MINUTES
AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Sunday, May 20, 2007 – 8:00 PM EST

Meeting called to order by: Roy Laird at 8:05 EDT
Type of meeting: Regular monthly conference call

Attendees:
Roy Laird (At Large) Chairman
Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)
Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)
Robert Barber (Central Region)
Roy Schmidt (Central Region)
Willard Haynes (Western Region)
Gordon Castanza (Western Region)
Mike Lash (President)

Absent:
Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

1. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Action items: Motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2007 meeting
Motion- Gordon Castanza
Second- Willard Haynes
Approved unanimously

2. President's Report-Mike Lash

a) Ing Budget

Mike Lash reported that the AGA has received $23,000 from the Ing Foundation.
$11,000 is going to pay for the Youth Go Championship Tournament.

b) Tournaments

Six Qualifier Tournaments have been scheduled for the Ing Masters Tournament. He
reported that there are two groups of Chinese professionals touring the United States

this summer. One group is sponsored by the AGA and the other is not connected to the AGA. Jean-Claude Chetrit is hiring the non-AGA group to teach at his go workshop over July 4th weekend.

c) Personnel

Lash reported that the transition of the Treasurer position from Ulo Tamm to Adam Bridges is on schedule to occur June 1. All of the paperwork has been transferred. He wants to recognize Ulo Tamm's service in some way.

d) Safety and Security Policy

Mike Lash reported that he has a draft Safety and Security Policy and had it approved by an attorney. He is putting it before the Board, but does not necessarily think it is necessary. Lash said that even without such a policy, any event organizer should be allowed to bar any person from an event. He mentioned the sign in many restaurants saying, "We reserve the right to refuse admission." Roy Laird said that we shouldn't make a policy for one individual circumstance. Lash said that the lawyer said we have an "affirmative obligation" to keep the event safe. There was much discussion about what that might mean in terms of what the AGA must do. Roy Schmidt suggested that the first sentence of the proposed policy may be sufficient. He read it:

"For the purpose of maintaining a safe and secure environment at AGA sponsored events, the AGA and local organizers of AGA sponsored events reserve the right to bar or remove anyone from the event when there is reasonable cause to believe such person(s) may constitute a significant risk of injury or harm to others at the event, or whose conduct is or is likely to be excessively disruptive to the proper conduct of the event."

Roy Schmidt made a motion to vote to adopt the single sentence policy. Paul Celmer seconded the motion. The Board voted to accept the motion with six votes in favor and one abstention (Chuck Robbins).

Roy Laird said he hoped it would be posted in a non-inflammatory manner. Mike Lash said it will be added to the AGA web site under the AGA Policies section.

3. Rank Certification Proposals

Chris Kirschner joined the meeting for this discussion. Roy Laird explained that Chris wanted to be included in the discussion, because the Board has taken a position on the level of inclusion of professionals in the rank certification process, and

Kirschner wants to report on the discussion and views of the rank certification committee that may affect the Board's position.

Kirschner said there was a "disconnect" with the position of the Board and the Committee. The Committee had actively discussed all of the issues, and had created a compromise proposal to find a middle ground where the professional involvement would be limited to those who wanted a frame-ready certificate. From the beginning, the idea was to have the certification be merit-based. Roy Laird asked how involving a professional would keep it from being "merit-based". Kirschner said that involving payment has nothing to do with merit. It was discussed that Shodan and up might require a fee or that e-mail certificates would be free. Bob Barber asked if the purpose of certification was ever to raises money for the AGA. Chris Kirschner said the committee debated that issue and decided the certification should be priced at cost with a moderate positive cash flow and only making a larger profit if a fancier plaque was desired. The committee clearly recommended the low-cost merit only certificate. They don't mind having a professional involved if the person wants extra value, but the committee doesn't want it to be required for the merit-based rank certificate. Bob Barber mentioned that Chuck Robbins has been talking to the pros lately and said that they are very interested in finding ways to make money in the U.S. This is something that could help the PAGA (Professional AGA). Kirschner said the compromise proposal allows for having a higher quality certificate (suitable for framing) at a higher price if the member wants a professional's signature. Paul Celmer asked what would happen under the plan requiring a professional endorsement if the AGA rating said a person was of a particular rank and the professional said that the player wasn't so strong. Chris Kirschner replied that the certificate would be denied under the plan that has been proposed by the Board. There was more discussion about whether to have a two-tier system with or without professional endorsement, or to have the endorsement required, because a rank is not a requirement but rather a luxury. Roy Laird asked if the Board thought they should close discussion until later, have more discussion, or have a vote.

Willard Haynes made a motion to table the discussion. Paul Celmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor of closing discussion for now.

4. New Business

None

5. Schedule next monthly Meeting and Adjournment

The next monthly Board meeting will be held Sunday, June 24, 2007 at 8:00 PM EDT.

Robert Barber moved to adjourn the meeting. Paul Celmer seconded the motion.
The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:45 PM EDT.

Submitted by: Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary