

Minutes
AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, January 12, 2011 – 8:00 PM EST

Meeting called to order by: Andrew Okun at 8:15 PM EST (after an unsuccessful attempt to try an internet conference call)

Type of meeting: Regular Monthly Conference Call

Attendees:

Jie Li (At Large)
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Laura Kolb (Central Region)
Lisa Scott (Central Region)
Andrew Okun (Western Region, Chairman)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Allan Abramson (President)
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

Absent:

Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)

1. Approval of November 14, 2010 minutes

Laura Kolb made a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular monthly Board meeting from November 14, 2010. Lisa Scott seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Call for additional agenda items and new business

- a. Lisa Scott said that the AGA financial documents haven't been updated in awhile. The latest tax exempt document was issued in 1999. The documents should be accessible more easily.

3. President's Report

a. Discussion item: White House Visit Press Release

- i. Abramson reported that the State Department has issued an invitation to several AGA representatives next Wednesday to the White House for an arrival

ceremony honoring the President Hu of China. Abramson would like to issue a press release to get some publicity for the AGA and the game of go. He plans to send a copy of the press release to all AGA members and ask them to circulate it to their local papers.

- ii. Okun said the draft press release and its description of go may not apply to the current US-China relationship.
- iii. Abramson said he has written a blander version that sticks to the facts. He read it out loud to the Board and they agreed it was good:

Go Comes to the White House

When President Hu Jintao of China arrives at the White House on Wednesday, 19 January, he will be met by President Obama, and by representatives of the U.S. Go community.

Last year on President Obama's first visit to China, he brought President Hu the gift of a Go board and glass bowls, both made by U.S. craftsmen, and a set of Go stones donated by U.S. Go Professional Feng Yun. She had received the stones as an honor before leaving China for the U.S.

Feng Yun, Frank Salantrie (who made the board), the glass blower, and American Go Association representatives Paul Celmer, member of the Board of Directors, and Allan Abramson, President, all have been invited to attend the arrival ceremony.

Go (known as Wei'Qi in China) is a board game dating back 4,000 years, and played by millions in China. Easy to learn, it requires concentration, creativity, analysis, patience, humility and respect for one's opponent, all qualities we want for ourselves and for our children. The American Go Association (www.usgo.org) and the American Go

Foundation (www.agfgo.org) both support the spread of Go in the U.S. through chapters around the country and special programs for children and schools.

Contact: Allan Abramson (571-278-2136 or President@usgo.org)

b. Information item: Programming membership database

- i. The work on the membership database has not been completed as quickly as expected. It may be necessary to do it another way.

4. Old Business

a. None

5. New Business

a. Corporate Documents

- i. Scott reported that when she opened the bank account for the Go Congress, she needed to show them the AGA by-laws, IRS documents stating that the AGA is tax-exempt, and other documents that were difficult to find. When she did get the letter from the IRS, it was dated 1999. The bank objected to the fact that her name didn't appear on any of the documents. Scott said she thinks they need to be updated and made more readily available to organizers.
- ii. Castanza said when he opened an account for his club in Tacoma, the bank asked to see the articles of incorporation, the IRS letter giving the club its taxpayer ID number, the Washington State Certificate of Incorporation, and the letter from the IRS acknowledging the tax-exempt 501(c)4 status of the organization. He said the banks are required to ask for those documents because of "The Patriot Act".

- iii. Abramson said Adam Bridges, the AGA Treasurer has the documents, and Abramson will talk to him about updating them and making them available.

6. Establish time and date of next meeting

The next regular monthly Board meeting will be Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 8:00 EST.

7. Adjourn

Castanza made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Celmer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm EST.

Minutes submitted by Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary