

Minutes

AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, July 18, 2012 – 8:12 PM EDT

Meeting called to order by: Andrew Okun at 8:12pm, EDT/5:12pm PDT
Type of meeting: Rescheduled Regular Monthly Conference Call

Attendees

Lisa Scott (Central)
Andy Okun (Western)
Chuck Robbins (Eastern)
Daniel Smith by Proxy (Central, Proxy was Lisa Scott)
Allan Abramson (President)

Absent

Jie Li (At Large)
Paul Celmer (Eastern)

Agenda

1. **Replacing Gordon Castanza (Western Region, Resigned July 13, 2012)**
 1. Abramson's reading is the board should appoint ASAP, according to Section III.1 of the By-Laws, concerning when the number of directors falls below 7.
 2. Okun suggests we do the selection at the board meeting at Congress, but announce now that our intention is to select 2nd place vote-getter as Castanza's replacement. Robbins says that we should have that replacement on the Board for the Congress meeting.
 3. Scott is concerned about how that will work, since Okun will still be on the Board. Robbins suggests that the person could be appointed for one meeting only, and if they were the second place vote-getter we could offer them the spot for the remainder of Castanza's term.
 4. Abramson expresses concern about violating the election process by choosing someone in the middle of the election. Robbins suggests that we could make our appointment after the vote-counting, but before the Board meeting. Okun and Scott concur.
 5. Robbins suggests we inform the potential replacement, and Scott suggests we could still make an announcement before Congress. Abramson says that several Western Region chapters would be upset by this, and it could affect the election.
 6. Robbins asks when the votes are counted, and Abramson clarifies that they will be finished on the Sunday afternoon of Congress (August 5). Robbins then suggests that the Board be notified of the result on Sunday evening, so a replacement can be found before Thursday. Okun and Scott agree.
 7. Okun summarizes that not taking action, but agreed on future course of action. No public announcement.

8. Scott worries that people will want more information in the next 3 weeks, so Okun suggests that the Board announce that we plan to pick Gordon's replacement immediately before the Congress meeting.
 9. It is agreed to accept new candidates as well as the runners-up in the current election, for increased openness and transparency.
 10. After discussion, the Board determines that candidates moving into the Western Region are eligible, as long as their permanent residence is in the region and they are nominated by a Western Region resident.
 11. Abramson asks for an EJ announcement. Okun suggests: "The Board is planning to decide on a replacement for Gordon during the week of Congress, before the AGA Congress Board meeting, and will be considering the unsuccessful candidates and any other interested parties who are nominated."
 12. Okun asks if Arnold Eudell (Elections) should receive the announcements as well as the board. Scott says he should know that we want results ASAP.
2. **Update on Pro System and World Mind Sport Games**
1. Pro System
 1. Abramson and Okun relate that while it has been easy to fill the first 11-12 slots, it has been difficult to fill the last slots and particularly the alternate positions. Many qualified, invited persons were unable to attend. Currently there are 15-16 participants out of a field of 16, but no alternates.
 2. Robbins asks who the weakest player is currently. The invitations are reaching down to the 6.9 dan level, but not yet below.
 3. Robbins says 1 alternate may also be enough.
 4. Okun suggests that next year it should be easier to get participants because of location, but we may consider an 8 person field. Scott concurs.
 5. Abramson says that soon after the Congress, the Board and the President should do a "lessons learned" and make appropriate changes.
 6. Abramson explains that it is a 6-7 day tournament, with a combination of single elimination and "best of three" rounds. Robbins suggests a round-robin next year, if we cut the field.
 7. Abramson suggests we separate from the Congress and hold in June in an easy location; Okun and Scott agree.
 8. Robbins asks why not consider a winter break? Scott says she doesn't think you can interfere with family time, and people have different spring breaks around the country. Okun says in the middle of the academic year can be a problem because people want to prepare. Abramson says you need many months for prelims, etc.
 9. Scott says schools are ending later and later, so you almost have to go to the week before July 4.
 10. Abramson says this is a great beginning of the discussion.
2. **WMSG update**

1. Okun says we are sending a great team, with a few spots still open. We have no opened up these spots to qualified persons without points. The team is paying its own way.
 2. Okun asks Abramson if there will be an AGA official? Abramson replies that after discussion with Chris Kirschner, and they agree that it's not needed in the current financial circumstances. Robbins says there may be interested parties. Abramson says it needs to be the right person.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
1. The board received Okun's version of the June 2012 minutes and Scott's version of the April 2012 minutes on the day of the meeting. Scott's correction of Okun's version of the March 2012 minutes were received the previous week. Approval will be made timely via email.
4. **Adjournment and next meeting**
1. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, August 8 in Black Mountain, North Carolina, at the 2012 US Go Congress.
 2. Scott moves to adjourn. Robbins seconds. All in favor.
 3. Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm EDT adjournment.