

2018 AGA Chapter Assembly Meeting- 7/28/2018

Andy Okun calls to order at 7/28/2018

Roll Call:

Andrew Okun- [AGA President, Chair] Santa Monica Go Club
Nick Wilmes- Seattle AGA Chapter & Ghost of Seattle
Jim Hlavka- Silly Valley
Martin Lebl-Tuscon Go Club & Arizona Club Proxy
Mark Rubenstein- Evanston Go Club
Willard Haynes- Davis/Sacramento Go Club
Paul Omart- Olympia Go Club
Bart Jacobs- Austin Go Club
Howard Landham- Fort Collins Go Club
Barbara Calhoun- Brooklyn Go Club & Western Mass Go Association Proxy
Dave Weimer- University of Wisconsin Go Club [Not voting representative]
Terri Schurter- Wings across Calm Water Go Club
Gary Smith- NOVA Go Club
Gurjeet- National Go Center, GWGC & XYZ proxies
Lee Schumacher- Western Region Go Club at Google
Pete Schumer- Vermont Go Club
Samantha Fede- Proxy for Empty Sky Go Club
Chris Kirschner [AGA board member]
Lisa Scott [AGA board member]

Arrived Later

Vivi Traung [not chapter rep]
William Gundberg- Arizona club, takes proxy from Martin Lebl
Benjamin Coplon- Penn Go Society
Ted Terpstra- San Diego Go Club

28.11% of chapters represented. Quorum is present so the meeting can continue. Eventually 40% of chapter votes present.

Lebl moves to approve minutes, Khalsa seconds. 3 abstentions (Landham, Kirschner, Hvlaka), otherwise unanimous. Minutes Approved

Summary from Martin Lebl (AGA board chair) on board activities.

President's Report:

Static Membership-- approximately 2021 members. There are 146 life members, which is an increase. It is cheering to have more people join as life members.

Financial Report-- total cash in bank is just over \$600,000. A little over \$200,000 held in long-term liability. Some additional money for organizations that have hosted congresses to be pulled for activities consistent with the organization. \$90,000 from Google to be spent on professional tournament. We are spending more money on strong players rather than anyone else, partially because we need to deliver on the professional system and as prize money for the Masters tournament. \$6700 has gone back to chapters through the chapter reward system. There's been growth this year, but we have \$15k per year available so there's still room for growth.

Rubenstein: Is there a way to know what the rewards are for?

Khalsa: Currently not, but I'll try to do that.

Haynes: Do we get warning if the points are about to expire?

Khalsa: No, but we haven't expired any points so far. Our rule is if you haven't used points in 2 years. We'll notify people if points are going to be expired. There's also a bucket of reward points that can be used for state championships.

Okun: We will continue with the broadcasts, because it seems like the community is benefiting from them. This is an expenditure. Last year we had a surplus of 11k, partially because we had a congress surplus. We can afford to spend a little more each year. We are also starting to invest. The budget that the board approved yesterday has an increase in order to have pro tournaments and qualifications. Pro qualifications have been on hiatus since Myungwan Kim left. We tried to get the same sponsor as the European Go Association but that fell through

Schumer: How many american pros are there right now? [5] It would be nice to have their information and bios on the website.

Okun: We made money this year on broadcasting (\$600) but that is less than expenses.

Okun: There will be an increase in international activities this year: a revitalization of the Mind Sports events and invitations from China, Japan, and Korea. We may also need more rules to account for potential cheating associated with Go AIs, particularly online. We haven't had any issues, but we need to get ahead of it.

Landham: There are some tournaments that ban cellphones

Okun: At go congress, the masters room / strong players room they have to drop off their cell-phones.

Lebl: This isn't practical for the bigger tournaments

Scott: Plus, people may have needs that they can't give up their cellphones during tournaments

Kirschner: Is there a small group working on this so that we can give some guidance?

Okun: Yes

Hvlaka: But cellphones are going to be the least of our worries (eye glasses).

Lebl: Maybe we should do metal detectors.

Fede: I think that is impractical, because of medical devices etc.

Hvlaka: It may just need to be an honor system. We need rules in place but enforcement may be honor system based. Violations would have severe consequences (bans).

[Cross-talk about various ways to cheat]

Okun: We're trying to stop the perception of cheating rather than actual cheating.

Kirschner: Current regulations say that you must be able to demonstrate to your

Kirschner moves that committee should send any legislation on technology-related cheating to chapters prior to final version. Haynes seconds. Okun abstained (give that it concerns instructions to him), otherwise unanimous. Approved.

Update on ranking system certificates

Les Lanphier [not chapter rep] joins.

Kirschner: The automatic calculations, based on the last 8 years of games for members, will be released soon.

Schumacker: Is this a change in rating mechanism?

Okun: No it's an honorary rank, like martial arts belts. You can also get these certificates by placing in the top 3 of the rating division in the US Go Congress. The other thing is that for high double digit kyus [up to 18kyu] pro teachers who run rating tournaments can grade these [mostly kids] and can give them ranking certificates. It does have to be after a tournament game.

Weimer: What about grandfathering in older people to this ranking system?

Kirschner: We chose 2010 as a start because the data prior to that wasn't clean enough to be used in this way.

Schumaker: Can we also talk about pro ranking? Is there a pro committee to talk about this?

Okun: It's an important issue, but not on the agenda. We need to figure more out about having a serious discussion.

Terpstra: Can these kids come and in and say, this is my rank certificate, I want to play at x rank.

Okun: Yes, statements of pro teachers are already considered evidence enough. Self-promotions are allowed, but not demotions.

Kirschner: These are rated games and AGA members, so the ranks shouldn't be ratings.

Terpstra: As a TD, do I have discretion to ignore ranking certificates?

Okun: Yes

Kirschner: Technically, no one self-promotes, all "self-promotions" are TD-promotions. So TDs have discretion

[cross-talk about self-promotion]

Schumaker: Should the US Open/Masters TD have the same discretion? I think we should discuss whether there should be more consistent policies across the years.

Okun: We will discuss that for next year's Congress.

Scott: Another concern raised about this year's Congress is that we're pairing European style, but doing prizes based on the AGA style. There's a mismatch and it's causing issues.

Gurjeet: It doesn't make sense to do it by bands [our current system]

Schumaker: Is this a problem with OpenGotha or how we use it? [We define the bands.

Scott: In past years, TDs manually did some pairings to do tie-breaking.

Gundberg: I think mixing is okay but tie-breakers should be done manually.

Kirschner: Banding is delicate because depending on the number of people per band, the bands should be defined different ways. Doing it on autopilot doesn't work.

[cross-talk]

Weimer: There's an AGA rule that says if there's a cash prize, prizes can't be split, they must be tie broken

Schumer: I think people should play within their ranks. Why do we have no handicaps when people play up? Ie 5k and 2k even. If we believe in our rating system, why aren't we handicapping appropriately?

Scott: The idea is partially the US Open is supposed to be open.

Okun: But ratings aren't necessarily accurate due to improvements, different systems etc. This process fixes these things. It's supposed to push people rapidly to a proper rating.

[cross-talk--- no consensus: Chair moves us on to next topic]

Okun: Maybe we need to have a special conversation about this at the next congress.

Schumaker moves to make a committee to investigate the US Open pairing policies, Shumer seconds. Okun agrees to institute that.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Okun: Code of Conduct implementation. We've had several trainings, and I believe we are ready to move forward with it at a full scale.

Scott: After much feedback from the community, the version we've adopted is for the purpose of establishing the AGA as a welcoming community

Kirschner: Everyone has gotten the chance to review this, and the trainings this week were good. But they were not well attended. This CoC is just the first step, we need to be the infrastructure. We'll have a lot of training information on the website, some of which applies to corporate things, but I'm also creating something that is very specific to our organization. There is a hotline for any issues.

Terpstra: I have a question. The CoC says that we will provide an escort if someone feels threatened?

Kirschner: In the extreme event where someone is threatened, we will facilitate individuals to safe locations, including bringing them to law enforcement. I understand that line is confusing

and we may need to revise it. But a long standing policy is that a TD if feeling someone is a threat can remove people who may be threatening.

Fede: I imagine the language "for the remainder of the event" may be meant to indicate that the AGA cannot guarantee such things outside of the event.

Schumaker: I would like to express my appreciation for their work creating and implementing this.

Scott: Thank you, and I also want to emphasize that Karoline Li put a lot of work into this.

Kirschner: I just want to emphasize that you should prepare yourself to intervene if you observe poor behavior.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Okun: Paul [Omart] is the lead guy on this. We encourage everyone to lead state championships

Terpstra will be running the CA tournament over thanksgiving, Coplon already lead the one for Pennsylvania, Rubenstein plans to lead one for IL. Texas is working on it. Tennessee is working on it. Virginia has been distracted with running Go Congress.

[cross talk about CA state championship]

[cross talk about DC statehood]

Coplon: Is this moving towards a regional championship system?

Okun: No, but it could be.

Shumer: Vermont was thinking about it but it seemed too complicated, so people backed out.

Omart: Our goal is to make it as simple for you as possible

Regional tournaments are possible for smaller regions

Rubenstein: I'm going to do two brackets at my next tournament: 1 for the State Championship, and 1 for the normal tournament.

Kirschner: The idea is that this is a developing process and it might change over time.

Khalsa: So like for the tristate DC-MD-VA area, can we do one tournament and have the 3 state champions? [Yes] What's the financial support for this?

Omart: Trophy money, moral support, some presidential points. There are handouts with information on the website.

Okun: If the money is an issue, perhaps it could be increased. We can discuss this.

Nate: Would chapter points go to the chapter that hosted it or all state chapters?

Kirschner: Chapters need to be in communication. That's the point.

NEW BUSINESS

Lanphier: There are no asian representatives here. Why not? We need to represent our community.

Rubenstein: Why? We're chapter representatives. We represent our chapters in their go playing, not our ethnic background.

Okun: This may be an issue of encou

Kirschner: This is a problem generally in this community's organization, and we need to work very hard to improve it.

Scott: I think this also applies to females in the go community not being welcomed enough.

Gunderson/Traung: Our strong Asian AGA members aren't interested in paying money for AGA membership because there are strong enough players in their own communities.

Hvlaka: Maybe asian people aren't interested in joining clubs.

Fede: This is a problem in all of our leadership and communities, and we should probably look to other NGOs and organizations for how to reach out to encourage

Lebl: Maybe we can work on making more incentive to join.

[cross-talk]

Rubenstein: I would like to see city, state as a thing to sort by "who's coming" on the congress list. [Scott: Okay]. 1 day tournament AGA membership registrations cause issues because they seem as "expired". We need to do something about that.

Okun: Yes, this is a problem.

Rubenstein: I'd like to volunteer to help you solve it if there are issues [and accepted]

Wilmes: On our website, a lot of our information on how to play go and run tournaments is outdated, and I think we should update it [agreed upon it].

FUTURE CONGRESSES

Trying to move to organizing congresses 2 years out.

Dave Weimer: Madison wisconsin-- on the lake boardwalk, adult refreshments on site. Next to State street, which has a lot of restaurants and bars. Can fly into madison airport, or you can fly to chicago [o'hare] and take a bus (3 hrs- \$30) directly to campus. [Description of the building and rooms]. There are elevators. Main playing area is 5000sqft. Catered lunch. Close to state capitol.

Tentative pricing: \$450 adults, \$425 young adult, \$400 youth, \$250 child, \$100 non-player.
Break even point is 319.

Standard dorm single-\$60 or \$38 double /night including breakfast, rooms have ac, small fridge.
3 blocks from main playing area

Hotel style- \$124/night single or \$60/night double two blocks from playing area. Limited supply (probably at least 60 rooms)

Lunch is the buffett (\$18/meal)

Breakfast in dorm

Dining hall next to dorms (\$13/meal) cafeteria [sorta fancy]

No minimums, you don't hurt us by staying off site. We aren't making a profit on the rooms.

Estimate for standard adult player: \$1185. Parking isn't free: \$72/wk. Madison has great paths for biking/walking/running. Swimming available

Rubenstein moves to approve madison as the location for next year's congress, Hvlaka seconds, approved.

Information for gocongress-dev.herokuapp.com/2019 website up.

2020 congress-- Colorado every 10 years. Scouting locations in Ft. Collins. The club there will host, but other cities have clubs that have agreed to help. Lots of local breweries. Closest airport is Denver.

Adjourned