

Minutes
AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Sunday, November 14, 2010 – 8:00 PM EST

Meeting called to order by: Andrew Okun at 8:12 PM EST
Type of meeting: Regular Monthly Conference Call

Attendees:

Jie Li (At Large)
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Laura Kolb (Central Region)
Lisa Scott (Central Region)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Andrew Okun (Western Region, Chairman)
Allan Abramson (President)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent:

Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)

1. Approval of October 17, 2010 minutes

Castanza made a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular monthly Board meeting from October 17, 2010. Scott seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Call for additional agenda items and new business

a. None

3. President's Report

a. Discussion item: Affinity Credit Card

i. Abramson said there is a credit card that we could issue to members that would provide money to the AGA if members use it. Okun said he is strongly in favor of the idea. Scott agreed. Jie Li asked if we could design the picture for the card. Abramson said yes. He will draw a draft with the AGA logo and a simplified go board. He will circulate the picture to the Board early this week.

- ii. Scott volunteered to work with Abramson on a public relations campaign to inform members about the card.

b. Information Item: Internet team matches

- i. Abramson said there are plans to set up friendship matches between schoolchildren in the U.S. and Europe. Paul Barchilon is working with him on this.
- ii. Castanza said he spoke with Zhang Yan Qi from the Chinese Wei Qi Association who is interested in working with the AGA in some way. He suggests getting the Chinese Go Association involved as well. Abramson agreed that it is a good idea, and will add this to the list.

**c. Information item: Follow up to Godiscussions/
lifein19x19 AGA threads**

- i. Godiscussion.com has been absorbed by lifein19x19.com. There were some suggestions for how the AGA could be improved in the past in godiscussions.com. Abramson wants to review those suggestions and see what we might be able to do, but is having trouble getting the old messages. He is going to work at getting a copy of the ideas so the Board can discuss them and decide which ones to implement.

d. Further discussion of Points system

- i. Abramson doesn't want to rush into a new policy so soon after getting rid of the ten game rule. Abramson would like to form a committee to decide how to select representatives. He would like the committee to include strong amateurs and professionals.
- ii. Okun said that there should be a system that uses more than just a rating. It should stay current similarly to the professional tennis rankings where older results old drop off.
- iii. Abramson asked if the points system would apply to professionals as well. Okun said he isn't sure. Abramson said professionals generally play in one or two tournaments per year, so if a points system

applies to them, it probably would end up excluding professionals from competition eventually.

- iv. Scott said she is not in favor of a system that discriminates against players who live far from tournaments and can't play often.
- v. Abramson said he doesn't want another controversy, so he wants to make sure there is open discussion before any policy is formed. He thinks any decision should be delayed until after the next Congress to allow sufficient discussion.
- vi. Scott said she would like to include on-line games to allow more people to qualify.
- vii. Abramson said he will work with Kirschner and report back to the Board.

e. 30-day grace period

- i. Abramson said he plans to allow a 30-day grace period for continuous membership.

f. Asian media

- i. Abramson plans to publicize AGA tournaments in Asian media. He is working with Chris Garlock.

g. 2012 Congress

- i. Massachusetts is doubtful for the 2012 Congress. Celmer said he is considering running another Congress in North Carolina. Dave Weimer is also looking at a site in Madison, Wisconsin.

4. Old Business

a. Creation of Fundraising committee

- i. Postponed until next meeting.

5. New Business

- i. None.

6. Establish time and date of next meeting

The next regular monthly Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 8:00 EST.

7. Adjourn

Castanza made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kolb seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm EST.

Minutes submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary