

AGA Minutes 8/15/2014

Attending:

- Gurujeet Khalsa (Director, Eastern Region, Chair)
- Chris Kirschner (Director, Western Region)
- Martin Lebl (Director, Central Region)
- Bob Gilman (Director, Central Region)
- Paul Celmer (Director, Eastern Region)
- Steve Burrall (Director, Western Region)
- Edward Zhang (Director at Large)
- Andrew Okun (President)
- Ted Terpstra (Executive Vice President)

Observing:

- Terri Schurter (recording minutes)
- Hajin Lee
- Paul Writ
- Steve Colburn
- Lisa Scott
- David Baran
- Karoline Li

Khalsa opened the meeting with a suggestion that the approval of the minutes of the last meeting be put off until a later time when it is more likely that everyone has had a chance to read them.

President's Report:

1. The INAF, Iwamoto North American Foundation will have its inaugural meeting on October 24th. Thomas Yang and Dave Weimer were appointed to the board and the AGA Presesident will also sit on the board. There will be six members altogether. (Ask Andy for the other three names.) \$2,000,000 is anticipated from the sale of the New York Go Center building.
2. Andy and Chris have asked Jon Boley to help with rank certification. Certificates were issued last year, and will be issued again this year to the top three players in each prize category. They will receive certificates for their starting ranks in the tournament.
3. Our new Education Coordinator is Paul Writ.
4. Bob will be the new Executive Vice President, and will support Andy so he will have time to achieve some of the goals he has for the organization.
5. Karoline Li is our outgoing tournament director and Andy is currently securing the help of a number of people to try to take over her responsibilities.
6. Greg Smith will be leaving as the web master.
7. Current and Future Go Congresses

We are here in New York City. This congress was pulled together quickly. At this time last year we did not have a venue, and more than one option was more than one option was being considered.

The 2015 Go Congress is being planned for Saint Paul Minnesota at the University of Saint Thomas. The organizers, Josh Larson and Tim Hoel have already done a great deal of work to prepare for the Congress.

Andy plans to sign a contract for next year's congress that resembles prior campus contracts. The organizers will have several liaisons to help them with the congress. They have spoken with Chris Kirschner and Lisa Scott and other previous Congress organizers.

We have two potential east coast locations for 2016 (Boston, Toronto).

We have one potential West coast location for 2017 (Los Angeles).

8.

This is Steve Burrall's last official meeting on the board. A round of applause thanked Steve for his service.

Daniel Smith expressed an interest in no longer being secretary. Please ask around to see if anyone is interested in filling the position.

Rewards Program:

Gurujet proposed that we begin a rewards program for chapters similar to airline points. We could have a list of good things that chapters can do like getting new members and holding tournaments, and reward them for those things. Gurujet is willing to set up and automate the system.

Lisa was interested in what kinds of rewards would be given, and pointed out that we don't have that much money. Andy, however, says that we have substantial amounts of money in reserve. Lisa was wondering how much money should be kept on hand, and there was some discussion of the reserve as it relates to the congress.

Chris says that we could give a discount on club membership for good things a club does.

Gurujet mentioned monetary help in advertising tournaments as a possible reward and scholarships. He suggested we earmark \$30,000 for the first year of the program.

The question was raised about whether we could touch Congress escrow accounts, and Chris clarified that unused money should be spent within five years and that clubs are notified that they should be spending the money. Past escrow funds might still be tapped even though they did not have the same requirements as more recent accounts.

Andy says we have a substantial surplus from last year, so we could put a big chunk of the money in the budget so it doesn't have to come out of reserves. Andy pointed out that a number of long time members have suggested that we treat reserves endowment style.

Gurujet wants us to actively use the money.

Bob suggested that the board seek a vague agreement as to how much money to spend on the rewards program, and to make it actionable, and to generate well defined positions.

Gurujet said that we need a reserve policy.

Zhang said he had reviewed past a few years' balance sheet and income statement of AGA. The calculation shows the current AGA reserve is more than triple the necessary operational working capital. Zhang said we should reduce the surplus.

Bob said we should be looking at our expected income and our expected swings in money from year to year.

Andy pointed out that if we had the money invested in the past few years we would be talking about a good deal more money.

Chris suggested that we should perhaps be seeking to define the behaviors we want first and then decide how we want to reward them.

Bob would like to see some rewards for individual members.

Chris tossed out the idea that 100 rated games might earn something for a chapter.

Steve pointed out that members get signed up through tournaments, and that rewards would help clubs hold tournaments, and that would increase membership.

Paul Whit noted that people don't send out press releases for tournaments before or after, and that they should do both. This prompted Andy to excitedly suggest to Gurujeeet that there be reward points for media coverage.

Gurujeeet told about how he was in Bryant Park on the day off and that they were playing games there, and that we could get some go players there to promote the game.

Gurujeeet suggested weighted points for smaller clubs.

Chris agreed that we have to take account of the differences between large and small clubs.

September 13th is World Teach Go Day, and also teach go week.

Martin expressed the desire to see the Reward system automated.

Questions:

Lisa pointed out that there have been no reports on board activities in the ejournal for awhile.

The abbreviated minutes used to be posted, but it was decided that it was a bad idea to post unapproved minutes.

Lisa was referring to the short blurb that used to appear in the ejournal. Paul volunteered to post a fast and loose summary of the board meeting for the public.

Lisa also brought up that we had considered hiring someone last year to help us professionalize the organization, and what has happened with that?

Gurujeeet suggested that we need to figure out where we are going first.

There will be a three hour informal meeting of the board on Sunday.

Paul moved to adjourn the meeting.

Edward seconded it.

The motion carried.