

Minutes

AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, August 5, 2010 - 1:30 PM MDT

Meeting called to order by: Roy Schmidt at 1:30 PM MDT
Type of meeting: Regular Congress Meeting

Attendees:

Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)
Roy Schmidt (Central Region) Chairman
Laura Kolb (Central Region)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Andrew Okun (Western Region)
Allan Abramson (President)

Absent:

Jie Li (At Large)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Guests:

Chris Garlock (E-Journal)
Terry Benson (AGF)
Lisa Scott (Board member-elect, Central Region)

1. Approval of minutes

Castanza made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 11, 2010 Board meeting. Okun seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Call for additional agenda items and new business **None.**

3. Board election results

Schmidt noted that although he had not been officially notified of the election results, a press report of the results was available. Having no reason to discount the veracity of the press report, Schmidt announced that Okun (Western),

Robbins (Eastern), and Li (At-Large) had been re-elected as Board members, and Scott (Central) had won election over Schmidt and Smith. Schmidt extended his congratulations to all and expressed his hope that all would serve diligently for the good of the AGA.

3. Old Business: 2011 Budget Proposal

Schmidt asked Abramson to summarize major points of revision from the last version of the budget. Abramson noted that a commentary on the budget had been sent to all Board members prior to the meeting. He said that the major change was a reduction in travel expense for the WAGC for both the contestant and the E-Journal. Schmidt called attention to some brief comments sent by Schmidt to Board members and the President a few hours before the meeting. In those comments, he proposed that the travel funds for the E-Journal should not be cut because the coverage of the WAGC is of benefit to all members. Schmidt asked Castanza for his views on the budget, since Castanza would have to leave the meeting early to attend to his duties as game recorder. Castanza said that he concurred with Schmidt's stand on the E-Journal travel funds.

Abramson expressed his concern that the additional expenditure, while attractive, was still deficit spending. Cuts would have to be made somewhere to free funds for WAGC travel. A number of alternatives were discussed:

- a. Okun asked about the expense of producing the Yearbook. He said that distributing the Yearbook electronically would save enough money (\$15,000) to cover the entire deficit.
- b. Garlock responded that he felt members had only one physical benefit of membership, and that was the printed copy of the Yearbook. Members could be surveyed about acceptance of an electronic version, but it would be likely that many members would want the printed copy.
- c. Schmidt suggested distributing a PDF version of the Yearbook with linked games, etc., on CD, which would

be one-tenth of the cost to produce and also cheaper to mail. Garlock did not believe this solution would be practical. Okun said that a CD version of the Yearbook would have a lot of enhanced content, and could be offered as the alternative to downloading the PDF, rather than receiving a monochrome printed copy that was not interactive.

- d. Garlock proposed surveying the membership to get an idea of their reception of electronic distribution. He said that if half the members wanted a printed copy of the Yearbook, production cost would not be halved, but perhaps cut by one-fourth, due to “first copy” costs.

Schmidt asked about the negative sum for last year’s budget. Abramson reminded Schmidt that accounting for the AGA was on a fiscal-year cash basis, so the deficit could not be carried over. Rather, the deficit is automatically covered by drawing on the Reserves. Schmidt acknowledged the accounting practice, and noted that if the 2009 Congress surplus had been received in a more timely manner, the deficit would have been erased. Abramson stated that the 2010 Congress funds were still being analyzed, so the impact on the 2011 budget is still unknown. He believed that Karen was taking some cost-cutting measures, since attendance at the Congress was about 10 people short of break-even. But even with the cost-cutting measures, the AGA would still have to make good on the guaranteed \$2,000 chapter benefit. Results of the financial analysis would be available in a week or so after the Congress. Castanza remarked that since the estimated impact of the Congress on the budget would be available in a couple of weeks, that the approval of the budget should be postponed until all information was available.

Castanza made a motion to table the budget proposal until a special meeting of the Board could be held, in about two weeks. Robbins seconded the motion. Without any further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Schmidt noted

that just before adjournment, dates would be need to be set for two meetings: the special meeting just approved, and the regular September meeting of the Board.

Abramson stated that one other item would need to be considered for the budget: a \$1,000 shortfall for the Eastern Go Camp. Terry Benson, in his capacity as AGF President, requested to speak to the Board on this issue. Benson was concerned about the chilling effect not covering this shortfall would have on future camp proposals. He also observed that there is the fundamental question of whether the AGA should be financially responsible for such activities. He suggested that for this item, and perhaps for other funding, the AGF might aid the AGA in soliciting donations, as had been done for the WMSG. Schmidt said he was encouraged by Benson's suggestion, and that the AGF should have a representative at the next regular Board meeting in September to further discuss the support of the Go Camps.

Schmidt suggested that since further budget discussions would be held during the special meeting, that this business item should be closed for now. Abramson offered to remain after adjournment to discuss the budget proposal with any interested parties other than the Board.

4. New Business

None

5. Establish time and date of next meeting

A special meeting of the Board to finalize the FY2011 budget was set for Sunday, August 22, at 8 pm EDT. The next regular Board meeting was set for Sunday, September 12, at 8 pm EDT.

6. Adjourn

Okun made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robbins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 2:25

pm MDT.

Minutes submitted by Roy Schmidt, Board Chair