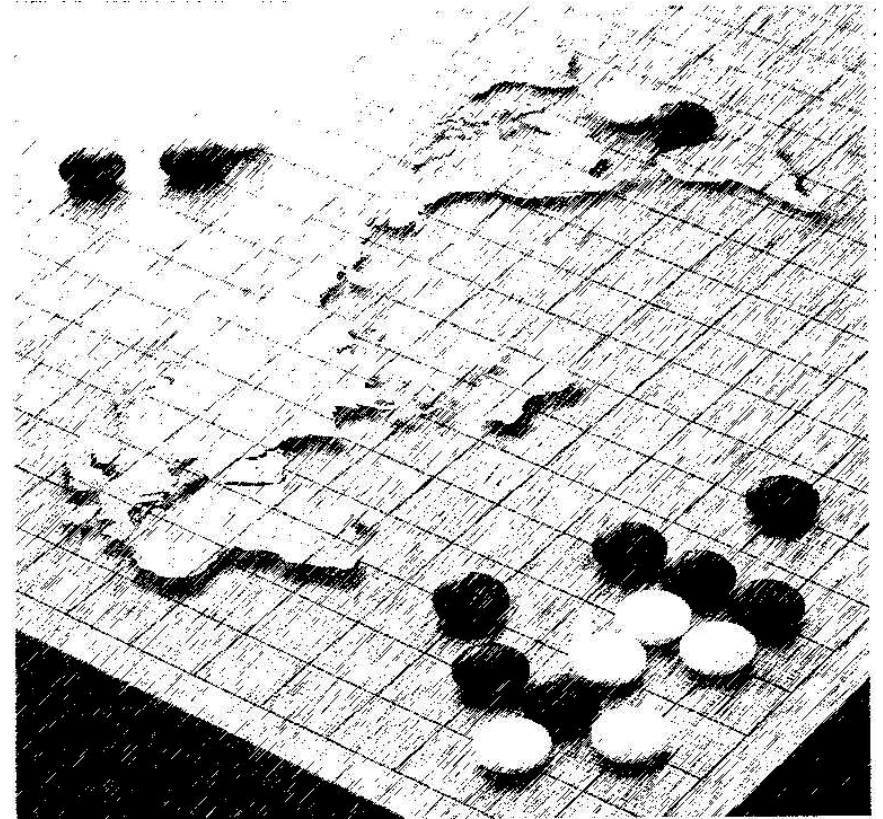


ANNUAL REPORT
2001-2002



A NEW AMERICAN BOARD

THE AMERICAN GO ASSOCIATION
PO Box 397 OLD CHELSEA STATION
NEW YORK, NY 10113
WWW.USGO.ORG



AMERICAN GO
ASSOCIATION

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Cover: Adapted by Roy Laird from the cover of the 1999 *Ranka Yearbook*. Courtesy of the International Go Federation

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN GO ASSOCIATION?

The American Go Association is the national organization of U.S. go players, cooperating with similar national organizations around the world. We:

- ❖ Publish *The American Go Journal*
- ❖ Maintain a computerized rating system
- ❖ Sanction and promote AGA-rated tournaments
- ❖ Organize the U.S. Go Congress, the U.S. Open and qualifying tournaments for international competition
- ❖ Maintain a Web site and organize discussion groups, mentoring programs and teaching ladders
- ❖ Support professional players with tournaments, teaching opportunities and other activities
- ❖ Work to develop a strong national network of chapters
- ❖ Promote go and enhance public awareness
- ❖ Develop projects to strengthen the U.S. go-playing community

The AGA is working to let more people know about this wonderful game and to develop member playing strength and involvement in the American go-playing community.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2001: A Year of Change

By Roy Laird, AGA President

Readers of this report may already know that 2001 featured some dramatic developments for American Go. On the tournament scene, Jie Li, a Chinese prodigy living in California, defeated four professional players in a row in the First North American Toyota/Denso Oza tournament. And millions of Americans, as well as Westerners throughout the world, encountered Go for the first time in the Academy Award-winning film *A Beautiful Mind*.

But in the long run, the biggest change and opportunity for the AGA is probably the new by-laws, which were formulated during 2001 and have since then been adopted. As a result, Chapters will cast their votes for the AGA's first elected Board comprised of seven directors. Those votes will be tallied and announced at the Congress this year, and the new Board will be sworn in at the banquet.

FINANCE

A Finance Committee was formed last year to look into concerns about the AGA's finances. With the help of volunteer financial professionals, they determined that the AGA appears to be financially sound.

Indeed, the Treasurer's Report this year shows the AGA to be in a secure financial position, with a growing reserve fund that is more than three times the size of our annual budget. The clear, concise and comprehensive financial statement you find in this report exemplifies the way that the treasurer's job has been redefined in recent years.

With our financial affairs in order, we are ready to grow. The AGA needs to pursue a four-fold approach to growth:

- More effective retention of members.
- More effective recruitment of new members.
- More effective marketing and promotion of Go to the general public.
- Development of alternate revenue streams such as branded merchandise and equipment, to decrease reliance on membership dues to meet operating expenses.

These steps could bring the AGA the stability it needs to move forward more effectively.

This year we once again received a generous donation of \$80,000 in cash and \$20,000 in equipment from the Ing Foundation in Taipei. This is the eighth year of this program, which seems stable and likely to continue into the indefinite future. The proposed budget varies little from previous years. We continue to allocate \$6000 per region for distribution by Regional VPs, and to divide the remainder between tournament expenses and support for promotional activity. To learn more about our current uses of this fund, please visit <http://www.usgo.org/ingfoundation/ingbudget.html>.

Our youth programs are doing more than ever to bring young people into the game, as Noné Redmond's report tells us. Even stronger efforts are needed in this area. We should all consider how we can apply these resources, along with our more precious resources of time and enthusiasm, to produce a sustainable Go culture in our community.

PUBLICATIONS

The American Go Journal continues to earn its reputation as an outstanding resource for Western Go players from all over, with more of the technical material that readers crave than ever. The production team is ready to go “full steam ahead” with even more material, but a journal longer than the current 40 pages would break the budget. If we were to increase dues or membership, the Journal could be even bigger and better.

Nowadays, one cannot speak of “publications” without including a host of electronic media — e-mail, Internet, software. In many ways, our presence on the Internet is the most vital of all. For most newcomers, the website and the *E-Journal* are the public “face” of the AGA. With 4000 subscribers, the *E-Journal* reaches more people in a single week than our print publications ever do. By hiring a professional to handle website design and maintenance, we have taken a first step in an important direction. The *E-Journal* will begin working with a professional e-mail list-processing service soon.

Does the shifting nature of “publishing” in the 21st century, with an increased emphasis on the Internet, mean that we should rethink our publishing strategies and priorities? The Journal’s budget is several times that of our electronic publications. Some would say that a realignment of these proportions is in order. Are there ways to economize in the Journal budget? Does investment in electronic media pay off with more memberships? What about members who aren’t online? They may be few in number but don’t they still count? These are some of the important questions facing the new Board of Directors.

RANK CERTIFICATION

I am very pleased to report that we are within reach of a goal we have long spoken of achieving — the establishment of a system for awarding rank certifications. A Ranking Committee has been formed under the leadership of Chris Kirschner, who plans to submit a report with recommendations to the National Assembly in Chicago this year.

In Asia, strong players covet official certificates that recognize their skills. In the minds of some, the subjective nature of these awards has left their validity open to question at times. AGA ranks could combine the objective rigor of AGA ratings with professional endorsement by the cadre of Asian-certified pros we think of as “American” pros. Together, they can produce certifications that have a new level of rigor and validity.

A NEW PRESIDENT

When the new Board convenes, I will ask them to select a new President at the earliest opportunity. A new form of governance should be implemented by a new leader.

I will always be grateful for the opportunity I have had to make my mark on American Go. I hope the fruit of my efforts serve us all well. On a personal note, I’m looking forward to handing off the burden of day-to-day responsibilities. Instead, I hope to take my own advice and look for new ways to help build a sustainable Go culture. Maybe I’ll even get to play a little Go for a change!

July 2002
New York, NY

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Ulo Tamm

The American Go Association books have been reconciled. (Please see pages 7-11 for details.) Our balance increased by \$35,669.00, this is indicative of either frugality or lack of interest on the part of AGA members to apply for and use the funds. Many areas contributed to this increase, I will point out some and leave the rest for you to discover among the numbers.

We saved about \$10,000.00 by publishing only three Journals, enrolled three more Life members than expected, received the first ever Publication fees from Slate and Shell, and the 17th Congress showed a surplus. Surplus from the ING Chang Ki Weichi Educational Foundation Grant was a little larger than expected, and we should be more diligent in its usage.

New for this report is the listing of various Liabilities of the American Go Association. These Liabilities are money held in the AGA's account for very specific projects like the hosting club's part of the Congress surplus or the Fujitsu surplus established by Chris Kirschner and heavily contributed to by Samuel Zimmerman. Last year's Fujitsu, held in Canada, would have shown a loss had it not been for Sam and Chris!

I have a talent for showing insufficiencies, this year I foretell a \$15,100 shortfall, but as before we shall erase this by inactivity and excellent money management.

Reconciliation of Year F2001

AGA Checking		\$ 568
AGA Money Market		\$221,621
Total Assets	2/28/02	\$222,189
Total Assets	3/01/01	\$186,520
Bank Balance Increase		\$ 35,669

Liabilities

Life memberships		\$ 22,000
16 th Congress		\$ 107
17 th Congress		\$ 5,029
Fujitsu		\$ 4,902
Rockville Chess and Go Group*		\$ 1,434
Arthur Lewis Go Club*		\$ 760
Total Liabilities		\$ 34,232

OVERALL TOTAL		\$187,957
Assets 2/28/02 minus liabilities		

*These chapters were able to secure funding through local sources, but the funding sources could only write checks to a corporation. Since the Chapters themselves were unincorporated, the AGA acted as a receiver for those funds.

Balance increase accounting:

	Income	Expenses	Total
AGA (see next page 11)	\$ 69,509	\$ 54,671	\$ 14,838
ING Fund (see p.)	\$ 80,000	\$ 62,257	\$ 17,743
Fujitsu	\$ 19,982	\$ 18,125	\$ 1,857*
Summer Go Camp	\$ 15,195	\$ 15,195	\$ 0
17 th Congress	\$103,637	\$ 98,608	\$ 5,029
16 th Congress	\$ 365	\$ 8,458	\$ (8,093)
ALGC**	\$ 4,212	\$ 3,452	\$ 760
RCGG***	\$ 1,919	\$ 485	\$ 1,434
OZA	\$ 43,500	\$ 1,910	\$ 41,590
OZA-East	\$ 1,660	\$ 25,134	\$(23,474)
OZA-West	\$ 0	\$ 16,015	\$(16,015)
Totals:	\$339,979	\$304,310	\$ 35,669

*a \$3,472 from the 2000 Fujitsu was carried over last year

**Arthur Lewis Go Club

***Rockville Chess & Go Group

**AGA Income for Fiscal 2001
And Projections for Fiscal 2002**

Membership	Projected	Actual	Proj. for '02
Full	\$32,000	\$32,710	\$32,000
Ltd/Special	2,000	2,410	2,000
Youth (<18yrs)	1,500	1,240	1,200
Chapters	2,500	2,240	2,000
Life	2,000	5,000	2,000
Sub-Total	\$40,000	\$43,600	\$39,200
Other			
Donations	4,500	4,389	\$ 4,500
Dividend	0	506	0
Interest	6,000	7,826	4,000
Advertising	200	865	1,000
BGJ	300	637	300
Sales	2,000	2,487	2,000
Publication fees *	0	1,452	1,500
Congress Surplus	0	6,602	0
Consulting Fees	0	1,145	0
Sub-Total	\$13,000	\$25,909	\$13,300
Total	\$53,000	\$69,509	\$52,500

*Paid by Slate and Shell in consideration of the AGA's role in developing and presenting the material in three anthologies of material from the Nihon Kiin that had originally appeared in *The American Go Journal*

**AGA Expenses for Fiscal 2001
And Projections for F2002**

Description	Projected	Actual	Proj F2002
Publications	\$37,000	\$27,273	\$35,000
E-Journal	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,088	\$ 2,000
Admin Services	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,571	\$ 6,000
Database Services	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,474	\$ 2,500
Postage/mailing	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,767	\$ 7,000
Copy	\$ 2,000	\$ 997	\$ 1,000
Phone	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,765	\$ 4,000
Supplies	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,108	\$ 1,500
Legal	\$ 1,000	\$ 142	\$ 1,000
Web and Org	\$ 2,000	\$ 2172	\$ 2,000
IGF Dues	\$ 400	\$ 370	\$ 400
Misc.	\$ 500	\$ 281	\$ 500
Internet access/ software	\$ 500	\$ 448	\$ 500
Storage	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Transportation/Conf	\$ 1,000	\$ 266	\$ 1,000
Bank charges	\$ 200	\$ 132	\$ 200
Credit card cost	\$ 500	\$ 495	\$ 500
Annual Report	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,822	\$ 2,000
Total:	\$65,600	\$54,671	\$67,600

**ING Chang Ki Weichi Education Foundation Grant
Summary for F2001 and Grant allocation for F2002:**

	Tournaments		
	Projected	Actual	Projected for F2002
NAMT	\$13,000	\$10,847	\$12,000
ING Cup	\$12,000	\$10,520	\$12,000
Redmond Cup *	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,925	\$ 5,000
	Education and Promotion		
Cong. Youth Scholarship	\$10,000	\$ 8,810	\$10,000
Summer Camp	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,494	\$ 3,000
Shipping/ Customs	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,845	\$ 2,000
Purchase/** Produce	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,513	\$10,000
Admin	\$ 1,500	\$ 542	\$ 2,000
CD ROM	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,932	\$ 3,000
New Program***	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 3,000
	Regional allotments		
East	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,950	\$ 6,000
Central	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,729	\$ 6,000
West	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,150	\$ 6,000
Total	\$80,000	\$62,257	\$80,000

* Includes \$2000 for the new Redmond Cup Invitational Tournament.
 ** \$7000 already committed for purchase of Ing Foundation 13x13 sets.
 *** Discretionary item to be allocated by the incoming Board of Directors.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By John Goon, Membership Secretary

Introduction

This report consists of four sections: (1) Membership Statistics; (2) Highlights; (3) A Blueprint with Which to Grow; and (4) Goals. The Statistics section provides a general overview of membership trends, with a smidgen of unscientific analysis. The “Highlights” section offers a few observations about the past year, which may or may not have a dramatic impact on future membership. In the “Blueprint” section, I offer a personal view of what I feel can be done to prime the pump for membership expansion. The “Goals” section lists items that I'd like to see happen in 2002-3 that I hope will lead to increased growth. If our customer services, communications, and leadership can maintain pace with the steadily growing public demand, we will be doing well.

Membership Statistics

The end-of-year membership numbers, as of 2/28/02, were 1121 full members, 174 limited members, 94 complimentary memberships, 36 sponsors, 81 sustainers, 22 life members, and 5 others, for a total membership of 1533. The total number of chapters, as of 12/31/01, was 59.

Table 1 provides summary membership information for 1985/6 to 1992/3. The figures for 1990 through 1992 are preliminary; no final figures are available. Table 2 provides the latest statistics from the AGA database. The figures given are the maximums for the year shown.

Type	1985/ 86	1986/ 87	1987/ 88	1988/ 89	1989/ 90	1990/ 91	1991/ 92	1992/ 93
Full	623	730	798	879	890	876	1010	Not Avail
Limited	146	213	267	287	332	383	453	Not Avail
Comp.	41	46	45	72	87	91	85	Not Avail
TOTAL	810	989	1110	1247	1309	1350	1548	Not Avail
Sponsor	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	32	Not Avail
Sustainer	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	22	Not Avail
Life	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	5	Not Avail
Other	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	Incl. in Full	4	Not Avail
Chapter	40	47	47	59	61	49	51	Not Avail
Member Revenue	14,390	17,075	18,705	23,675	26,045	25,530	29,300	Not Avail

Table 1 - 1985-1993 Membership Growth by Category
(The numbers shown here are 12-month averages.)
(Years prior to 90/91 show final figures;
90/91 & 91/92 are preliminary.)

Type- Max	1993/ 94	1994/ 95	1995/ 96	1996/ 97	1997 8/8	1998/ 99	1999/ 00	2000/ 01	2001/ 02
Full	Not Avail	924	974	1043	1127	1100	1138	1183	1188
Limited	Not Avail	406	580	471	316	281	171	156	174
Comp.	Not Avail	99	100	100	105	107	107	107	94
Spons. \$100- (99)	Not Avail	20	21	22	29	35	42	44	41
Sust. \$50- (9)	Not Avail	14	27	43	53	69	68	75	84
Life \$1000)	Not Avail	8	8	8	9	11	13	17	22
Fee Only -	Not Avail	Not Avail	10	130	94	76	81	161	161
Others	Not Avail	3	4	6	6	6	5	7	7
TOTAL	Not Avail	1474	1724	1823	1739	1685	1625	1750	1771
Chapter 12/31)	Not Avail	34	60	65	69	60	60	71	73
New Mem.*	Not Avail	Not Avail	Not Avail	Not Avail	Not Avail	Not Avail	383	398	421
Youth Member	Not Avail	Not Avail	Not Avail	Not Avail	Not Avail	Not Avail	110	152	153
Mem. Rev.	35,054	24,528	31,710	31,270	31,925	33,549	42,040	42,030	

In 1996 the AGA created a rating fee to enable non-members to play in AGA tournaments. Many Limited Members took this option instead.

*In 1999, the AGA began calculating how many new members signed up during the year, as part of our effort to retain more new members.

**Table 2 - 1993-2001 Membership Growth by Category
(The maximum number from each 12-month period are given here.)**

Experienced players are becoming more committed as the increase in Sustainers clearly shows. The growth of chapters is a definite good sign as well. The number of new member applications remains strong, but the overall growth is flat. Conclusion: The AGA drop-out rate of about 25% is far too high. Is this a typical performance for organizations like ours? I would like to believe that because of our relatively small size and tight knit community, we could do something to reduce this "leakage" factor. How? See my Blueprint in a later section.

Our membership remained unevenly distributed across the country. Chapters and complimentary memberships are not counted here. Table 3 shows that there were 360 players in the Western region (up 16), 446 in the Central region (down 10), and 583 in the Eastern Region (up 13).

2001 Highlights

AGA Information Pamphlet

The AGA tri-fold information pamphlets were broadly distributed to members, chapters, vendors and the public, and they proved to be a popular handout item. In fact, some local/regional flyers were generated as a spin off of the basic template. Go vendors Samarkand, Yutopian, and Ishi Games continued to include the pamphlets in their mailings.

Media Publicity

Go received a massive publicity boost from the Oscar-winning movie, *A Beautiful Mind*. This generated a large spate of articles in newspapers and magazines across the country. The full impact of this singular event may last for years. Organizers are encouraged to explore the full range of media options when planning a Go special event.

Table 3: 1999/2000/2001 Memberships by State (as of 6/7/02)

State	'99	'00	'01	State	'99	'00	'01	State	'99	'00	'01
AK	4	1	1	LA	6	20	11	OR	65	36	54
AL	2	2	3	MA	69	66	72	PA	55	51	48
APO	---	3	3	MD	68	70	75	P. Rico	1	0	0
AR	2	1	1	ME	5	6	2	RI	3	3	3
AZ	14	13	11	MI	71	53	55	SC	2	4	2
CA	241	241	235	MN	32	24	22	SD	1	1	1
CO	45	42	45	MO	13	13	17	TN	7	5	5
CT	15	14	18	MS	0	1	0	TX	107	120	114
DC	11	9	9	MT	2	1	0	UT	6	3	3
DE	7	7	4	NC	31	27	31	VA	59	49	62
FL	19	23	23	ND	1	3	0	VI	1	0	0
GA	10	15	14	NE	4	1	3	VT	11	8	10
HI	8	6	3	NH	21	14	12	WA	53	57	67
IA	2	3	4	NJ	70	75	78	WI	10	8	12
ID	1	0	0	NM	16	16	19	WV	2	3	2
IL	70	73	65	NV	4	6	6	WY	0	0	0
IN	13	9	11	NY	128	126	120	INT'L	66	41	39
KS	6	7	2	OH	28	24	27				
KY	4	4	4	OK	7	3	3				

Internet

The Mind Sports Organization was a major source of information about world Go in 2000. In 2001, the site lost its financial backing and a significant momentum was lost as well. Yahoo! Games and the MSN Gaming Zone improved their software in an effort to attract more new and experienced players, and they appear to be doing well. The Internet Go Server (IGS) and the No Name Go Server (nngs) have been joined by a host of Asian and other Go client servers and they remain the most favored domains for serious players to meet. IGS is still the place to be for

viewing professional level matches. The Kiseido Go Server (KGS), a JAVA-based system, continued to improve upon its excellent array of innovative features. The KGS offers user-friendly features that are reminiscent of YAHOO! and the MSN Gaming Zone, but it has enhanced learning and instruction features. On the downside, there are many who believe that the Internet is a disincentive for joining AGA chapters. In 2000, the "Wings over Calm Waters Go Club" came up with an idea to get around this problem by creating a virtual AGA Go Club Chapter on the Internet. Situated on the KGS, this weekly club attracted many new players in 2001, and demonstrated a workable template for future organizers to consider. The Chinese Go Room, also on the KGS, is another new entry to the virtual Go club world.

Fundraising

The AGA received another Ing Foundation grant last year. The Ing grant provides a vital support for Go events, education, and promotion throughout the country. Toyota-Denso threw their hat into the sponsor ring as well by sponsoring a major new tournament in early 2002. Local organizers are beginning to actively explore funding from alternate sources as well, e.g. private foundations. We absolutely must become effective fundraisers.

Introductory Software

WinIGO, a 9 x 9 freeware version of MANY FACES OF GO, continued to make its mark on new players. It is still a favorite handout item at public demonstrations. In 2000, the AGA came out with a new Go information CD that contained a host of useful programs, game records, etc. aimed at the beginner. The CD was offered as a bonus incentive for new applicants and this was continued in 2001.

Spanish Language Initiative

In 1999, the Iberoamerican Go Federation (FIG) provided the AGA with 100 Spanish language Go books and cardboard sets for distribution to the U.S. Spanish-speaking community. At that time, we translated the AGA Information Pamphlet into Spanish and distributed limited copies to the southeastern, southern, and southwestern state chapters. Nothing happened in 2000 or 2001. Although the Hispanic community remains largely untapped, I remain convinced of its potential and continue to search for a way to access it.

Scholastic-Friendly Go Sets

2001 saw increased awareness of the need for combination 9x9/13x13 Go starter sets. Since school programs are typically limited to less than one hour, there's not enough time to complete or teach from a 19x19 board game. The 9x9/13x13 starter sets have far greater utility in school settings than the simple 9x9 starter sets and retailers, vendors, and teachers should take note. If you have any credibility, they will listen. At the Dream Wizards Game Store in Rockville, MD, our recommendation to add 13x13 boards to their inventory was immediately adopted. Low-cost 13x13/9x9 sets are also available from the AGA.

Demonstration Projects

Capitol Children's Museum (CCM)

The CCM of Washington DC held their first Go workshop in July 2000 and continued to promote Go throughout that year. Local Go Club members provided training for the CCM staff so they could teach "First Capture" to the children who passed through. The AGA provided information flyers,

cardboard sets, and many hours of volunteer support. In 2001, the CCM project manager left, leaving the Go project without direction or leadership. Further staff turnovers have kept the situation in doubt. Hundreds of children, teachers, and parents have been introduced to Go by the CCM, but Go's future at CCM is unclear.

Chess/Go Collaboration

The dual-game concept was successfully demonstrated in Rockville, MD. Thanks to grants from the Rockville Rotary Club Foundation (\$500) and the American Go Foundation (\$350), the Rockville Chess & Go Group was formally launched on June 22, 2001. This neighborhood group regularly attracts 12-15 players per evening and has established itself as a user-friendly center for new and mid-level players. The group was fortunate to have chess friends who appreciated the social value that a successful joint chess/go partnership can have on young children. The parents appreciated the joint partnership innovation and have supported the group strongly. After a full year of reliable, safe meetings, local civic groups are starting to involve the RCGG in high profile community celebration events. The success of the RCGG has prompted an initiative to start a new strategy games club in the city of Beltsville, and all signs look good.

Chinese Community Language Schools

In the DC area, there are dozens of weekend Chinese school programs. If you have these schools in your area, they offer a tremendous opportunity for targeting by future outreach programs. Surprisingly, we found that Go/Weichi is normally not on the curriculum because: (1) there are simply no instructors; (2) the instructors are unwilling to teach it; (3) the parents and staff were unaware of American interest in

the game; or (4) everyone assumed that their kids would rather learn the more popular western chess. These schools are willing to adjust, but it requires some intervention.

New County Cultural Diversity Center

The Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity in Wheaton MD opened its doors in September 2001 and has evolved into a major Go publicity engine for the Washington DC area. The Center houses the fully resourced Arthur Lewis Go Club and publicizes the club meetings and special events through regular press releases to the local media. These services are free of charge. The club received a County grant of \$2000 to start the Go program and an additional \$1900 from the American Go Foundation as matching funds. The Go program operates symbiotically with the Diversity Center to hold weekly meetings, public demos, and teaching workshops, and is well positioned to introduce Go to the surrounding culturally diverse community. For organizers who may wish to emulate this approach, I would be glad to provide them with a copy of the grant proposal text.

A Blueprint with which to Grow

It is my observation that the key area for membership growth focus is the AGA infrastructure. Our way of doing business from the bottom up must be reliable, responsive, and relevant. It is the basis for creating and sustaining membership gains. There are no quick and dirty fixes of a lasting nature. Here are my recommendations.

Grass Roots Experience

Anyone who aspires to an AGA policy-making office should have a hands-on background in grass roots promotional

activities. The more extensive, the better. Policy makers must be cognizant of the practical operational realities, problems and issues faced by our volunteer workforce in order to generate effective and useful policies. Direct experience over a long period of time can be a terrific teacher.

Identify and Develop the Passion Within

Highly productive volunteers are created when their passions are awakened. They may take a while to tap into, but once unleashed, these volunteers become self-actuated and creative producers. For instance, one DC volunteer never seemed to enjoy his Go teaching assignments with children or adults. It turned out that he really wanted to make a bigger difference by teaching kids from disadvantaged areas. We subsequently found the perfect situation for him in one of the worst areas of the city and he is happily teaching Go there once every week.

Another person stopped playing because of the pressure from competing. We got him to rejoin the Go world as a high producer by offering him formal Go teaching assignments, which he happens to enjoy immensely. This is a human resources issue, and we need to be smart about making good matches. It can be done.

Work on the Fundamentals

Every region should gravitate towards the following:

1. An indexed web page for the entire region, hyperlinked as necessary.
2. A current e-mail distribution list that allows someone to contact all regional players quickly.

3. At least one annual regional planning and coordination meeting that is open to the general Go community.
4. Clear accountability of local Go organization officials.
5. Contacts within the public and private school systems.
6. Contacts with the city or county recreation department.
7. Contacts with any major charitable or fundraising organizations, e.g. Rotary Clubs.
8. Contacts with the local media.
9. One clear and definite information source for all of the outreach programs in the region, someone who is kept informed about everything that goes on.
10. A recruitment and development plan for new volunteers.
11. A strategic vision for the region.

Retention is the key

It would appear that it is far easier to attract new members than it is to sustain their interest beyond a few years. Over the past three years, the AGA signed up 1202 new members, but lost 1050 to non-renewals in the same period. We clearly need to get a better handle on retention. One approach that seems to work well on a local level is to offer your new players the opportunity to participate in all facets of the Go scene. Allow them to get involved and to grow as teachers, marketers, web page developers, inventory managers, volunteer recruiters, bookkeepers, or whatever positions your region may require. Volunteers will stay active and interested if there is a grand purpose to what they are doing. For the DC area, we promote cultural enrichment and the reduction of cultural barriers. Volunteers who are committed in this fashion are not inclined to drop their

membership. This is basic Human Resources 101, and every AGA organizer is encouraged to give this approach a try.

2002 Membership Goals

- ❖ Identify and explore new markets in the Hispanic/Latino communities and other non-Asian cultures.
- ❖ Investigate the potential of fundraising organizations like the Rotary Club or Freddie Mac to support local and regional outreach initiatives.
- ❖ Develop new initiatives with the senior citizen community.
- ❖ Encourage further collaboration with local chess communities to reach schools, recreation departments, and community groups.
- ❖ Promote and enable the use of Student Community Service Learning programs to support Go promotional programs and to build infrastructure.
- ❖ Encourage the sharing of outreach information and ideas between active chapter groups.

REPORT ON GO-PLAYING CHILDREN

By Noné Redmond, Youth Coordinator

Some of the little children who started to attend the Children's Congress when it was first begun have grown up, and some of them have become extremely strong players. Several have started their own classes for other youngsters and these children have also become strong, some of them already capable dan-level players. It has been exciting to see this develop and watch how the student in time becomes the teacher and to enjoy how the very youngest of the children respond to this teaching.

At this year's Summer Go Camp, Professional 1-Dan James Kerwin will head a team of teachers that includes Jonathan Wang and James Chien, two popular, strong camp alumni. Mike Samuel will again serve as Camp Director. This is one of the most popular youth programs, started by Susan Weir and now ably directed by Peter Rzepecki.

Up in Seattle, Jon Boley runs the Go Center and includes many children's teaching programs.

And anyone reading the *E-Journal* cannot help but be struck by the large percentage of children who appear all the time in the winners list. Congratulations to them and to the teachers who help them.

The study groups started last year at the Congress have continued, and Jim Kerwin currently is working with the third group. These classes are two hours long every other Sunday and take place on KGS. During the intervening couple of weeks the children are expected to play paired games with one another and to study a professional game. The children each pay a certain amount towards their study, but the classes are underwritten by the American Go Foundation. Several of the children have written to me, praising the classes, and more than one believes that the study group helped his/her game improve.

This year we were able to get into many schools in the Seattle area. As this was a first real foray, we have learned much and look forward to having more success in the years to come. The Go Center was helped by Mike Malveaux, Carter Kemp, Deborah Niedermeyer, Brian Allen, Scott Arnold, Lee Anne Bowie, and the many teachers in the Seattle and Tacoma area who graciously invited us into their classrooms.

Mike Malveaux has been instrumental in providing us with access to Sheridan Elementary in Tacoma. This school has changed to a multi-lingual method of teaching where classes are taught in both English and a second language. Currently they are teaching children in French, Japanese, and Spanish. Students can also opt for an English-only regimen. We have visited the classrooms of Takada Sensei and Kohjima Sensei. They both are in the Japanese section of the school; Takada's class is fifth grade and Kohjima's class is second grade. We briefly introduced the game to a fifth grade English-only class. Currently, Mike visits the school every week, and I make it down there once a month. Mike has donated a collection of Hikaru No Go to the school, and the kids are getting some exposure to the history and tradition of professional Go in Japan through this excellently written comic.

Lee Anne Bowie, a retired schoolteacher, maintains contact with her school, Ballard High School. Twice a week she goes to the school for lunchtime Go clubs. Deborah and Brian set up a day for me to visit John Stanford International School and plan to start a Go Club next year. One of our most dedicated players, their son comes to the Go Center on a weekly basis. The family has introduced many of his fellow students to the Go Center, and we look forward to the formation of a strong Go club at John Stanford next year.

Carter continues his strong effort at Kimbal. This year, some of the Kimbal families were able to organize a trip to China. Six families and I were able to visit Beijing, Su Zhou, Zhou Zhong, and Shanghai for eight days. We took the kids to play Go at the Beijing Children's Center, where they met Chen Zude. We also played Go in Zhou Zhong with players we met by just taking out our Go boards. The trip was a big success.

Scott Arnold's son entered Orca Elementary this year. So Scott has been teaching the kids in the chess club how to play Go on a weekly basis. Several of the Orca kids have visited the Go Center on a Tuesday night, but I have yet to visit the school itself.

Several visits to Alternate School #1, a trip to Eckstien, and several field trips to the Go Center sum up the total outreach this year.

With the formation of a Go Club at both Stanford and Sheridan we hope that some real competition for Kimbal will form and all three schools can benefit.

Plans for this summer:

This summer we will be holding a day Go camp at the Seattle Center. Every Wednesday we will open the Go Center at 8:00 AM and have a daylong Go Camp. The camps will be loosely based on the structure that Yang used when visiting the Go Center last year. Since there will be a disparity in playing strengths, we will endeavor to make it both challenging and fun for all the kids who do come.

Summer Go Camp

Director Peter Rzepecki filed this report about the AGA summer camp, the only camp of its kind in the world:

“The fourth AGA Summer Go Camp took place at Winona, Minnesota. The Camp turned out to be a great success, very much as it did during the previous three summers. Many persons contributed to this success. This year we had four inspired instructors. Janice Kim has been with us as a

principal instructor from the beginning. James Kerwin joined us for the first time. Jon Wang and Bruce Wilcox joined our pros contributing to the mix of unique teaching styles and approaches. Jon came to the Camp for the third year in a row! This year, as in the previous year, the Camp was directed by the always popular Mike Samuel supported by the always dedicated Loretta Curran. The counselors, Martin Bradshaw, Bob Metz and Bruce Price were also essential to the smooth execution of the Camp's curriculum.

“Everybody learned something during the Camp. For many campers the Camp was and always is an opportunity to play some go and just to have fun. There is, however, a group of quite dedicated players among them. A few weeks after the Camp some of the campers scored big at the Go Congress. One seven-year-old won five prizes! Wow!

“Several hundred hours of volunteer work went into the Camp organization and preparation. The camp also has many friends who contribute to a scholarship fund for the campers. These contributions allowed several kids to come to the camp. We greatly appreciate that! “

The 2002 AGA Summer Go Camp is set for July 13-20, in the same location, with basically the same team of teachers and organizers. Serious players under 18 from all over the world are most welcome! The Go Camp also welcomes donations to its scholarship fund. More information and application forms are available at <http://www.usgo.org/gocamp/index.html>.

CHAPTER SERVICES

By William S. Cobb, Chapter Services Coordinator

The number of AGA Chapters continues to hit record levels, exceeding 75 in June of this year. We expect to have 80 official chapters by the end of 2002. Several states now have as many as five or six chapters.

The AGA continues to expand the services it provides to Chapters:

- The automatic matching grant of up to \$250 is being accessed more frequently as chapters acquire demo boards, books, and other equipment to enhance their operations.
- Moderation of the AGA Chapters email reflector has successfully eliminated spamming as well as commercials and other inappropriate messages.
- Distributing the Ing equipment by pre-arranged request has resulted in more equitable and effective use of this equipment.
- Several new flyers about the rules of the capture game, regular Go, and the nature of the AGA are proving useful in promotional activities.
- The WinTD computer pairing program for tournaments, developed by Chuck Robbins, has become the near universal standard for use at tournaments. The result has been a steady increase in the number of tournaments and in the ease of running them. Chuck continues to update the program, making it even better.

We are also seeing an increase in the number of promotional activities, demonstrations, etc., engaged in by

Chapters. The AGF furnishes *The Way to Go* booklets for this purpose, and the AGA is able to supply such things as cardboard 9X9 sets.

We look forward to continued growth in the number and activities of Chapters in the coming year.

TOURNAMENTS

A new tournament with the highest prize fund of any American tournament highlighted the American Go scene last December, when the *North American Oza/Denso Cup* was played simultaneously in New York and San Francisco. Regional winners Jimmy Cha and Hui-ren Yang then met on the Internet, where Mr. Yang won the right to represent the US in the World Toyota/Denso Cup, playing for a top prize of \$300,000 and a new Lexus.

Even without the addition of the Oza to the tournament scene, it would have been another event-packed year for American Go, with more than sixty tournaments conducted throughout the year. Zhu-jiu Jiang's annual tournament for children in San Francisco again drew over 100 little ones, while other events had larger-than-ever crowds of players.

North American Masters Tournament: TD Chen-dao Lin and game directors Jeff Shaevel and Don Wiener produced another popular round-robin event on the Internet, this year with a field of four North American professionals and two top amateurs. In the best-of-three final, Jujo Jiang won the title for the seventh straight year, defeating his brother, Ming-jiu Jiang 7-Dan, who resides near San Francisco. *Sponsored by the Ing Foundation through its annual grant to the AGA.*

North American Ing Cup: This popular invitational event for top amateurs has been going for more than ten years and always attracts much attention when it is played at the US Go Congress. The winner this year was Thomas Hsiang of Rochester, New York. *Sponsored by the Ing Foundation through its annual grant to the AGA. (TD: Chuck Robbins)*

North American Fujitsu Qualifying Tournament: Throughout the year, players compete in the American Go Tournament Circuit for the honor of being invited to this event. Thomas Hsiang, the winner of the North American Ing Cup, also prevailed in this event, which has been dominated for years by the North American pros who are automatically seeded into the field. Thomas's task was made easier in the second round, when Hawaii-based strong man Ted Ning managed to defeat Jimmy Cha, who has won this tournament more often than anyone else. *Sponsored by Fujitsu Ltd.(TD: Sam Zimmerman)*

The Redmond Cup: This is an invitational tournament for players under 18. In the Junior league (12 and under) Matthew Burrall came second to Curtis Tang. In the Senior League (12-17) the four-time Junior winner Eric Lui played for the first time, and had his toughest competition yet in Richard Liang of Canada. He won this year as well and so was finally graduated out of the Redmond Cup, titled the Redmond Meijin and will play in a new invitational tournament which will also take place on IGS before the finals are played on the first day of the U.S. Congress. *Sponsored by the Ing Foundation through its annual grant to the AGA.*

This year there will be a new tournament for strong young players who have aged out of the Redmond Cup, as a bridge to major tournaments such as the North American Ing Cup.

The new *Ing-Redmond Invitational Tournament* is for young people up to and including 25 years of age who are strong players. The first prize will be a seat in the North American Ing Cup. Mike Bull directs the Redmond Cup tournament and will also direct the Ing Redmond Invitational. *Sponsored by the Ing Foundation through its annual grant to the AGA.*

PUBLICATIONS / MEDIA

New Improved Website: Recognizing the need to take better advantage of the Internet, we hired a web designer to completely overhaul the site. The popular, easy-to-use new format, which attracts thousands of first-time visitors every week, has been vastly revised and expanded. It now includes:

- ❖ The most extensive listing of Go links anywhere on the Net.
- ❖ A complete annotated bibliography of Go books in English.
- ❖ A special listing of films and video in which Go appears.
- ❖ Books, brochures, handouts and other materials for publicists and organizers available for download.
- ❖ The Bob High Memorial Library, a growing array of non-technical Go articles of potential interest to non-players.
- ❖ A special section on the Ing Foundation with complete information about the Foundation, the Ing rules and other aspects of its activity. You can even download instructions on how to operate Ing tournament clocks.

Coming improvements will include a reorganization of the Events section for greater clarity and more completeness.

The American Go E-Journal: Now in its second year of publication, the E-Journal is nearing the 4000-subscriber mark. This year we established a “Members Only” edition featuring weekly commented game attachments, which spurs a small but significant flurry of new memberships every Monday.

The American Go Journal: The oldest English-language Go magazine in the world is now more loaded with technical material than ever. The team that Publications Coordinator Chris Garlock has assembled now produces more material than the current 40-page format can contain. The *Journal* relies on membership income to cover its costs. The “economies of scale” gained from significant membership growth would enable the Journal to expand. Another avenue of growth would be to develop a more successful approach to selling advertising in the *Journal*.

CD-ROM: We continue to distribute a CD-ROM including all the material to be found at www.usgo.org, for those who prefer this format. This year’s new edition will feature more prominent explication of the Ing ‘s SST Laws of Wei-chi. Tournaments played under these rules can receive tournament sponsorship through regional Ing funds. Ask your Regional VP for details.

Other Publications: In another shift that highlights the emerging importance of electronic media, the AGA made most of its important documents available for download from www.usgo.org. Now organizers can download and print out posters, sample press releases, and a variety of handouts and brochures. Teachers can download various instructional

pamphlets for students and organizational aids for themselves. Available documents include:

- *The AGA Rules of Go*
- *Ing SST Laws of Wei-chi* (two versions)
- *AGJ Index* : Back issue bibliographies 1974-1998 by title, author, subject and chronologically.
- *Inside the AGA Rating System*
- *10 Common Questions About Ratings*
- *The AGA Song Book*
- *Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws*
- *Annual Reports and Minutes of the National Assembly, 1999-2001*
- *Capture Go*: A four-page description of simplified rules that can be taught to small children
- *Go Poster*: an eye-catching flyer to promote meetings and events
- *AGA Brochure*: Feel free to print, copy and distribute as many copies as you would like.
- *Go In America*: A brief, highly incomplete history of American Go
- *Go in the US 1997-2000*: Reports from *Ranka*, the yearbook of the International Go Federation
- *The Way to Go*: Baker's classic instruction manual is now available in PDF format online