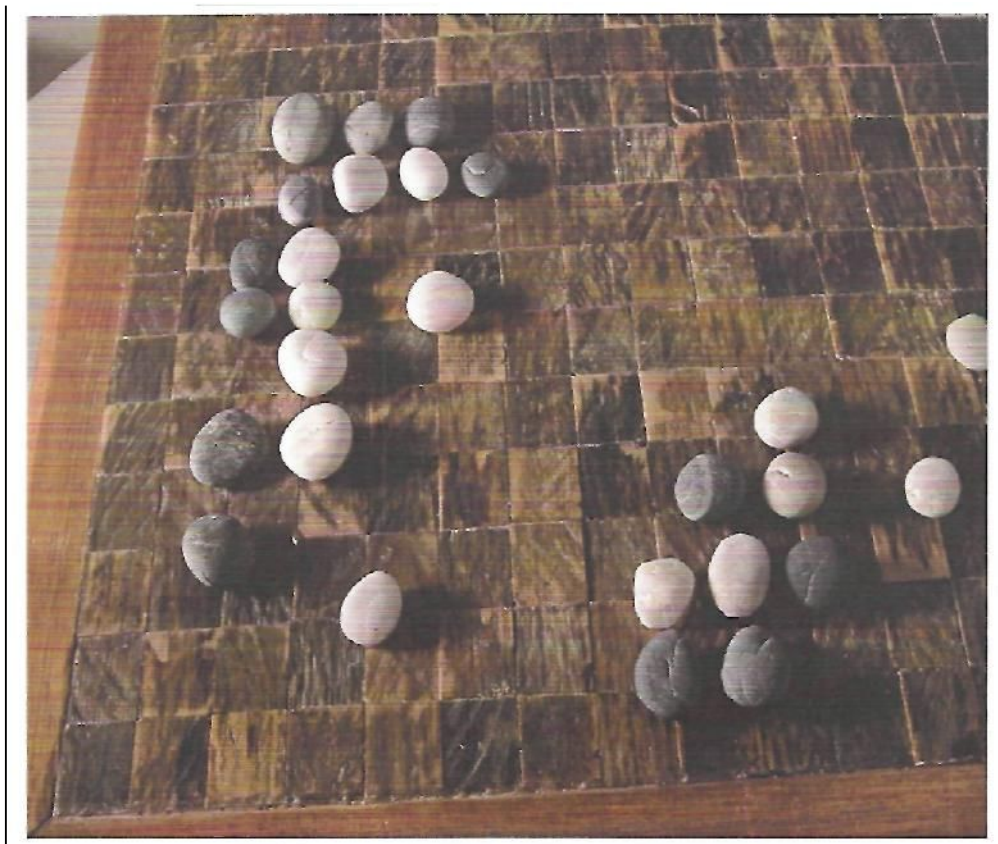


# American Go Association

## Annual Report

2008



## WHAT IS THE AMERICAN GO ASSOCIATION?

The American Go Association is the official national organization of American go players, cooperating with similar national go organizations and international go federations around the world. Among our efforts to promote the game in the United States and support the development of the American go-playing community, we:

- Support** a national network of AG A Chapters and members.
- Maintain** a computerized national rating system.
- Publish** the American Go Ejouraal and annual Yearbook.
- Sponsor** and manage local, national and international go tournaments, go workshops and other promotional events.
- Select** professional and amateur go players through qualifier events to represent the United States in international competition.
- Organize** and promote the annual U.S. Go Congress.
- Administer** funds donated annually by the Ing Wei-chi Education Foundation to promote go education and youth development.
- Represent** the interests of American go players and the AGA in the International Go Federation and other international bodies.

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*Cover: Photo by Phil Straus; driftwood board by Bill Saltman; stones collected by Bill Richards.*

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## ***VOLUNTEERS!***

The AGA continues to run on high-test volunteer fuel! Dedicated AGA volunteers deliver amazing results year after year, adding more value to members through chapter programs, better teaching opportunities, more tournaments and stronger international representation. The quality of the new volunteers that have stepped into key positions in recent years has substantially fortified the AGA's organizational base. In particular, those named below can be counted on to work throughout the year - for the love of the game and the go community. Please - take a moment to let them know how much you value their work and express your appreciation for their selfless dedication and abundant generosity.

### **AGA Board of Directors**

Roy Schmidt, Chair  
(Central Region)

Laura Kolb (Central Region)

Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)

Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)

Gordon Castanza (Western Region)

Willard Haynes (Western Region)

Roy Laird (At large)

### **AGA Officers**

President	Michael Lash
Secretary	Pauline Pohl
Treasurer	Adam Bridges
Executive VP	Chris Kirschner
VP - Communications	Chris Garlock
j VP - Operations	Chris Kirschner

## **National Coordinators**

Chapter Services	Arnold Eudell
Membership Services	Mark Rubenstein
Elections	Arnold Eudell
EJournal Editor	Chris Garlock
Webmaster	Roy Laird

## **Program Coordinators**

Archivist	David Doshay
Database Management	Sam Zimmerman
Pair Go Events	Allan Abramson
Ratings System	Paul Matthews
Game Rules	Terry Benson
Summer Go Camps	Walter Knox
Youth Coordination	Todd Heidenreich

## **International Affairs**

Thomas Hsiang

International Go  
Federation

## ***Chairman's Report***

*by Roy Lair, Chairman, (May 2006-June 2008)*

### ***A YEAR OF NEW BEGINNINGS***

The past twelve months have been good ones for the AGA, with successful creation of thrilling new events; creation of a new web site and the smooth transition to a new President. The AGA, determined not to allow Go to be eclipsed by the other participating games, will send a full team to attend the World Mind Sports Games with at least \$15,000 raised from private donations and additional funds allocated by the Board from the reserves.

**A Stable Board:** Composition of the board remained stable this year, with only one new member joining, as Central Region Director Laura Kolb replaced Bob Barber, who retired from the Board.

**North American Pros:** At the Lancaster Congress President Lash, Executive VP Chris Kirschner and I met with six North American citizens or residents who hold professional go credentials from overseas. The first such meeting in several years, it was intended to be an exploratory session to find ways to work together. We learned that the group does not support the formation of a professional association at this time. The AGA will nonetheless continue to represent the interests of all American players, including pros, consulting informally on issues of mutual interest as this idea evolves. The pros also offered several constructive recommendations, including the creation of a fund to support pro workshops at local chapters. After the meeting, we developed such a proposal. It was approved by the Ing Foundation and we have been accepting applications from chapters.

**AGA Selects Ing Cup Rep:** Last August, shortly after the Congress, I traveled to Boston to join President Lash in a meeting with Yang Yu-Chia, the secretary of the Ing Foundation. In that meeting we began discussions which changed the Foundation's practice of allowing American citizen professionals based overseas to select the US representative to the prestigious quadrennial ING Cup event, boasting a first prize of \$500,000. The AGA was able to make the selection and held its first North American World Ing Cup qualify tournament last fall. It featured four US-based professional players and ended with Ming-jiu Jiang winning the right to compete.

**Website Upgrade:** After starting the project in FY08, the Board approved in FY09 up to \$5,000 for development costs to completely upgrade our website. At this writing the new site is 95% ready and should launch before the Congress. See the Communications report for details.

**World Mind Sports Games:** President Lash made a full US presence at this groundbreaking event a major priority this year, and the Board supported his efforts, creating a partnership with the American Go Foundation through which more than 70 members and other supporters donated more than \$15,000 in tax-deductible contributions. The Board matched this effort by allocating up to \$20,000 from the reserve fund to cover basic expenses of the 22 player team. Feng Yun 9P will serve as Captain of the *only* full Western team from any nation. The Board also agreed to waive the residency requirement for US citizen Michael Redmond 9P, so that the quintessential Western go professional could participate for the USA.

**Tournament Reporting:** Board member Paul Celmer stepped forward to lead the correction of a longstanding problem with timely submission of tournament results and data. A policy requiring submission of results within a few days of the event, and no later than 30 days afterwards was adopted and implemented. Visit the "How To Report Tournament Results" page on the website to view this policy. TDs who are chronically out of compliance received assistance in understanding the rules and how to cooperate with it, so that members promptly receive the ratings and membership updates they deserve.

**US Go Congress:** The Board adopted a "Congress Memorandum of Understanding," spelling out respective areas of responsibility and accountability, which should help future Congress Coordinators manage the events more smoothly than before. (Visit the "How To Run A Congress" page to view this document.) The Board also worked with this year's Congress organizers to establish merchant accounts allowing them to collect payments by credit card for registration and any other purchases at the Congress.

**Tournament Participation Agreement With Canada:** President Lash worked with CGA President James Sedgwick to formalize the procedures under which Americans and Canadians can play in each other's tournaments. (Visit the Board's "Approved Documents" page to view this document.)

**Hinoki Press Partnership:** With the Board's support, I negotiated with Hinoki press to produce in book form *This Is Go The Natural Way!* by

Takemiya Masaki, serialized in The American Go Journal in the 1990's. The AGA received its first royalty payment in early July.

**World Pair Go Association:** The Board agreed to have the AGA to become a charter member in The World Pair Go Association, whose goal is to promote Pair Go throughout the world. This new organization will promote Pair Go independently of, and in parallel with, the Nihon Ki-in's long standing Pair Go Championship program.

**A New President:** President Lash announced that he would not seek another term as president when his current term expires in August. In January, the Board asked me to lead a search committee that would identify and assess candidates. I'm proud to say that a committee of senior AGA officials worked hard, identified two candidates, and gave the Board the guidance it needed to select former Board Chair Allan Abramson in March. The early selection makes possible for President Lash to manage the smoothest President's transition in AGA history. We can look forward to a bright future with an active, ambitious president who I hope will receive the support he needs to bring major improvements and growth.

In June, I stepped aside as chair, and the Board selected Roy Schmidt as an interim replacement. Dr. Schmidt has already proven himself to be a capable and responsible leader in a difficult time.

The new Board has a busy time ahead, with several significant issues to address:

1. **Revised International Representation Selection Criteria:** The Board is currently considering a draft containing several revisions. This draft should be reviewed by other stakeholders, revised further as needed, and adopted. One of the key provisions is that each player signs a declaration that he/she is familiar with the criteria.

2. **By-laws Revision?** The by-laws were last revised only a few years ago, in 2005, but some new questions merit consideration. During the presidential search process, some committee members advocated a different leadership model they have seen in similar institutions, one that may facilitate more continuity. Two new offices would be created: President-Elect and Immediate-Past-President. A new president-elect would be selected for each electoral term, with the expectation that he/she would move on to the presidency, and then fulfill the duties of the immediate past president. Other revisions may also be considered.



3. **Need For Accrual Accounting:** The AGA finished 2007 with a \$30,000 surplus, due in part to a new policy of allowing members to pay up to five years' worth of dues at a reduced rate of \$25/year. At present all funds are accounted for in the year they are paid, so there may be a cyclical rise and fall in cash flow through subsequent years as a result of membership renewals. The Board has recommended that the Treasurer adopt an accrual style of accounting and President Lash agreed to raise this issue with the Treasurer; the new president should follow through with this initiative.

4. **Growth and Development:** Most importantly, Allan Abramson, our new President, will enter office with ambitious plans to push the AGA further ahead than ever before. I've known Allan for more than twenty years, and I know that with effective support and guidance from the incoming board, he may do great things. Especially if you can find a way to help a little too!

## ***President's Report***

*By Michael Lash*

*president@usgo.org*

With a combination of sadness and joy, I am writing my fourth and final Annual Report as I conclude the end of my second term as AGA President. I started in 2004 with a limited knowledge of AGA operations and its vast volunteer network. It is a pleasure to be able to say with confidence that the AGA and I learned to make the most of each others' talents, and the wealth of generosity and depth of volunteer energy throughout the AGA membership carried me through. As a result, the AGA is more active, bigger, better organized, financially stronger and more robust than at any time in its history.

We can be proud of our many accomplishments together since the fall of 2004. Careful planning of a series of internal changes led to an improved administrative infrastructure for ensuring recent and future successes. Our dedicated volunteers have improved the delivery of services, participated in marketing and promotional programs, and provided us with the capacity to continue expanding membership benefits. We offer an increasing array of services to help individuals and chapters play go, communicate, study, meet and achieve common goals.

We have much to show for our efforts, including a newly-launched website, professional go training workshops and growing chapter services programs. Our initiatives have been supported by grants from the Ing Foundation, and revenue from operations.

### ***The Numbers***

The numbers tell part of the story. Every category of membership has increased since 2004. A national Chapter membership drive in 2007, regular promotions in the EJournal and on the website, discounts for multi-year memberships, higher visibility and increased number of online events, **and** greater publicity for and participation in international events all contributed to the steady rise and retention of AGA members. Total membership reached record levels in 2008, peaking at over 2,400 in May. One of the most telling statistics is the surge in new Life Members. It took 9 years for Life Membership to rise from 8 to 32, but only four years since 2004 to more than double - there are now 66 Life Members! On the other end of the

spectrum, youth membership is up a whopping 300% from 271 in August 2004 to over 800 in August 2008. Growth like this proves there is very strong confidence in the long term future for the AGA. On the Chapter scene, there are at least 133 registered/paid up chapters as of July 1, 2008.

Turning to the financial numbers, our reserve funds have steadily increased every year for four years. Every year since 2004 our gross revenues increased, our Congresses have run in surplus, and the AGA has no long term debt. The annual budget is larger than ever before and we are confident that this year's programs will be adequately funded. AGA "capital" reserve funds are conservatively managed, earning more interest and dividends for the AGA in the last three years than in the prior eight years.

Tournaments and tournament participation numbers remain strong - with go events posted on our website nearly every weekend and across the country. The U.S. Youth Go Championship is now a fixture on the US national tournament program. This is a firmly established annual event featuring a full range of our youth members nationwide. A series of eight qualifiers over a 5-month season leading up to the finals has been ably managed by Nicole Casanta for its two first years. Nicole has done an outstanding job managing the inevitable complications and problems that arise with new programs. She exemplifies the AGA volunteer who takes a new program and nurtures it into stability under solid leadership.

### *Inside the AGA - Administration*

Numbers aside, the most significant improvements for the AGA in recent years - and also the least visible to the public - have been the strengthening of internal business practices, establishing administrative policies and clarifying procedures. These efforts are the product of a healthy, four-year collaboration between the President and the Board and the cooperation of all AGA executives. At the start of my first term, I nominated Chris Kirschner as the AGA's first ever Executive Vice President (EVP). This position was created for several reasons: 1) to provide the incumbent President with a built-in "deputy" to provide support and advice on any and all issues; 2) identify a person to assume the position of AGA President in an orderly succession should the President become unable to perform his duties for an extended period of time; and 3) in the long run, to potentially groom an EVP to become the next President, ensuring a well-informed successor and seamless transition. The EVP helps insure a smooth transition to new

Presidents, even if it not the EVP, providing a solid knowledge transfer with extensive currency on all matters of business.

This new position delivered a very significant boost in organizational strength and capacity from the start that helped me manage a daunting work load. Chris provided an incredible volume of support and service to the AGA. We absolutely would not have accomplished as much as we did without his constant and selfless sharing of the work load. Some key positions became vacant and were filled with high caliber people: new archivist David Doshay, who effectively managed the transition of our archive materials; new Membership Coordinator Mark Rubenstein to create a steady and reliable resource for all new members; and Paul Barchilon, who also wears the AGAF hat, was instrumental in the success of the USYGC and the North American Ing School Team Championship.

In addition, an "AGA Team" was created from AGA officers, program coordinators and program managers. When appropriate, they were consulted on operational issues for guidance or ideas. Several new policies and regulations that flowed through the Team were subsequently approved by the Board and this internal working group remains a vital source of information, ideas and support.

### *Policies and Programs*

As mentioned above, operating procedures and standards were created across a range of programs. Some of the programs and policies include:

- Successfully transitioned the ING grant application process from block grants to program grants, and successfully implemented the new system in 2007 and 2008.
- Ran a national Chapter membership drive in 2007, generating 300 new AGA members in 2007.
- Settled equipment distribution roles between the AGF and AGA.
- Created Summer Go Camps guidelines that clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the AGF, AGA and Camp Coordinators.
- Safety and Security policy for AGA events.
- Selection of guest officials for international events.
- Selection of players for international competition.

- Revising the World Youth Go Championship selection method to correspond with the sponsor's and AGA's policy.
- Clarified support for go teaching programs in grade schools and colleges.
- Memorials policy for AGA members.
- Bilateral agreement between Canadian and American Go Associations on members participating in cross-border events.
- Adopted standard Memorandum of Understanding for Congress Directors regarding management and financial responsibilities.
- Adopted standard agreement regarding responsibilities of AGA officers and members who represent the AGA or USA overseas.
- Initiated an annual "Job Fair" at the Congress, producing many excellent new volunteers in just 2 years.
- Initiated first-ever electronic voting for Directors.
- Completely revised and updated AGA Elections policy and guidelines

As a final but very public administrative act, I have the pleasure of seeing the new website go live. The need for a new and more serviceable website was apparent years ago but it took the right combination of volunteers to support the vision and supply the energy to see it through. Our Membership Services Coordinator Mark Rubenstein led this project team for the most part and deserves tremendous credit for bringing it beyond the contract and well into the implementation phase. Steve Colburn, the AGA's new Webmaster, then stepped in to take the lead on technical aspects. Substantial support and technical work was done as well by other team members including Chris Kirschner and Roy Laird. It was very gratifying to oversee this collective effort knowing that the AGA membership will reap the rewards for many years to come.

### **Outside the AGA - International Outlook**

Looking outward, during the last 4 years the AGA has become much more active in the international go community. This is due to the expanding range of invitations received to play in international tournaments, increasingly active AGA affiliations with foreign go associations, deeper participation in IGF business, preparation for the WMSG, and more frequent and meaningful contact with our foreign counterparts. The rising volume of regular AGA activity that touches the international go community needs to be well managed and centrally coordinated to maximize our opportunities and protect our interests. The time came for the AGA to strengthen itself to

effectively manage this element of our operations. I recently proposed, and the Board approved, creation of a new position in the AGA - Vice President of International Affairs. The incoming President will make the appointment with the support of the Board. Stay tuned as the impact of the new position may bring new opportunities to AGA members for greater contact with the rest of the world's go players.

During 2005-2006, the AGA was deeply involved in efforts to have the International Go Federation adopt a set of international go rules based on the AGA approach for competition. These efforts considerably raised the profile of the AGA in international circles, thanks to the rules expertise of Terry Benson and diplomacy of Chris Kirschner. Since then, both the French France and British national go associations have adopted the AGA rules.

One of my priorities was to improve the already growing relations with the Chinese go association. A major breakthrough occurred in 2005 when I led a group of self-paying AGA players to compete in an international team tournament in Hangzhou, China. During the visit I met with the then-President of the Chinese Weiqi Association, Chen Zu de, and opened talks on several points where we can cooperate in the future. This marked the first time an AGA President had visited China and conducted business. Communications and relations are improving steadily.

Within the overall strategy of developing relations with China, we also secured a donation of 400 complete go sets from the World of Weiqi in 2008 through the help and assistance of Mr. Ronghao Chen. These sets are available in Tacoma, Denver and Lancaster for loan to AGA chapters and provided a major increase in our ability to support more events in more places at one time.

The world go community is itself expanding and we see this trend continuing for the foreseeable future. Expect to see more qualifier events played for overseas tournament opportunities. Eligibility requirements are now more important than ever so it is critical for players to be responsible for their membership records and dues.

### **Beyond the AGA**

As President, I have had the good fortune of presiding over a period of substantial and positive growth of the AGA in many directions. In truth,

some goals are best not fully achieved, creating motivation and opportunity for new initiatives by the next President. Some areas where we need to make more progress include: expanding our donor and sponsorship base; training and certifying tournament directors; providing additional support for our Chapters; and expanding the number of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to continue the AGA's upward trends.

The last task is handing over the reigns to President-elect Allan Abramson, a long time AGA member, recent Board Chairman from 2004- 2006, and the NOVA Go Club Chapter Representative. He literally brings decades of AGA experience to the office and a natural talent for consensus-building leadership. I wish him all the best. To all of you that supported my efforts to improve the AGA, please lend him the same support. I plan to resume pursuing my deferred goal of reaching shodan, while continuing to support the AGA along the way.

As always, if you have ideas you'd like to discuss, write to us at [President@usgo.org](mailto:President@usgo.org).

## ***Executive Vice President's Report***

*By Chris Kirschner*

*operations@usgo.org*

This has been a very busy year for national and international tournaments. The AGA has been deeply involved in both in terms of tournament program management, overall player participation, and an increasing level of sophistication of our ability to manage national events.

### ***U.S. National Tournaments***

We combined the North American Masters with the ING Cup into one event - the **North American ING Masters Tournament (NAIMT)** - both of which have been regularly supported by the ING Foundation for many years. A further refinement resulting from listening to the strong players at the 2007 Congress was to revise the NAIMT structure and expand the field to 32 players instead of 16. That recommendation is being put into place this year with the addition of a 5<sup>th</sup> round. This change immediately doubled the number of eligible players and made the event far more competitive and prestigious for the winner.

The AGA collaborated for the first time with the **American Go Honor Society (AGHS)** to enhance their already established National Scholastic Championship program, again with the support of Ing Foundation funds. This formal collaboration between the AGA and its growing youth community was unprecedented in its scope and success for both organizations, and required a great deal of coordination to meet the needs of all concerned. The AGHS effort was led by Matthew Mallory. The entire program was created, and continues to be organized and led, by and for the youth players. There was, naturally, a significant generation gap as well as a different institutional focus, and it was a healthy learning experience for both groups to merge our efforts. The success of the program - over 50 competing high school teams - speaks for itself. We definitely expect to do this again in the next school year.

A highly successful national youth tournament program completed its second season as the **US Youth Go Championship**. Eight different AGA Chapters hosted live qualifier events and the winners in each division (junior and senior) attended the US Youth Go Finals in New Jersey, hosted by Paul Mathews and the Fen Yung Go School. The ING Foundation generously



supports this youth-building program. The winners in each division at the finals become the US representatives to the World Youth Go championship, sponsored by ING. These qualifiers are held from January through May and often run in conjunction with other local tournaments, creating a regular winter and spring season of AG A national youth tournaments.

Beneath all the public excitement of such events, we took some less flashy, but equally important, administrative steps forward. Tournament eligibility regulations were established and implemented. The time-tested and comprehensive TD guidelines written by Ken Koester have become the AGA's and are freely available online to all interested TDs. And finally, the post of **National Tournament Coordinator** is being filled by Phil Waldron, who will officially assume that position after the 2008 Congress. This challenging position has long needed an energetic and qualified volunteer dedicated to nothing but organizing the collection of AG A tournament materials and programs. We expect Phil to provide a solid measure of stability and long term coordination of the multiple tournament programs constantly underway. Give him your support and comments by writing to [tournaments@usgo.org](mailto:tournaments@usgo.org) as of September 1.

One of Phil's projects has been active development of a McMahon Pairing standard for programmers. This much-needed standard will promote updated and new pairing programs by providing an effective standard to work towards. It was recently published for public comment, and we expect to have it published for use before the end of this year. From this start, we expect to add standards for other types of tournaments.

### *International Tournaments*

With the announcement of the **World Mind Sports Games** (WMSG) in October, 2007, came the news that there would be several go tournaments in which we could participate. That translated into a total allowance for the AGA of 22 players and 3 officials. For Go, there will be 6 events: individual competition for men and women, team competition for men and women, Pair Go, and an individual open competition limited to amateurs. Professionals are permitted in all the others. Countries were allowed 5 male entries for the individual, and 6 for the team event, with one identified as an alternate. Women are limited to 3 for the individual, and 4 for the team, also with one identified as an alternate. Two slots of either gender were created

for the Open amateur individual event. Western countries are allowed one pair go team.

Faced with this incredible opportunity, but a relatively short period of time to prepare, we made several policy decisions. We would: 1) send players for all the seats permitted by the sponsors; 2) require open competition for people to qualify for final trials to occur at the Congress; 3) not use one's ability to pay as a criterion for making the team; and 4) actively participate in the organizational activities of the IGF and WMSG.

We asked our resident IGF Director, Thomas Hsiang, to take an active role in the IGF component of organizing the games. In due course, he became a prime contributor, providing much needed input on the development of special WMSG rules and regulations for the Go events which are being published in three languages (Chinese, Japanese and English). He also participated in many meetings and discussions about designing the event, establishing the number of players in each, and many other aspects of organization.

The AGA administration also worked closely with the AGF Board to establish a WMSG fund raising program so people could receive tax benefits for donating funds to a 501c(3) charity in support of the event. This was very successful, bringing in over \$15,000 by the time of the Congress. The AGA Board also agreed to provide up to \$20,000 if needed. With these funding sources in place, each player was given a stipend of \$1300 to cover all costs of attending the WMSG in China, including air fare.

We also established a one-event-per-person rule. As time went by, it became clear that there would be no lack of male players. However, in the upper ranges of skill, there are many fewer women, so we decided to ask for volunteers, and require a playoff for the seats only if we had more volunteers than available seats. In the end, playoffs were unnecessary.

### *The WMSG - Where it Came From*

This is a new event to many people so a little history is warranted here. Over the past dozen years or so, mental games have been proposed to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as "Mind Sports". The concept of expanding the Olympic tradition to include games such as Bridge, Chess, Checkers, and Go is a work in progress. Applications for recognition have

been accepted for Bridge and Chess, and *is* expected for Go after the WMSG is completed. In the course of such applications, all applying federations were referred to the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), which works closely with the IOC.

The IGF has been accepted for membership in GAISF. Within the GAISF, a group of games associations formed a sub-division called the "International Mind Sports Association" (IMSA). IMSA's first activity was to plan for the first WMSG in 2008 following the Summer Olympics and Paralympics, to be played in the same venues used in August and September, using the same host country infrastructure in Beijing. Thus, the different name notwithstanding, the WMSG is an integral part of the global Olympic Movement, and has generated unparalleled excitement and energy in the Go world that comes with that association.

It is only fair and appropriate to acknowledge that China has provided a great deal of the support, human resources and financial, that allows this premiere event to occur. The next WMSG venue will follow the next Olympics to London in 2012. We will enjoy the thrill of participating in Beijing soon, and then begin to look ahead for crossing the Atlantic in 4 more years.

While the WMSG overshadows most other event this year, the AGA continues to increase its participation in many other overseas events. For the first time, the AGA secured the right to nominate a player for the very prestigious ING Cup - where only 32 of the world's top players are invited to compete for prize money of several hundred thousand dollars. Through a qualifier held in late 2007, Ming-jiu Jang won that seat and the AGA sent its first competitively selected player to this event. We are hopeful that the next time the ING Cup is run in 2012, this opportunity returns to the AGA.

The AGA regularly sends both amateur and professional go players to compete in serious international events in Korea, China, and Japan. The range of overseas tournaments is expected to continue growing and include Europe as well. Qualifier events for these opportunities are announced on our website and in the EJournal so make sure to check often!

### Internet Tournaments

Internet tournaments are already widely used in Asia for numerous events and the future will only see an increasing number of events go that way. The obvious cost advantages are too strong to ignore and concerns over fairness and honor can be managed with adequate technology and some human resources. For qualifying events, this is a very appealing practice that is here to stay. AGA members should get used to the idea.

The AGA has already joined this movement and has held several major qualifier tournaments online this year - Fujitsu, NAIMT, and WMSG. In addition, when necessary, playoff rounds of 1 to 3 games can be arranged quickly and easily, no matter where the players live, and this generates greater flexibility in hosting and managing national tournaments.

We have maintained a policy of not rating online games. The vast majority of tournament games in America are played live and there are ample opportunities for most players to play in AGA-rated tournaments. We still recognize that in regions with fewer live tournaments, this rule continues to present a challenge for players wanting to play more rated games. There remains some concern over the integrity of unsupervised online games because they present real potential for cheating and this also affects the ratings of the other players. Nonetheless, there is still great value for AGA members playing online in real tournaments at their established rating. Watch for more online events coming your way.

*Treasurer's Report*  
*by Adam Bridges*  
*treasurer@usgo.org*

This is the first year in which the AG A Annual Report includes all of the following reports: 1) FY08 financial statements; 2) FY09 Budget; 3) 2007 Congress Profit/Loss Statement; 4) 2007/08 ING grant report. This will be a standard feature of future Annual Reports.

The American Go Association is solvent and in good financial health at the close of FY08 (June 1, 2007 to May 31, 2008). The major achievement for the AGA Treasurer this year was the transition of our accounting system from a general bookkeeping format to a more advanced accounting system. This has been challenging but rewarding. In time, I would like to develop a financial report that is structured much like any other non-profit organization. With steadily increasing net assets, and a likely surge in e-commerce revenue from our online store on the new website, it is possible over time that our organization may eventually be subjected to closer attention by the IRS during routine audit activity. The more structured and transparent our financial reports become, the easier it will be to explain and verify them.

For now, the transition to the new accounting system is complete with detailed budget and program codes providing vastly improved transparency in our operations. A review of our FY08 financial statements and the FY09 budget amply demonstrate the change in style and format. Some of the changes produced new line items that were not apparent before and some of these are addressed in detail below.

FY08 AGA operations exceeded both budgeted income and expenses. Operational income was substantially higher than expected in part due to the surge in multi-year memberships being actively promoted. AGA members responded well and took advantage of the savings opportunity. Specifically, with total operating revenue of \$97,699.70, and operating expenses of \$99,019.56, we finished with a net deficit of \$1,319.86. This is insignificant overall, but there were large discrepancies in spending from one department to another. For example, the Administrative arm of the AGA was considerably under spent (by \$8,925.36) while the Yearbook expenses were \$8,557.69 more than expected. Credit card fees were significant, and need to be accounted for separately in the next budget.

Total assets for the AGA decreased, but liabilities decreased even more. This produced a FY08 increase in the Net Reserves (Equity) in the amount of \$19,352.25. This increase is the result of reassignment of previous years' ING funds from a liability to net reserves, plus net income from FY08.

For the first time, AGA financial statements break out the ING grant program funds from operational funds and henceforth the AGA will provide an annual, stand-alone ING grant program financial statement. This will deliver complete transparency in the amount of ING grant funds received, identify the particular programs funded each year (they can differ year to year), and provide a status of the total grant funding at year's end. The ideal situation is a zero balance at the end of the each year- meaning all programs fully consumed the funds appropriated. In reality, some funds are not consumed as planned. They will carry over to the next year and be available for the unfinished program. If the program was finished and a surplus still remains, the surplus will be applied to other ING programs. ING grant funds are ***not available for any other programs*** and constitute "restricted reserves" in the Balance Sheet. The total presented in the FY08 Balance Sheet represents accumulated monies from FY 2006, 2007, and 2008.

Life Memberships increased sharply during FY08 with many people making the \$1,000 commitment, the largest single-year increase in this category ever. These funds have also been moved to the "restricted reserves" account on our balance sheet and are likewise unavailable for general use until a Life Member passes away.

One final note: there has been some confusion and delay in paying prize money and making expense reimbursements to individual members from tournaments all across the country. This is primarily a result of not delivering to the Treasurer all the information necessary to send the payments. Tournament Directors need to uphold their responsibility to AGA members and deliver to the AGA Treasurer and Tournament Coordinator promptly after each tournament a complete list of the relevant information on prize structure, prize recipients, their home mailing addresses (to send them checks), and if the prizes exceed \$100, their SSN for the IRS. Remember - youth often don't have checking accounts or SSN on hand, and foreigners usually can't do anything with a check drawn on an American Bank. Provisions have to be developed in advance to accommodate for these situations. Contact [treasurer@usgo.org](mailto:treasurer@usgo.org) if you have any questions.

## Reconciliation FY08

<b>Total Operating Revenues FY08</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>97,699.70</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses FY08</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>99,019.56</b>
<b>Net Operating Income FY08*</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(1,319.86)</b>
* This number represents a deficit in operations for FY08		
<b>Income from Special Endowments FY 08</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,564.46</b>
<i>Residual monies from the ING foundation and the Toyota/ Denza Corp.</i>		
<b>Net AGA Income FY 08</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,244.60</b>
5/31/2008	Transferred to ING Restricted Net Assets	\$ 2,898.97
5/31/2008	Transferred to General Reserves	\$ 1,345.63
5/31/2008	Transfer from General Reserves to Life Membership	\$ 10,000.00
5/31/2008	FY 06 and FY 07 ING Fund Balances Reassigned to Restricted Net Assets	\$ 14,545.00

### Notes:

Grants from the ING Foundation and other sources will henceforth be assigned as income

Grant Appropriations will henceforth be assigned as expenses

Liability accounts will be reserved for Custodial Accounts (The Congress accounts), long-term debt, and other operations that by necessity must be carried over from one fiscal period to the next.

**The American Go Association Inc.**  
**Profit and Loss Statement**  
 June 2007 through May 2008

July 14, 2008

	<u>Jun '07 - May '08</u>	<u>Actual 08</u>	<u>Budget 08</u>
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
40000 — Revenue from Direct Contrib.			
40100 — Individual Donations			
40110 — Unrestricted	3,580.00		
40130 — Restricted	780.00		
Total — Individual Donations	<u>4,360.00</u>	\$	4,000
40200 — Corporate Contributions	65.00		
Total — Revenue from Direct Contrib.		<u>\$</u>	<u>4,425</u> \$ <u>4,000</u>
51000 — Revenue from Program Fees			
51100 — Per Game Fees	<u>660.00</u>		
52000 — Revenue from Dues			
52100 — Membership Dues-Individual			
52110 — Adult Memberships	23,115.00		
52111 — Multi Year Memberships	16,520.00		
52120 — Youth Full Membership	7,000.00		
52130 — Limited Membership	2,850.00		
52150 — EJ Membership	200.00		
52151 — Donor Membership	150.00		
52160 — Life Memberships	<u>10,000.00</u>		
Total — Membership Dues-Individual	59,835.00		
52200 — Revenue from Organizations			
52210 — Chapter Membership	<u>4,020.00</u>		
Total — Revenue from Organizations	4,020.00		
Total — Revenue from Dues and Program Fees		<u>\$</u>	<u>64,515</u> \$ <u>55,000</u>
53000 — Income from Investments			
53100 — Interest Income	15,777.40		
Total — Income from Investments		<u>\$</u>	<u>15,777</u> \$ <u>15,000</u>
54000 — Revenue from Sales			
54100 — Yearbook Sales	560.00		
54200 — Auction Sales	450.00		
54000 — Revenue from Sales - Other	85.00		
Total — Revenue from Sales		<u>\$</u>	<u>1,095</u> \$ <u>4,000</u>
58000 — Revenue from Special Events			
58100 — Go Congress non-gift	<u>11,770.00</u>		
Total — Revenue from Special Events		<u>\$</u>	<u>11,770</u> \$ <u>10,000</u>
70000 — Unassigned Income		<u>\$</u>	<u>117</u>
<b>Total Operating Income</b>		<u>\$</u>	<u>97,700</u> \$ <u>88,000</u>



## Expenses

	Jun 1 - May 31	Actual FY08	Budget FY08
<b>60000 — Administration</b>			
60021 — Board Telephone	1,496.68		
60022 — Other Telephone	333.61		
	70.00		
	338.87		
	213.66		
	425.28		
	214.00		
	7,698.50		
	270.00		
	213.34		
<b>Subtotal — Administration</b>	<b>11,273.94</b>		
<b>60130 — Treasurer Expenses</b>			
	26.01		
	1,860.00		
	104.00		
	64.17		
<b>Total — Treasurer Expenses</b>	<b>2,054.18</b>		
<b>60150 — President's Expenses</b>			
	35.68		
	779.42		
	2,239.42		
<b>Total — President's Expenses</b>	<b>3,054.52</b>		
<b>Total— Administration Expenses</b>		<b>16,382.64</b>	<b>27,350.00</b>
<b>86000 — Business Expenses</b>			
86100 — Bank Expenses	184.00		
86200 — Credit Card Trans. Fees			
86210 — MC/V	1,545.30		
86220 — AMEX	143.68		
86230 — Discover	45.24		
86240 — PayPal Fee	323.78		
		<b>2,242.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>60200 — Website</b>			
	109.90		
	1,237.50		
	942.00		
	6,129.06		
<b>Total — Website</b>		<b>8,418.46</b>	<b>14,200.00</b>

	<u>Jun 1 - May 31</u>	<u>Actual FY08</u>	<u>Budget FY08</u>
<b>60300 — EJournal</b>			
60310 — Computer	1,188.46		
60321 — Meals	404.87		
60323 — Telephone	501.61		
60324 — Postage	102.86		
60326 — Supplies	725.32		
60327 — Casual Labor	387.50		
60328 — Travel	4,369.23		
60301 — Administration - Other	<u>325.00</u>		
	8,004.85		
60331 — Articles	1,074.00		
60332 — Column	450.00		
60333 — Game Commentary	1,675.00		
60335 — Puzzles	1,250.00		
60336 — Report	475.00		
60337 — Translation	<u>500.00</u>		
	5,424.00		
	44.89		
	915.50		
	2,940.78		
	65.00		
	775.00		
	<u>77.59</u>		
	4,818.76		
<b>Subtotal — Ejournal Expenses</b>		<u>18,247.61</u>	<u>14,900.00</u>
60391 — CD	2,065.27		
60392 — Draft	3,250.00		
60393 — Mailing	2,498.42		
60394 — Printing	16,250.00		
60390 — Yearbook - Other	<u>344.00</u>		
		<u>24,407.69</u>	<u>15,850.00</u>
<b>Total 60300 — EJournal</b>		<u><u>43,175.30</u></u>	<u><u>30,750.00</u></u>

	Jun 1 - May 31	Actual FY08	Budget FY08
<b>60400 — Database</b>			
60420 — Telephone	701.26		
60430 — Postage	1,252.69		
60440 — Supplies	1,406.36		
60450 — Casual Labor	7,461.00		
60460 — UPS	3,866.37		
<b>Total — Database</b>	<b>14,687.68</b>		
<b>60600 — Equipment</b>			
60610 — Storage	835.00		
60620 — Shipping and Insur	3,165.76		
60630 — Supplies	51.57		
60640 — Casual Labor	518.50		
<b>Total — Equipment</b>	<b>4,570.83</b>		
<b>Total — Database and Equipment</b>		<b>19,258.51</b>	<b>11,300.00</b>
<b>60700 — Marketing</b>			
60730 — Promo Material	2,588.26		
<b>Total — Marketing</b>		<b>2,588.26</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>64000 — Tournament Expenses</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>68000 — Promotional Drives</b>			
68100 — Chapter Membersh	6,925.00		
<b>Total — Promotional Drives</b>		<b>6,925.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Unassigned Expenses</b>		<b>29.39</b>	
<b>Other Budget Expenses</b>			
Misc Projects		0.00	1,000.00
TD Training Program		0.00	1,000.00
telephone		0.00	500.00
supplies		0.00	700.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>99,019.56</b>	<b>88,000.00</b>

## 2009 AGA Budget

	FY 08 Budget Approved	FY09 Budget Proposed
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Donations</b>		
Total 40100 – Individual Donations	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000
<b>Membership Dues</b>		
52100 – Membership Dues-Individual		
52110 – Full 1-yr Memberships		\$ 25,000
52111 – Multi Year Memberships	not detailed in FY08	\$ 15,000
52120 – Youth 1-yr Memberships		\$ 7,500
52130 – Promotional Memberships		\$ 2,000
52150 – EJ Memberships		\$ 250
52151 – Donor Memberships		\$ 150
52160 – Life Memberships		\$ 4,000
Total 52100 – Membership Dues-Individual		\$ 53,900
52200 – Membership Dues - Chapters		
52210 - 1 year Membership Dues	not detailed in FY08	\$ 4,000
52211 - Multi-year chapter dues		\$ -
Total 52200 – Membership Dues - Chapters		\$ 4,000
Total 52000 – Income from Dues	\$ 55,000	\$ 57,900
<b>Investments</b>		
53000 – Investments Income		
53100 – Interest	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
53110 - Dividend	\$ -	
Total 53000 – Income from Investments	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
<b>Sales</b>		
54000 – Income from Sales		
54100 – Yearbook Sales	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000
54200 – Online Sales - none in FY08	\$ -	\$ 1,000
54000 – Misc sales	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000
Total 54000 – Income from Sales	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000
<b>Events</b>		
58000 – Income from AGA Events		
58100 – Go Congress Surplus	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,000
58200 - Other Events	na	
Total 58000 – Income from AGA Events	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,000
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
59000 Miscellaneous Income	na	\$ 1,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 88,000</b>	<b>\$ 87,900</b>

## Expenses

### ADMINISTRATION

<b>60000 – Administration</b>			
60020 – Telephone	\$	2,000	\$ 1,500
60030 – PO Box	\$	-	\$ 70
60040 – Postage	\$	1,200	\$ 500
60050 - storage	\$	500	\$ -
60060 - Official travel	\$	3,000	\$ 2,000
60070 – Office Supplies	\$	500	\$ 400
60090 – Insurance	\$	2,000	\$ 2,500
60101 - Elections	\$	300	\$ 250
60102 – Casual Labor	\$	6,500	\$ 7,500
60103 – Legal Expenses	\$	3,000	\$ 3,000
60104 - Miscellaneous	\$	-	\$ 200
60105 – Board Funds	\$	2,000	\$ 2,000
<b>Total 60000 – Administration</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>\$ 19,920</b>
<b>60130 – Treasurer Expenses</b>			
60132 - Accounting services	\$	1,000	\$ 1,500
60135 – PO Box		na	\$ 110
60136 – Postage		na	\$ 125
<b>Total 60130 – Treasurer Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,735</b>
<b>60150 – President's Expenses</b>			
60154 – Postage		na	\$ 50
60155 – Annual Report	\$	650	\$ 850
60156 – President's Discretionary Fund	\$	5,000	\$ 4,000
<b>Total 60150 – President's Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,650</b>	<b>\$ 4,400</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>27,650</b>	<b>\$ 26,055</b>
<i>AS % OF TOTAL EXPENSES</i>		<i>31%</i>	<i>30%</i>

PROGRAMS

<b>60160 - International Operations</b>			
60161 - Annual IGF Dues	\$	500	\$ 500
60162 - IMSA Dues	\$	-	\$ 5,000
<b>Total 60160 - International Operations</b>	\$	<b>500</b>	\$ <b>5,500</b>

COMMUNICATIONS

<b>60200 - Website</b>			
60220 - Hosting	\$	2,000	\$ 3,295
60221 - Email services	\$	2,000	\$ 2,000
60222 - Tech Support	\$	2,000	\$ 1,650
60223 - Admin/Misc service	\$	1,000	\$ 1,140
60224 - Spamfilter	\$	700	\$ 750
60230 - Upgrade Project	\$	8,500	\$ 1,000
<b>Total 60200 - Website</b>	\$	<b>16,200</b>	\$ <b>9,835</b>

60300 - EJournal

<b>60301 - Administration</b>			
60310 - Computer	\$	2,000	\$ 1,200
60321 - Meals	\$	250	\$ -
60323 - Telephone		-	\$ 400
60324 - Postage		-	\$ 125
60326 - Supplies	\$	700	\$ 750
60327 - Tech support services	\$	900	\$ 100
60328 - Travel		-	\$ 1,500
60329 - Misc		-	\$ 200
60330 - Congress coverage	\$	-	\$ 1,000
60331 - Articles	\$	1,500	\$ 1,200
60332 - Columns	\$	-	\$ 400
60333 - Game Commentary	\$	3,500	\$ 2,500
60335 - Puzzles	\$	1,300	\$ 1,200
60336 - Report	\$	1,200	\$ 500
60337 - Translation	\$	-	\$ 500
60350 - Gift Certificates	\$	-	\$ 750
<b>Total 60300 - EJournal</b>	\$	<b>14,900</b>	\$ <b>12,325</b>

60390 - Yearbook

60391 - Printing	\$	10,000	\$ 12,785
60392 - Postage	\$	2,000	\$ 2,000
60393 - CD	\$	1,800	\$ 1,800
60394 - Mailer handling	\$	800	\$ 500
60395 - Mailing Envelopes	\$	550	\$ 500
60396 - Design	\$	500	\$ 1,000
60397 - Surplus to warehouse	\$	200	\$ 200
<b>Total - 60930 Ejournal</b>	\$	<b>15,850</b>	\$ <b>18,785</b>

**MEMBERSHIP**

<b>60400 – Database</b>			
60420 - Telephone	\$ -	\$ 500	
60430 – Postage	\$ 500	\$ 500	
60440 – Supplies	\$ -	\$ 250	
60450 – Casual Labor	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000	
<b>Total 60400 – Database</b>	<b>\$ 6,500</b>	<b>\$ 5,750</b>	
<b>60500 - Tournaments</b>			
60501 - TD Training Course	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
<b>60600 – Equipment</b>			
60610 – Storage	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	
60630 – Shipping	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000	
60640 – Casual Labor	\$ -	\$ 250	
<b>Total 60600 – Equipment</b>	<b>\$ 4,500</b>	<b>\$ 5,250</b>	
<b>60700 - Miscellaneous Projects</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>60800 - Chapter Services</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
60810 certificates		\$ 750	
60820 marketing materials	\$ -	\$ 1,750	
		<b>\$ 2,500</b>	
<b>60900 - College Marketing outreach program</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,500</b>	
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
<b>86000 – Business Expenses</b>			
86100 – Bank Expenses	\$ 200	\$ 200	
86200 – Credit Card Trans. Fees	\$ -	\$ 200	
86300 - Chapter Membership Drive	\$ -	\$ -	
86400 - Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,500	
<b>Total 86000 – Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,600</b>	<b>\$ 1,900</b>	
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 60,350</b>	<b>\$ 61,845</b>	
<b>AS % OF TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>69%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 88,000</b>	<b>\$ 87,900</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	

**Report of ING Funding Expenditures 2007/2008**  
(as of 6/30/08)

Adam Bridges  
AGA Treasurer

**ING Grants 2007/2008**

<u>Date</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
5/11/2007	USYGC 07	\$ 12,000	
7/9/2007	ING Congress Appropriations	\$ 40,000	
1/22/2008	ING Youth School Program	\$ 4,000	
4/18/2008	USYGC 08	\$ 14,400	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 70,400</b>

**Grant Expenditures**

**2007 North American ING Master's Tournament Expenses**

Qualifier Tournament Expenses	\$ 2,720	
Prize Money	\$ 780	
		\$ 3,550

**2007 ING Cup Qualifier (International)**

Registration Room and Board Expenses	\$ 4,763	
Prize Money	\$ 8,425	
		\$ 13,188

**2007 Redmond Cup**

Prize Money/Expense	\$ 4,763	
		\$ 4,763

**2007 ING Redmond Tournament (U.S.)**

Prize Money	\$ 1,000	
		\$ 1,000

**2007 US Youth Go Championship Finals**

Venue, air fare, prizes,	\$ 11,513	
		\$ 11,513

**2007 Congress Youth Scholarships**

	\$ 12,700	
		\$ 12,700

**2007 ING Representative Expenses**

ING Rep. Registration	\$ 250	
		\$ 250

**2008 Congress Youth Scholarships**

<u>Qualifiers:</u>		
Venue & administration (8)	\$ 2,000.00	
<u>Finals</u>		
Transportation	\$ 5,665.00	
Prizes (trophies, shirts, etc.)	\$ 333.84	
Accommodations for 16	\$ 1,904.40	
Venue & administration	\$ -	
Banquet	\$ 642.00	
	\$ 8,545.24	
		\$ 10,545.24

**total ING expenses thru 6/30/08 \$ 57,509**

**Net ING grant surplus/defici \$ 12,891**



### ***Vice President - Communications Report***

***By Chris Garlock, VP Communications, Managing Editor of American Go E-Journal and American Go Yearbook: Bill Cobb, Assistant Editor, American Go E-Journal and American Go Yearbook: Roy Laird, Webmaster [journal@usgo.org](mailto:journal@usgo.org)***

### **American Go E-Journal**

The most significant accomplishment of the past year - our 8th year of publication » was the expansion of the E-Journal "brand" worldwide. Our coverage of two major world amateur events exposed the E-Journal to new audiences and generated many new readers as well as contributors. The EJ's consistent and timely coverage of the world go scene has made the EJ the single most reliable Western source of go news, not just for English language readers but for many of our go-playing friends elsewhere in the world for whom English is a second language. This - along with the work done by our colleagues in other areas covered elsewhere in this Annual Report — helps cement the AGA's leading role in world amateur go.

E-Journal Highlights of the last year include increased readership and breadth and depth of coverage. Readership continues to increase at a double-digit rate; jumping to nearly 13,000 from 10,000 a year ago. In addition to steady EJ sign-ups off the website, we picked up substantial signups from the 2007 European Go Congress as well as through several national go organizations, including the Irish and Cyprus go associations.



The EJ tripled our coverage of major amateur events last year, providing extensive coverage of the 2007 World Amateur Go Championships in Tokyo (left), and the European Go Congress, which was held in Villach, Austria, as well as the U.S. Go Congress in Lancaster, PA. This was the first time the EJ had covered the WAGC and the EGC, and responses from readers worldwide were very enthusiastic. Not only was the EJ and website coverage the only up-to-date source for news of these events, but longer-term relationships were developed in both Japan and Europe that continued

to pay benefits for the EJ and the AGA long after the conclusion of the events.

At all three events, EJ Managing Editor Chris Garlock filed daily updates on the AGA website, and published special editions of the EJ, as well as broadcasting some games live on the internet. While this was only possible for a very limited number of games at the WAGC - which the EJ covered again in 2008 - Garlock coordinated the live broadcast of all top games at both the EGC and USGC, including training game recorders and managing the entire broadcasting team and operation (right). At the EGC, Garlock also assisted in the preparation of the hard-copy EGC journal, and, at the request of EGC organizers, moderated several EGC meetings on go congresses and go publications.



The coverage at the USGC was the most thorough the EJ has ever organized, thanks to significant financial support from Congress organizers, which helped us recruit the biggest EJ team ever. In addition to the real-time Congress updates on the website and daily EJ reports, the EJ team recorded and/or broadcast a record fifty-nine top-board games at the 2007 Congress, watched by huge audiences on KGS. In another exciting first, the final



NATMT game - billed as "The Main I Event" - between Ming-jiu Jiang and

Feng  
Yun was  
broadcast  
live on  
Friday S  
night at the  
Congress to

a large audience  
in the Congress cafe as well as online,  
with live professional commentary (left).  
This proved to be a very popular event  
and we plan to do the same thing again  
this year at the USGC.

While the core EJ and website work continues to be carried out by Managing Editor Chris Garlock, Assistant ME Bill Cobb and Webmaster Roy Laird, we made some significant additions to staff over the last year. Thanks to connections made during the WAGC we brought back popular contributor Kaz Furuyama and added Rob vanZeist, the well-known go journalist. At the EGC we recruited Peter Dijkema who became a reliable source of European

go news. We also brought on Fan Hui, the top European amateur player, to

do regular game commentaries. Matt Luce contributed Chinese go material and just recently Jens Henker began sending in news from Korea. In addition to our existing staff of contributors, this gives the EJ the broadest coverage yet of the world go scene, and we look forward to solidifying this in the year ahead.

Special membership promotions once again helped fuel the AGA's growth in 2007, helping to increase retention of existing members and recruit new members out of the ever-larger pool of non-members who sign up for the free edition of the E-Journal. Regular semi-annual promotions - like the December and early Spring Yearbook offers - clearly boost membership and we hope to continue the program in 2008-2009.

#### EJ STAFF:

Managing Editor: Chris Garlock; Assistant Editor: Bill Cobb Professionals: Yilun Yang 7P; Alexandr Dinerchtein 3P; Fan Hui 2P Contributors: Paul Barchilon (Youth Editor); Lawrence Ku (U.S. West Coast Reporter); Brian Allen (U.S. West Coast Photo Editor); Peter Dijkema (Dutch - European Correspondent); Marilena Bara (Romania/European Correspondent); Ian Davis (Ireland Correspondent); Jens Henker (Korean Correspondent) Columnists: James Kerwin 1P; Kazunari Furuyama; Rob van Zeijst; Roy Laird; Peter Shotwell Translations: Chris Donner (Japan); Bob McGuigan (Japan); Matt Luce (China).

*EJ staff portrait by Man Zhang: standing, l-r; Heidenreich, Cobb, Pinkerton, Garlock, Maheaux & Ku; seated, l-r: Colburn, Huynh, Negishi, Barchilon & Wheeler.*



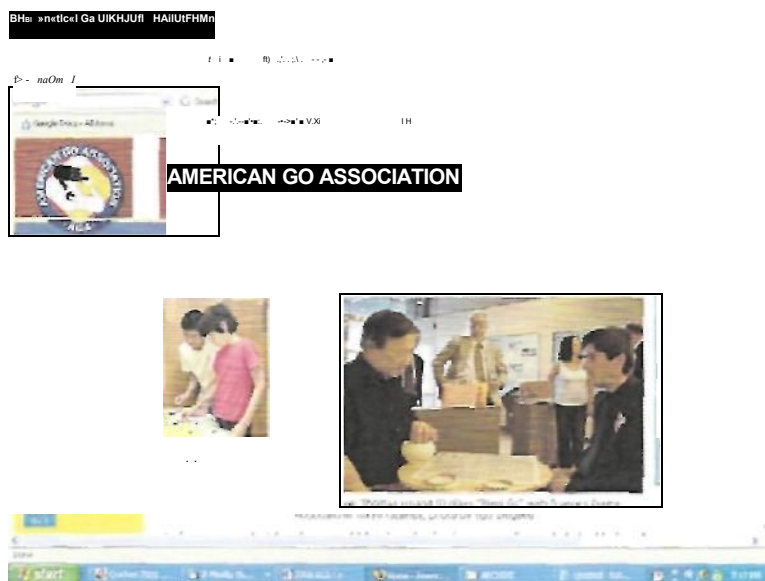
## THE AGA WEBSITE: A NEW ERA AND A NEW WEBMASTER

*By Roy Laird, AGA Webmaster*

After ten years as possibly the most under-qualified webmaster on the planet, I am delighted to report that the AGA has a new site and a real expert in this important post. By the time you read this, the new AGA website should be up and running, and new webmaster Steve Colburn will be developing a wide range of exciting new applications for it. This process began over a year ago, under the leadership of AGA President Lash. He and

Membership Secretary Mark Rubenstein began searching for a solution that would bring the AGA's site into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. After reviewing and rejecting dozens of proposals to build the site from scratch, they discovered various "off-the shelf" options that could meet our most important membership and administrative needs. President Lash then created a team to advance this project more effectively, leveraging the extensive depth of technical skills present among many of our current AGA volunteers. The team settled on Internet4Associations, which now hosts the site. Just a few of the improvements include:

- An eye-popping **new look**;
- A "virtual terminal" that allows **credit card payments** to be processed instantly online;
- Instant membership ID numbers** for new members joining through the website;
- An easily accessible AGA database** on the new site, where up-to-date information is available to any staff who need it;
- A "**members only**" section that provides exclusive value to AGA members;
- Access for members** to 100's of games, dozens of books, articles and other materials available nowhere else;



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- Easy to use Chapter lists** and contact information;
- An **online member directory**, enabling members to make themselves available to other players searching for partners in their area;
- Profiles, blogs and other special features** for members;
- An **online store** featuring a growing range of merchandise.

Additional features and serves in development include:

- The ability for **Chapters to stage events** and collect payments by credit card through the site;
- An **online sgf viewer** that can be used in place of heavy Java applications and Cgoban/SmartGo;
- A **Tournament director and Rules wiki**, hoping to create a standard set of rules and conditions online for new tournament directors;
- New websites for AGA Chapters, hosted by the AGA;
- Online league sites for clubs**, with ability to add sgf files to the records;
- Hosted **Image galleries**;
- Easier year-to-year congress web site integration.

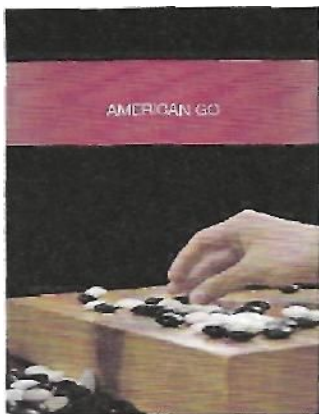
I stepped into this role ten years ago when the previous webmaster quit suddenly and as President, I couldn't find a replacement. With help from many experts, and with many fruitful suggestions from members like you, we have built one of the most comprehensive and popular go web sites out there, with 25,000 different visitors per month. Many go and non-go related sites link to the AGA site as a "must-see." With Steve's impressive understanding of the mind-boggling range of other cool things the site can do, the AGA will be in the forefront of go websites.

## **AMERICAN GO YEARBOOK**

The fifth annual American Go Yearbook - which collects the best of the previous year's EJ content - was by far our biggest ever, at 124 pages. The Yearbook is extremely popular with AGA members, 91.3% of whom say it's "*An important benefit of my AGA membership.*" The 2007 expanded size reflects dramatically-expanded go activities and coverage, and also



represents a huge amount of volunteer time and effort on the part of editors Oarlock, Cobb and Howard Cornett (who does the Yearbook CD), as well as expense for design, printing and mailing. We have already instituted



ongoing production plans to ease the year-end time crunch, and will be reviewing all content carefully for the 2008 edition with an eye to focusing the print content and making the best possible use of the CD capability.

STAFF: Managing Editor: Chris Garlock; Assistant Editor, William S. Cobb; Associate Editors: Terry Benson, Roy Laird, John Pinkerton; Contributing Editors: Feng Yun 9P, Yilun Yang 7P, Guo Juan 5P, Alexander Dinerchtein 3P, Fan Hui 2P, James Kerwin 1P, Jie Li 9d. RATINGS: Paul Matthews; Yearbook CD Editor: Howard Cornett; CORRESPONDENTS: Marilena Bara, Peter Dijekma, Kazunari Furuyama, Lawrence Ku. WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Roy Laird; Design: Chris Root, Eric Hensal, Murray Hill Inc. Marlene Panoyan, Amazing Graphics. Production: Doyle Printing, Landover, Maryland; Database Manager: Sam Zimmerman

*Chapter Services*  
*Arnold Eudell*  
*chapterservices@usgo.org*

In 2007, the AGA conducted its first ever national telephone survey of AGA Chapters, both current and expired, in order to reach out and explore what was happening locally, all over the country. The survey was organized by AGA President Lash and the idea was to find out what the Chapters were really doing and how the AGA could better support their activities. Many chapters were found to be unreachable by phone or email but dozens of Chapter Representatives gave us their time and told their stories.

The major work product was created by AGA Life Member Phil Waldron. Phil compiled the results of the survey and presented this to the AGA President, who in turn sent it to the AGA Board, the EJournal and the website. This project generated a great deal of insight into the needs and wants of AGA Chapters and how AGA can help meet these needs. The full report is at [http://www.usgo.org/media/File/2008\\_03\\_24\\_ChapterReport.pdf](http://www.usgo.org/media/File/2008_03_24_ChapterReport.pdf).



Some of the key suggestions from the report are:

- A national mentoring program for new players
- Providing a resource for lessons learned through local outreach programs to build chapter membership
- A national registry of strong players to teach beginners
- Organized inter-club tournaments online and in person for regional clubs that are too far apart for regular cross-attendance
- Better maintenance of the Chapters and clubs pages
- More publicity and promotional materials
- Active outreach to local and national gaming organizations.

A relatively new program - and very underutilized - program is currently available to qualified Chapters is the ING-funded Pro Teaching Workshops. This program provides direct funding for Chapters that host US professional go players for a multi-day workshop to deliver direct and intense playing instructions to American players. One chapter has already held its workshop - the Denver Teens and Children's Club. They arranged for Mr. Yilun Yang to visit Denver and conduct a workshop which was very well received. The AGA will be making a greater effort to support Chapters interested in this program but who may not be familiar with the application process. Contact us at [chapterservices@usgo.org](mailto:chapterservices@usgo.org).

Chapter services also provide temporary loans of go equipment for local tournaments and promotional events. There are sets available for only the cost of shipping from Denver, CO, Tacoma, WA, and Lancaster, PA. Interested Chapters should contact the Chapter Services Coordinator for further details.

Here are some of the new initiatives for Chapter Services in the near future:

- Club of the Week features in the Ejournal showcasing a new AGA chapter with local commentary and contact details.
- Club-to-club web pages for communicating lessons learned and successful strategies in expanding membership and conducting events.
- Strong player registry on the AGA web site where qualified players can register with their geographic availability for teaching sessions.

- Publicity kits for local promotion and building membership. This would involve the design, production and distribution of materials such as posters, video, pamphlets suitable for display at community events, schools, etc.

The Chapters of the AGA are the magnets for most go players that want to play live games and enjoy the social aspects of sharing the game they love. Starting and maintaining an AGA chapter is a long term commitment to others and to yourself, but every successful chapter has a representative who says - "It's worth it!" Join a Chapter today and meet new players.

## ***2007 (23<sup>rd</sup>) US Go Congress, Lancaster, PA***

*By Peter N. Nassar, Congress Co-Director*

The 2007 US Go Congress continued to set ever-higher standards by serving as the capstone of the AGA's annual events. Set in the bucolic university town of Millersville, PA, the 2007 Congress - an 8-day event replete with 14 different Go tournaments, daily professional lectures, simultaneous matches and much, much more - drew 489 participants: the best attended Congress on record.

With a James Bond "007" theme inspired by Keith Arnold and Todd Blatt, and a swanky logo and handbook designed by Mike Samuel and Matt Bengtson, the 2007 Congress featured a number of new tournaments, as well as the return of many time-honored ones. In the spirit of the "007" theme, two new Self-Paired tournament prizes were created: the "Live and Let Die" prize (for the player with the biggest kill, won by Dave Warzinski) and "Dr. Ko" (for the players with the most exciting ko battles, won by Joe Maia & Nicholas Blake). Prompted by Feng Yun 9p and others, the 2007 Congress also marked the re-establishment of a US Women's Tournament, directed by Lisa Scott and won by Gina Shi, 4d.

The Congress was marked by the attendance of 18 professional Go players, the largest contingent of professional go players at a US Go Congress in a very long time. Official overseas representation came from China's Beijing Wei Qi Association (Yunsheng Ruan 7p); Korea's Hankook Kiwon (Myung Wan Kim 8p); and Japan's Nihon Ki-in (Yasuichi Narusawa 8p) and Kansai Ki-in (Yasuhiro Nakano 9p, Isoko Ashida 6p). Pro attendance also included seven of the nine residing North American players, including Feng Yun 9p, Liping Huang 4p, Ming-jiu Jiang 7p, James Kerwin 1 p, Xuefen Lin 1p, Huren Yang 1p, and Yilun Yang 7p. Not only did the presence of these players add tremendous prestige to the top boards of the US Open and the North American Ing Masters tournament (NAIMT), but their rivalries also culminated in the spectacularly fierce "Friday Night Fight" - the final NAIMT match between the tournament's top two professionals: Feng Yun 9p and Ming-jiu Jiang 7p. Thanks to the Chris Garlock and the E-Journal staff, this match was broadcast live at the Congress and on KGS, with real time live commentary by visiting Korean pro Myung Wan Kim 8p.

In addition, the Congress was graced by the return of fan-favorite pro lecturers Noriyuki Nakayama 6p, Ryo Maeda 6p, Juan Guo 5p, as well as a

special appearance by the legendary Yoshiaki Nagahara 6p, author of the classic Go books "Basic Techniques of Go" and "Strategic Concepts of Go" (with Haruyama Isamu 9p).

Even though he was unable to attend in person, former AGA Treasurer Ulo Tamm left his mark on the Congress by constructing and delivering 200 new Go boards for the 2007 US Open.

The 2007 Congress also marked the beginning of a series of new technological developments by IT expert Jon Hilt, including the installment of individualized bar codes on players' ID badges so that results from the Self-Paired Tournament could be scanned onto computer kiosks and automatically recorded onto a system-wide administrative database. Such applications allow for smoother Congress administration and pave the way for handling ever larger Congress attendances.

The 2007 Go Congress was co-directed by Peter Nassar and Chuck Robbins. Sam Zimmerman served as Registrar and Thomas Boone as Treasurer. Jon Hilt was the Congress webmaster, with assistance from Steve Colburn. Paul Barchilon served as Youth Director. Additional assistance came from Matt Bengtson, Pro Coordinator Marilyn Campbell, and Banquet MC / tour guide extraordinaire Keith Arnold. Yoshi Sawada, Owen Chen, and Akane Negishi provided invaluable translation assistance. Thanks are due to Chris Garlock and his E-Journal staff for their extensive promotion of the Congress and their ever-expanding coverage of tournament events. Thanks are also given to all the Congress Tournament Directors: Jon Hilt, Jeff Shaevel, Todd Heidenreich, Terry Benson, Keith Arnold, Martin Lebl, Jim Hlavka, Chuck Robbins, Terry Benson, Frank Salantrie, and Lisa Scott.

Special thanks and heartfelt appreciation go to the late Duane Burns who, in addition to directing several past US Opens, co-directed the 2007 US Open with Chris Sira.

A complete listing of all US Open tournament winners may be found on the AGA website: <http://www.usgo.org/touraaments/USOpen/2007>.

Finally, best wishes go to Peter Freedman and Akane Negishi for running the 2008 Congress in Portland, OR!

## 2007 Congress Income Statement

### U.S. GO CONGRESS 2007 FINAL REPORT

Millersville University of Pennsylvania

July 28 - August 4

INCOME		
Registration, Room, & Board	296,237.75	
Less: Refunds	25,044.74	
Net Registration		271,193.01
80 ING Youth Scholarships (<18)	12,000.00	
14 ING Youth Scholarships (18-22)	700.00	
Youth Scholarships		12,700.00
ING Masters	3,583.00	
ING Redmond	700.00	
Redmond Cup	1,069.00	
Tournament Participants		5,352.00
Bus Tours	4,186.00	
Airport Shuttle	3,400.00	
Professional Lessons	2,620.00	
Social Hour Tickets	2,429.50	
Souvenirs & Merchandise	1,041.30	
Advertisements	1,300.00	
Interest	1,230.11	
Miscellaneous		16,206.91
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$305,451.92</b>
EXPENSES		
Housing	113,315.35	
Conference Food	61,558.90	
Catering	14,177.55	
Health Service	735.00	
Center Facilities	4,135.50	
Center Manager	174.00	
Technical Services	180.00	
Conference Telephones	139.32	
Congress Site		194,415.62
Professional Players	25,195.90	
Bus Services	11,624.00	
Equipment & Supplies	10,451.27	
Trophies & Prizes	10,110.83	
Souvenirs & Keepsakes	9,999.57	
Printing & Mailing	4,003.07	
Certificate Redemptions	3,046.25	
Special Events	3,089.34	
Social Hour Supplies	2,493.68	
Personal Services	1,385.27	
Bank Charges	6,529.98	
Congress Operations		87,929.16
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$282,344.78</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>\$ 23,107.14</b>
50/50 share		<b>\$ 11,553.57</b>

*International Affairs - International Go Federation/IMSA/Intellympics*  
*By Thomas Hsiang, International Go Federation Liaison*

During the past year, the International Go Federation has been a very busy place and AGA is one of the principal players in this flurry of activities.

On the international tournament scene, the IGF now sanctions three all-amateur competitions: the World Amateur Go Championship (WAGC), the International Pair Go Championship (IPGC), and the Korean Prime Minister Cup (KPMC). The WAGC will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year in Shizuoka and will afterwards open up to countries other than Japan for bidding to host the event. The IPGC is suspended this year because of the World Mind Sports Games (WMSG), but will celebrate its 20\* anniversary next year in Tokyo with the grand inauguration of the World Pair Go Association. The KPMC will run for the third time in November 2008, delayed one month due to the WMSG.

IGF also sanctions at least two friendship Team-Go events that the AGA members may participate in: the Hangzhou International City Team Tournament, which was suspended this year due to WMSG but will resume in 2009, and the Hi-Seoul World Businessmen Baduk Fair that will be held for the first time in September 2008. Both tournaments emphasize friendship and cultural exchange and the hosts will provide room and board, local transportation, and tours. For those AGA members who are interested in sampling the Asian culture and experiencing some incredible hospitality, these events are highly recommended.

The biggest event this year is of course the first-ever World Mind Sports Games. Go will be showcased along with four other mind sports: Chess, Bridge, Draughts, and Xiangqi, between October 3 and 18, 2008, at the same venue where the Summer Olympics will be held. AGA will send a 25-member team and has been deeply involved in helping IGF and the local organizers in the preparation for this historical event.

Following the WMSG, IGF will initiate the process of seeking recognition of Go by the International Olympic Committee. IGF hopes to accomplish this important step by the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, China. Along with the great benefits of IOC recognition, we (the Go world) also need to take up more responsibilities such as anti-doping, youth development, gender balance, etc. Stay tuned.

The IGF in 2008 also passed a change to *its* Statutes. A new class of IGF members was created called the "Association Members" to accommodate the reality that there are many multi-nation organizations that promote Go and should be included in IGF. The new members will participate for the first time in an IGF meeting during the WMSG.

The 2008 IGF meetings concluded with the happy announcement of the admission of the 70<sup>th</sup> member, Macao.

### *Elections*

*By Arnold Eudell*

*elections@usgo.org*

This year the balloting was fully active in all regions - East, West, Central and at-large seats are up for election. A field of eight candidates, including three for the at-large position was confirmed, and only the central region was uncontested. Voting was completed on July 30<sup>th</sup> and results are counted and announced at the Go Congress in August.

The Elections guidelines were changed. Candidate nominations and the candidate's confirmations may be made either by USPS or by email. This was an easy improvement to streamline the communication process, insure timely delivery of notice among the relevant parties, and increase reliability.

During the year there was a recall petition for one member of the Board of Directors. The recall process was managed by the AGA Secretary and President. All registered and paid up AGA Chapters were eligible to participate. The vote failed to reach the required 60% threshold to carry the petition and the recall failed.

### *Youth Activities*

*By Paul Barchilon, Congress Youth Director, AGF Mentor Committee, EJournal Youth Editor, Vice President, American Go Foundation youth @usgo.org*

AGA youth membership continued its strong growth this year, adding 194 new members. As of June 30, 2008, there are over 800 youth members -fully one third of all AGA members!

Working in collaboration with The American Go Honor Society (AGHS) and the Ing Foundation, a terrific new team event was held on KGS. Over 200 youth participated, making it the largest youth tournament ever held in the US. The AGHS has been running a team event for schools for several years, but the new collaboration with the AGA allowed both organizations to increase their outreach.

2008 was the second year of the United States Youth Go Championship and drew over 100 contestants nationwide in a series of regional qualifiers in junior and senior divisions. The final winners, 11 year-old Calvin Sun, 7d, and 15 year-old Will Zhou, 7d, are representing the US at the World Youth Go Championships in July. The Redmond Cup, another prestigious youth events, will have its finals at the Congress. The finalists share a prize of \$1000, provided by the ING Foundation.

Congress youth will again benefit from an exciting program. We are retaining last year's unprecedented level of Pro instruction in the Youth Room, and will also have all of our traditional tournaments and fun activities. Look for the full youth schedule elsewhere in this book, and don't forget to find a partner and register early for youth/adult Pair Go on Thursday night. Come visit us in the Youth Room and see the future of American Go in action.

### *American Go Foundation Youth News*

The American Go Foundation has continued to work in tandem with the AGA on multiple ventures, and together we are ensuring a bright future for youth Go in the US. The AGF launched a new website specifically for youth, [TigersMouth.org](http://TigersMouth.org), which has been a wild success. Initially, I was only planning on a web comic and basic information on how to play and how to get AGF funding for school clubs, but, working with a team of youth



volunteers, I had my eyes opened to some broader possibilities. We added a forum for discussion, private messaging, a shout box, and even a chat room. I am pleased to report that as of this writing the web site had 287 members, who logged 4,635 posts in the forums. The content of these posts is quite different from the adult forum at [GoDiscussions.com](http://GoDiscussions.com), and it is clear that kids want to talk about different things than adults do. The site has been a terrific springboard for youth go activities, and kids across the country are networking and finding new friends. It was used for scheduling and announcements for the Ing School Team Tournament, updates on the Redmond Cup and USYGC, and as a launching point for many new youth clubs in schools and other locations.

AGF school and youth programs also had strong growth, with around 80 new clubs since last year's congress. This year the AGF is proud to honor Oakdale, CA, schoolteacher Vincent Eisman with the Teacher of the Year Award. Vincent will receive his award at the Go Congress. Eisman is well known to other go teachers from the forums on [GoDiscussions.com](http://GoDiscussions.com), and has helped inspire numerous teachers across the country to use Go in the classroom.

The AGF also completed a major purchase of inexpensive, lightweight Go equipment from China. Thanks to volunteer Xi Xie, who we found through the AGF Mentor Committee, we were able to order large quantities of supplies direct from the manufacturers at considerable savings. These savings are being passed on to subsidized school clubs across the nation. We also published 40,000 copies of the newly revised 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Karl Baker's classic *The Way to Go*. The major revision updated the book with AGA rules and added sections on handicaps, Ko, rule sets, and seki, as well as redrawing all of the illustrations to take advantage of substantially improved digital printing techniques since our last run. Baker, Terry Benson, and myself spent countless hours on the revision; special thanks are also due to Daniel Buffenmeyer, who transferred the entire document from Quark to InDesign, and to Andrew Okun who advised us in finding a good and inexpensive printing company. Your generous donations to the AGF have made all of this possible.

*The Seventh Annual North American Ing School Team Championship*  
*By Matthew Mallory*

This past Spring, the American Go Honor Society (AGHS) and the American Go Association (AGA) co-hosted an Ing Foundation sponsored youth go tournament. The Ing Foundation generously donated \$10,000 to be used for the benefit of the participants. The tournament was held on the Kiseido Go Server (KGS) in the Sabaki Go Club Room.

The AGHS has been running youth tournaments for many years. The 2008 tournament marked the seventh consecutive event. However, this time the AGA joined up to help make the event larger and more successful. Talks between the heads of the AGHS (Matthew Mallory and Elliott Jin), AGA (Michael Lash and Chris Kirschner) took place between September and November 2007 to discuss the details of the tournament. It was necessary to decide the time frame, prize structure, and the rules. The AGA and Paul Barchilon helped greatly with publicity, using the e-journal and even going as far as posting an advertisement in the monthly Shonen Jump. AGA Director Roy Laird set up a webpage dedicated to the event with a list of the rules, contacts, and information on registration.

There were 221 students from grades K-12 that participated in the tournament hailing from all over the United States as well as four teams from Canada. Each team comprised of four players ranked from strongest to weakest, and up to two substitutes in case one of the four was not able to make his or her appointed game time. Many teams represented high school clubs, where in some cases students had taken the responsibility of starting and maintaining his or her own school Go club. Other teams banded together from a Go club so they could compete in the tournament.

The tournament lasted 4 rounds with a new round starting every other week. With the sheer number of participants, scheduling was difficult, even with two weeks time. Since most people had weekends free, any given Saturday or Sunday, the Sabaki Go Club room was full of participants with sometimes ten or more games being simultaneously played. With 50 teams and 4 players per team, every round had 100 games to complete. With an AGHS official at every game and new schedules to make every round, this was no easy task.

The 50 teams were split into 7 different groups: dan level, 1-5 kyu, 6-10 kyu, 11-15 kyu, 16-20 kyu, 21-25 kyu, and 26-30 kyu. Teams were mixed and matched between the groups as seen fit during competition. A Swiss-style type pairing system was used. Teams that had the same win-loss record played other teams around the same average rank with the same win-loss record. The games were played evenly, meaning no handicaps. The rankings given were based on many different ranking systems (even some guesstimating) so applying handicaps would have been risky business. Also at low ranks, over a month a player could jump from 25 kyu to 15 kyu, which would make deciding handicaps a constantly varying and difficult process. There were some mismatched games, but there were also games in which the underdog rose to the challenge and had an astonishing victory.

Because of the funding from the Ing Foundation, they asked that we use Ing rules, which we mimicked on KGS with the New Zealand rule set. Most of the players had never used this rule set before, but adapted nicely and understood the concepts of area counting. Setting up the game time was an issue for some of the less experienced KGS players, but Wren Chan, a member on the board of the AGHS, set up a tutorial complete with screenshots to address this issue. The official on duty or a team advisor was also able to step-by-step help the student through the process.

All notices, pairings, and results were posted on the American Go Foundation (AGF) youth website <http://tigersmouth.org>. The site is run by Paul Barchilon, a board member of the AGF, who was also a huge help throughout the entirety of the tournament. The website has a host of students that are constantly welcoming new members and discussing Go topics from Hikaru No Go to comments about the tournament to expressing interest in tigersmouth's own Go based webcomic. It is also helped by a few of the youth Go players that are adept at web managing.

There was no registration cost for the tournament, so it was virtually free for all participants. Using the Ing Foundation's grant, all team's that participated in at least half of their games received a board and stones as well as \$75 in gift certificates for Go vendors to help support and maintain their clubs. The seven winners received \$100 worth of gift certificates for purchasing more equipment and books. It was more important in this tournament to participate and enjoy playing against peers than to win. By my accounting, ever body won.

## *Summer Go Camps*

*By Walter Knox*

Those who love Go as a mind builder and character forming tool should not hesitate to support the Summer GO Camps. The value that the campers receive is incalculable. Imagine the time when American born and bred youth players are truly competitive against their peers in Japan, China and Korea. Only with the help of experienced instructors is this attainable.

As national Summer Go Camp Director, I would like to thank the staff and instructors for the successful 2007 Go Camps. The West Camp was led by Brian Allen and Jon Boley with thirty three campers and the East Camp led by Bill Phillips and Karen Jordan with twenty one campers. Both Camps had excellent professional instructors and the young campers very had a fabulous time learning and playing go.

*Happy Campers at the East Coast Camp pose after a long day on the goban. Karen Jordan wears the big smile one front and center and top-ranked amateur Jie Li is on the far left, front row.*



In 2008, the West Camp had Brian Allen and Jon Boley as directors with Ming-jiu Jiang 7P as the teaching professional. The East Camp welcomed back Karen Jordan and David Dinhofer with Feng Yun 9P as the teaching professional. There are other instructors joining the camps with tremendous experience.

The Ing Foundation has proven that providing basic sets for teaching is an effective way of spreading Go to young minds. Youth tournaments help to develop our young players and the scholarships offered by the AGF to the US Youth Go Championship winner for Summer Camp tuition support this tradition of continual improvement.

We are thankful to the AGF, AGA and to the many private donations from the people helping build the future of American Go. Many thanks also go to Michael Lash. As President of the AGA, under his leadership we have seen real growth in membership and the quality of players.