

General Assembly Minutes 2015

August 8, 2015 St. Paul, MN

Attendees

Andy Okun (AGA President)
Lisa Scott (GWGC Proxy) - 3
Arnold Eudell (Baltimore Proxy) - 3
Willard Haynes (Davis/Sacramento) - 3
Chris Kirschner (AGA VP Strategy and Development)
Peter Nelson (Seattle Go Center) - 10
Walther Chen (Massachusetts Go Association) - 7
Garrett Smith (NoVa Go) - 5
Gurujeet Khalsa (XYZ Go) - 3
Steve Colburn (Empty Sky Go Club) - 3
Bob Gilman (AGA Executive VP)
Ted Terpstra (San Diego) - 4
Les Lanphear
Larry Gross (Santa Monica) - 4
Hajin Lee
Matthew Hershberger (Gotham Go Group proxy) - 3
Terry Benson (Brooklyn, AGF President) - 3
Todd Heidenreich (Arthur Lewis, Rockville Chess and Go Group) - 1,1
Audrey Wang
Daniel Koch
Mark Rubenstein (Evanston Go Club) - 3
Jason McGibbon
Chun Sun
Andrew Hall

56 votes, 51 votes needed for a quorum

Meeting called to order 3:17pm

Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes from 2014
 - a. The minutes are moved to be approved pending a 2 week online review period.
2. General Condition of the Organization
 - a. 2014 produced a surplus; this is good for the health of the organization, but indicates that we have not created enough programs to make full use of available funds.
 - b. 2014 New York Go Congress was financially successful. The 2015 Go Congress seems to be on a good path.
 - c. Exciting new events at the 2015 Go Congress were YouTube broadcasts of the games. This has been great for both attendees and those who couldn't make it,

and resulted in great quality production. This project has benefitted from internet sensation “Haylee,” partially at her suggestion.

- d. The chapter and individual membership in the AGA has been relatively stable with approximately 95 chapters and 2000 members.
 - e. Rubenstein asks if the AGA still receives sponsorships. Okun provides a brief history of sponsorships, particularly from the ING foundation. This support ended a few years ago, but a new tournament, the Chang Qi Cup, is planned for September, 2015. This tournament will include an amateur tournament sponsored for nearly \$20,000. Pandanet also provides a small sponsorship for Pair Go and a larger sponsorship for the City League Competition.
 - i. Another in the works to support pros as in Europe
 - ii. Iwamoto North America Foundation is available for grant requests for projects supporting go.
 - f. The AGA is looking for a new Secretary for the organization. Khalsa indicates that someone has volunteered to be Recording Secretary, but there is not yet a volunteer for Secretary.
3. International Go
- a. Hajin Lee, representing the IGF, gives an overview. There are currently 75 countries recognized or registered. Supporting the World Mind Games and the World Mind Sports Games as well as the Pair Go Championship and the World Amateur Go Championship. The World Mind Games took place in Beijing following a four year contract and go-organized with Sport Accord, but this is currently awaiting new sponsorship. The World Mind Sports Games is a quadrennial competition that will take place in 2016, probably in Macao.
 - b. The IGF is trying to improve its communication with the larger go community. To do so, they have created an international go calendar as well as a Facebook page or YouTube channel.
 - c. Go players can contact Hajin Lee about uploading content to the website or the IGF YouTube channel. The organization’s website is Intergofed.org.
 - d. Okun announces that the Board has discussed selection of representatives for the World Minds Sports Games. A points system will be used as is used for selecting representation for the Masters at the Congress. This year, points may be earned beginning in September through an expanded tournament-point system that is under discussion.
 - i. Chen asks for clarification concerning the functioning of the points system. The points system is currently the subject of an AGA Board Committee to look at how to make the number of distribution of tournaments equitable.
 - e. Benson and Kirschner report that the AGF will provide a means for donations to support players attending the World Mind Sports Games, so these donations will be tax deductible.
4. Chapter Rewards Program

- a. Khalsa presents this program, initiated by the Board in January 2015. The Assembly is shown through the program as presented on usgo.org
 - i. Rewards may be redeemed for activities promoting go. Rewards may be used for things like Chapter dues (which must be paid before rewards may be redeemed for other programs). They may also be used for things like parking at Outreach events. Hall asks if rewards may be used for prize money and Okun replies that they may be used for any activity that promotes go and falls within the mission of the AGA.
 - ii. In order to use rewards an email should simply be sent to rewards@usgo.org.
 - iii. Rubenstein asks to clarify that points are earned for new and renewing members, which is confirmed.
 - iv. Okun explains that in the last 10 years, the AGA has been able to do a lot for strong players and to work with foreign organizations, but this is a program that was specifically created to help ordinary members. This is one way also to make chapter and individual membership more valuable and to help the AGA help chapters.
 - v. Rewards may be transferred from one club to another with an email to rewards.usgo.org
 - vi. Presidential Awards
 - 1. Meetup.com membership will be reimbursed with funds from the Presidential Awards.
 - 2. Awards may also be made to support meetings through other types of sites, and was inspired by the strong showing of meetup go groups in places like Boston.
5. Congress Hosting Idea
- a. Okun introduces the idea that instead of moving from city to city each year, the Go Congress be fixed in a limited number of locations.
 - i. Hall suggests that there be a certain percentage of Congresses held in fixed locations, and the rest that could be new locations that, if successful, may be added to the list of fixed locations.
 - ii. Haynes suggests that he uses the Go Congress to plan a vacation in a variety of different areas by using the week before the Congress as vacation. Okun says that many of our foreign visitors may feel the same and use the Congress for the same purpose.
 - iii. Benson asks whether moving the Congress around really builds up go in each area where the Congress takes place. It may be easier for the organization if it is all in one place, but that loses the benefit to a number of different locations.
 - iv. Heidenreich says he does not mind the Congress moving because he works the whole time. He does think that it would be nice to know where the Congress will be more than 1-2 years in advance.

- v. Rubenstein likes the idea of moving around, but asks how much work it is to keep training a new club to run the Congress. Rubenstein also asks about professionalizing the event management part.
- vi. Scott suggests that running a Congress is very hard on the organizers, and they may not be able to do it every 2-3 years. Additionally, they may move or may not be able to plan to run the event 12-15 years in advance.
- vii. Colburn reminds the Assembly that Peter Freedman had the idea for a core group of people who work on the Congress every year, similar to the E-Journal tea.
 - 1. Okun suggests that registration might be the next task to centralize, likely with a team but possibly with outsourcing as suggested by Rubenstein.
 - 2. Kirschner asks Wang about her thoughts on the ability to outsource Registration, keeping in mind how much must be cross-cultural and multilingual.
 - a. Wang thinks that it might be hard the first year for a team, but that they could get the hang of it.
- viii. Khalsa was going to say that he is in favor of moving locations. His main point is that we could start to define more tasks that are national in function and slowly make it less onerous for the local organization.
- ix. Benson explains that he is involved in a lot of organizations that are semi-professional, and it often depends on the dedication of the people that could join the teams. You can look at people who are or were volunteers who, for a little money, can step up and do it regularly.
- b. Okun returns to the question of the long-term benefit of having done a Congress in an area.
 - i. Heidenreich suggests that he didn't really see much of an uptick.
 - ii. Rubenstein says that club attendance did not necessarily spike after the 2002 Chicago Congress, but it was a great selling point for getting new club members to become more interested in go.
 - iii. Khalsa says the first was local to him and that was exciting and gave him a reason to attend.
 - iv. Hershberger did not see a big difference in the local club attendance, although local players were inspired to attend the Congress and there were temporary spikes to club membership from these people.
- c. Heidenreich suggests that the AGA debrief Congress directors after each Congress, as we have never done. This could be done on video, archived, and transcribed.
- d. Hershberger says that the Congress could be better used to bring together all of the different American go communities. Kirschner, Heidenreich, and Okun all agree that this is a decade-long project.
- e. Kirschner says that he thinks that the Congress really promoting go in the area is really hit or miss.

6. 2016 Congress Presentation
 - a. Walther Chen is the 2016 Congress Director. Andrew Hall will likely be working with Coordinating tournaments. Chun Sun will likely be helping I-Han Lui with pros, and Jason McGibbon will be registrar.
 - b. History of the Massachusetts Go Association and the Congress team.
 - c. Congress likely at Boston University.
 - d. Kirschner (proxy from Seattle Go Center) moves that the 2016 US Go Congress be held in Boston. Khalsa seconds the motion. Unanimous approval except from 2016 Congress organizer.
7. Rubenstein moves we adjourn. Haynes seconds. Unanimous approval. Meeting is adjourned 4:25pm.