

Statement for 2014 Board Election

Dear AGA friends,

I would like to ask for your vote for two more years as the AGA Board Director (at large). In the following I will try to earn your vote by introducing what I've done in the past 2 years and what I'll focus on next. Your comments and suggestions are very welcome. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Edward Zhang (email: AGATD1@gmail.com)

P.S. Link to Resume <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2vKXX2osI9JZ19QSHM3SWe4YjQ/edit?usp=sharing>

AGA Overall (my perspective)

In the past two years, AGA had a “strong rebound” overall. We not only saw a stable and rapid growth in membership, but also had exciting new teaching programs in Portland, L.A., Chicago (in addition to New Jersey, San Francisco, Boston, and etc.) We had several new major tournaments, such as the Gotham (NY), Washington Open (DC), N.A. Go Convention, Dadao (California). We led Europe in the Pro System and our top players remained upper hand against European players. We collaborated with the Nihon Ki-In and setup the Imawoto N.A. Foundation with “seven-figure” financial strength. We are also working with a few promising new major sponsors.

My Plans Next

1. Make AGA more professional in how it operates internally and externally.
2. Streamline the start-up process so that it is more feasible for players/teachers to initiate Go programs in schools.
3. Give more AGA members opportunities to work in AGA as part-time/intern/co-op, and generate a platform so that volunteers can shift among departments and learn and contribute in various ways.
4. Setup a system to enhance publicity of local tournaments and events, so that hopefully we have dedicated correspondents for events and video contents on the E-Journal.
5. Improve relationship with other Go associations and sponsors. (e.g., the Ing Foundation has announced hosting the semi-final of the 2015 ChangQi Championship in the U.S. I believe this is also an opportunity for the AGA.)

My Major Efforts (past 2 years)

1. Served as Board Director and made a number of proposals and suggestions.
2. Co-director of the N.A. Go Convention in Feb. 2013.
Features: over \$3000 cash prize purse, 12-round Open, two Pair Go tournaments and two Blitz tournaments, big success in publicity (especially among Asian media), first-ever attempt of a “winter go congress” (see also Paul Celmer’s speech video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItzD0OpYyxk>), ceremony & credit video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKnXS6x3wxc>, commercial video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypGgEFZC8U>
3. Publicity in major media: VOA interview video <http://www.voachinese.com/media/video/1623904.html>
4. Contributions in AGA Development & Marketing Committee: 1) prepared and submitted proposal to the China QiYuan for hosting one of the Gu Li 9P/Lee Sedol 9P jubango in the U.S., 2) collaborated with major sports websites for 29th & 30th Go Congress advertising in China, 3) identified a key partner in China who have introduced two potential major sponsors for AGA.
5. Coordinated Yang Yi 6P & Li Cong 3P teaching events with local organizers (Ing foundation) in San Francisco (local TV news <http://video.sinovision.net/?id=13773>) and Los Angeles in August 2013.
6. Promoted Pair Go <http://ngol.us/winners/nage-pair-go-championship> (Photos <http://ngol.us/gallery/days-inn-cup-new-york-metro-championship>), and assisted in obtaining grants from World Pair Go Association.
7. Publicity of Go in US (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2vKXX2osI9dGpISWFSVjFPaVU/edit?usp=sharing>, Reception at Twin Oaks Estate pic.ping.tw/davidsai0127/1379334645-2229320454.jpg) and publicity in China (https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=美国+围棋大会)
8. Took initiatives in setting up Go school in DC metro area, made proposals for Myungwan Kim 9P and Ge Yuhong Go Academy.
9. Regular communication with AGA members via social network and MIT BBS

My Proposals & Suggestions on the AGA Board (past 2 years)

1. Advocated the proposal to increase the US Open to 9-round and to assign extra \$10,000 cash prize; yet emphasized on *also* giving more prizes to other tournament divisions
2. Advocated adding full-time staff and part-time/intern positions in AGA
3. Co-chaired the Financial Committee, and made over a dozen suggestions to the president’s 2013-14 budget (AGA made a sizable surplus last year)
4. Proposed providing workshops (with pros teaching) to people who can not travel far to attend Go Congress, so that also avoid potential waste of “teaching resources” at Go Congress
5. Pushed AGA on immediate improving its rank certificate and rating system
6. Proposed discounts / subsidy for players travel very far to attend Congress, so that making Congress more equally affordable to all AGA members

7. Criticized on increasing Congress fees (which was partially offset this year by the \$50 rebate funded by Capital One's credit card program)
8. Protested against the proposal of cancelling/delaying the 2nd Pro Tournament
9. Emphasized multiple times the priority of improving AGA's recruitment and volunteer recognition programs
10. Proposed that AGA should fund and run more go summer/winter camps in multiple locations
11. Emphasized on training tournament directors in regards to the new Tournament Regulation
12. Made several suggestions on Immawoto N.A. Foundation goals
13. Made suggestions for a successful Sumsung special 3-round tourney (AGA vs EGF)
14. Proposed waiving chapter fees and lowering membership fees
15. Proposed reimbursement (with cap) of advertisement for local clubs' enhancing publicity of Go and AGA

Edward's Resume

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2vKXX2osI9JZ19QSHM3SWc4YjQ/edit?usp=sharing>