

# 2010 General Assembly Meeting

August 7, 2010

## Official Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Board of Directors Report
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. EJ Report
6. International Affairs Report
7. 2011 Congress Presentation
8. New Business
  - a. Membership enhancement/outreach
  - b. Revenue enhancement
  - c. Budget Cuts
  - d. New member recruitment: outreach to schools; women; libraries
  - e. Open Discussion
9. Adjourn

## Chapter Attendance

Garrett Smith	NOVA	Yes
Robert Schrader	Los Angeles/San Diego	No
Eric Jankowski	Ann Arbor	Yes
Terry Benson	Brooklyn	Yes (and also AGF)
Roger Schrag	Bay Area Go Players Association	Yes
James Schaefer	Las Vegas Go Club	Yes
Roy Laird	New York Go Center	Yes
David Whiteside	Ventura County Go Club	Yes
Mark Rubenstein	Evanston Go Club	Yes
Wanda Metcalf	Massachusetts Go Association	Yes
John Hogan	Seattle Go Center	Yes
Gordon Castanza	Tacoma Go Club	Yes
William Gundberg	Arizona Go Club	Yes
Jeff Horn	Davis/Sacramento Go Club	Yes
Lisa Scott	Hopkins Go Club	Yes
Steve Colburn	Empty Sky Go Club	Yes
Allan Abramson	NOVA	No
???	Oklahoma Go Players Association	Yes
Todd Blatt	UMBC	Yes
Edward Zhang	Capital Go	Yes
Andrew Jackson	Blacksburg Go Club	No
Chris Kirschner	VP of Development	No

## Meeting Discussion

### I. Roll Call

### II. Board Members speak

#### A. Andy Okun

1. Gently Declining membership and tournament attendance
2. Working for sponsorships
  - a. JLA sponsored the Easter championship
  - b. Sponsorships even in Asia tend to be because an executive loves it

#### B. Gordon Castanza

1. The major issue that the board is dealing with is the budget
  - a. Because we lost the ING funds, we have been hit very hard and are having to dip into the reserves to defray tournament expenses
  - b. This year's ING has a significantly smaller purse, only \$1,750, instead of \$5,000, as it has been in the past
2. It is never easy to cut funds, but this is why the AGA is running lean
  - a. Funding is based on membership dues and funding and the US Go Congress
  - b. Congress attendance is down, so there will be less funding from there
3. Current membership statistics:
  - a. We are now at the 2007 level of membership

#### C. Question from Roy Laird:

1. If funding remains down, will the AGA continue to fund tournaments out of reserves?
  - a. The board made a decision last year to continue to fund the Redmond Cup and some youth events to the tune of a permanent \$6,000
  - b. The board also separately decided to fund the NAIM this year (2010)
    - i. The board has not yet made the decision to fund the 2011 NAIM
    - ii. The board has made a clear decision to look for sponsors
  - c. Reserves depletion
    - i. The World Mind Sports Games took \$30,000 out of reserves; spending the last of the Ing reserves cut \$22,000; this year the funding discussed about took out over \$10,000, so over \$50,000 has been taken out of reserves
    - ii. The current reserves are approximately \$150,000, not the \$300,000 that used to be in reserves
    - iii. There will be a new World Mind Sports Games in the future, and although the AGF gave \$15,000, the total cost was \$45,000
    - iv. Andy Okun brings to our attention that we have approximately 2 years of reserves if we had \$0 income

#### D. Question from John Hogan

1. Did the World Mind Sports Games increase AGA membership or go in the US?
  - a. We do not know most of the results
    - i. It enhanced our international stature
    - ii. For the team, which was 22 of the strongest players who could attend, the international competition enhances their connections, abilities, and experiences, as well as helps them to form international relationships
    - iii. The general membership seemed to be excited at the time to read the news
    - iv. Tangible domestic benefit was not immediately obvious

- b. The Asian associations are determined to increase worldwide notoriety for this event, so in the long term it will be beneficial
  - c. Terry Benson Follow up: at the time didn't we expect to raise more?
    - i. Allan Abramson: yes, we expected to raise half
    - ii. There was a cost overrun, for good reason, in part because initial decisions may not have been good enough
    - iii. We had estimated about \$35,000, but actual was about \$45,000; donations covered approximately 1/3 of the cost
2. Follow up: the membership decline from July was quite sharp; thus, as the next World Mind Sports Games comes up, is this going to be a problem
- a. What good is the prestige if membership shrinks?
  - b. How often are the World Mind Sports Games? Every 4 years
    - i. Thus, this is an expense spread out over 4 years, and thus is far less outlandish
  - c. There has also been discussion of the World Amateur Championships
    - i. Room and Board are paid for, but not travel
    - ii. This raises a policy issue for the board and the President—do we continue to fund?
    - iii. Terry Benson: we may need to consider which is more important between the Amateur and the World Mind Sports Games
    - iv. Pair Go, etc. still have paid travel
- E. Andy Okun adds that an awful lot of our new membership and renewal happens at tournaments, and that our main sell is that we have face-to-face play. Still, we need to define our “brand”

### III. Quorum check

- A. We need 25% of the weighted chapters to be present
- B. We have 25.1% present (with additional sign ins after)

### IV. Sanctioned Online Play

- A. The statistics are significantly different between online and in person databases
- B. Andy Okun says that Phil Waldron changed his mind about merging the two
  - 1. We should use online, but not mix online and in person
  - 2. There is a separate online culture
  - 3. Keeping face-to-face ratings separate makes it distinctive
  - 4. We should make winning an AGA rank “cooler”
- C. Allan Abramson says we could do two ratings and maintain both relatively easily
- D. Roger Schrag said that the AGA should not sponsor online tournaments, which hurt face-to-face competition; Lisa Scott replied that many members live too far away to attend tournaments, and would benefit from online tournaments
- E. Terry Benson says that online play has always been our competition, and the question is whether we should join the enemy or not
  - 1. He sees no reason for a separate AGA rating because it devalues the face-to-face rating system
  - 2. This could be a big hazard; for example, people may not want to come to Congress or play face to face games as much if they can have an online rating
  - 3. He would argue against holding a national online tournament, but for regional online tournaments

- F. James Schaefer says that regional tournaments would be ineffective for his region because there are so few people in his region
- G. Robert Schrader says that the main point is that as long as online tournaments are posted well in advance, we can avoid hurting local clubs and tournaments
- H. Allan Abramson says that we can post schedules, and should distinguish between the big tournaments and the small tournaments as well
- I. Robert Schrader says that his experience running his bookstore shows that the AGA must go online.
- V. Roger Schrag: AGA needs to decide what it wants to be and what it's about online regional is wonderful, but we do not want online to undermine local 3<sup>rd</sup> largest chapter; a national online Open would undermine the Congress Open; sees it as undermining face-to-face, and what is the value of yet another online rating—look at big picture
  - A. Andrew Jackson follow up
    1. Can see concern, but tough to see that it will discourage in person
    2. Internet allows go to have supporters come together, and that it will eventually drive turn out, especially if AGA membership is required—it is natural, and not in opposition
    3. The AGA needs to be wherever people are playing go
    4. The number of KGS administrators who attend the Congress shows that it is not adverse
    5. We could try online and see what it's effect on the membership is
  - B. John Hogan follow up
    1. If we create online AGA tournaments, the AGA will survive
    2. Coming to a club may lose out
    3. One can play someone online, without the need to fly across the country or go to Congress
    4. Thinks that there will be a drop in the membership
  - C. Rob Schrader
    1. Clarify debate: some speak about whether or not we can affect how online affects the AGA
    2. With or without the AGA, internet play cannibalizes the organization
    3. It will happen—who should take advantage?
  - D. Lisa Scott points out that more AGA members are in their mid 20s, and they may not afford to attend Congress now, but they will have more money in 10 years and may then; online play could bring them in
  - E. Steve Colburn
    1. All except 2 General Assembly meeting attendees play online go regularly
    2. Only the young attendees regularly watch AGA events online
  - F. Andy Okun
    1. Instead of pretending online isn't there, we should use it to drive us
    2. Having a vibrant local is the thing, and locals and young people can attend those
    3. Maybe a better way to have clubs hold more regular tournaments
    4. Can make online prizes “come to Congress” coupons
  - G. Mark Rubenstein
    1. Want people to come to Congress, but you can also find people online and say “lets play in person”

2. How are you going to know that you want to join the AGA unless you get the experience?
  3. If you can play online, get discounts, etc., then they will want to give back
- H. Chris Kirschner
1. How many people have sat down against a single digit kyu player who didn't know how to count or place a stone? There are a lot of these people—they learned from online, not from books
  2. Thinks online is an AGA resource
- I. Todd Blatt
1. Does not think that online tournaments cannibalize the AGA or face-to-face play
  2. It would be neat to say that have a “Real” online rating, maybe pay 50 cents for the game, it is a separate rating system, and it can be compared
  3. William Gundberg
    - a. We have a significant number of former members; how to get them back?
- J. Allan Abramson
1. The significant drop out in membership is in the 1<sup>st</sup> two years
- K. Andy Okun
1. Conceptual approach: build AGA, draw to AGA, or insert AGA in online?
    - a. Treat ourselves as the top layer, the gold standard
  2. Perhaps officially sanction the best online go servers
- L. Allan Abramson
1. Approached about long term possibility of a new Korean server that is represented as an AGA outlet—they would take care of everything (long way off)
- M. Todd Blatt
1. To make achieving ranks cooler, we can have coins, patches or pins for ranks
- N. Allan Abramson
1. Long standing argument about rank certificates—to do them, how to do them, who earns
  2. We are closer now than ever
  3. Certificate will be automated—the others would require purchase, warehouse, etc.--not a big material cost, but there is a time and postage cost
  4. There are lots of different types of things to show rank: certificates, belts, coins, pins, etc.
- O. Todd Blatt suggests various items
1. for \$5-6 each, you can get items made
  2. We could have the membership pay for anything other than a certificate
- P. Mark Rubenstein
1. things are going electronic, and we need AGA apps for smart phones, ipads, etc.
  2. People shouldn't have to do all the leg work, just have to go on their iphone
- Q. Steve Colburn
1. there are a lot of programmers out there, but there are a lot of bad programmers out there
  2. good programmers are hard to find, have less time than normal, and usually want to be paid—we are a volunteer organization
- R. Terry Benson
1. our membership rates have been the same for a very long time

2. a normal response would be to at least think about raising the rates or restructuring
  3. how do we handle chapters, provisional, youth, college-age, etc.
  4. This should include more than just the board
- S. Allan Abramson
1. the membership rates are determined by the General Assembly
  2. we could form a committee today—people could sign up on the way out
  3. for a long time, Terry Benson and Andy Okun have raised the issue of how “cheap” the lifetime membership is
  4. People who have been loyal members for 40 years feel that they deserve lifetime memberships
- T. Terry Benson and Robert Schrader say could recognize without giving lifetime membership
- U. Allan Abramson says the committee should address this too
- V. William Gundberg says that a friend got a free registration for a conference
- W. Allan Abramson
1. above and beyond people:
    - a. Chris Kirschner—his commitment is unparalleled
    - b. Phil Waldron—stepping down as VP of ratings, but contributed immeasurably and invaluablely—will be publicly acknowledged tonight
    - c. Paul Barchilon ---champion for the kids
    - d. Thomas Hsiang ---invaluable on the international scene
    - e. Sam Zimmerman ---tireless on membership database
    - f. Chris Garlock ---super communications work, untold hours
    - g. Steve Colburn—tries to innovate since took over website
    - h. Arnold Eudell—once per year steps up and does the elections
    - i. Andy Okun—really stepped up more than expected
    - j. Johnathon Bresler—who has been maintaining the ratings for the last few months
    - k. Edward Zhang—national tournament coordinator, treats all with a smile
    - l. Thank these people whenever you have a chance, because it keeps them going
- VI. New tournament software
- A. not sure if the programmer is interested in finishing it
  - B. we want software that is relatively bug free
  - C. We still have key positions vacant
    1. executive VP—training ground for talented young people
    2. Volunteer Coordinator—why is it so hard to get a volunteer to do this?
    3. Allan Abramson asks people to volunteer and he will find a position
- VII. International Activities
- A. read everything Thomas Hsiang wrote—this is a fraction of what he does
  - B. Thomas Hsiang is number 2 in IGF, in which he does everything that needs to be done—a lot has improved
- VIII. Communications
- A. Chris has done a great deal
    1. the Yearbook and the EJ account for 20-25% of the budget
    2. Yearbook printing and distribution run 12-15% alone

3. This year—we inadvertently did not produce and mail out CDs, and did not
4. receive many complaints—this was a savings of a few thousand
- B. The board is discussing a 1 year strategy for getting rid of a printed Yearbook
  1. This is a huge AGA expense, and more and more people are getting comfortable with online
  2. Wanda Metcalf
    - a. can we print the yearbook just for those who want it?
    - b. Savings are not linear, but there are savings—expense is incurred in the first 500 copies
  3. Roger Schrag
    - a. could see how many members would prefer online—we could do a 1 year trial
  4. Allan Abramson
    - a. Chris Garlock and Allan Abramson have been discussing such an option, or using a survey
  5. Roy Laird
    - a. Chris Garlock would point out that the PDF is actually in some ways superior
    - b. Chris Garlock also mentioned the look on the pros faces when they were handed a yearbook—we would not want to lose this
    - c. Print-on-demand is more than the average cost of a book, because a fixed cost for each
  6. Andy Okun
    - a. we could take a gamble
  7. Roy Laird
    - a. We could let members purchase the book, and they get the PDF for free
    - b. Terry Benson agrees
  8. John Hogan
    - a. His club uses the Yearbook as a promotion to join the AGA when new members come to club
    - b. there is less to it if the Yearbook is just online
  9. Question: What would it cost to have a pro comment on a game
  10. Allan Abramson
    - a. EJ commentaries are ~\$60, depending on the number of commented games
  11. Edward Zhang
    - a. Yearbooks could also be used to attract sponsors
    - b. Print-on-demand would be a great way to let those seeking sponsors get more books, for a specific price
    - c. We could put ads in the Yearbook
  12. James Schaefer
    - a. As an individual, he does not want to get rid of the yearbook
    - b. As an AGA member, he understands reducing the cost
    - c. It is easy to lose an electronic Yearbook, so it would need to be available indefinitely to members
      - i. The president agrees
  13. Terry Benson
    - a. We could allow members to have access to past Yearbooks as well
    - b. A survey to find out how many people would want a Yearbook would be a

good test

- c. even coming out even on the cost would be a reason to do it—people may eventually be more comfortable with just online Yearbook

14. Allan Abramson

- a. will consider and bring these to the attention of Chris

IX. Webmaster's Report

A. We have started to make big changes

B. new E-Journal

1. work with Chris Garlock and Josh Simmons—it has been a lengthy change over

C. New membership database

1. last updated in 1992
2. Justin Kramer is the new programmer
3. his is the new online SG viewer as well
4. more people than just Sam Zimmerman will have access to the membership database
5. A member will not have to fill out all of his/her information again when he/she puts in his/her AGA number
6. The cost of the work is only about \$3000

D. Ad Links

1. 10 links for \$300/month
2. 3 people are currently applying for ad space—2 for space on the AGA website, 1 for space on the US Go Congress website
3. Steve Colburn has been working with Andy Okun for the last few months to general sponsorship information that can be sent out

E. We have an intra-organizational wiki

1. how to run tournaments
2. the AGAGD
3. Congress
4. it is open: [wiki.usgo.org](http://wiki.usgo.org)

F. The Board of Directors approved a gmail change over, which will move our information from squirrel mail to g services for non-profits

1. saves \$2700
2. many will enjoy the better user interface

G. People will be able to immediately become members without huge wait

1. Members will automatically get the E-Journal
2. A “members only” section of the website will be feasible after the Membership Database is updated
3. This “members only” section will also be available for clubs

H. Questions?

1. Terry Benson—the website has been down a number of times recently...
  - a. This has been worked on with John Hilt, who administers server
  - b. More people have access to reboot the server
  - c. This does not look good to sponsors
  - d. Are we more confident that we are now more reliable?
    - i. Not just Chuck and John, but also Steve and Josh have access to fix database

- ii. The database is checked regularly
    - e. The problem has not be entirely solved, but the symptoms have
  - 2. Terry Benson—we include ratings for anyone who has ever been a member
    - a. This should be to members only
    - b. Allowing all visitors access to ratings strikes him as a bad idea—if we want to say that people get this for membership, then this is not consistent
  - 3. Is there a link between losing 300 members and ratings being shown?
    - a. Wanda Metcalf: do you mean that people are leaving because old ratings are there?
    - b. Terry Benson: no, but that the presence of past members exists after they are no longer members
    - c. Roy Laird: should we vote on this?
    - d. Allan Abramson: vote to table this discussion, vote seconded by Lisa Scott and Andrew Jackson
      - i. Vote is by chapter weighted votes
      - ii. Continue: 27
      - iii. Table: 18 +
      - iv. Discussion is moved to new business
  - 4. Terry Benson: Is the AGA site hosted on Google?
    - a. No, because it is complex and unique
  - 5. Terry Benson: AGAGD is neat because you can see more info, but how could we get pics in the database and get people to upload pics
    - a. There is a pictures section in the AGAGD with instructions
    - b. Steve is thanked by applause for getting everything online and integrated
- X. 2011 USGC Presentation
- A. See attached powerpoint for details (minutes were taken by presenter)
- XI. New Business
- A. Fundraising
  - B. New Congress Paradigm—presented by Chris Kirschner, introduced by Allan Abramson
    - 1. discussion began after 2008 Portland
    - 2. Is this an idea that should be pursued in some developmental way over the next year
      - a. this would be a 3-5 year project
      - b. this would have no affect on 2011, possibly not on 2012, and would possibly be implemented in 2013
      - c. The idea is to have a nationally-oriented core Congress group
      - d. This would change the responsibilities, reward, etc.
      - e. Things may become more regularized because the same people would do them year after year
        - i. the locals would still have a large role
        - ii. the national would take on a larger role, have more say, and take on more responsibility when successful or unsuccessful
    - 3. Gordon Castanza: What are the responsibilities?
      - a. Registration
      - b. site selection

- c. budgeting
- d. Tournament Directors
- e. Pro management
- 4. John Hogan
  - a. likes professionalism
  - b. would not want to take too much away from locals because of the innovation
  - c. we do not want people to be so rigid that there is no flexibility or innovation
- 5. Chris Kirschner
  - a. part of the restructuring would be to ensure organization and innovation
- 6. Terry Benson
  - a. the main issue is control
  - b. Is this a question about whether or not this should this be discussed, or is it a statement that we are going there and how?
- 7. Chris Kirschner
  - a. A half dozen people have, unprompted, approached Chris Kirschner and asked if the time has come
  - b. Chris Kirschner has thus sought the board's opinion
- 8. Allan Abramson
  - a. When Peter raised the initial idea of stronger central management, Allan Abramson said no way, because then the question becomes “what is in it for the local organizers?”
  - b. There are 2 areas where national standardization is called for
    - i. The registration process
      - use permanent membership cards
      - come up with standard fundamental process that can then vary
      - staffing after process
    - ii. financial management
      - standardization spreadsheet tool
    - iii. professional management
      - there has always been conflict (in Allan Abramson's experience)
      - the AGA has to play a significant role b/c of its long-term relationship with professionals and international/foreign organizations
- 9. John Hogan
  - a. professional scheduling, etc. are reinvented every congress
- 10. Chris Kirschner
  - a. the primary control is local, and locals are not experienced
- 11. John Hogan
  - a. we could come up with a similar nice spreadsheet for the pros
- 12. Allan Abramson
  - a. We have scheduling spreadsheet
  - b. We do not have agreement about who does what
  - c. We do not have problem manual
  - d. We do not have standard control about what will make pros happy or unhappy
  - e. Would like to have discussion about the role the AGA should play
- 13. Chris Kirschner
  - a. In the past, the Congress has overridden the AGA on inviting Pros that the

- AGA does not invite
  - b. this is not well-controlled or well-regulated
  - c. previously, foreign pros have been paid without AGA approval
14. Garret Smith
- a. huge value in standardization
  - b. dynamic on the control issue
    - i. can be “us and them” between organizers and the AGA
    - ii. some of this tension may go away if things are regularized
15. Sam Zimmerman
- a. Congress directors feel that they have a lot of financial responsibility for pros, and so they should have a big say in what they do
  - b. if they are not responsible, that may be different
16. Mark Rubenstein
- a. he found it haphazard in 2002 that we had to figure out how to do this thing
  - b. there were great guidelines, but they were not nicely compiled
17. Chris Kirschner
- a. the congress is brief in time and local in nature
  - b. it has a large set of valuable goals, motivations, and feelings
  - c. what is good for the Congress is their goal
  - d. the AGA is also about a good congress, but also national and international considerations
  - e. all of these are good, but they may well naturally come into conflict
  - f. sometimes it is easy to work these out, sometimes it is not
  - g. Chris Kirschner's job is often to be the guy in the middle
18. Garrett Smith
- a. well-written out guidelines may help that
19. Terry Benson
- a. is this worth discussion? Absolutely
  - b. there may have been less sentiment last time, but it is to be discussed now
20. Allan Abramson
- a. it is clear that it is worth discussing
  - b. Chris Kirschner is proposing a process for that discussion
21. David Weimer
- a. based on 2002, he was astounded by how little there was to help take care of pros, organize, etc.
  - b. One of the committee members put in time documenting everything
  - c. as far as he knows, the created document disappeared
  - d. without centralized control, we will not be able to capture, document, and learn from experience
22. Gordon Castanza
- a. Peter did not bring this up alone at the 2008 Congress
  - b. This was brought up at a Congress organizer dinner
  - c. Gordon shared what his congress has gone through, and thought that it was a good idea
23. Chris Kirschner
- a. There is so much in the handbooks, and so much is locally bound, that these

things are not looked as much as they would be benefited from looking at these things

24. Allan Abramson
    - a. we have lots of this material, but lots is not useful, and lots of it is dated
    - b. then, we did not talk about the registration process often
  25. William Gundberg
    - a. the sounding board should be last 5 USGC directors, the Board, and (a) pro
  26. Terry Benson
    - a. Earlier Congress directors could be involved if they desire
    - b. But we do not want the group to be too big
  27. Allan Abramson
    - a. We may want a core group to do initial work
    - b. the entire Chapters list should not be left out
  28. Chris Kirschner
    - a. how many chapter leaders would be willing to participate in an exploratory run?
  29. Chris Kirschner
    - a. Nothing is firm for 2011
  30. Allan Abramson
    - a. we can close this discussion because we now have a way forward
- XII. Ratings and display of ratings
- A. Andrew Jackson
    1. Is this a question of should we display ratings information on the ratings query database?
    2. Yes
    3. It would be really easy to do this
  - B. Terry Benson
    1. The proposal is that people would be able to find current members and their ratings back only for a certain period of time
    2. There could be argument as to how far—Terry Benson's personal opinion is not more than 5 years, but 2-3 years would be appropriate
    3. Essentially, if someone has not been a member for 2-3 years, they would not be visible
  - C. We are discussing the AGA ratings page, but not the AGAGD
  - D. Wanda Metcalf
    1. This becomes one more thing that must be done
    2. No—this would be programmed and automated
  - E. Terry Benson
    1. The fundamental intent is to give this database to AGA members exclusively, and not to non-members
  - F. The Yearbook has everyone who is current's data
  - G. John Hogan
    1. As a Tournament Director, he wants the entire historical
    2. John Hogan wants to be able to find the information for anyone who comes to a tournament
  - H. Terry Benson

1. This was discussed last year, and we decided that, as a Tournament Director, you could log in and see everyone, but that you could not if you were not a member
- I. Lisa Scott
  1. We could have the TD list contain everyone, but not the ratings query
- J. Terry Benson
  1. The person's rating would not be displayed if their rating was more than a certain amount of time out of date—you could see the name and number, but not the rating on the query list
- K. Mark Rubenstein
  1. 2<sup>nd</sup> this motion—membership has privileges, and this should be one
- L. Gordon Castanza
  1. This would mean that Tournament Directors would need to take tournament attendees' word for their ratings
- M. Roy Laird
  1. If the Tournament Director had access to the TD list, then the information would appear there, it would just not appear publicly
- N. Sam Zimmerman
  1. He fundamentally agrees with this proposal
  2. There are 2 problems:
    - a. There are reasons that Tournament Directors should have older data
    - b. Tournament Directors should be able to know/ask why people have improved
- O. Andrew Jackson
  1. Will anyone actually notice if we make this change?
  2. There would be no issue with this changing the Tournament Director's access, it would just affect the automatic filter on the ratings query
- P. Mark Rubenstein
  1. if some member wants to go to the website and download the entire TD list so that they can see their rating from years ago, then it is not of huge concern to us
- Q. Gordon Castanza
  1. What will this do to rank certificates?
- R. Terry Benson
  1. Who cares?
- S. Garrett Smith
  1. We probably should have a public display of rank certificates, and when membership expires, then we would take it down
- T. Terry Benson
  1. This is a separate issue, but a good question for the President to keep under consideration
- U. James Schaefer
  1. Thus, we would be dropping the number of displayed ratings down to roughly 2500-3000 people
- V. Sam Zimmerman
  1. Who would be displayed?
  2. What about foreigners and those who were never members
- W. Terry Benson
  1. We would display anyone whose rating or membership has been updated in the

past 3-5 years

X. Roy Laird

1. How would this affect those who are not AGA members

Y. Lisa Scott (clarification)

1. So, your information would be displayed if you have been a member or played in a tournament in the last 3 years since a tournament or member expiration

Z. Allan Abramson

1. If the intention is to have member benefits go to members only, then those who pay the 1-day fee are not members, and should not be displayed
2. Terry Benson
  - a. I would accept that
3. This is an implementation detail
4. Allan Abramson personally opposes the motion for a variety of reasons
  - a. Terry Benson assumes that those whose membership has lapsed more than 3 years view their ratings as a benefit—he is skeptical
  - b. having their ratings disappear could be a disincentive—we do not really know
  - c. He does not think that this is significant issue; this is a micromanagement issue that will not make a substantial difference either way
  - d. Personally, this would be down the totem pole since other things are first, and it may not be worth it

AA. Sam Zimmerman

1. Is this council's vote binding or a recommendation?
2. Terry Benson
  - a. It is a recommendation to the Board of Directors

BB. William Gundberg

1. 1 player in his club dislikes the AGA, but wants a rating, so he plays \$10 twice per year for that, but does not want to join and support the AGA

CC. Terry Benson

1. If our rating is a value, then it is
2. if the online display is not a value, well, it may only be a portion, but more than Allan Abramson credits

DD. Allan Abramson

1. rating may be a convenience for bringing people to the tournament—this is a matter of opinion

EE. Terry Benson

1. calls the question
2. Mark Rubenstein seconds the motion
3. Allan Abramson: any further discussion
  - a. this is non-binding recommendation to the Board of Directors to make this decision, but the Board of Directors can choose to study, accept, or reject the motion; then the President would implement the decision

FF. The President calls for the vote

1. All in favor: 24
2. all opposed: 22
3. The motion will be carried to the Board of Directors

XIII. Last item

- A. A sign up sheet has been developed for committees on membership rates in a general sense and on Congress management
  - B. Attendees should please indicate their interest as they leave
- XIV. Motion to Adjourn

Notes taken by Lisa Scott