

AGA Chapter General Assembly 2016
August 6, 2016

Attendance

Chapter Representatives and AGA Officials

Bob Gilman (Albuquerque, Executive VP) – 2
Mark Rubenstein (Evanston) – 4
Peter Nelson (Seattle AGA Chapter) – 13
Garrett Smith (NOVA) – 6
Arnold Eudell (Baltimore, proxy) – 3
Richard Moseson (Syracuse) – 4
Larry Gross (Santa Monica Go Club) – 4
Gordon Castanza (Tacoma Go Club) – 2
Ted Terpstra (San Diego Go Club) – 4
Andrew Jackson (Western Region Board Rep elect, VP of Operations)
Walther Chen (Massachusetts Go Association) – 11
Peter Armenia (Gotham Go Club) – 4
Gurujeet Khlasa (Chairman of the Board, Eastern Region Board Rep, XYZ Go Club proxy) – 3
Paul Barchilon (Boulder Kids and Teens Club) – 3
Andrew Okun (AGA President, Portland Go Club proxy) – 3
Edward Gillis (MGA proxy)
Moon Ki Cho (Schaumburg Go Club) – 3
Shawn Ray (Middle TN Go Club) – ??
Andrew Jackson (VP of Operations, Western Region Board Rep elect)
Lisa Scott (Congress Coordinator, Central Region Board Rep elect)

Members

Michael Miceli (Middle TN Go Club member)
Terri Schurter (Wings Go Club, not chapter)
Alexandra Patz (Gotham Go Club proxy)
Dennis Wheeler

69 votes, 57.6 votes needed for a quorum. Meeting called to order at 3:47pm.

New Business

SC: Proposal for chapters to consider adding an option for individuals to pay for a Life Membership in 4 quarterly payments. SR moves to accept SC's proposal; Richard Moseson moves to 2nd.

SR: I would propose to discuss that we do something like a \$5/month membership fee. AO asks to send a proposal to the president that it be discussed on the Chapter email thread and entered into the Agenda for the 2017 AGA Chapter General Assembly.

Concern about Congress promotion. (AI for LS) It would be good to send an email to AGA members informing them about the Congress.

SR: I would like to understand what effect losing or winning games against someone will have when the official handicap is not used. AJ offers to discuss this with SR.

WMSG

AO: WMSG overview, should be held in late 2017 in Korea, details TBD.

Congresses

AO: Should the Congresses be held in locations where they have been held in the past, either in one city or several. There are a few ideas such as UCSB and NYC that have been popular, but I would just like to hear thoughts.

SR: If you want to argue for Congress being in one location, you have both pros and cons. We could ameliorate some of the cons with smaller conventions in various locations throughout the year.

MR: Probably not involving pros to the same extent.

LG: Is it clear that the people who have done it at the good locations in the past would do it again?

AO: Unlikely, it would be more likely to have national volunteers.

AJ: How about doing it in the same place twice in a row? This would get rid of some of the issues, and help with relations with the venue.

MR: From the attendee's perspective, it is nice to go to a new place every year.

BG: Regarding local smaller events: these would be great, but I wouldn't want to sacrifice the Congress. Clarification that the Congress would still exist, but just in a single location.

TT: Do we have a sense of how many people come because they are local and how many people come for vacation or because they come every year?

AO: I am considering setting as standard for Congress that we have A/C in the rooms.

[Further Discussion]

2017 Congress

TT presents Congress option for 2017 in San Diego at the Town & Country Resort, August 5th-12th.

[Discussion of 2017 Congress]

SR: It would be nice to have more than one option to choose from for the Congress.

LS: It may be a good idea to have this one or two steps earlier, so that we have multiple options to discuss and approve for 2-5 years out.

[General concurrence]

AO: There is a potential Congress at a hotel on Grand Island in Niagara Falls. the owners of the hotel love go and would love to run one, and it would be a great option for a "North American Go Congress," which would get a lot of buy in as attendees and volunteers.

SC moves to approve that we go to San Diego for the 2017 US Go Congress; seconded by Peter Nelson. No discussion. Approved by all except Ted Terpstra.

Chapter Rewards

GK: Summary of the Chapter Rewards program and where to find information on the website.

SR: Discussion of how to improve the effectiveness of the system for smaller and isolated clubs. GK explains criteria that was used to design the system.

CK: Can we get points for outreach?

GK: Not at this time. We would like to have more, but we need to be able to measure them.

Richard Moseson: It might benefit smaller clubs if points were awarded simply for holding a rated tournament. [AI for GK: This should be added.]

MR: Where does the budget for these rewards come from?

GK, AO: From the AO general operating budget. Currently we are spending less than budgeted. This is a good way to promote the game at a more grassroots level, rather than only at the highest level.

TT: One way to reward the Congress director could be to reward the club putting on the Congress for all of the games played at the Congress.

AGA Finances

AO: [Discussion] In general, the AGA is in good financial shape for an organization of our size.

AO: The AGA and AGF both received funds from the Google AlphaGo DeepMind team. The AGA proposal was to use the funds for a professional tournament in the US for 6 years. Google funds as well as some AGA funds, and soon additional outside funds, will be used to pay for this tournament.

AO: To a great degree, our receiving this grant and involvement with AlphaGo is due to Andrew Jackson, so he deserves our thanks.

AO: Our membership just went over 2100 humans.

LG: Is it possible to get the same kinds of reports that we got years ago. [AI for AJ: program the MM to be able to issue these kinds of reports.]

TT: How many EJ subscriptions do we have? AJ says 10,000-12,000 emails, and the analytics are regularly analyzed.

CK: Point of clarification: the first years of the INg Masters it was pros only, and after a few years it was expanded to a field of 16 to include strong amateurs as well.

Rank Certification

CK: The system is in place, runs, and produces output. We still need to look at the outliers, but everyone receive emails shortly about the rank certification program. The email will award you a rank based on tournament play. The email will contain a certificate, and will provide options for purchasing increasingly nicer versions of the certification. Ranks are lower than rating; they show that there is a less than 10% chance that your rating will drop below the awarded rank.

New Business – Quarterly Life Membership Payment

SC: Proposal for chapters to consider adding an option for individuals to pay for a Life Membership in 4 quarterly payments.

AJ: They should be considered full members when they have paid part of their membership but not

CK, LS, AJ, SR: If they die, we award the Life Membership posthumously; if they change their mind without finishing payment, then it is considered a donation if the person does not simply ask for a delay in their payment schedule.

MR: I see no objection to doing it.

PN: What if someone has extenuating circumstances? CK says that this can be dealt with.

AI for AO: Someone should draw up a policy for this change.

TS: These funds could also be applied to future membership.

SR moves to call for a vote, CK moves to second. Passes unanimously.

Edward Gillis moves to adjourn, Shawn Ray seconds. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.

AI for LS: send all unapproved minutes to the Chapters list for approval.