

Summary of June 2013 Go Club Survey

Conducted and Reported by Greg Smith, AGA Chapter Coordinator

This survey was intended to update the main questions in Philip Waldron's 2008 AGA Chapter Report. This was a survey of AGA Chapters advertised over the public AGA Chapter email list as well as email addresses of current and prior AGA Chapter leaders. It contains questions designed to ascertain the current status, health, and activities of AGA Chapters and Go Clubs in the United States, as well as provide an opportunity for club leaders to provide feedback to the AGA about what resources are being used and what the AGA might be able to do for chapters in the future. All respondents provided an optional response to identify their club, and most provided their website address. There was no attempt to identify any false or incorrect information provided.

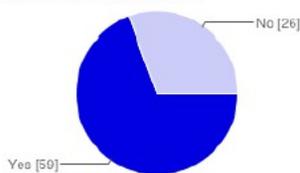
Response Rate



Over the course of several weeks, there were three spikes of responses corresponding to reminder emails that were sent out. We had 85 responses (removing duplicates) with 59 reporting themselves as AGA Chapters, which represents 64% of the 92 AGA Chapters.

Survey Response Over Time

Your club is an official AGA Chapter



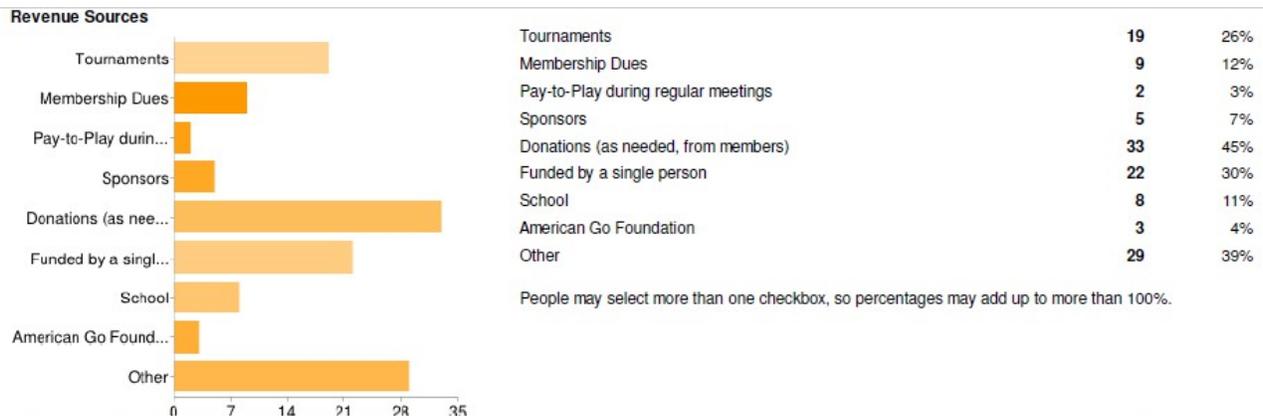
Yes
No

59
26

69%
31%

Survey Results

Many of the survey questions were designed to assemble basic information. Here are the answers to some of the basic questions, presented without commentary. Semicolons separate individual responses.



“Other” responses included answers that duplicated the answers above:

Funded by a single person?

- All Expenses Paid by Leader
- My Job -- our club is totally free for players
- I pay the annual AGA fee, YMI & S&S donate prizes for our Spring tournament, otherwise there is no use or need for revenue

Workshops?

- Workshop registration fees; Workshops with Mr. Yang; pro workshops

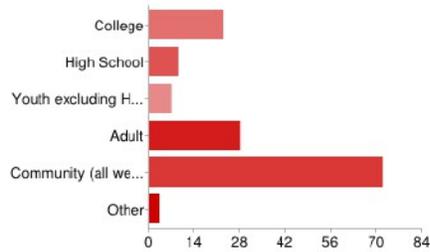
None?

- No revenue; (4) None; We don't deal with money, we just play; We use/need very little money

Truly “Other”, perhaps some of these are “sponsors”.

- Left-over US Go Congress funds; revenue from 2007 Go Congress; Excess funds from 2009 Go Congress
- grants from the city of Boulder
- Asian Culture Fest participation
- Rotary Club, Women's Club, County Rec Department
- Tee Shirt Sales

Primary Chapter Audience

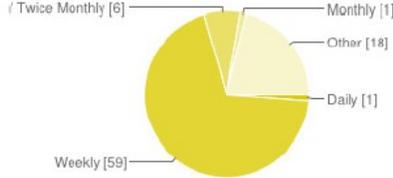


College	23	27%
High School	9	11%
Youth excluding High School	7	8%
Adult	28	33%
Community (all welcome)	72	85%
Other	3	4%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

“Other” responses included one: 8 yr old, 14 yr old

Regular Meeting Frequency

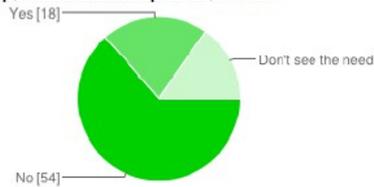


Daily	1	1%
Weekly	59	69%
Every other week / Twice Monthly	6	7%
Monthly	1	1%
Other	18	21%

“Other” responses included:

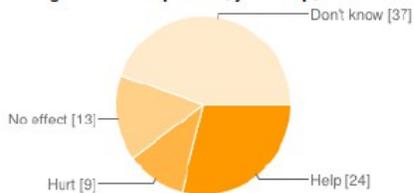
- no regular meeting; No routine meetings due to declining interest.; not meeting regularly; weekly meetings at each of several locations.
- (6) 2x per week
- (2) 4 times/week
- 3 per week
- Mon, Wed, and sometimes Fri
- Multiple times per week (Tu/W/Th/Sa/Su)

Our Chapter has a Leadership Transition Plan



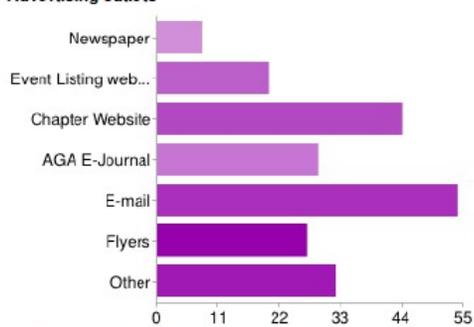
No	54	64%
Yes	18	21%
Don't see the need	13	15%

Do online go servers help or hurt your chapter?



Help	24	28%
Hurt	9	11%
No effect	13	15%
Don't know	37	44%

Advertising outlets



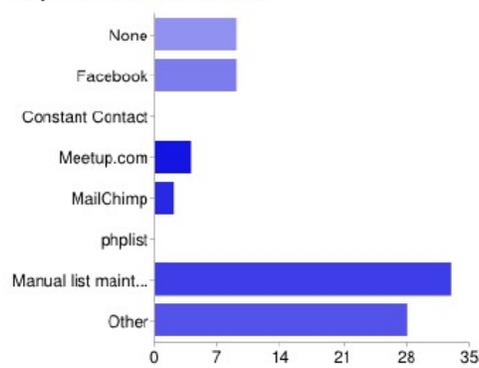
Advertising outlet	Count	Percentage
Newspaper	8	10%
Event Listing website(s)	20	25%
Chapter Website	44	54%
AGA E-Journal	29	36%
E-mail	54	67%
Flyers	27	33%
Other	32	40%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

“Other” Advertising outlets include:

- Support from Game MeetUp Groups, Yahoo Group, Games Club of MD
- AGA Website
- E-mail, listserv
- (6) Facebook
- facebook, business cards, google ads and our own website
- Flyers haven't been put out in awhile, but I did make some
- in-school adverts
- Meet in public space (Barnes & Noble Cafe) / Have a facebook page for the club
- (2) Meetup.com
- Meetup.com / Facebook
- None
- Public events
- Public Library promotes us online
- School posters and events
- sign in coffee shop where we met
- social media
- social media (University)
- (2) Word of mouth
- Yahoo group, Bay Area Go Listing

Chapter Email List maintained?



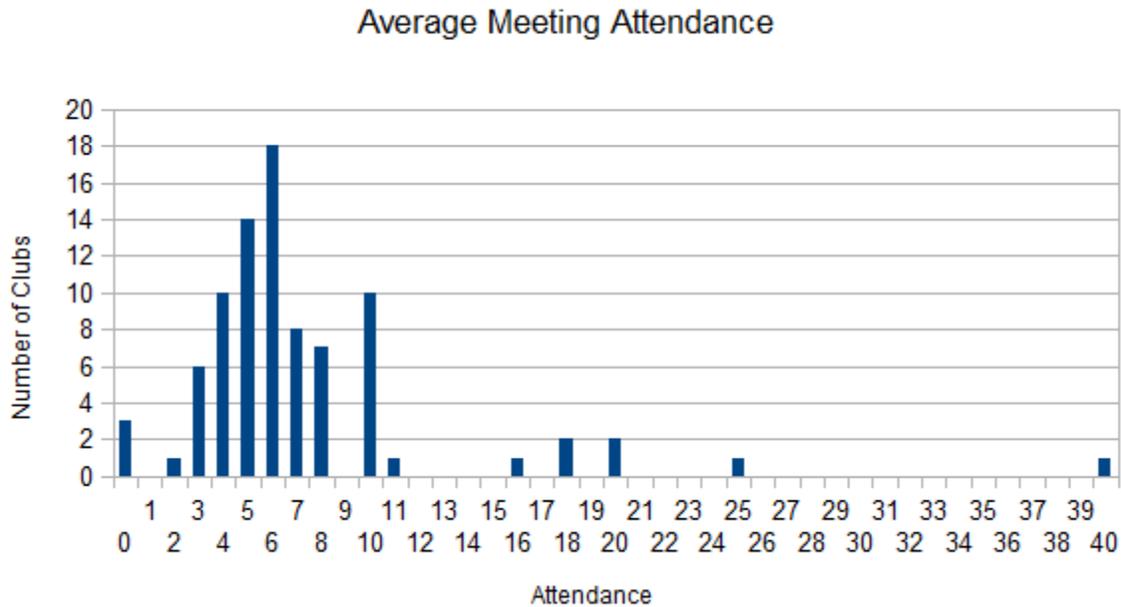
Method	Count	Percentage
None	9	11%
Facebook	9	11%
Constant Contact	0	0%
Meetup.com	4	5%
MailChimp	2	2%
phplist	0	0%
Manual list maintenance	33	39%
Other	28	33%

“Other” includes the following:

- (9) Google Group (including 1 “for business”)
- (2) Go Clubs Online
- (2) Yahoo Group Site
- yahoo, facebook
- Some facebook, some email but not used really, so facebook and text msg is most common method of communication
- Portland Go Club Listserv
- Facebook, Dreamhost hosted mailing list
- I maintain a list manually on my computer
- I've got an e-mail list in my Yahoo! e-mail account.
- ListLynx
- MajorDomo mail list & Facebook
- MIT mailing lists
- School-sponsored
- self-subscribed mailing list
- University of Michigan directory

Size and Reach

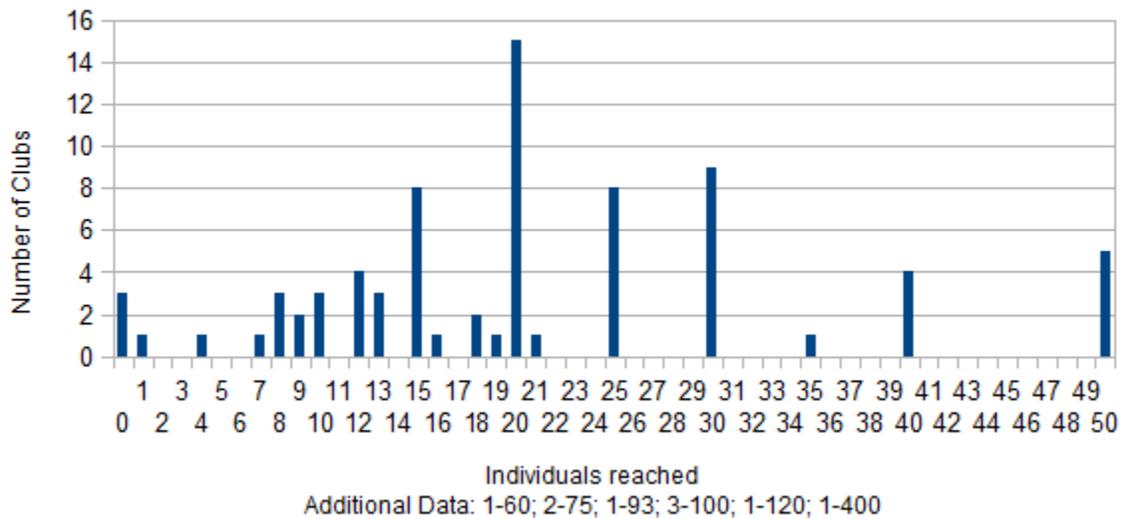
Average Meeting Attendance.



All survey respondents reported a total of between 581 and 646 people per meeting and an overall average meeting size of 7.2 and a median value of 6.

Estimated total individuals that have come to any of your meetings this year.

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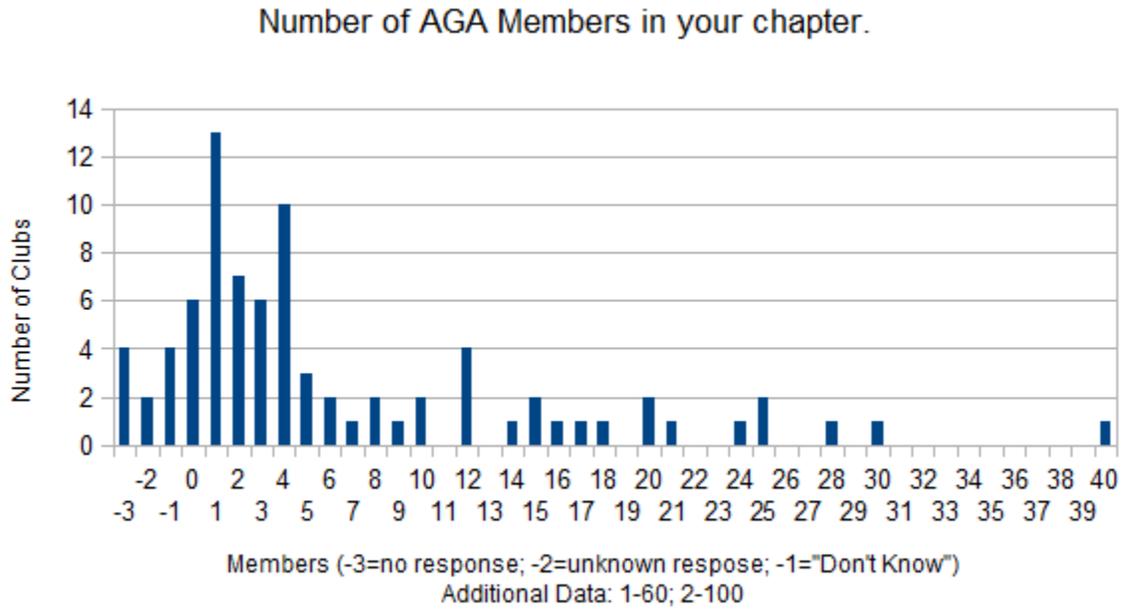


This question was intended to ascertain how many people are reached per year, including those individuals that are interested enough to go to come to a club once or twice. When a range or uncertainty was included in the answer, it was interpreted as the maximum number given, and when

“+” or “more than” was given, the actual number given was used.

About 2721 individuals are reached per year through responding go clubs and chapters.

Number of AGA Members in your chapter.



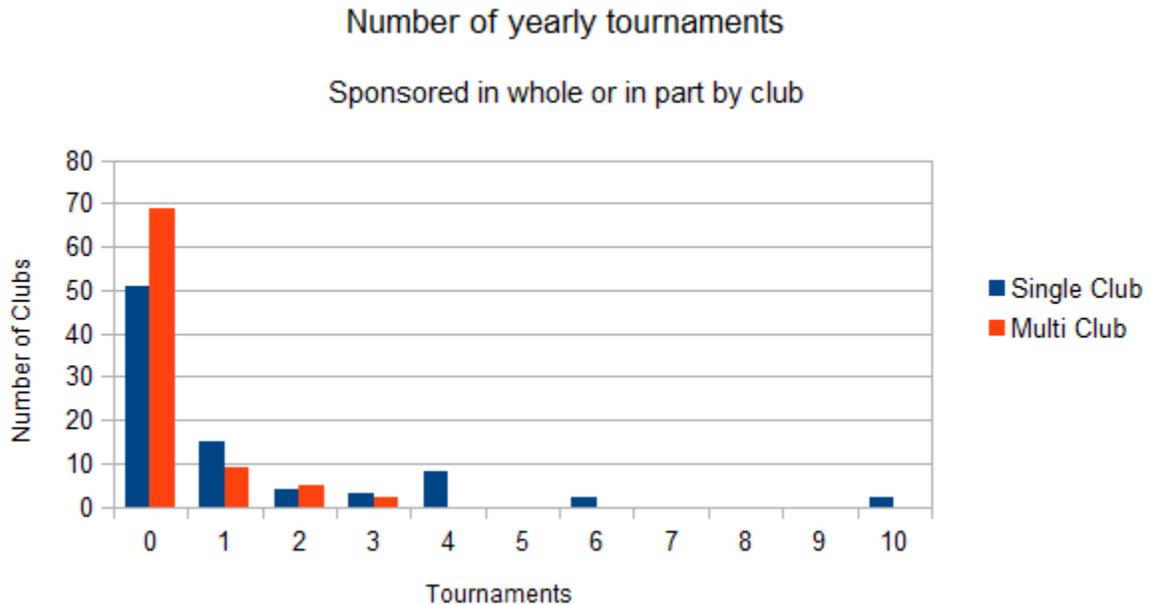
The 75 interpretable responses represent a total membership of 800, and an average membership of 10.7 with median of 4.

Tournaments

Number of yearly tournaments sponsored in whole by club

Number of yearly tournaments sponsored partly by club (multi-club tournament)

For the tournament questions, a lack of response was interpreted as zero and ranges (given in six responses as 1-2, 2-3, and 3-4) were interpreted as the maximum given. The results include one respondent as “6 for children”, which is interpreted as “6” as there was no distinction for the target audience of the tournaments.



We do know that this represents 96 tournaments per year that are sponsored by a single club. We don't know how many total tournaments are represented by the 25 that are reported as sponsored by multiple clubs because we don't know how many respondents are reporting each individual “multi-sponsor” tournament.

AGA-specific and commentary questions

Responses that include negative comments regarding individuals were removed as was individual signatures to the comments (indicated by [...]). Negative comments regarding the AGA were retained.

AGA resources used (67 responses)

AGA Resources Used - Summary Table

E-Journal	22	including: 4 "Advertising"; 2 "News"; 1 "emailed information"; 1 "Newsletters"
None	15	
Ratings	14	
Club finder / Chapter Listing	12	
Website	10	including: website has great links; I've read the written materials available on the website regarding clubs, teaching, etc.
Event Listing	8	including 3 "Calendar"
The Way to Go	7	including 1 indicated "PDF"
Equipment Discount	5	including: cheap sets from the AGF school program; inexpensive go sets for teaching at local schools and libraries; Some boards from AGF
Equipment Free	5	including: 18 plastic sets; AGA clocks for tournament; cardboard 9x9 boards/stones; Ing equipment; beginner boards
Brochure/Flyer PDF	2	
Facebook	2	
Membership DB	2	
Congress	2	
Cash	1	
Rules PDF	1	
Past AGA Hosted Website	1	

AGA TD very helpful in getting our tournament together

AGF teachers' resources

Cotsen tournament

Our AGA congress fund;

Larry Russ

Still need to renew AGF application

"We have used many in the past. From equipment to co-funding for professionals. In recent years, only AGF resources have been used. From tourney prizes to scholarships for kids to Go congress."

AGA Resources Used - Complete Listing

1. "-The way to go pdf
-Go brochure pdf
-Chapter listing
-aga chapter status for materials"
2. 18 plastic sets
3. "AGA clocks for tournament.
Advertising tournaments in E-Journal"
4. AGA TD very helpful in getting our tournament together
5. AGF teachers' resources, E-Journal, AGA member lists, AGA website
6. Calendar
7. Chapter listing, e-journal
8. Club finder (for friends who live in different areas), ratings page, newsletters.
9. "Database, E-Journal"
10. (5): E Journal; E-Journal; E-journal; E-Journal; E-Journal;
11. "E-Journal
Events calendar
Ratings system"
12. EJ, calendar, website, facebook page, Congress, Cotsen tournament
13. ejournal is always a great source of go news. website has great links. rating system keeps the AGA members we have interested and wanting to improve
14. eJournal, events database, ratings database, club listing
15. I got some discounted equipment a number of years back that I payed for out of pocket due to the club not being an official college or school club. It was still a fair price and appreciated.
16. I personally use the AGA website per my additional comments below. Other members have used AGA to get inexpensive go sets for teaching at local schools and libraries.
17. I've listed our club on your web site and am very thankful for that service. It's brought several players to our club that I know of.
18. Individual ratings fixed by tournaments, several members attend Congresses, listing of meetings on website.
19. (15): n/a. Not aware of materials used.; No; None; none; None; None; none; none that I know of; None, I am not aware of there being any.; "none?"; None.; None. We own our own boards and stones, etc.; Not enough, frankly.; Not many; None so far. I would like to get the Hikaru Anime series for our local library. I will also get some of the Way to GO books to hand out.
20. Our AGA congress fund; EJournal, for PR and to announce events;
21. Our Spring tournament is rated, so we use the AGA's official ratings service. Several of us read the AGA E-Journal. I've read the written materials available on the website regarding clubs, teaching, etc.
22. Pfft. Ratings and the chapter listing. Are there other resources?
23. "Rating System
e-Journal
Chapter listing on main AGA website"
24. "Ratings
Advertise Tournaments"
25. Ratings System
26. "Ratings system.
Club listing on AGA directory.
Event listing on AGA site."
27. Ratings, e-journal

28. Some boards from AGF and Larry Russ
29. Some Way to Go booklets are in stock and provided as handouts. These are requested from the regional reserve cache as necessary.
30. Still need to renew AGF application
31. The Rockville Go & Chess Group receives an annual stipend of 100 Way to Go booklets. This is merged with the stipends of three other local clubs to serve as a regional outreach cache. The cache supports the annual Sakura Matsuri celebration near the National Mall, various local lunar new year celebrations, several anime conventions, and a number of weekend Chinese Language and Cultural Schools in the area. The larger cache allows resources to be applied more effectively, efficiently, and rapidly.
32. The Way to Go pamphlet
33. Tournament advertising, Ing equipment
34. Tournament listings & ratings
35. Tournament listings.
36. Way to Go booklets from the DC regional cache.
37. Way to Go booklets, cardboard 9x9 boards and stones
38. We bought some cheap sets from the AGF school program, very helpful, especially the 13x13 vinyl sets.
39. We got some beginner boards from AGA once, and we'd like to get some more. Also we got some cash at one point, which we used to make club t-shirts. These were fun to have and wear to tournaments. We'd like to do that again for newer members, and to replace worn out ones.
40. We had an AGA hosted website but it no longer works due to lack of web master in the club. Some minimal support or a simple do it yourself program from the AGA would help here.
41. "We have used many in the past. From equipment to co-funding for professionals.

In recent years, only AGF resources have been used. From tourney prizes to scholarships for kids to Go congress."

42. We have used the tournament listings page to advertise our tournaments.
43. we're listed in the club section
44. website
45. "Website
E-journal"
46. "website and emailed information
Facebook"
47. Website, flyer PDF, rules PDF. Way to go books (from the AGF)
48. Website.
49. When we do hold tournaments the web site and other infrastructure related to memberships and ratings is obviously useful. Also, a large number of people come to us because we are listed on the AGA web site.

What in particular could the AGA be doing to support **your chapter?
(64 responses)**

1. "-better chapter listing site/profile
-regional contact/mentor
-a package/program to get new clubs going. Reduce it to a science"
2. "-sponsor/promote local tournaments
-develop/train youth players"
3. [...] The NJO is a major source of memberships. [...]
4. Advertise non-AGA Game Group that have Go equipment and players who can teach. The Beltsville Strategy Games Club offers an eclectic assortment for the community to choose from. It's longevity (since 2002) and annual sponsorship support is due to its broad appeal to the general population. We have plenty of 9x9/13x13 starter sets to teach new beginners, if that's what they are interested in. They only need to hear about us.
5. Advertising support, mailing list management, running tournaments
6. "AGA should compile a list of ideas from all chapters on how each club has promoted Go and share this information. There may be unique ideas out there. Information should be specific and not general ideas.
AGA should compile a list of ways from all chapters on how to teach beginners. Information must be detailed. and share info.
AGA should compile a list of ways from all chapters on how each keeps beginners/new members to keep coming back. Info should be detailed. and share info.
AGA should teach chapters how to issue media releases for events/stories. Info should be detailed. examples please."
7. Already doing fine.
8. "Any thing!

More seriously, how about encouraging regional players/members to participate in their local club and their events. There's a chicken and egg problem, if go players show up more will.

Promote an active Chapter community, offering fund raising, marketing, leadership and organization hints, tips and training."

9. "Approach Georgia Tech and get a college chapter in the school.
More work needs to be done at America's education facilities."
10. Awareness of Go is big. We meet at a coffee shop and a lot of people ask what the game is and most have never heard of it.
11. bring back searchable ratings page so I can pull all members by club id.
12. Business Cards, Websites, scholarships/exchange programs for overseas programs, e.g. Osaka Go Camp.
13. clocks?
14. club ratings and tournament pairing
15. "Could use some modifiable boilerplate brochures to pass out at events.

Lisa Scott was great when she came to town.

I forgot to mention this when I filled this before (last week?), but it would be really helpful to get support running tournaments, in the form of someone coming up to Milwaukee and actually running it in person. "

16. don't know

17. Earlier coverage of upcoming events in the AGA journal with listings in multiple issues if possible. Help with funding for local workshops would be useful, though I know that funds are very limited.
18. Every yr we sponsor a major event at Sakura Matsuri in th BBG, Thousands of people are introduced to the game. We could use more starter sets, including some sort of beginner instructions/manual, like the classic "The Game of Go", which we used for yrs, but is now depleted.
19. Extend the event calendar out to a month or two in the E-Journal; this would improve attendance at our annual tournament.
20. "General promo work on top of listing in club sites on AGA page.
Provide additional printed copies of ""Way to Go"" or similar intro material."
21. Go and Chess are no longer center stage activities. Membership interest has evolved towards the new generation of designer board games (Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Race for the Galaxy) and to traditional standbys (Bridge, Acquire, etc.). Go and Chess are occasionally played and taught, but our primary aim now is to raise general public awareness. We do this through a series of regular annual outreach programs. From this, we develop the brand new students for eventual enrollment and participation in the established pure Go Clubs. The AGA could provide a valuable assist by letting new people know about us.
22. Good question, but very uncertain. Even when we were at our peek for membership and weekly turnout, we were pretty self sustaining. Short of providing new players or hosting weekly meetings, the AGA's presence wouldn't have made a ton of difference as I and fellow members had sufficient funds for boards and other equipment. If we wouldn't have had gainfully employed members, it would have been more difficult.
23. Help start an annual tournamnet
24. I can't think of anything.
25. I don't have a good idea of that at the moment. I will think about it in months to come.
26. I have no idea.
27. "I want to buy more plastic Go sets from AGF, even with the non-discounted price, in order to better support our tournaments.

My club is the largest go club in the bay area, and the tournaments I organized and co-organized are also the largest one in the bay area, which now attracts 70 kids. And this number may continue to grow in the coming years.

If I have enough go sets of the same kind, it would really make our organization of the tournaments easier. I hope we are allowed to buy enough plastic go sets (50 sets) offered in the AGF store."

28. "In response to the previous question -- it always helps to have more people playing, but since there are online servers, they don't need to come to the club to play."
29. It would actually be easier if memberships, including club affiliations, were all handled online, through the AGA web site.
30. "It would be great to find out about college club participants relocating into our area.

Assistance with the purchase of easy-to-carry equipment (boards, stones, clocks) to support our activities. (discounted prices?, bulk purchase arrangement?)"

31. It would be nice to have an annual regional Go Congress.
32. Keep up the directory of regional clubs. That was instrumental in my finding the QC Go Club when I moved to the area two years ago.
33. Let people know that this club exists, that it has Go sets that are available for anyone to use for

- free, and that we have instructors to teach beginners.
34. More development -- raise awareness of AGA and its chapters. Too few people even know the AGA exists.
 35. More prominent reminders in the E-Journal for players to try the Find A Club tool on the AGA website.
 36. My chapter doesn't need anything. We did get most of our sets from the AGA 8 years ago, under the free equipment for the price of shipping deal. The AGA should activate this again. I know we have 400 sets of World of Weiqi stones (Chinese style, in wicker baskets) around the country. These should be free to chapters who pay the costs of having them mailed to them.
 37. Need all AGA members information in NJ, NY, PA and ML.
 38. No idea.
 39. No recommendations at the moment
 40. Not sure
 41. "Not sure - maybe put more task-oriented info on growing a Go community and club on the website? With generally less text and more graphics and whitespace?
Solicit info/opinions from members through Facebook? Something like a question of the week?
Then we could see and ""like"" the answers, and the best ideas could go on the site."
 42. Not sure. Further advertising help would probably help get some people in the door for their first time at least...
 43. Offer tips/advice/guidelines on running a club to first-time club organizers
 44. "Online tutorials on focused Go topics for 20 kyu to 3 Dan.
Provide easy to use Go tournament software augmented by AGA rating list.
Sponsor mini-workshops of visiting Strong Go Teachers to lecture and review club members games."
 45. "Our chapter is fine, more or less. I'm not sure what the AGA can do other than what its been doing - supporting the congress, maintaining ratings, the e-Journal. Obviously the best thing is more players, and the AGA should work on simply spreading knowledge about Go in general, which it does."
 46. Our website, <http://chapters.usgo.org/wmgc/> has been down for a couple of months, due to the AGA's failure to migrate our site to the new server. The webmaster has been barely responsive. We are still waiting to hear back from him on how to effect the migration.
 47. Perhaps organizing more tournaments in the Midwest for which we could more easily attend.
 48. probably not much
 49. Publicize Go to the general public particularly through on-line major media. Support the funding of Go education. Have a national presence with the public school system. Provide an evaluation of all the Go apps out there: Cost, what they do, user-friendly/bugs, etc.
 50. send us more players
 51. SharePoint style Public Chapter Event listings that Chapters can post to.
 52. Somehow promoting Go at schools and colleges.
 53. Sponsoring tournaments
 54. "Subsidizing tournament organization through websites like goclubs.org which provide several services to tournament directors, e.g. pairings and automatic results postings to AGA."
 55. support with Hikaru no GO series, GO primers (small sets, booklets), GO World issues. GO T-Shirts
 56. The AGA does not seem interested in clubs/chapters unless they have a high number of dans or host a lot of tournaments. We don't qualify for either of those, so nothing.
 57. "The AGA's promotion of online events - like the city leagues and national online tournaments - has drastically reduced the number of people participating in our tournaments. For five years we hosted 11 tournaments per year. This year we have cut back to four due to lack of attendance.

The AGA could support chapters such as ours by developing a strategic plan that promotes both face to face go play and online play."

58. The full AGA \$ 30 membership is too high - some players will not join to play for ratings. Several levels of membership would help sell the membership value.
59. We appreciate the AGA as it is. It is at the local level that I as the club sponsor need to work on organizing and promoting more. I am a deeply committed go player who works to teach the students go every day, but I am poor at other organizational type skills.
60. "We are a new club. We started in 2011. We had about 6 regular players with 2-3 more showing up. This year some of our key members had changes in their employment, and we have had only 2 of us as regulars. We have taught several new GO players. I paid for our membership this year in the AGA. I am not sure what the AGA should offer new Clubs. Perhaps some well photographed, professionally done posters and fliers that a club could easily paste or write in their info on a section would be helpful. I have meant to advertise at the local Universities, but just have not got around to it. I think the new GO movie coming out should be a real help.

Club Business Cards may be useful. Several Preprinted designs that a club could order, and have their info easily added. These should be well eye-catching."

61. We are happy to be members just in support of Go in general; we don't really have the "what have you done for us lately?" mentality. But having said that, I have not thought of any particular additional service that the AGA could provide that would be especially useful. No 'killer app' that I can think of.
62. "We operate pretty much on our own without much help from the AGA other than listing our tournaments on the AGA web page.."
63. Website availability for chapters as sub-domain of the AGA. Just a simple page to post relevant materials which also would encourage and increase traffic to the AGA site.
64. "Website support.
Email list serve.
Tournament seed money. "

Additional Comments/Suggestions **(36 responses)**

1. "AGA should develop a long term strategy and marketing plan which includes measurable goals and objectives.
I am available for a more thorough discussion on such topics.

One issue AGA should have is have a new coordinated (harmonized) balance between central activity and chapter activity."

2. "As some of you know, we've been around about 30 yrs. Altho' we've introduced many younger people to the game, they rarely come. This is understandable, what w the Internet, and some of the newer clubs that have sprung up around NYC (which is certainly a good thing).
It's hard for me and the few other remaining stalwarts to persist in the promotion end (altho' we continue to do various activities, including Sakura, workshops, and our very popular Woodlands Go July Fourth long weekend). I'm glad others are continuing in the tradition, as I don't xpect the BGC to last forever.
[...]"
3. Club basically just exists right now. We have a nice spot in a community center and the regulars just show up to play each week. We have no expenses, thus, no regular income is looked for.
4. "Comment 1: I have been lucky to be invited into the Chinese & Korean communities. They have a strong GO presence, even small salons for playing. They will NOT join the AGA. They stick to their small communities and play each other all the time. Sometimes they participate in one of my tournaments, but they will not become members.
Comment 2: Members of my club are actively trying to get a GO Club recognized on the GA Tech campus. This is a suprisingly difficult task. Although we meet on campus every week, we are not affiliated with the school. We may be successful by year end."
5. Dues to the AGA recently went up to \$60 for an individual, and this is too much. The average club goer won't get \$60 worth of support from the AGA during the year. There's a lot to be said for supporting the go community, but that's a lot.
6. Explore and develop connections with civic service groups like the Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanis. The Rotary Club has been very generous with its annual program support. Their 2013-14 stipend to the Beltsville Club was \$500, the same as last year. That generosity takes time and trust to gel. The AGA should be planning and investing in long term business relationship with organizations, especially with those that are external to the Go community.
7. "For me the biggest question is getting more people playing. The AGA does do that by supporting tournaments and doing the things it does. I'm not sure what it can do at the chapter level.

Perhaps making the Go Congress cheaper, or having multiple ones would also be helpful (smaller scale, over a long weekend perhaps). "

8. Go clubs thrive when they are in the community and active in public places.
9. I don't care at all about Go Congress. I know others do, but I resent any portion of my \$30 (for me) and my \$35 (for the club) going to that and if that's not where it's going, then where?
Seems like a horrible waste of money and a kind of extortion that goes along with hosting a tournament. Why should ratings cost me \$60? Seems like \$2 would do the trick.
10. I only maintain the chapter's registration so we are visible on the AGA site.
11. I was looking today and couldn't find my ratings graph. I know this used to exist on the website, but seems to have been replaced with a less feature-rich ratings tool. Am I missing something? I

really liked being able to view my ratings graph.

12. "I wish I had a number of suggestions and a few years ago I might have, but at this point the overall interest in Go on a club level has basically disappeared. Fargo strangely has a decent number of people that know about Go or came through the club for periods of time. But, various core members have moved on to other hobbies or have been too busy to continue to attend any type of weekly meeting. Additionally, there was a very interesting strength spread among players with a decent number in the 25 - 17 kyu range, 2-3 in the 8 - 1 kyu range, and then a fair amount of Dan level players that would attend randomly. The problem that created was it could be difficult for players to find a good match, even with a handicap or players simply got tired of playing the same people.

While our attendance would always vary, it was more heavily impacted by my getting a new job where I had extensive travel, which didn't allow me to attend or host. A club member acted as my second and host meetings for a while, but that became more of a job that fun for him and we had to scale back meetings.

Soon, due to a lack of turnout and declining interest, we simply stopped meeting. I have made some efforts over the past year to start up at least once a month meetings, but the response has been very weak. At this point I just do not know if I have time to dedicate to rebuilding a full club a second time around.

I can say meetup.com has been easily the most successful way of informing the public of the club. I have had at least 4x the amount of people pass through meetings or become regulars directly do to meetup than from any other source.

I wish I had better news about the Fargo Go culture, maybe again in the future."

13. "In New Jersey only Princeton Go Club conduct a large tournament once a year. No other club arrange a tournament or regular meeting. I can not find any place to meet AGA members to play Go.
Wisonet Go Club can not find any AGA members to be a partner to arrange regular meeting or tournament. Nobody is interested in this. [...] Very few real American students and adults want to learn play Go even I offer free lessons in library. A lot of people told me that Go is too complicated to learn. Some players told me that he/she can not sleep 3 days if play Go. I can not find cheap rent to arrange regular meeting in central New Jersey.
[...]
It is very difficulty to promote Go in New Jersey."
14. it seems there is just too few people in the area to maintain a club we are just an ad hoc group at this point
15. It will be an AGA chapter again as soon as I get the renewal done.
16. "It would be great for AGA to negotiate discounted prices on vendor Go products that could be used for tournament prizes."
17. It would help if there were some paper journals to show new players.
18. Like the Rockville Go & Chess Group and the Beltsville Strategy Games Clubs, this club supports the general gaming community mostly, but we have the equipment and knowledge to teach beginners with zero background in Go. We just need them to hear about us.
19. "Our best recruitment results have come from presentations made at comic/game conventions. These annually get a few beginners, but there is then that wide gap between the 20-kyus and the low-teen/single digit kyus of the older members. We bring them along as fast as we can. :-)"

20. "Our problem as a club is that most of us are little more than email addresses on the mailing list. Then there is a soft core of maybe 12 people who ""just want to play"", but are reluctant to do anything beyond that, like helping out at an event. We only have maybe 3 or 4 people who are engaged enough to occasionally do club-related work.
We can't actively bring Go into the schools because almost all of us work. I'm beginning to wonder whether we should not try to recruit retired people - if some of them caught the Go bug, at least they would have time during the day to spread the word."
21. People want to know why they should join the AGA. Usually the only reason they do is because they want to play in an AGA rated tournament. Clubs have their own inter-club tournaments so we need more AGA rated tournaments to make people feel they are getting something for their membership. I heard a comment from someone from another club who said, "Why should I pay to the AGA just so their officers can fly around for free." I see the value of the AGA but we have to find a way to make a more positive impression of the AGA.
22. Rather than exclusively covering the world of competitive professional go tournaments (which I would guess that a great number American go players don't follow or even know anything about) on your web site and in your news letter maybe you could have a club spotlight section where you interview different go clubs around the country. Maybe even include a picture of the club if the club was willing to submit one to go along with the story.
23. "Since we don't hold any tournaments or ranked games we haven't seen a real need for AGA club membership. IMO, the AGA ranking is the main practical appeal of AGA membership (outside of general support of the game) and I currently don't any other real reason for individuals or clubs to join (from a selfish perspective).

Can you provide any other reasons I or my club should rejoin the AGA outside of general support?

[...]"

24. talk with American Collegiate Go Association
25. Thanks for all of your hard work!
26. The AGA made my club possible 10-15 years ago. As long as I have a working memory, I will be grateful for this. While I don't require dues or membership fees from my club members, I always request that they gain and maintain AGA membership instead.
27. The AGF does a lot more for our chapter than the AGA does, but we are a youth program. Adult programs aren't eligible for many of the benefits we get.
28. The information shown on the AGA website for clubs should indicate the date of the last update or the date of the last confirmation. I try to use it when I travel to other cities but often the information is obsolete. Remind the clubs on an 'annual' basis to update or confirm the contact information. This action will remind the clubs that people are using the AGA site to locate their clubs.
29. The Rockville Go & Chess Group emphasis is on expanding Go cultural awareness in the general public domain. This is a first tier effort and we do not engage in much more than this because we do not have the critical mass of Go player volunteers to support it. The member support behind our other games allows us to survive and thrive. By surviving, we have been able to promote Go since 2001. Promotion includes networking with other non-Go Game Clubs, and potential new go players are routinely referred to us by those hosts and their web sites. This is something for local organizers to consider as a tool for long term stability.
30. This club will presumably start up again in the Fall semester. There is a president and vice-president at the moment, but the health and growth of the club is totally up in the air until the semester starts. Hopefully it will continue to be successful.
31. "Two most urgent jobs for AGA are to encourage existing Go players to engage more in go

tournaments and club meetings, and to enlarge the Go fan base with a focus on youth go player development."

32. We have no membership dues and don't charge "drop-bys" to play or learn. AGA dues and Meetup.com fees are paid by one of our members; another maintains our Facebook page. When we have a pro giving a lesson we ask the attendees for a \$5 donation, all of which goes to the pro.
33. "We have sponsored two Congresses in Lancaster.

We sometimes donate to support the go camps."

34. We've stopped holding tournaments (this has to do with having members who are interested in doing the work), but will probably resume.
35. "What about Vinyl boards for sale like the Chess site has? They can be rolled up and have the coordinates laid out.

Some nice Polo shirts and tee shirts may be an option for the AGA to help spread the word and make money."

36. "What happened to Bob Barber???

[...]

We miss him over here in the Central Div."