

# American Go Association

## National Chapter Assembly Minutes

August 12, 2005

### **Attendance**

Austin Go Club – Jeff Shaevel

Brooklyn – Roy Laird

Colorado –

Corvallis --

Davis/Sac – Willard Haynes

Evanston – Mark Burenstein

Go for You – Larry Gross

Greater Washington – Allan Abramson

Hoboken – Larry Russ

Lancaster – Sam Zimmerman

Massachusetts Go Association --

Mile High -- Ulo Tamm

Nova – Ken Koester

Portland – Jean DeMaiffe

Princeton – Rick Mott

San Francisco --

Seattle Go Center – John Hogan

Sunnyvale --

Triangle – Paul Celmer

Ventura --

Western Mass. – Bill Saltman

Canadian Go Association: Phil Waldron

Chris Kirschner

Bob Barber

Terry Benson (AGF President)

President Michael Lash called meeting to order

## Approval of Minutes

Willard Haynes: I was here last year for Sacramento/Davis

Motion to accept minutes: Willard, Jean DeMaiffe seconds

Passes unanimously

## Board of Directors Report

Allan Abramson: chairman of the board: Last year was one of transition. This year is the year of promise, seeing many new faces and ideas. We have an ambitious agenda, all of which promises a tremendous flowering of the AGA over the next ten years. We will have a growing community of certified professionals, we'll all be more into the schools, a new generation of leadership, further working with our global association to enhance the viability of mind sports around the world.

I have list of many worthy ideas. Foreign associates say that our association with them has only grown stronger and they want more: for example we might see the creation of *insei* centers to develop master players in the US. Another would be the creation of national leagues (junior, senior, etc.) - we will soon begin to see such things.

An example: An agreement has been tentatively reached with Mrs. Taki and Suzuki to jointly promote pair-go across the country. Pair go is ready to go this year.

Jean DeMaiffe: why are you going to have male pairs?

A.A.: I'm holding the door open to that because there are areas where it would be really difficult to hold tournaments. Mrs. Taki is willing to accept that, if needed to get going.

J. D.: What is the concept if not to draw women in?

A.A.: That is the concept; we are just anticipating that some clubs would have a hard time organizing tournaments unless we relax a bit.

This is an example of something new.

The board has created a \$24k marketing fund seeking proposals from chapters for any kind of activity designed to generate growth. This is a truly open-ended program, seeking initiative, and people willing to try new things.

Rick Mott: That was in the budget for this past year. How much actually got spent?

A.A.: The marketing fund was the cobbling together of several categories. I'm not sure any of the new monies were used.

Roy Laird: How would people apply for the grant. Is there a form or RFP?

A.A.: Submit a proposal to Mike Lash. There is a subcommittee of the board. Easy process. No fixed form.

Mike and I have been holding a job fair this year with only modest success. Part of it was location. But it is symptomatic of too many vacancies in key positions in the AGA. I want to communicate a message of concern for the future if we can't find people for service within the AGA. If we don't get more volunteers, much of the promise, much of the good ideas aren't going to happen. The challenge to you: is to talk to your members, and ask them to step up and volunteer.

Turning this year of promise into a year of accomplishment is our biggest challenge.

## **Treasurer's Report**

M.L.: The prior treasurer had served long enough and asked us to find a new one. Ben produced the 2005 F.Y. Reports. And a 3-month report.

Ulo Tamm : Good evening. As incoming treasurer, I would like to thank Ben Bernstein for his years of service. Our financial situation is quite satisfactory. I'm sure our directors are telling Mike to create some new programs. The annual report only shows one part: the statement of activities. I have quite a few more sheets that show the balance sheet for FY05 and the 'short' year, from March 1 to May 31<sup>st</sup> . I'm also showing a two-month balance sheet.

It is interesting to note: that if we look at all our assets: At the end 2005 \$282k, at the end of the cap year \$260k, at the end of the two months: \$227k. We have reduced a bit, but we have obligations and perhaps that we are more efficient ways of using our funds.

AGA does have a Paypal account, which you can use to pay your dues. Many people use BillPay to pay their bills, and you can use that too.

Cynthia: I was just looking at page 6: What is the cause of possible reduction in incomes?

M.L.: For about 10 years we've received \$80k a year from The Ing Wei-ch'i Educational Foundation in Taipei, which we have used to fund tournaments and other activities. In F.Y.2005 we only received \$40k from Ing, and it was received only days before the end of the year. This year we haven't received any funds. We have inquired, but haven't received an answer. We haven't been told 'no'. Europe has also experienced a reduction in Ing funding recently, so perhaps the Foundation is having difficulties. But at this point in time, one of the reasons our balance has reduced is that we tapped our reserves to fund the tournaments and events that the Ing monies would have funded.

A.A.: Almost every month someone says that the Ing funds are gone or disappearing. That is not true. There have been a number of inquiries over the recent years and each time they have said that there hasn't been a change in position on funding the AGA, but there are some cash flow problems. The fact that we haven't received it, doesn't mean it isn't coming. We need to act with tact and forbearance, and discreet inquiry.

We will publish supplements to this annual report to show the balance sheet.

Terry Benson: The FY06 budget: is this the actual budget? Is it accurate

U.T.: I would not say that. I think these need to be looked at again.

M.L.: One of the issues to be addressed is that to support the board's marketing fund, will require dipping a little bit into the reserves. This was a conscious decision. There may need to be some adjustments in the operating side and income side.

T.B.: Will that be shown in the new documents?

U.T.: Not exactly. The figures will have to be looked at again, and we'll need to talk about it. There are some items on here that I'm not used to seeing.

T.B.: For example, the equipment

U.T.: Those items were traditionally covered by Ing funds.

Paul Celmer: On page 7 “AGA Share of Congresses” is blank for 2005.

M.L.: In 2005 we hadn't completed our negotiations – so we didn't include it. In 2006, this is an estimate of our income from this congress.

## **President's Report**

I want to highlight some important events:

We've settled on and published a vendor policy.

We've adopted and published principles on selecting participants in international events. This has been received well, and is the basis for almost every kind of competition or selection we'll use.

We've started to take steps establishing permanent rules and schedules for tournaments.

An accomplishment was the approval of the changes to the bylaws. This was a milestone as it modernized the bylaws and made them clearer.

Other milestones: I don't take credit, they just happened on my watch: Paid membership has exceed 2000 and appears to be on it's way to 3000. We had two go camps this year for the first time. We had more people playing in tournaments than ever.

What we want to look forward to in the next year: Here are some highlights.

My main priority is to deliver better support to our chapters and our members. The chapters really are the flag bearers all across the country. I want to continue to focus on them and I want to hear from all of you. The marketing program is just the first immediate opportunity for each and every one of you to help draw in new members. It isn't to support tournaments, it is for new ideas and increasing membership.

I've started the process of creating a tournament director training course. The goal being to formally train tournament directors so that people who come to an AGA tournament can count on a standard of quality all across the country.

An ongoing issue is our web site. We've heard a lot of good ideas, and we'll need to continue to make it a valuable resource. It is functional and it is going to get better. The E-Journal is going to expand. And we'll be investing in the web site.

I met with the representative of IGS-Panda Net in Japan. We had a long chat and he made a brief proposal to me but it was in effect “What do you want me to do for you?” KGS was also here this week and would like to engage the AGA in providing more internet services. Perhaps our own rooms, dedicated servers, hosting of tournaments. We've talked about this for years, but it is now within our reach.

I'm going to halt right there, and turn to a theme that Alan referred to: I took the liberty to bring in the sign-up sheets. Before the evening is over, I simply ask that each of you go over and look and see if there is anything that interests you, or your members. If anybody talks to you in your club, tell them to contact me directly, e-mail or phone and we'll get them set up. I ask myself how do we get members to commit to the time. I'm opening to ideas: what would encourage people to step up? I published twice in the e-

journal offering a free-membership to the first 25 volunteers – but I only got two volunteers.

There is also the question about raising money for AGA administrative tasks. There are tasks that need doing – maintaining the web site, maintaining the database, cashing the checks, processing the credit cards, sending renewal notices. Perhaps paying to complete mundane tasks will make it more attractive to volunteers who concentrate on the “fun” aspects of the job.

On the Agenda, there is an item for Corporate Reorganization – I want to streamline the AGA. There are 19 positions on that sheet. My desire to streamline is to get more out of fewer people. After the congress I'll resurrect the document and send it around.

There is more in the printed reports

Rick Mott: A comment on the bylaw changes – we dropped the membership requirement from 5 down to 2 – which I think is really significant in giving voice to new clubs.

M.L.: That will increase the number of chapters that are eligible to vote and that is a good thing.

## Special Reports

### *Results of 2004 Go Congress – Terry Benson*

This turned out to be a deeper and more difficult problem that I realized when I began. In January I got some materials. I spent a lot of time in March. I sent a list of questions about \$35k worth of items. Through mid-July there was lots of back and forth with the facility about them trying to get the records. Everyone involved acknowledged the poor shape of the records. Ultimately we had a conference call with someone from the facility. It was very cordial and professional and went through everything line by line. The answer we finally came to, about everything I knew about was very good and was about \$22k better than we thought about we were. There are still some questions about some items, and I'll defer a final number to Ulo. When you put things in a side budget, you look at them in a different way. There was difficulty in squaring it with the facility ultimately, they were gracious. Being a go player, I didn't go for every last point, just to be fair. I think we arrived at what was probably a pretty good guess about where things should stand. I wouldn't want to bet my life on this... Some of the money that came to us was because they were unable to justify some of the expenses. In any case, they said fine and took it off. And they were satisfied that they came out all right.

I felt it was our obligation to resolve this the best we could because, after all, we had had a wonderful congress.

M.L.: We consider this chapter closed, it was a successful congress.

A.A.: It is my understanding that the facility seized \$710 from the Empty Sky Go Club. The board voted to return that money to the club.

T.B.: I didn't know what those funds were till later, and I think it is great that we can return that money to the club.

C.K.: I want to point out that it's not unusual to get a bill much larger than expected. This isn't unusual. The unusual thing was the amount of time it took to get it resolved.

And that made it seem like a much bigger thing that it actually was.

*Publications and Communications – Chris Garlock*

Our detailed report is in the annual report. The really big news is that for the first time this year, we are broadcasting on the order of two dozen games live on the Internet this week from the US Congress, from the US Open, The Ing Cup and the Masters. As you know you can also watch them live on closed circuit TV, and they have been attracting quite a crowd. Jeff Boscole is doing a great making all this possible. (Applause.) It is tremendously exciting. People are e-mailing and saying it is great, like being virtually here. Chuck Robbins, a year ago, said that this can be done by the next congress. But it has been great to have the photos on the front page of the web site as the games are being played and send people to IGS and KGS to see the game. Thanks to Roy Laird for keeping the web site going. Bill Cobb does a lot of the behind the scenes work for the e-journal. Plus they we have two new reporters who are doing a terrific job. (applause).

*Tournaments – Mike Lash*

We've been working on a national calendar of events. There are three main events, the Masters, the Ing and the Fujitsu. There is talk about moving the Masters out of the congress with the prelims on the Internet and the finals at a club (that could rotate). There is talk of a strong players tournament. Many different ways to set these things up. You'll be hearing over the next six months about adjustments to the schedules and qualifier events. There was some discussion about moving some tournaments entirely to the internet and having rated games on the internet. There are some issues about having important tournaments on the internet. It is difficult to set up and run.

*Professional and strong player issues – Allan Abramson*

We've been thinking about setting up a process for certifying amateur ranks. We had a meeting, and only a few folks showed up. We talked about what criteria would we use to establish ranks. The first consensus is that we should use playing performance as the measure. This is a major step. To stimulate discussion I've written up a page of ideas and given is some limited circulation including one pro. If it is a starter, then I intend to circulate it more widely. It seems to me that it is time to put the flesh on the bones.

Cindy: Is there a pro association now?

A.A.: Several years ago, the American Professional Go Association (APGA) was formed. It hasn't been particularly active. The one major activity is field requests from international tournaments. That is not without controversy. One of the concerns we had was how would US representatives be selected. The AGA has stated that fair, inclusive and transparent selection methods should be used, but the APGA does not agree. They usually select the same few players, who do not live in the US and who play for foreign countries in other tournaments. From our point of view, this is not acceptable. Most international tournaments are now asking the AGA to select representatives, but not all.

We are interested in establishing professional status, and in play between professionals and amateurs. However, the APGA has maintained that we have no business discussing professionals at all. We feel very strongly that we need to move into this

area, but as we do so, there will be conflict.

Steve. Stringfellow: Have you considered who would be eligible

A.A.: The working definition is a working citizen or green card holder who is in the states 6 or more months of the years

John Hogan: How would foreign certified pros interact with American certified pros

A.A.: We will only proceed with the input of American pros and foreign associations and they are generally for it. There are a lot of details to work out. We've determined that we'd like to push the discussion this year.

Keith Arnold: Do we seriously think that we can support pros making living in the US?

A.A.: That isn't for us to decided why people choose become pros. It may because they want the title, or to open a go school. Whether or not that will turn into an adequate living is an open question. The pros who live here are working very hard. It is an individual decision. Ultimately we need corporate sponsorship. Then we could pay for the pros to go to every club in the AGA. They would love to do that.

K.A.: I guess it is the lawyer in me that hears the word 'professional' and that says how you make your living. "Be a pro, keep your day job." And I don't see that as the kind of association they have in the east. I wonder if such a situation would be respected in the East.

Trevor Morris: There are two different meanings to the word professional. One meaning is about rank and doesn't relate to making a living.

K.A.: I disagree. The professional ranks are given by associations to stand behind the players and ensure them a living.

Jeff Shaevel: There are many reasons to be a professional. Even if you aren't making a living at it as it serves as an entree to opportunities. Example: actors, sushi chefs.

S. S.: In some professions, such as medicine being a professional is about something above and beyond the money. It's about adhering to a standard of conduct, and enhancing the comfort level of the person seeking services.

## **Corporate Reorganization**

M.L.: I'll be making some new appointments now that the bylaw changes have been approved.

## **Membership**

M.L: Membership growth campaign has already been talked about. The fall is coming up and the school year is starting, perhaps this is a good opportunity.

Simplification of categories and fees. Document was handed out at the door.

Why are we talking about this? One is to make clear who are members really are. One is to increase income. One is to streamline organization and management. There may be other benefits.

There were reasons for the existing fee structure, but time and technology has caught up to us. Ex. The \$15 premium for foreign members was for the increased postage to

send the Journal. But we no longer publish a quarterly journal, so this is no longer a reasonable fee.

On the second page, there is a snapshot of current membership for some comparisons. I'm not going to go through the options as I'd like a more open discussion.

Terry: Questions to the membership secretary. Who is dealing with the difficulty of multiple membership categories? Is this a significant difficulty?

Sam: No. The database does it for me.

Rick Mott: As a T.D.: one plea – make it a multiple of \$5 – I don't want to deal with singles. As someone who deals with selling limited vs. full memberships – I see that it is a big jump from limited to full. I'm not sure that your changes will do what you want. I'd like to change 'youth' membership to 'student' membership – so that we can cover grad students. Remember that the cost of a limited membership is essentially zero to the AGA. You could do something with the e-journal with an intermediate membership fee. Like \$10/student, \$15/limited w/e-journal, which would give people more value.

Trevor: My memory of the reason for limited membership over the years was to encourage AGA rated tournaments – because AGA membership is required at rated tournaments. So if you eliminate this you may find clubs having less reason to be rated

Roy: Isn't there a \$5/non-rated fee where non-members can participate.

Jeff: Do we have any accounting for the non-rated fees?

Sam: In the monthly membership reports.

Paul Jacobs: There are many students who have never heard of the AGA, they are often foreign students, they want to play for as little as possible, so more than \$5 would be an impediment. Leave it at \$5.

Sam: Rick Mott advertises the tournaments as \$20/members and \$25/non-members, so that people come with the understanding that there is a non-member fee.

Paul Jacobs: Our desire is to not to have to pay anything or only the day fee. We want to have people to as little as possible

A.A.: I think we've hit the field of economics – which is all psychology. The issue is perception and point of resistance. Where I end up is where Rick proposed, I have no problem retaining the \$5/day fee. I think it is important to keep youth or student memberships as low as possible. But where I feel more strongly is that one of the benefits of AGA members is having a rating and rated games. That what I believe that a limited membership of \$10/year for adults undervalues the value of the membership. So make membership \$30 or \$20 if you don't want the hard copy, and youth at \$10. I think we are undervaluing the rating system.

Chuck: For the last three or four years I have directed the Cotsen Open – and that buys a lot of the limited memberships. But if you want to raise it that is okay, but it could be done in two steps over some years.

Terry: The other reason for the limited, is foreign, but also – to get every member of every club to be an AGA chapter. I think that \$10 is something they'll do, but \$20 is not. I don't think we've done a significant push. Once people do it, it is easier to push them to the next level.



A.A.: The dollars at risk are small. The numbers are important. Keep in mind that what we started with is that we should eliminate the separate category for foreign, and the board would entertain a special arrangement with the Cotsen

Willard Haynes: We hold four tournaments a year. Someone who plays in all four has paid \$20. For players, who are playing in tournaments I imagine that aren't just playing in one tournament a year – so by the time they play the \$5 tournament fee, they've already paid \$10 or \$15 a years

Jeff: We might get students at our chapter in Austin because the university is nearby . Changing from youth to student would have a large impact on the number of people would join our club.

Terry: Student has the issue that you'll get folks claiming they are students. Whereas youth is clear.

Cynthia: I think that Alan's suggestion sounds reasonable. It isn't raising it that much. Students aren't hard, you just have them show ID each year. And you really get a lot of people and kids. Encouraging that group to join is good. \$5/limited, \$10/students, \$20/full \$30/full+paper

Steve: I think the evolutionary idea on day fee is good. I agree that the 18 to 22 year old group is important. We dropped the rate for that group at this congress and my sense is that it doubled the number of people that came in that category. You could just go by age and extend the age to 22. It doesn't hurt. There are a lot of go playing graduate students, mostly foreign students

Sam: Last year we had 74 people who paid the \$5/day fee at AGA rated tournaments

Terry: Because enough of the people play at two tournaments and pay the \$10

Bill Saltman: When someone shows enough interest to show up a to a tournament and pay \$5 – we actually already have a foot in the door and we aren't taking advantage of it. We as T.D. Have their name, address, e-mail. This is sales. It is about how many times you ask if they want to buy. How often do we ask?

Chuck: I do at every tournament I do. I push it and sell it and I get most of them. We have to stop being embarrassed about the fees.

Terry: When I did run a go club many years ago – I took fees to the club and I just bought memberships for everyone. We sell the game too cheep.

Bill: Can we offer the \$5/day fee as a credit for upgrading

Sam: I do that if anyone asks.

M.L.: Bill has an important point about selling the value of the organization.

M.L.: Recap. Right now there are four categories. Adult w/hard copy is \$30 and that seems fine. I've heard the proposal to offer a \$20 w/o the hard copy. For foreign membership, I've heard a few voices to reduce the fee to \$30 and not send them hard copy. On the youth membership at \$10. There is some support for raising it to \$15. There is some support for keeping it the way it is. The one with the most diversity of onion is the limited membership – there is some consensus that for adults it is really undervaluing what you get for \$10. There is some support of increasing it.

Roland Crowl.: Point of clarification: Is this body responsible for setting the fees or just the structure?

Keith Arnold: It is clear that limited members are in the bylaws, so you can't remove it without a bylaw change, which means a complete vote of the membership. But you could change the fees I suppose.

Chuck: In marketing, it is best to change one number and see how data changes. So I would propose that we change only one thing in one area and see how it goes. So perhaps we could change the youth and see how it goes. And wait a year.

M.L.: The proposals suggest that we do so on a temporary basis.

A.A.: If we're going to pick on a group for an increase – the youth that would be the last to pick on. Limited members don't vote. Which is why I'm in favor of keeping full at \$20 and we don't need the limited category. That seems to me to be the simplest way to split things.

Trevor: Fees are often collected in the frenetic morning environment and changing the fee structure each year would cause confusion. And having two different categories causes T.D.s more explanation than they need to get into.

Mike: I want to address the questions about \$20/membership and the Yearbook being optional. I'm looking at option A: \$30/everyone except youth. All the other options lose money. We need money for all the programs we want to do. I don't know why we'd choose those.

Tom: I think that in the nation where every kid is willing to pay \$20 for an online computer game, our fees aren't expensive. I don't see the problem.

Chris K.: I'd like to ask a question: This structure is borne out of coffee house tournaments. And a lot of immigrants trying to get a family going, those are the people we were looking at when we set this policy twenty years ago. I see a whole lot of middle class people here having a different view of money. A large percentage of youth members are paying \$300 for Go lessons. The \$10 isn't that much.

A.A.: We're not risking money on the \$20 version is because of the total cost of the printed Yearbook. We each have our own perceptions on what these changes would do, so we should do it as an experiment.

M.L.: Let us look at this in the context of what we are about to do. We are about to spend \$24k to bring in new members. We want it to succeed. With the arrival of the *Hikaru No Go* DVDs, we may have an explosion of kids wanting to join. It is a complex economic formula.

Chuck: How are we going to measure and know if it is the \$24k or the lowering fees that generated membership?

Jean DeMaiffe: Can we get on to voting, and perhaps do it piece-meal.

Keith: Limited members and their rights are in the articles and bylaws. The only effective way to get rid of limited members is to raise their fee to make them effectively gone.

Roy: On the issue of lowering to make the paper optional: I may be biased, but there are some basic fundamental services that we do as an organization. The members

aren't asked if they want to opt out of the membership drive, or other services. I view the yearbook as not just a member service, but as a tangible artifact of the AGA, something that makes us look great in a tangible way, not just to members, but to people around the world, potential supporters, potential funding sources. When we consider the cost of the Yearbook, we have to remember that the setup cost is the same, whether you print one copy or 10,000. So the marginal cost of making more Yearbooks is not so great. By not asking people to support it may not make financial sense to keep producing it at all.

Rick Mott; Move to leave the full membership at \$30 and include the Yearbook

Willard : Second

M.L.: In favor; most, opposed one, abstentions, four – not close, motion carries

Steve S.: Move to increase the cut off for youth to 22, inclusive

Cindy: Second

M.L.: In favor: 20, opposed: 0, abstentions 4

Cindy: Motion to eliminate the foreign category

M.L.: No second

A.A. Move to retain the foreign category, but reduce the fee to the full member price, and eliminate the sending the hard copy

Bob Barber: 2<sup>nd</sup>

A.A.: We'd charge \$8 to \$10 to send the hardcopy.

???: Do foreign members have voting rights?

Sam: I'd like to modify this to have Canadian and Mexican members be the same as U.S.

M.L.: I subscribe to a number of journals that have a foreign rate.

Sam: The history is that it was the same for a long time, but someone pointed out that when we were doing the quarterly journals, it was costing more to send it than we were taking in. No one reviewed this when we went to single yearbook.

Cindy: what is the definition of foreign

Sam: If you're a legal resident of the U.S.: We have overseas members that are US citizens that we charge only \$30

M.L. <restates motion>

Chuck: Seconds Sam's motion amendment

<general> 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> agreed to amendment

M.L.: The motion is to reduce the fee from \$45 to \$30 for foreign members and not include the Yearbook, except to include sending the Yearbook to Canadian and Mexican members.

M.L.: This is all straw polls, and we'll vote on a full package at the end.

Sam: Problem that worries me is that I expect that a large number of people that are

foreigners will want the yearbook.

David: As I understand it, the foreign membership was boosted \$15 to cover a service we don't now provide – have we heard concern from the 32 foreign members about the \$15 objection.

Sam: The only objection we got was from Canada.

David: I think we can take care of our brothers and sisters in Canada by just not applying the fee to them.

M.L.: vote: in favor: 10, opposed: 4, abstentions: 10

Cindy: Motion to eliminate the category of foreign membership and just people overseas shipping.

Bob: second

Keith: it is not a category in our bylaws

Sam: Foreign members are not counted for votes

Steve: Amendment: just send them the yearbook and don't charge them extra for shipping – it is great marketing.

Cindy: agree to the amendment.

Keith: My paranoid comment about someone trying to take over the organization: it has already been tried, the Ing foundation tried to take over this organization, and they are still interested in being a partner to the tune of \$100k a year – there are Asian servers that are money making propositions. If we allow foreign members voting rights, it would be a cheap proposition.

Trevor: It would allow our Canadian members voting rights, which would be a good thing.

M.L: Restate: "Eliminate the foreign category".

Vote: in favor: 5, opposed: 14, abstain: 4

M.L: This is not the right forum to discuss voting rights.

Trevor: I don't understand.

Jean DeMaiffe: I move to raise the youth fee to \$15

many: second

Cindy: I think we should keep it at \$10 as we should keep it very accessible to youth

M.L: raising the fee raises about \$1000 dollars

Steve: Why do this

Jean DeMaiffe: I just think \$10 is very cheap I don't know student families who wouldn't pay the \$15/year

Steve: Someone I know teaches 40 inner city youth none of who can afford it

Jean: You just got through saying that they can't afford even the \$10, so it makes no difference

Steve: it is economics – you want to look at over a lifetime

Jack: What would be the potential of not charging anything for youths?

Sam: If you give them something that costs nothing, they value it at nothing.

A.A.: \$10 was cheap when it started. The whole idea was to have a token payment. We got a jump in membership. I don't support raising the price at all. I think we want to hook them for life. We're talking about just a few hundred dollars, it just isn't worth talking about.

Steve: If you want to talk about revenue, the congress is the big issue. There are 82 youth and most brought in a parent. So (many calculations elide).... the point is the youth memberships are driving them to the congress

Rick Mott: My opinion is that a youth membership at \$15 is perfectly reasonable, and the problem of kids who can't afford it can best be handled by scholarship

M.L.: in favor: 5, oppose: 13, abstain: 5

Rick: motion to raised the limited to \$15

Chuck : second

M.L.: in favor: 16, oppose: 2, abstentions: 3

Rick: Do the limited members get the e-journal

Many: they get the e-journal with the attachments, not the Yearbook

M.L.: current standing:

full: \$30 w/hardcopy

foreign: \$30 w/o hardcopy (except Canada and Mexico)

youth: age increased up to and including 22, fee unchanged at \$10

limited: raised to \$15

M.L.: We'll vote on this as a package. If it passes, with a clear majority, there won't be a need to do the weighted voting.

Chuck K: Moves to accept the package

Rick Mott: seconds

M.L: For clarity, youths are full voting members, nothing in this package changes voting rights at all

M.L: Vote: in favor 24, opposed: 0, abstentions: 1

M.L.: Motion Passes

<applause>

## **International Events**

Thomas Hsiang: statement read by Steve

M.L: We received two invitations: The Korean organization has asked AGA to send a delegation, expenses paid. And the Chinese Go association and the city of Hongzhou,

to send up to two teams to China, playing for prize money.

We'll also be sending people to the pair-go championships.

Trevor: What is the process of deciding to go.

M.L.: For China, we first needed to say who was willing to go. For Korea, we have more than three, so we'll just use ratings and the new guidelines.

Terry: Chris K. and I have gone to a number international conferences, sponsored by the Ing Foundation, to come up with a single rule set for use in all international tournaments. Presently, Japanese, Chinese, Ing and AGA rules are all recognized by the International Go Federation as acceptable. There was a push in the 80s to do this, but it wasn't successful. In light of the Olympic effort, there is another push, because the IOC requires a worldwide standard rule set. The current committee's suggestion to have several different sets of rules. But this will be difficult due to the different views and they go back very far in history. There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> such meeting in Korea in October. One of the benefits to the AGA is that we've had many conversations with people and we've been building many contacts. The AGA rules are referred to often as one of the likely set of international rules.

Chris: As improbable as it sounds the American and European influence in this is greater than you'd expect. It because the Japanese and Korean are on one side, and the Chinese and Ing are on the other, and they see no way to resolve it, and have explicitly asked us to make a proposition. I can think of nothing that would do more for us that having a corporate sponsored Olympic team. And that is what this is leading to.

## **Approval of Host and Venue for 2006 Congress**

Paul Celmer: Brief overview of proposal: In essence, this process that Peter Armenia and have of co-directors... We've done a lot of listening and trying to find a good place that was comfortable and inexpensive. We also wanted to have a North Carolina feel. The Blue Ridge Assembly in the mountains of the N.C. It is a conference center. They have capacity of 700 people, we are shooting for 450 people. We are proposing the dates be the August 12<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>. It is a dry facility. There are bars in the town, ½ mile away. And Asheville is 25min away. Main playing area will be in a 8000 sq ft. Gym, it will be air conditioned. I have printed brochures. I hope as chapters you'll help me promote this event.

Jean DeMaiffe: There are different levels of accommodation?

P.C.: There are hotel style accommodations, dorm style with private baths, dorm with shared baths, and about 100 cottages.

Terry: Any camping? The European congress have lots of campers.

P.C.: About a mile nearby – but not at the facility

Sam: Fee structures?

P.C.: Hasn't been worked out yet. We have some scenarios we can discuss with board. But for most people it will be in singles the \$800 range, just like this congress.

P.C.: The facility offered to a fee to handle registration – and we'll look into that.

???: Will we be the only people in the facility?

P.C.: There will be a group of about 60 there as well, but we'll have more than 30 meeting rooms.

???: Food?

P.C.: The food is cafeteria style, comparable to here.

A.A.: moved to accept

Rick: seconded

M.L.: carried by overwhelming consensus

### **Proposal for Host and Venue for 2007 Congress**

Bob.: The rest of the future is hazier. Perhaps at or near Lancaster. Then perhaps a repeat here. 2009 the D.C. Area is very interested in having as it would be the 25<sup>th</sup>. 2010 perhaps something from the mountains in Colorado.

Sam: Columbus?

M.L.: Joe Carl expressed an interest in hosting 2007. He isn't here and doesn't have the opportunity to present it.

Sam: We had 63 people who had voting rights. As a result of the change 76 will have today.

M.L.: The N.C. Has taken on the task, but they will need help from all of the chapters.

M.L: The Congress is getting to be such a large scale event that there was discussion about contracting out the service of holding the event. Not running the tournaments, but all the other aspects like registration, venues, transportation, etc.

### **New Business**

Rick: The changes we just discussed about membership – when does that take effect?

M.L: I don't think there needs to be any delay. Keith?

Keith: I don't see why, as long as the board doesn't think it unconscionable, it is done.

M.L.: So, I think by Keith's reasoning, the board can set a date.

Rick: It will affect a lot of college clubs.

M.L.: The membership approved changes to the bylaws on voting and other issues, and there was no effective date, so they are now in effect as of?

Keith: The vote went over a month, so as of certification of the vote.

Chuck: It will take some administrative time to set up. And it is customary to let the target population renew at the old price for a short time.

M.L.: I'll be putting out some announcements.

Sam: This is a lot of paperwork. And the web site has to be changed. Sept. 1 would be okay.

Terry: Bill isn't hear and he is very interested in team go.

Chuck: Passed out stickers. We obtained these in Japan from a professional that is

getting into producing neat stuff. Would the youth be interested in buying these at \$2/each

<general murmer>

Chuck: motion to adjourn

many: second

vote: passed

