

Minutes of the 2000 AGA National Assembly

August 11, 2000

Denver, Colorado

Present	Affiliation
Roy Laird	President
Chen-dao Lin	Eastern VP, IGF Representative, New York Weiqi Society
Jeff Shaevel	Central VP, Austin Go Club
Lawrence Gross	Western VP, Go-for-Yu
John Goon	Membership Secretary, Hillandale Go Club
Noné Redmond	Education Coordinator
Sam Zimmerman	Database Manager
Chris Garlock	Editor, The American Go Journal
Terry Benson	President, AGF
Willard Haynes	Davis/Sacramento Go Club
Mark Rubenstein	Evanston Go Club
Larry Russ	Hoboken Go Club
Craig Hutchinson	NVGA[?], AGA Archivist
Don Wiener	Massachusetts Go Association
Terri Schurter	Wings Across Calm Waters, Highland Park Go Club
William Cobb	Richmond Go Club
Gordon Fraser	Webmaster
Glenn Peters	Portland (Willamette Valley) Club
Chris Kirschner	Seattle Go Center
Roy Laird	Brooklyn Go Club
Dave Frankel	Ann Arbor Go Club
Mike Bull	San Francisco Go Club
A. Kochis	Houston Go Club
Mike Peng	Houston Go Club
Willard Draisin	New Mexico Go Association
Bob Barber	No Exit (Chicago)
Ulo Tamm	Mile High Go Club
Robert Sorenson	Springs Go Club
Troy Wahl	Palo Alto Go Club
Keith Arnold	Baltimore Go Club
Ken Koerter	observer, Baltimore Go Club
Jean de Maiffe	observer

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. The minutes of the 1999 meeting were approved as amended.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Publications: Editor Chris Garlock reported that *The American Go Journal* has become a stable, growing enterprise involving a committee of enthusiastic volunteers.

New Weekly E-Journal: Chris is also producing a weekly AGA electronic newsletter, *The AGA E-Journal*, starting on April 24, 2000. During the congress the E-Journal was published daily. Anyone can subscribe, even non-members, by sending a "subscribe" message to journal@usgo.org. The E-Journal goes to over

1000 subscribers, including interested non-AGA members. The E-Journal team plans to conduct a membership drive among non-member subscribers soon.

Education Coord. - Noné Redmond reported that this year's Youth Congress had 45 participants. Of these, ten were dan-level players. There were 32 players in the Youth Handicap tournament. Terry Benson was the TD. Redmond Cup finalists are Jonathan Wang and Eric Lui.

Web Master - Chuck Robbins reported that a new chapter page will be added to the AGA Web page. Tournament information will be updated quickly and this will remain a high priority. A team of eight interested helpers met by telephone conference call recently. This group is identifying and assigning specific tasks to improve and expand the Web site.

Chapter Services - William Cobb reported on a new program to help promote chapter development. Each new member is informed of the nearest go club, and that club is informed of the new member. New promotional materials have been produced: mouse pads, post-it notes, problem books, and the first volume of reprints from the *Journal* on handicap go. The AGA CD is available for free.

Membership Services - John Goon reported as of February 28, 2000 we have a total of 1518 members and 60 chapters. A new AGA brochure was published in 1999 and reprinted in 2000. Yutopian and Ishi Games have agreed to include them in equipment shipments. New AGA starter sets are available for organizers.

The First Cuban Goodwill Friendship Tournament, held in Havana in July, was a success, with almost twenty American players.

Jean de Maiffe has been approaching mainstream game companies on behalf of the AGA to help them improve the quality of their equipment.

An e-mail survey of about 200 former members was conducted to see what could be done to encourage their return. This survey itself resulted in several renewals, and will lead to more membership renewal activity based on the results. In other membership development and promotional efforts, letters were sent to bidders on go equipment on eBay, and several positive responses were received. The AGA and the Ibero-American Go Federation are working together to address Spanish-speaking go players and potential players.

Congress Coord. - Chris Kirschner reported that there have been some inquiries for the 2002 and later congresses.

Tournament Coord. - Mike Bull reported that the 13th North American Fujitsu Qualifying Tournament was organized in Seattle by a team headed by Chris Kirschner. It was a great success, even carrying over a budget surplus to the next year's event. This year there were two distinguished amateurs in the North American Masters Tournament: the winner of the U. S. Open, and the winner of the North American Ing Cup. They both made it through to the Challenger Round, where they will be seeded into next year's event, while this year's US Open and Ing Cup winners will enter the Promotional Round.

Treasurer - Ulo Tamm summarized the financial statement in this year's Annual Report, reflecting stability and the security of a substantial reserve, which is held in a bond fund that has not done well for the last few years. Roy Laird asked if anyone would like to be on a committee to look into this. Eileen Barberi, Harold Lloyd, Karen Gold, and Polly Pohl volunteered.

Utilization of Ing Foundation Regional Allotment

Eastern VP - Chen-dao Lin: So far they have used the Ing money to support an Eastern Regional Tournament and a Korean Tournament. However, there is still money left. If anyone has ideas, please talk to him.

Western VP - Larry Gross: The Ing money was used for a series of tournaments in the Willamette valley, San Francisco tournament, and the Ju Jo Youth Tournament (with 144 participants).

Central VP - Jeff Shaevel: They held the Denver Tournament and the Texas Open. Requests for educational funding are increasing. Willard Draisin asked if prize money helped increase turnout. No one had offered a clear-cut response. Chen-dao Lin said that the NY Wei-chi Society offered prizes but no cash in the Eastern Championship and had about 80 people 7dan and below. Larry Gross said that significant prizes are needed to get strong players to show up in Los Angeles.

President Roy Laird thanked all the area and committee heads.

ACTION ITEMS

Proposal from the Baltimore Go Club to Host the 2001 US Go Congress

Keith Arnold and Ken Koester presented the proposal by the Baltimore Go Club, the Greater Washington Go Club and the Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Go Club to host the 2001 US Go Congress at Goucher College in Baltimore from August 4 through 12, 2001. Assuming the current bid, the cost for one person, double occupancy, and banquet would be about \$625. The organizers will review the facilities with some past organizers to try to avoid any surprises.

Mike Peng stated that Dan Barry, one of the two first astronauts to play go in space, would like to present one of the two boards used in space to the AGA. Mike thought that the Congress would be a good place for the presentation. Keith Arnold agreed. Jean de Maiffe suggested that the nature of the vegetarian menu be explored since in the past the vegetarian offerings have had too little variety. Other questions were raised about the off-campus motels, how to improve the accessibility to the pro events, how to encourage first-time congress attendees to participate fully in the congress, and how to accommodate players who can only attend for part of the congress.

The proposal was moved, seconded and passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Special Introduction: Paul Anderson

Roy Laird introduced Mr. Anderson, who has been active in the American Go Association for a long time. He complimented the organizers of the congress for a successful event.

Financial Operations of Future US Go Congresses

The treasurer reported that currently the congress monies go through the AGA accounts. In the past there was a US Go Congress Corporation (the AGA itself was not incorporated). Now the AGA is incorporated, so we can be the fiscal receiver for the congresses.

There was a discussion of how much of any surplus from the congresses should go to the organizing club(s).

Election Committee

Sam Zimmerman presented the election committee's procedure for conducting the election for the new AGA president. It would be a proportional vote by the chapters based on the number of AGA full and youth members that they have. The ballot would include: Roy Laird, Jeff Shaevel, and "neither of the above."

In view of concern expressed by some representatives that the "neither of the above" option would confuse the balloting, this option was stricken from the ballot.

Teacher of the Year

Herb Doughty was introduced as the AGA Teacher of the Year. He was unable to attend the banquet the following evening where the award would normally be presented because of urgent family business. He expressed deep appreciation for the award, especially that it would cheer up his ailing mother herself a teacher for many years.

AGA Governance Committee

John Goon reported that the committee was established at the request of President Roy Laird in June 2000, to review the AGA current governance structure, including both the By-Laws and the Articles of Incorporation themselves, and report their findings to the Executive Committee. The hope is to reach a consensus on a series of recommendations at next year's National Assembly. The topics that they are currently considering include: the basic structure of the organization, the amendment process for the by-laws, the manner of voting for officers, etc., the payment of officers for their services, and minor revisions to the by-laws.

Many of these issues are still under basic review, but the Committee has already reached a consensus that provisions in the current by-laws for payment of officers should be removed. No officer has received payment for services, so there is no urgent need for such a provision. The obvious potential for abuse in the future leads the committee to conclude that officers should not receive

payment for services, although the AGA's paid staff will continue to grow as membership grows.

Copies of the existing governance documents are available at usgo.org.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the committee should move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Voting System

Jeff Shaevel presented an analysis of the membership and to what extent it is represented by the current voting system (proportional voting by chapters). He noted that only 43 percent of members are affiliated with a chapter. In addition, any chapter with less than 5 members does not have a vote. Therefore only about 38 percent of the members have a vote using the current system. He did not present any motion to address this at this time.

In response it was noted that any AGA member can affiliate with any Chapter. Thus members are not excluded from participating in the political process, but are encouraged to affiliate with a Chapter. Strengthening of Chapter in this way was viewed by some as a desirable goal.

Affidavit of Affirmative Judgment in re: Keith Arnold HKA

President Roy Laird, having received legal papers from Mr. Arnold, recognized him to explain his suit. Mr. Arnold declared that he cherishes his status as one of only eight people who have attended all sixteen US Go Congresses. Noting that this status has been challenged, since he was not physically present at the 1998 San Francisco Congress, he requested an excused absence due to exigent circumstances, in that his presence was required in China at the same time to pick up his adopted daughter and bring her home. He cited the facts that he had played go in China and spoken with Congress participants by telephone during the Congress itself as mitigating circumstances. Mr. Arnold also plead that alternatively, there was some evidence that he actually did attend the San Francisco Congress, in that the emcee of that year's banquet was witnessed by dozens of people to be wearing the name tag, "Keith Arnold." However, Arnold admitted that he himself does not believe that he actually attended.

After due deliberation, the Assembly solemnly granted Mr. Arnold a conditional "excused absence" under the following conditions:

- 1) He can claim that he attended all Go Congresses but not that he specifically attended the San Francisco Go Congress:
- 2) That in all photographs and printed lists of all-Congress attendees, his name and/or image should have an asterisk attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

— submitted by Willard Haynes, Acting Secretary