

# Board Meeting Minutes

American Go Association

Meeting Date and Time: February 27 2022, 8:00 pm EDT/5:00 pm PD

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# Overview

## Summary

The board discussed whether to hold an in-person US Go Congress in 2022. After reviewing the results of the member survey, input from the local organizing team, and advice from the VP of Events, the board gave authorization to proceed with planning and registration for an in-person congress. Consequently, Lisa Scott resigned as VP of Events. Other topics discussed included routine reappointments and notification of vacancies, as well as status updates on ongoing projects.

## In Attendance

### **Board**

Lisa Scott (Chair, Central Region)  
Devin Frazee (Central Region)  
Chris Kirschner (Western Region)  
Les Lanphear (Western Region)  
Stephanie Yin (Eastern Region)  
Dan Ritter (Eastern Region)  
Justin Teng (At-Large Member)

### **Officers**

Andy Okun (President)  
Samantha Fede (Secretary)

### **Invited Guests**

Eric Wainwright (Congress Director)  
Paul Barchilon

### **Observers**

Steve Colburn  
Terry Benson

## Notable Motions

1. The January, 2022 Minutes were approved unanimously.
2. The slate of reappointments were approved unanimously.
3. The board decided to go ahead with planning and opening registration for an in-person Congress, and asked the President to evaluate the feasibility of the Congress after one month. The motion carried with six yays and one nay.
4. Lisa Scott resigned as VP of Events as a result of the decision to hold an in-person Go Congress.
5. The board formed a committee to oversee the presidential selection process.

# Minutes

## 1. Call Meeting to Order

Called to order at 8:04pm EST

## 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Dan moves to approve January Meeting Minutes, Chris seconds, unanimous, **January 2022 Meeting Minutes approved**

## 3. Status of Current Positions

- a. Summarized the open positions and positions that need to be filled as well as those due for reappointments
- b. Chris moves to approve slate of reappointments (see Appendix) (in [AGA Positions and Descriptions \(September 2021\)](#) ), Dan seconds, reappointments approved unanimously.

## 4. President's Report

- a. Treasurer going well, has spent the week dealing with reappointments

## 5. Update on COVID and Congress

- a. *Description of Situation:* Congress directors are okay with moving ahead, VP of events is not. President is unsure but notes that the board will need to approve a larger potential loss.
- b. *Summary of Survey:* 402 responses, membership is supportive of either canceling or proceeding, but attendance is likely to be low
- c. Discussion:
  - i. Paul expresses belief that Congress could be a fun and successful event that is safe due his belief that COVID will be endemic.
  - ii. Chris mentions that the number of single rooms can be limited, and that additional screening measures could make doubles safe.
  - iii. Lisa mentions that it's important to realize that these measures would require additional volunteer hours but that we can't compensate for those.
  - iv. Eric mentions that there are outdoor activity options, and that there are 136 rooms, but there are no offsite options likely to be available and it will be a barebones option.
  - v. Lisa reflects that everyone on the call loves the Go Congress but asks the board to consider the responsibility of the AGA and what everyone is hoping to achieve by having Congress *this year*.
  - vi. Devin responds that he agrees but thinks we should think about it from what the membership wants and not from a paternalistic standpoint.
  - vii. Dan mentions that he thinks the Go Congress is very important, and is very important to energize organizers and influencers within the AGA and in the US go community in general. The sense he gets from the local community is that the lack of in person play and events (particularly Go Congress) is draining and we should not cancel unless utterly necessary, particularly since it seems that organizers are willing.
  - viii. Lisa: Although I take the point, most of the people who will come are the regulars, and COVID has honestly expanded go online. I think a hybrid

event that is designed to connect online players with local clubs will achieve a lot of this. I don't think the high level of go enthusiasm is worth the risk when we can do other things like that.

- ix. Dan: I agree that the hybrid event is a great idea, but I think both are necessary.
- x. Lisa: We don't have the bandwidth to do both.
- xi. Chris: No one is suggesting both.  
[Cross talk]
  
- xii. Chris: I don't think 200 is okay for attendance. I want to see 250 or 300. I agree with Paul that we need data to decide.
- xiii. Lisa: We have data, we have the survey data.
- xiv. Les: I support having a congress, things look good now, I don't think we need to cancel yet, we can always do it later.
- xv. Lisa: There's opportunity cost- the cost of canceling on folks again, volunteer time, no time to plan an alternative event, and just burnout for our volunteers.
- xvi. Justin: I support going ahead, and I think we have time to cancel before we need to make a final decision.
- xvii. Chris: We need to decide earlier. But we could get the organizers to put the registration up now and then we can look at data in a month.
- xviii. Eric: There's some additional questions we need to figure out like the number of single rooms.
- xix. Stephanie: I generally support going ahead.
- xx. Chris: I move that we go ahead with Congress planning and re-evaluate after the initial push for registration. Les seconds.
  
- [Before the vote, Paul prompts Lisa to discuss her position on going forward]
- xxi. Lisa: I do not agree with this, I don't think it's possible to carry out this event in relative safety, in a way that is financially responsible and enjoyable, so I will be voting Nay and I will be resigning as VP of Events.
- xxii. Paul: So please keep that in mind, Lisa is an amazing and key figure and she has made it possible to make these Congresses great for the last decade, and I will need more help from Board members, and organizers to make up for it.
- xxiii. Chris echoes the need for understanding HR impacts.
- xxiv. Les accuses Lisa of using this as a nuclear option.
- xxv. Dan asks what all Lisa takes responsibility for regarding the Congress.  
[Andy and others can't fully describe it]
- xxvi. Chris moves to amend motion to make continuation of congress contingent on HR availability. Les and Devin express an unwillingness to second the amendment. No other seconds.
- xxvii. Terry: We need data to know if people will register, Lisa keeps saying the survey data says this, but I'm not clear.

- xxviii. Samantha: I am a PhD-level social scientist and I do this professionally. At the direction of this group, I created this survey, conducted it, and analyzed it. I feel strongly that out of 400 responses, 50 folks will go. I see no reason why anything would be different.
- xxix. Chris: That's only 8% of the people who got the email. So that would be 500 people.
- xxx. Samantha: There's a response bias that is consistent with likelihood of attending. So while I'm sure some people are not captured, it's likely to be half, maybe a quarter. So 100-200 max.
- xxxi. Chris: That was during COVID Omicron spike.
- xxxii. Les calls the question, Yea (Justin, Dan, Devin, Chris, Les, Stephanie) Nay (Lisa), no abstentions.
- xxxiii. Lisa: As of tonight, I resign as VP of events.
- xxxiv. General expression of support for Lisa and regret for her resignation.
- xxxv. Chris motions to go into executive session to discuss personnel, Dan seconds. Unanimous. Executive officers were invited to stay.

## **6. Ongoing Business**

- a. Chris reports that he is working with Karoline Li to develop a system to properly record and aid retrieval of policies.
- b. Public notification of complaints proposal (introduced 11/7)
- c. Lisa calls for folks to start on their 2021-2022 Annual Report portions for release by June (per the by-laws).

## **7. New Business**

- a. No new business

## **8. Appointment of President**

- a. Chris moves to go into executive session to discuss personnel, Dan seconds. Unanimous. Executive officers were invited to stay.
- b. Executive session left at 10:05 EDT
- c. A presidential search committee has been formed consisting of Dan, Justin, Chris and Stephanie.

## **9. Adjournment**

- a. Adjourned at 10:06pm EST

# Appendix

## AGA Volunteer Appointments

### Current Vacancies

- VP of Competition
- VP of Services
- VP of Events
- Policy and Governance Committee
- Pools Coordinator
- Tournament Coordinator
- Pair Go Officer
- International Tournaments Officer
- Domestic Tournaments Officer
- Chapter Outreach Officer
- Coordinator for Membership Services
- Officer for TD Training
- Officer for Teacher Training
- Curricula Officer
- Marketing Officer
- AGA Store Officer
- Social Media Officer
- Asst. Treasurer

### Vacancies As of 9/1/2022

- President of the AGA (Election in Process)
- Secretary of the AGA
- EJournal Asst. Managing Editor

## Roster of Reappointments

All persons listed below were reappointed unanimously.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>First Appointed</b>	<b>Most Recent Appointment Start Date</b>
Executive VP	Chris Kirschner	2021	2021
Treasurer	John Pinkerton	2021	2021
VP of Development	Stephanie Yin	2020	2020
VP of Communications	Chris Garlock		2020
VP of Operations	Nate Eagle	2021	2021
VP of International Affairs	Thomas Hsiang		2020
Diversity and Inclusion Committee	Julie Burrall (Chair)	2021	2021
Code of Conduct Committee	Lisa Scott (Chair)	2018	2020
Rules Committee	Terry Benson (Chair)		2020
Youth Coordinator	Paul Barchilon and Justin Teng		2020
State Championships and Major Tournaments Officer	Paul Ohmart, Chris Kirschner, Devin Frazee		
Coordinator for Chapter Services	Bob Gilman		2020
Chapter Rewards Officer	Bob Gilman		2020
Coordinator for Education Services	Dan Ritter	2021	2021
In-Person Ratings Officer	Robert Qi	2020	2021
Rank Certification Officer	Jon Boley		2021
EJournal Managing Editor	Chris Garlock		2020
AGA Discord Channel	Sirocco, Sathya, Eva-Dee	2021	2021
Broadcast Executive Producer	Stephen Hu	2019	2020
Broadcast Line Producers	Eva-Dee Beech, Jared Meadows	2020	2021
Elections Officer	Arnold Eudell		2020
Archivist	Karoline Li		2020
IGF Rep	Thomas Hsiang		2020
NAGF Rep	Andy Okun		2021
Deputy VP of International Affairs	Hajin Lee		2020

## Board Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Written Reports</u>	<u>This Year Supplemental Issues</u>
Sept. 19, 2021	Fall Meeting	2 hours Zoom	Tournaments, Games, Rules, Ranks and Ratings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual Tournament Calendar</li> <li>2. Report on Games and Tournaments Played</li> <li>3. Report on Pro Play</li> <li>4. Minutes of Prior Meeting</li> </ol>	1.
Nov. 7, 2021	Strategy "Retreat"	3 hours Zoom	Long view of the organization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategy Memo</li> <li>2. Strategic Plan Update</li> <li>3. Minutes of Prior Meeting</li> </ol>	
Jan. 9, 2022	<i>Special COVID Meeting</i>	<i>1 hour Zoom</i>	<i>COVID and US Go</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>COVID guidelines</i></li> <li>2. <i>(if needed) Decision regarding 2022 USGC</i></li> </ol>	
Feb. 27, 2022	Winter Meeting	2 hours Zoom	Admin, Communications, Congress, Staff, Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roster of Positions and Staff</li> <li>2. Reappointments List</li> <li>3. Minutes of Prior Meeting</li> </ol>	
May 1, 2022	Spring Meeting	3 hours Zoom	Budget, Investments, International Affairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preliminary financials</li> <li>2. Investment report</li> <li>3. Budget</li> <li>4. Report of the VP of IR</li> <li>5. Minutes of Prior Meeting</li> <li>6. Goals and Priorities check-in</li> </ol>	
June 26	Summer Business Meeting	<i>1 hour (presumed) Zoom</i>	<i>Annual housekeeping</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>AGA Annual Report</i></li> <li>2. <i>Election of President</i></li> <li>3. <i>Late-breaking issues</i></li> </ol>	



August 5, 2022	Annual Board Meeting	3 hours Estes Park, CO (Presumed) and Zoom	Updates to the Membership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual Financial Report</li> <li>2. Annual Report of the organization</li> <li>3. Report on Membership</li> <li>4. Minutes of Prior Meeting</li> </ol>	
August 6, 2022	Chapter General Assembly Meeting	3 hours Estes Park, CO (Presumed) and Zoom	Updates to the Membership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual Financial Report</li> <li>2. Annual Report of the organization</li> <li>3. Chapter Membership and Rewards</li> <li>4. Prior Year's Chapter Assembly Minutes</li> </ol>	