

Minutes of AGA Board Meeting

Sunday, 1 May 2005

7:00 – 8:00 PM EST

Attending: Willard Haynes, Mike Bull, Jeff Shaevel, Harold Lloyd, Yuan Zhou, and Allan Abramson; Roy Laird, Mike Lash and Lee Anne Bowie absent.

1. Approval of Minutes:

O Harold moved, Jeff seconded, Minutes approved with Willard abstaining because he did not participate

2. President's report

O Discussion deferred in Mike's absence

4. Old Business

a. Vendor relations:

- O Willard moved, Yuan seconded, policy approved unanimously
- O Roy will post it on the AGA site
- O Mike is requested to send it to the Takoma Congress organizers

b. Marketing funds: Third draft of guidelines attached (Changes resulting from the discussion are highlighted in CAPS).

- O Harold suggested that a firm cap on the amount for any proposal was too rigid
- O Jeff agreed that while some limit was a good idea, flexibility would be nice

O GUIDELINES AMENDED to provide that upon recommendation of the President, the Board could approve a higher amount for a proposal

O Willard noted that we now had several different grant programs, and it might make sense to merge them, starting with the youth grant program

O BOARD ADOPTED direction to the President to come back to the Board within 60 days with specific recommendations on merging marketing grants with other support programs

O Everyone agreed that the deadlines now had to be changed, too; attached revision to the guidelines also contains new deadlines

O With these changes, Willard moved, Harold seconded, BOARD APPROVED the guidelines, with one abstention (Yuan)

5. New Business:

a. TD's school, to produce more qualified people.

O Intention is to develop more TD's for major tournaments, including internet events

O Mike Bull suggested that we start with an updated instruction manual for TD's

→ BOARD AGREED = request for the President to initiate action on this

O Allan suggested that the President ask Bill Cobb, AGA tournament coordinator, for some ideas for training TD's → BOARD AGREED

b. Publishing Board agendas two weeks in advance

O Allan agreed that this was important, his responsibility, and he would try harder

c. Approach to Board decisions: informal consensus or formal voting?

O Extensive discussion, with some agreement, for Allan to write up for review

O Decide upon informal/formal case-by-case; any Board member can ask for a formal vote

O Agreed that achieving "consensus" is intended to be the equivalent of a formal unanimous vote of the Board

O This approach allows for decision by consensus, without an objection, and without an abstention

O Assuming Board approval of the above, it would be posted on the AGA site as Board policy

d. Financial support for Go Camps - Policy discussion

O DEFERRED, with request for background to be sent to the Board for review

e. Ing funding for Congress participants

O DEFERRED, for President's input

f. AGA membership categories

Potential change to consolidate categories: flat fee of \$20 or \$25/year with discounts for multi-year memberships

O Extensive discussion, with Yuan and Mike Bull expressing support for simplifying membership categories, and possibly reducing fees

O REQUEST FOR THE PRESIDENT to prepare a paper with specific options, and pros/cons for each option, for continued discussion at the next meeting; also, to include all the chapters in this discussion before making a decision

6. Open discussion

O WAGC point system: BOARD WOULD LIKE TO SEE options for a new system, by Bill Cobb, for discussion

O Yuan again raised his proposal to merge the US Open and the Ing this year, with ten rounds for the top (open) section

O Some concerns about changing this year, versus next year

O Yuan was asked to write a specific proposal for discussion purposes

O PRESIDENT SHOULD ASK Congress organizers for their opinions, pro and con

O DISCUSS THIS ISSUE AT THE ASSEMBLY

7. Adjourn

O Willard moved, Jeff seconded, meeting adjourned

CLOSED SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES

ATTACHMENT : Guidelines for the use of AGA marketing funds, V3

The AGA has established a significant set-aside of funds (approximately

\$28,000) for marketing efforts in the coming fiscal year, to help achieve its goal of 5,000 members within five years. The purpose is to focus on activities which will promote membership growth, especially among youth in the U.S. The funds are intended for AGA clubs. Proposals will be solicited by the AGA President.

1. The AGA's marketing fund is dedicated to projects and activities which promise to deliver long-term AGA membership growth, especially among youth.

2. Proposals may be single or multi-year, but will be limited to a maximum of \$2000/year if approved. UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT, THE BOARD MAY APPROVE A HIGHER AMOUNT.

3. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, advertising campaigns, promotional material (radio and TV ads, brochures, exhibits, and so on), internet sites, and special events (other than tournaments). Creative and unusual proposals, which serve the goal of membership growth, are especially welcome.

4. Proposals which offer the greatest potential for AGA membership growth will be favored.

5. Process:

a. President to issue solicitation letter by mid-JUNE; standard format for proposals.

b. Deadline for submittal of proposals end of JULY.

C. DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS AT THE CONGRESS

d. President sets up review committee, for recommendations to President by mid-SEPTEMBER.

e. Discussion and Board approval (if needed) at OCTOBER meeting.

f. Consider starting this cycle in Fall, rather than SPRING, next year.