmidt noted that the budget as submitted still showed a \$200 deficit, which should be fixed. Abramson said he had left it that way on purpose, so everyone would be aware we were in deficit spending mode.

Abramson said the anticipated income from the Congress surplus (58100) was an assumption based on projections last month. At the time of this meeting, Karen had reported 330 registrations for the Congress, which is 30 short of break-even. Although the break-even point might be reached, it is highly unlikely that a sizable surplus will materialize. As a result, the budget may be \$4,000 or more short.

Schmidt asked what was the total expenditure on Board conference calls (60022)? Abramson said about \$800. Li asked why so much, and who the provider might be. Abramson said the cost reflects both a service fee paid to the provider ("The Conference?") and the cost of toll-free incoming calls. Money can be saved by calling in on the toll line. Schmidt commented that a service like GoToMeeting.com costs half as much. Castanza noted that there are even no-cost solutions, like Skype. Abramson agreed to look into changing providers.

Castanza asked why Casual Labor (60102) was still budgeted at \$5,000 when the effort in this job had been halved. Okun asked what the actual expenditure came to. Abramson replied it was \$7,500. This was way out of proportion to the bill that Mary had said she was submitting. Schmidt asked if we could get more information on precisely how this money was being spent and why we haven't changed the mailbox to deliver membership checks to Sam? [note this same issue

was raised for the 2010 budget, and no action has been taken]. Abramson said that in fact, previous year's bills for this item have been high and consistently out of proportion to what Mary had reported her bills would be. Castanza noted that this item alone could go a long way to balancing the budget.

A short discussion of the Masters' Tournament prize fund (60511) resulted in a consensus that ca. \$1,800 (\$1,750?) would be more appropriate than \$3,000.

Li asked why we are budgeting money (\$2,000) for E-Mail (60221) if we are switching to Google? Schmidt added that if we are using Google for e-mail, then the Spam filter (60224) (\$750) would also be unnecessary. Abramson said he would look into this matter.

Abramson noted that changes in e-Journal expenses had resulted in savings in some areas and increases in others to better serve the members. Overall, there is a savings in the budget due to electronic distribution of the "CD" content in the yearbook.

Schmidt remarked that since Marketing (60900) had not seen any activity in the past two years, it would be best to defer this expense for the 2011 budget, and revisit the issue when a firm plan is in place. Abramson agreed to zero out this item in the 2011 budget.

Due to the number of issues raised and the uncertainty of the Congress budget, Castanza moved to table the budget until the next meeting. Okun seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

4. New Business

Search for key officers. Schmidt asked that everyone redouble their efforts to find suitable candidates for Exec VP and VP Operations. These are key positions that need to be

filled to take some of the administrative load off the President.

5. Establish time and date of next meeting

(Celmer joined the meeting at this point. Schmidt summarized meeting activities for him.) The next meeting will be at the Congress, probably at 1:30 pm on Thursday. Final arrangements will be confirmed in a few days. Schmidt asked that a suitable speaker phone (not Andy's mobile) be available for the meeting, because there would be only a few Board members physically attending the meeting.

6. Adjourn

Okun made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Castanza seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM EDT.

Minutes submitted by Roy Schmidt, Board Chair