

Minutes

AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, August 9, 2012 – 1:13 PM EST

Attendees

Daniel Smith (Central Region)
Lisa Scott (Central Region)
Chris Kirschner (Western Region)
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Andy Okun (Western Region) (By phone, in and out)

Absent

Jie Li (At Large)
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)

Guests

Fernando Rivera
Amanda Miller
Joe Walters
Ted Terpstra
Paul Barchilon
Terry Benson
Keith Arnold
Myron Souris
Steve Colburn
Gurujeet Khalsa
Allan Abramson
Paul Celmer
Greg Smith
John Aiken
Chris Garlock

1. **Call to Order** at 1:13pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 1. Need to approve 3 minutes: July 18, August 6, and August 7
 1. Scott moves, Celmer Seconds. No discussion. Unanimous approval. (Kirschner abstaining)
3. **New Business To Introduce**
 1. Go Camp—whether or not it should continue to be supported
 2. Support for chapters (college programs and AGA chapters in conjunction with the AGF, and equipment)
4. **Election Results**
 1. Eastern Region: Gurujeet Khalsa (32 votes); Feng Yun (7 votes); Thomas Hsiang (withdrew, 3 votes)

2. Western Region: Steven Burrall (21 votes); Chris Kirschner (14 votes); Jeff Horn (3 votes)
 3. Central Region: Robert Barber (14 votes); Lisa Scott (10 votes)
 4. At Large: Edward Zhang (85 votes); Chuck Robbins (74 votes); Jie Li (65 votes); abstain (20 votes); Roy Laird (2 votes); Feng Yun (1 vote); Bob Bacon (1 vote)
 5. Andy adds his congratulations and informs people that they will be informed about their duties and responsibilities in the coming weeks. Andy also thanks all outgoing board members.
 6. Scott moves, Celmer seconds. Unanimous.
 7. The Board welcomes Kirschner to the board.
5. **Board thanks to outgoing president**
1. Okun applauds Abramson for all the time, effort, and sincere work that he has put into the job over the last four years, particularly as the pro system is beginning. He also states that he and the board will continue to rely on his advice.
6. **President's Report**
1. No president's report because so much else going on. Some developments since the beginning of the Congress about which he will inform us.
 1. With the pro certification behind us, the board should convene a "lessons learned" committee to assess what went well and poorly for moving forward.
 2. **Strong Player's Congress meeting**
 1. How can strong players help the AGA?
 2. Circuit-rider concept for clubs in areas that may not be able to hold tournaments. There was never money to send pros, but the strong players were receptive to this idea. All 7 attendees were willing. The volunteer coordinator (or chapters services) should move on this issue.
 1. Scott adds that from her travels clubs that have reached a critical mass are interested in this issue.
 3. Pair Go
 1. Goal to increase number of women playing go and strength of women playing go. We should ask strong players to mentor top female players.
 3. **Pro Meeting**
 1. Feng Yun intends to raise specific issues for the Assembly meeting.
 1. Question: they are professionals, AGA members, they receive invitations to things like the Samsung Cup; the AGA has only set aside money for the two new pros.
 1. Response: We respect this view, but we are starting a new system and inspiring new people, and we would like to support the strongest new AGA-certified pros. This question will probably come up at the Assembly.
 2. Full accounting for the 2011 Congress. Abramson has promised access to all the numbers, although he does not see the point of this. Abramson thinks that the board acted appropriately,

- specifically in taking over the finances following this Congress.
3. Formalize the pro meeting more at the Congress. We work with pros on an advance agenda, send invitations, take minutes, etc. Abramson agrees that this should happen moving forward.
 4. Board action needed on a newly developed Professional issue
 1. Recommends that we develop and publish a formal policy on how pros are comped at the Congress moving forward.
 5. Interesting four years. He is happy to have served his time. He is happy that new “seedlings” are taking root and that many new outcomes should blossom in the near future. The next 5-10 years should be extraordinary for the AGA.
 6. Terry Benson suggests that the “lessons learned” should happen as soon as possible, while it is fresh in peoples' minds.
7. **Secretary**
1. No secretary yet. Possible volunteers have voiced an interest, and the room is asked to make suggestions.
 1. Celmer suggests that Chuck Robbins has said that he is interested.
 2. Kirschner says that this is a personel matter of the highest order.
 2. Smith has a two-part proposal:
 1. Smith suggests that we reduce the content of the minutes to the bare minimum (times, motions, votes, roll call). This will make approving minutes quicker.
 2. The extra content should be moved to an expanded press release or some other form of communication.
 3. Scott is worried that there may still be a bottleneck with approving anything longer than a paragraph
 4. Garlock: the EJ perspective is that the speed of getting out the basics is important, and we have been doing that well.
 5. Arnold: a reasonable secretary and chair should be able to get unofficial minutes quickly, but that the perception is that “this stuff never comes out,” and he would rather have people argue about what really happened.
 6. Benson: He is on the long-form side of the minutes, because otherwise the history is just lost. This is more valuable than some timeliness.
 7. Greg Smith: Roberts Rules supports [Daniel] Smith's point. He has found that having the agenda as a list of motions helps a great deal with minutes.
 8. Kirschner: With the amount of change, he thinks that this discussion should be delayed until the new members are on the board. The new people should have an opportunity to way in.
 9. Scott moves to table. Celmer seconds. Unanimous.
 3. **Go Camp**
 1. Barchilon summarizes: we have had an ongoing issue connected in part to the volunteers running go camp, but we have also seen dynamic changes. We used to have 25 people, but when Karen Jordan left the numbers went down tremendously. We lost money twice, and would have lost this year except the organizers waived their pay. In 2011 the AGA agreed to not

cover a shortfall, Barchilon was concerned with the personal responsibility.

2. This year we just broke even, and the difference (the pay for the volunteers) could be made up by 2 children. It is clear that kids are coming to Congress, but it is difficult to get them to come to camp.
3. Organizers Discussion
 1. Rivera: Camp has lessons every day with a teacher for a specific set of kids, and it is a summer camp setting, as opposed to the go congress which is entirely different.
 2. Miller: There were more "camp" activities, and all the kids had a great time, and in this sense it can be run well and there could be more people. There were some factors that hurt this year:
 1. The management for the past 2 years was one issue.
 2. The location this year may have been one issue, since the airport was more expensive and difficult to get to. They are looking for a more central location.
 3. Smith asks if management issues have been addressed; Riviera, Miller, Abramson, and Scott agree. Evidence has been given to show this.
 4. Abramson: we feared the worst going into this, particularly with the personal financial risk. The organizers were sure, worked hard, and made it happen. The difficulty is the arrangement with the facility and the drop dead date. A few people showed up at the last minute and it became easier.
 1. Situation as he sees it: The Congress will be in Seattle, but the directors wish to do it in the East. It could be a time other than the week before Congress.
 2. The AGA may not be ready to assume financial responsibility, but we can do more to promote the camp and help in PR, etc.
 5. Kirschner: thinking in terms of Congress development experience; the solution is a drop dead date that is firm, including compensation.
 1. This was the hope of the organizers.
 2. We may have to actually cancel a Congress if the date is not met.
 6. Abramson: some people are fine at the deadline and drop out later.
 1. Kirschner says that usually the late drops have been met by the late adds. After the level has been met, then there is an acceptable risk.
 7. Arnold: Of the 10 kids, how many stayed for the Congress?
 1. Miller and Riviera: 6 stayed for the Congress.
 2. The issue should be publicized: there is an issue, we want to move forward; this should be publicized to chapters. He would be willing to consider helping with space and having the Baltimore Go Club provide some financial buffer.
 8. Walters: Camps should continue as much as possible. Potential pledge fund where AGA members can contribute in case expenses cannot be covered. The pledge would be returned if it is not needed.
 9. Kirschner: Another source of support would be chapters who have funds in the AGA from running the Go Congress.

10. Barchilon: The Congress is regional (drawing more from the region surrounding than event, although some from the whole country)
 1. With a camp on the East Coast, and a Congress on the west coast, the camp may actually provide a great alternative cost-wise.
 2. Camp can be advertised as a place to learn more, play more at Congress.
11. Kirschner: The board should form a committee to work with the Camp directors.
 1. Motion: That a committee be formed to work with the go camp directors to find financial security. Moved by Kirschner, Seconded by Scott. Unanimous.
4. **College Programs**
 1. Barchilon: Issue is that AGA dropped support for AGF college programs a few years ago.
 1. The AGF sends free equipment to K-12, the AGF/AGA (AGA-funded) used to send matching funds (up to \$50-\$100) to help with equipment.
 2. Support was dropped a few years ago under the argument that there was not funds. This should be revisited because of the demographics changes that we have been seeing recently.
 2. Scott says she does think that this would make a major difference for college clubs, many of whom struggle to get equipment in their first few years.
 3. Abramson says he and the board at the time were responsible for dropping the program. He says that it was more priorities over funds.
 1. Scott says that helping college-aged kids gets a different kind of go player/volunteer than K-12 support.
 2. Okun says that some of the Collegiate League is at Congress, some are doing the Surrounding Game, and some college clubs have been incredibly productive. We should ask the Collegiate League what they would need.
 3. Khalsa: The college clubs benefit far beyond the college—there are bigger benefits to the community as a whole.
 4. Barchilon: The Collegiate League likes idea, agrees many schools don't know about it. They went from 4-12 clubs that they knew about just in the time that Cole Pruitt has been doing it. We should affiliate the AGA and AGF with this. Less a financial than a symbolic/philosophical issue.
 5. Colburn: If we work with AHS and Collegiate Go League, they go from high school to colleges, and we can work with them from high school through being a key AGA volunteer.
 4. This topic will be added to the next meeting as Old Business
8. **AGA Website**
 1. It has been launched. Garlock would like to thank the board for their patience, most of the work was behind the scenes, but the architecture is wonderful. He would like to again thank the board, and say that the website is working well.

2. Garlock would like to specifically thank Colburn for being the clutch person, as well as Josh Simmons and the whole team. The team is now being reorganized. There will be a further briefing in the future.
9. **Date and Time of next meeting**
 1. Sunday, September 9, 8pm EDT.
10. **Adjournment**
 1. Scott moves to adjourn. Celmer seconds. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 2:46pm.