

# MINUTES

## AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday, June 24, 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) (arrived late)

Robert Barber (Central Region)

Roy Schmidt (Central Region)

Willard Haynes (Western Region)

Gordon Castanza (Western Region)

Mike Lash (President)

Pauline Pohl (Secretary)

### **1. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

Action items: Motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2007 meeting

Motion- Bob Barber

Second- Willard Haynes

Approved unanimously

### **2. President's Report-Mike Lash**

#### **a) American Youth Go Championship:**

The Children's Tournament was a success and Lash would like to make it an annual event.

#### **b) Chinese Children's Tournament**

The AGA received four invitations to a Chinese children's tournament. There are five children interested, so Lash plans to pick the top four according to their ratings. He has to select an adult representative of the AGA to go along, and is leaning toward selecting Peter Freedman, the director of the 2008 Go Congress.

#### **c) Tournament Schedule Spreadsheet**

Lash asked if there were comments on his Excel spreadsheet with the tournament schedule for the year. All directors said they liked the format and are in favor of publishing it on the AGA web site.

**d) Chinese Professional to travel the U.S.:**

Lash reported that he has invited a Chinese 7-Dan Professional (*name here?*) to stay in the U.S. for two weeks following the Go Congress. He will spend time in New York, Boston, Chicago, and Seattle.

**e) Invited guests to the Congress:**

The AGA has invited three Chinese amateur players at the request of the person from the “World of Wei Chi” magazine who donated the free go equipment. They will pay their own transportation costs and will be provided complimentary room and board and playing fees. They will have no responsibilities while they are at the Congress, because they are amateur players. The editors want to discuss partnering with the AGA to produce an English language version of their magazine. Roy Laird questioned whether such a venture would be a sound business investment, since *Go World* already covers international go in English. Laird suggested and Lash agreed that no financial agreement would be reached regarding such an enterprise without Board review.

**f) Congress Go Equipment:**

Lash reported that there was some confusion between the AGA and the Ing Foundation about the equipment. A letter was sent in March requesting equipment, but when Operations VP Chris Kirschner followed up on it, he was told they never got a letter requesting equipment, and it may be difficult to get any from the Ing Foundation in time for this year’s Go Congress. Roy Laird said that Ulo Tamm planned to deliver 200 of his hand-made go boards so the main need would be for stones. Paul Celmer said he still had quite a few sets from last year’s Go Congress, so they should be able to come up with enough equipment. Lash said that the Congress organizers will need to assess their needs so plans can be made if necessary. Lash said that the free sets from China have been promised, but he’s not sure whether they will arrive in time for the Congress.

**3. Rank Certification**

Willard Haynes said that after reading Chris Kirschner’s e-mails regarding the rank certification proposals, he wonders why the certificates were proposed in the first place. Clarifying that could help to determine the appropriate action.

Paul Celmer said the purpose was threefold: to provide a benefit to the members of the AGA, to create a revenue stream for the AGA, and to strengthen the relationship between the AGA and the professionals.

Mike Lash said he remembers it originally being suggested as a free benefit to members in an attempt to attract more members.

Willard Haynes said if the object is to provide a free benefit to the members, involving the professionals is a problem, because it wouldn't be free.

Paul Celmer suggested the AGA could subsidize the program using membership fees. Roy Laird said he didn't think that it was a good use of membership dues; members who want a certificate should pay their own fees rather than being subsidized by other members.

Bob Barber remarked that the Committee, the Board and previous rank committees have all been sharply divided, and wondered whether there would ever be a solution that would satisfy everyone.

Mike Lash asked if the Board thought it was an issue that should be discussed at the annual meeting.

The consensus was that the issue might become too complex and contentious to resolve and would probably take up too much time during the meeting and perhaps a survey could be put on the AGA web site and members could voice their opinions. Roy Laird took the responsibility of making a survey. He will circulate it to the Board and the Ranking Committee before posting it on the web site.

### **IGF/IMSA Report**

Thomas Hsiang attended the International Go Federation (IGF) annual meeting in Japan. There he also had meetings with the representatives of the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA). He sent a report on the various meetings and official conversations he had while he was there. Topics included the proposed International Mind Sport Olympics in Beijing in October of 2008 following the Olympics there in August. IMSA has asked the IGF to come up with about \$1 million - \$1.5 million if the event is to occur. The AGA may be asked to raise a portion of those funds, but considering that the vast majority of players live in Asia, the hope is that Asian go organizations will raise the majority of funds.

The founder of the Japan Pair Go Association has expressed interest in forming an international group, the World Pair Go Federation (WPGF), to invite representatives from countries to compete in the International Pair Go Championships. President Lash stated and the Board agrees that the AGA, as the

official USA go organization, should have the responsibility of selecting Pair Go representatives from the US. A World Pair Go Federation should work with and through the IGF. Apparently this will occur. Roy Laird commented that Thomas Hsiang also reported on the Korean Amateur Baduk Association, a recently formed group. KABA has expressed a similar desire to form a separate “Asian Go Federation” to ensure that go will be played at a Mind Sports event planned for 2010 in Inchon. According to Hsiang, KABA has also decided to work through the IGF rather than start a new association from scratch.

## **5. New Business**

None

## **6. Schedule next monthly Meeting and Adjournment**

The next monthly Board meeting will be held Thursday August 2, 2007 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM EDT at the Go Congress in Lancaster, PA. Willard Haynes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert Barber seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:20 PM EDT.

Submitted by: Pauline Pohl, AGA Secretary