

2024 VSWGGA Annual Fall Board Meeting

Meeting: Fall Board Meeting
Date/Time: October 8, 2024 9:00 AM
Place: Burlington Country Club

Board and Committee Members Present: Amy Butcher, Fran McCune, Jayne Magnant, Kate Mitchell, Nathalie Lascelles, Sarah Lee, Jill Appel, Susan Rand, Linda Jane Parson (Past President), Jen Farrington (Operations Manager), Jen Steck (Majors).

Present via video:

Board and Committee Members Absent: Dixie Mercier, Pam Boyd (Operations)

Call To Order 9:10 AM

Fall 2023 Board Meeting Meetings-Previously Approved:

- The Board previously approved the 2023 fall board meeting minutes at the November 2023 board meeting so they could be uploaded to the Website.
- A copy was distributed at today's board meeting.

September 2024 Meeting Minutes Approval:

Nathalie Lascelles moved to approve. Sarah Lee seconded. **Approved**

Welcome of new board members and appointment of Officers:

		<u>Term Expiration Year</u>
President:	Amy Butcher	2025
Vice President:	Fran McCune	2025
Secretary:	Kate Mitchell	2026
Treasurer:	Jayne Magnant	2026 (2nd Term)
Director North:	Susan Rand	2027
Director Central:	Jill Appel	2027
Director South:	Sarah Lee	2025 (2nd Term)
Director at Large:	Dixie Mercier	2027
Director at Large:	Nathalie Lascelles	2026
NW Liaison:	Susan Rand	2027
NE Liaison:	Fran McCune	2025
Central W Liaison:	Jill Appel	2027
Central E Liaison:	Dixie Mercier	2027
South Liaison:	Sarah Lee	2025 (2nd Term)

Sarah Lee moved to approve Officers. Susan Rand seconded. **Approved**

Review Existing Documentation of Board roles and responsibilities:

- Jayne Magnant, Fran McCune and Susan Rand will work on this.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report

- Jayne Magnant submitted her report highlights. Details will be at the special board meeting set for October 28th for financials only so that Jayne can work on the 2025 budget.
- Actions needed for 2025 budget to avoid cash deficit. To be discussed at the October 28th meeting. *Action needed.*
 - Increasing fee?
 - Reducing \$/chit, etc?
- Executive session for review of those VSWGGA contracts with various roles. Separate meeting minutes.

Strategic Visioning:

- Mission Statement, stakeholders, SWOT, strategy, tactics
 - Working collectively on our Mission Statement.
 - When we think about the VSWGGA the following was offered; sense of community, the whole experience as close knit, special, level of professionalism, operating excellence, stay inclusive not only at Board level but player level to participate in as many events as desired, volunteering as option to playing in the majors, competitive and non-competition component, promoting golf.
 - Proposal: Promote and grow the game of golf in Vermont.
- Membership
 - Current headcount vs GHIN – growth?
 - It is important to note that the number of GHINS at a club vs those that are members of VSWGGA can be misrepresented since some clubs automatically charge the GHIN even if a player has no intention of playing in VSWGGA (or other) events.
 - Any Vermont women player that has a GHIN provides revenue to VSWGGA via the VGA even if they are not a VSWGGA member.
 - How to reward Club Reps for growing their membership?
 - Looking for ways to support and reward Club Reps to increase membership at their clubs.

Committee Formation:

- What committees exist, focus/tasks of each and who is on them?
- Every committee should have focused board member intermediary, go-between, envoy, proxy. Listed below are the board members and tentative committee members (board member listed first).
 - Nominating Committee (for Board Elections held at Club Rep meeting)
 - The Past President, or other Class A member appointed by the Board of Directors, shall act as the Chair of the Nominating Committee plus two additional members as designated by the Chair.
 - Junior Committee
 - Susan Rand, Holly Reynolds, Tracy Sloan

- Rules Committee
 - Amy Butcher, Linda Jane Parson, Susan Rice
- Communications Committee
 - Amy Butcher, Meredith Parker
- Tri-State Committee
 - Fran McCune, Mary Jane Shomo, Nancy Devaux
- State Day Committee
 - Nathalie Lascelles, Jen Farrington
- Major Tournament Committee
 - Dixie Mercier, Jen Steck, Jen Farrington
- Pace of Play Committee
 - Kate Mitchell, Sis Capeless
- Volunteer Committee
 - Dixie Mercier, Jen Farrington
- NEW: Non-Competition Offerings Committee (includes Green Mountain Challenge)
 - Fran McCune, *no other names yet.*
- **Other Tasks (not committee):**
 - VGA collaboration
 - To begin the process of understanding each other and where we can collaborate.
 - Go to VGA board meetings.
 - Amy Butcher, Susan Rand, Jen Steck
 - Website revamp
 - Susan Rand, Pam Boyd
 - User tester: Jill Appel

Major Tournaments

- Jen Steck presented her report
 - Amateur
 - Location: TBD
 - Possibly a handicap cap.
 - Discussed use of flights and a cut
 - The board likes the idea of implementing flights and a cut.
 - Some Rep discussion at the Rep Meeting wanting to have their input on flights, cut after 2 days, etc.
 - Wendy Drolette and Patti Haas expressed interest.
 - Discussed preferential inclusion of Juniors, no decision made.
 - Senior, Mid-Am, Fall Classic issues and concerns
 - Discussed raising the fee for the Fall Classic. Currently \$80. It is very hard to provide a good lunch when the amount allocated for the lunch is \$15 of that fee.
 - Discussed having a second Fall Classic location if we find that the waiting list is large. So far it has not been, but it is getting more and more popular.

- 2024 tournament venues:
 - Seniors – July 8 and 9, 2025 – Champlain
 - Amateurs – Aug 4, 5, 6, 2025 - TBD
 - Mid-Ams – Mid Sept, location TBD
 - Fall Classic – TBD
- Support:
 - The full board and committee support is needed to run the tournaments in a professional manner.
 - Proactive planning is encouraged by all committees to see how their work can and will support the Majors, State Days, and Tri-States.
- World Amateur Golf Rating:
 - Lost this for 2024, should be back in place for 2025. This allows for points toward being ranked in the United States.
- Documentation:
 - During this off-season, Jen Steck and Jen Farrington will work on updating.

State Day

- Jen Farrington presented.
- 2025 Calendar is almost finalized.
- Lottery system review
 - Opening/closing dates to allow alternative event registration
 - For 2025 Jen will continue to make it clear that the opening date is not the actual date players must register.
 - Will go back to having all registration dates fall on Friday.
 - Will be sure to have lottery results known prior to opening alternate State Day registrations.
 - Lottery opening will be three weeks in advance.
 - Non-lottery registration day will be two weeks in advance.
 - We will allow foursome registrations.
 - Single, twosome, foursome all has the same chance of getting in and it is the full registration in or full registration out.
 - Current lottery list for 2025: VNCC, Manchester, Fox Run, Proctor-Pittsford, Dorset and Woodstock.
 - Determined by those that had a waitlist in 2024.
 - Proctor-Pittsford allowed additional tee times so that all 120 players were able to play. If the rep can get approval in advance so that we will have 120 tee times for 2025 we can remove this one as part of the lottery list.
 - If you don't get in, should you get priority at the next lottery event or that same event next year?
 - Golf Genius has lottery functionality that may be able to provide some sort of weighting and/or priority to participation across our lottery events. Jen will investigate.
- Forward Tee Criteria
 - Currently 22+ Handicap Index (HI)
 - For 2025 we will change this to The Rule of 90. Age + Course Handicap = 90

- For 2025 we will update the handbook to require a minimum number of registrations to be 12 or more to hold a state day.
- Financial questions (will be addressed at the October 28th board meeting). *Action needed.*
 - Should we increase fees (10 VSWGAs and \$25 course)?
 - Fees for guests-2x member fee or not?
 - Refund policy
 - Full refund for medical or health issues
 - \$5 always held for processing (e.g., \$10 refund for \$15 events, \$5 refund for \$10 events).
- Flighting complaints
 - History of flighting:
 - Flights used to be by fixed handicap ranges (e.g., flight A: 1-10 HI, flight B: 10-20 HI, etc.). Depending on who showed up to a State Day, that meant you might have 2 players in Flight A and 30 in Flight B, making the odds of winning points uneven across the flights. In an effort to make it fairer, the current system of flights was adopted.
 - Current: The number and size of flights are determined by the size of the field. The flight size will range from 10-20 players/flight. The handicap range within each flight will vary, depending on the individual players who compete that day.
- Live scoring at State Days
 - Offer as an option, not mandatory.
 - Scorecard still must be turned in as that is the official scorecard.
 - Majors would only be implemented possibly on the last day with walking volunteer scorers.
- Add more State Days:
 - Put the word out with Reps with specific date options.
 - Montague has now added a second state day along with The Links, Brattleboro and Haystack.

Pace of Play – Initiatives

- Kate Mitchell presented
 - What can the Reps be doing to help PoP?
 - PoP Report:
 - Verify start and end time is correct.
 - Note how many minutes behind group ahead.
 - If 20 min or more, did they run into any unusual circumstances. This helps us to know if a letter should be sent.
 - The tee sheet sent to the PoP committee should show all the tee times and names so we can see # of players in each group
 - Pace of Play time limit: 20 min behind or more (change from 15-20 min behind). This was approved at the Aug 16, 2024, board meeting.
 - Suggestions for 2025 handbook
 - Only allowed 3 min to look for ball.
 - Play the forward tee if offered and eligible.
 - Be sure the VSWGAs registration page has the up to date expected round time.

Junior Golf

- No presentation

Communication

- Amy Butcher presented
 - Amy is very happy with the addition of Meredith Parker who is doing a great job on our social media posts.

Tri-States

- No presentation.

Rules – Initiatives

- Amy Butcher and Linda Jane Parsons
 - They are spreading the word about the rules course offer and that the VGA covers the fee.

Visionary Committee

- This committee is defunct but will have one remaining meeting with Amy Butcher, Susan Rand and Jill Appel.

Handbook

- Jen Steck has handed this over to Pam Boyd and Jen Farrington for 2025 and forward.

Board Process for the year

- Roles, duties, expectation documentation-in works
- How committees should report back
- Google drive and shared documents-Permissions updated with current board members (Jen Farrington)
- How to avoid email chaos – avoid “reply to all” unless appropriate and needed.
- Monthly Zoom meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of month at 4pm.

Other Items?

- N/A

Other:

New Business

- Review existing documentation of board roles, responsibilities
- Website revamp
- VGA collaboration
- 2025 budget discussion

Old Business

- **Mission Statement.** The board is reviewing. Linda Jane & Amy Butcher are working on this.
- **Green Mountain Challenge.**
 - New names will be added to the book with * to denote reached milestone in 2023. It will take quite some time for members to play all the clubs so still time to work on what that milestone gift will be.
 - If you play in all majors (including Tri-States), players cannot get to the 50.
- **New Posters/email to membership.** Why become a VSWGGA member?

Next Board Meeting: Monday October 28th, 4pm-5pm via Zoom (special financial meeting to see budget)

Adjourned 2:01 PM.