

2017 General Assembly Meeting
8/12/2017

Andrew Hall (MA Go Club)

Greg Kulevich (Yu Chicago Go Club)

Andrew Jackson (Board)

Steve Colburn (Board, Empty Sky)

Karoline Li (Archivist)

Willard Haynes (Davis-Sacramento)

Todd H (Rockville, Arthur Lewis)

Barbara Calhoun (Brooklyn -- if current)

Dennis Wheeler

Garrett Smith (NOVA)

Larry Gross (Santa Monica)

Mark Rubenstein (Evanston)

Nate Eagle

Diego Pierrotet (Board)

Rex Crystal (Congress Webmaster)

Mark Nahabedian

William Gundburg (Arizona)

Evie Tra

Ricky Harper

Chris Kirschner (Board) (**CK**)

Lisa Scott (Board) (LS)

Bob Gilman (Volunteer and Chapters Coordinator, Albuquerque)

Gurujeet Khalsa (Board Chair, Nat'l Go Cntr, XYZ Go Club, Greater Washington Go Club) (**GK**)

Andy Okun (AGA President, San Diego Proxy) (**AO**)

Terry Benson (AGF President, Gotham Go Group Proxy) (**TB**)

Brian Kirby (Seattle Go Club)

Joshua Lee

James Pinkerton (JP)

Arnold Eudell (Baltimore Go Club)

Haskell Small

Devin Frazee

196 Total Votes, 25% (49) Required for Quorum, 59 + Gotham Votes Present

Meeting called to order at 3:21pm PDT.

AO: First order is **approval of minutes from 2016**. Steve Colburn moves to accept, Gurujeet Khalsa seconds. Unanimously approved.

Board Chair Report

GK: Yesterday we elected Martin Lebl as the new AGA Board Chair effective in September.

GK: We would like to discuss a little more chapter rewards points. Points can be redeemed to renew chapter membership, individual memberships, etc. Bob Gilman has taken over the Chapter Rewards program, and one of the things that he will be doing is reaching out to chapters to help them understand that they have points and what they can do with them.

GK: I would also like to let people know that this year we opened the National Go Center funded by the Iwamoto North America Foundation, and we would love to have you all visit.

AO: What you read in the report that you have here will also be in the Annual Report. I have been remiss the last few years, but Steve Colburn has been proactive and has agreed to put the report together for this year, and that will be sent around and posted shortly.

AO: Our membership is stable. This is a little disappointing to me, mostly because it is clear to me that although the go community is bigger than it used to be, this does not seem to translate to more members.

GK: I would like to add that we had a peak a number of years ago with *Hikaru No Go* and then went down for a few years, and now we seem to have stabilized and are inching up.

AO: The Income statement will be included in the Annual Report.

JP: How are the AGA assets invested?

AO: They are invested in something returning a very small amount of interest. This should change.

Some discussion of how funds could be invested.

TB: The AGA should be aware of money available from an AGA-AGF Agreement regarding the Google funds. .

AO: There was about \$5000 per year spent from the AGA budget on the Redmond Cup and similar items. When the AGF received a grant from Google, they agreed to take over these events for a number of years.

AO and TB: Just to clarify, the AGA asked for a larger share of the Google funds and the AGF was happy to take smaller, but for financial reasons, the AGF took more and considers \$30,000 of their \$60,000 funds to be spent on AGF-mission appropriate AGA-related events over the 5 years following the donation.

AO: After a number of years as Tournament Coordinator, Cherry Shen is stepping down and Jeff Shaevel is stepping into that position. Roy Schmidt has been treasurer for 6 or 7 years and has been acting Treasurer for the last year, but he steps down August 31st and we are still looking for a new treasurer. We will likely employ an accountancy firm to perform some of the role.

Steve Colburn moves to thank Roy Schmidt for his years of service, Willard Hayes seconds.

Discussion: The Board already thanked Roy and gave him a life membership. Steve Colburn also notes how much Roy has helped with the City League. **Unanimous approval to thank him vociferously.**

AO: Bob Gilman has become Volunteer coordinator, Andrew Jackson has become Executive Vice President and Pro System Coordinator, Samantha Fede has become Secretary (a by-law position), Karoline Li has become Archivist.

AO: Our pros have been doing very well, Ryan Li **and who else??**

Also on the agenda are a number of items.

AO: First is the Ranking System, which Chris Kirschner will discuss.

Proposed AGA Ranking System

CK: If everyone has read proposal, we can open discussion.

Discussion topics include: Winning 4 games out of 6, CK explanation of algorithm, testing done to validate it.

Discussion of how this is affected when players are not part of the AGA system.

Concern that 6 games is too few for a permanent rank, discussion of how this was balanced with wanting to reward people who may not have much access to in-person games outside the Congress.

Discussion of the purpose of the rank certificates.

Discussion of how the results were tested, and what types of test it would have been appropriate to do. One of the main test points was whether or not the rating had ever gone below the number of the rank awarded.

Discussion of how would this be affected if the ratings were more responsive, and the ranks were conservative.

Discussion of how the requirement that someone have at least a 5% chance of winning is factored in. The answer is that this is rare, so it is not factored in. It is tested at their pre-rating and their post-rating.

Discussion of where the details can be found. The white papers is frequently updated, but it needs to be revised before it is fully up. This could be run today if we wanted to. [Citation needed]

Discussion of why use a ranking system for the source of truth, and not just use the rating system. If we trust the rating system, then why not use it.

Discussion of if there was a consideration of not using handicap games. They were included because they use the same math as the rating system, and the probability can be calculated.

Andy Okun says that the purpose of the program is to recognize our members. Ranks are primarily ceremonial titles.

Discussion of what happens to people with a rating over 7 dan. AO: They will receive a 7 dan rank certificate. The Board decided that no amateurs will have a ranking higher than that.

Discussion of what input we may have received from our current ratings officer, and how involved he has been.

Discussion of what publicly available information we have that is not in the information handed out at this Congress. The answer is that what's in the booklet is brief and non-technical. The white paper can be available by 8/18/2017.

This system is designed to allow alternative rating system means to be used, if they test out. Discussion of how highly "accurate" any other rating algorithm could be when discussed against the system that currently exists.

The system will likely be implemented quite soon by the President. The board has approved.

The rank system will be implemented from 2010 forward, since beginning at that point the data is solid.

Proposed AGA Code of Conduct

Presentation of rationale by Lisa Scott and Karoline Li.

Discussion of whether or not a code is needed, and how draconian this version of one might be. Concern was expressed about record keeping. Various speakers noted that other organizations and meetings at our size have implemented rules or a code.

The board engaged NPSolutions for guidance in this matter. Presenters indicate that the approach to the code has changed since the agenda description was drawn up. It is now much shorter, less focused on specifics, and derived from the principles that make go such a wonderful game. The issue was raised here to elicit a general response. A draft will be circulated for further discussion.

Discussion of Future Go Congresses

The Future Congress meeting had many interested parties for congresses in 2 or more years. For next year there was a presentation of the potential 2018 US Go Congress in Williamsburg, VA at William and Mary.

The dates would be July 21-July 28, as later is not available.

It was noted that the 2018 European Go Congress is the following 2 weeks, so it would be great to not overlap.

Terry Benson moves to have the 2018 Congress at William and Mary. Mark Rubenstein seconds. Approves unanimously with the exception of the proposed Congress Director.

50 State Championship

Presentation by Chris Kirschner.

What do we do about thin populations, or this where populations don't mix.

What do we do about DC? (51 states?) Or other territories? (Puerto Rico, e.g.)

Discussion of the federated nature of the system. The system is not all or nothing.

Discussion of subdividing states, which is a relatively new idea.

TB suggests that we require the use of AGA rules.

Paul Ohmart {sp} will be spearheading the program.

The assembly approves moving forward with this idea, to include DC and US territories.

Motion to adjourn by TB and Mark seconds. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:27pm.

Last Line