

2025 VSWGA June 21st Board Meeting

Meeting: Video Board Meeting
Date/Time: June 21st, 2025 9:00 AM
Place: Video

Board and Committee Members Present via Video: Amy Butcher, Fran McCune, Jayne Magnant, Kate Mitchell, Nathalie Lascelles, Sarah Lee, Dixie Mercier, Susan Rand, Jen Farrington (VSWGA Operations Manager), Jen Steck (Majors), Pam Boyd (Operations)

Board and Committee Members Absent: Jill Appel, Linda Jane Parson (Past President)

Call To Order 9:02 AM

May 24th, 2025, Meeting Minutes Approval

Sarah Lee moved to approve with Susan Rand's suggested change that the final bullet under the "Committee Chair Updates – Various" section be changed to read "Because of time constraints, no other committee updates were provided". Dixie Mercier seconded. **Approved.**

State Day Min # of Players – Jen Farrington/Kate Mitchell

- Should we have a minimum number of players to hold a State Day?
- Bradford had 12 registered as of the night prior to the state day but fewer than 12 the day of the event due to last-minute cancellations (poor weather forecast). It was held, but it sparked Jen, Kate and Nathalie, who played and had vague recollections of discussion of minimums to consult the stated policy in the handbook, where they found information regarding flights and # required for more than 1 flight, but nothing specifically about minimum participants. As a result, the board strategized a new policy.

Minimum participation policy (12). State Day will be cancelled on Friday prior to state day if 12 are not signed up. If 12 are signed up but then some cancel after Friday but prior to the state day event, the state day still goes on but only one gross and one net are awarded. This will be added to the 2026 handbook.

Jayne Magnant moved to approve. Sarah Lee seconded. **Approved.**

Tri-States Recap – Fran McCune, Jen Farrington

- Susan Rand:
 - VT Team captains (Mary Jane Shomo and Nancy Devaux) did the absolute best under the circumstances with great help from Jen Farrington.
 - NH as host did a terrible job organizing/holding this event.
 - Susan sent a 2-page memo to the Tri-State Captain with suggestions on how to keep hosting the event consistent in future years.
- Dixie Mercier:
 - As a first-time participant, Mt. Washington did a great job, and she did not feel the angst that other veterans felt and did not feel it was all that bad.
- Jayne Magnant:
 - As a 4-time participant felt that NH seems to always have issues organizing.
 - Comradery with the VT team is exceptional and has great rapport with NH and ME.

- Jayne encourages our captains to push for change in the future.
- Fran McCune and Amy Butcher:
 - Did a debrief with Mary Jane Shomo, Nancy Devaux, and Jen Farrington.
 - It is not clear where the process broke down in the collaboration between the NH Captain and the New Hampshire Golf Association. Amy will follow up with her counterpoints at both the NH Golf Association and Maine Golf to clarify. She will also touch base with John Goodchild of the VtGA to get his perspective.
 - Amy Butcher suggests tweaks on the selection and transparency of the process.
 - Fran also would like to review the selection process and what would ensure the strongest team, considering the way that strokes are now given in the competition.
- The board would like to invite MJ and Nancy to come to a future meeting to help the board better understand all that goes into the process.

VSWG/VGA/USGA Conversation Update – Fran McCune, Amy Butcher, Jen Farrington

- Fran reported that they had a great meeting with the USGA NE Liaison, Erin.
- Erin was in AZ when they had a big merger, and she shared tips on how to manage it, including:
 - Communication with the Board and with the Reps is very important.
 - Careful financial planning.
 - There will be a lot of angst if/when it happens thus communication is key
 - Erin made clear that a merger is not a requirement, but it makes for smoother operations. The goal is to serve all golfers, but that can be accomplished in many ways (merger, affiliation, etc.).
 - It is important to get clear on our end goal and build consensus to guide decisions
- Per Amy – tenor of conversation was very positive. One take away from the AZ experience was they kept both boards intact and merged them into one larger board for the first two years, then allowed for natural attrition after that to get down to the right size/skillset mix needed.
- Per Jen – she emphasized that the USGA says there is no requirement that we merge.
- Per Dixie – she asked NH and ME players at Tri-States of their experience. NH negative experience and ME have had a positive experience.
- Jen, Amy, and Fran intend to have a conversation with folks from ME and NH to learn from their experiences.

Major Tournaments: Updates & Prep – Jen Steck, Jen Farrington

- Seniors-Jen Farrington
 - 95 are registered and we are playing from the forward tees.
 - Jen Steck is checking that all players meet the eligibility requirements.
 - 1st place winners will receive flags and token prizes will be seat covers.
 - Food is all set
 - Volunteers are being organized.
 - Pam Boyd volunteered to contact the media.
- Amateur
 - 86 registered: 42 Championship, 44 tournaments as of today. Players are reporting great experience during the practice rounds with the club being very welcoming (note, the last day for practice rounds is June 22).

- Jen Steck said that the field is limited to 80 and will be reaching out to the course to see if there is any leeway for the max # of players.
- One person is not eligible as of right now, but Jen S is in communication with them.
- Jen Steck reports the process is going great.
- Mid-Am
 - 14 people registered. Not until September so it is not unusual to have low numbers registered at this point.

Paquet Trophy: What to do?

- Engraving on rounded surfaces is problematic and there is only one company in Vermont that can do it. Lois Dolan from Williston had picked the trophy up after the latest engraving and reports that Williston, current holder of the trophy, was not happy with the result. Unfortunately, there is not much we can do about the existing bowl (property of the VSWGGA, often and currently held by Williston).
- Going forward we will engrave on the base for this bowl. Nothing further will be done to the existing bowl to rectify.

Website Status Report – Pam Boyd, Kate Mitchell

- Pam shared the new website login information
- Making good progress.
- Thankful for good feedback.
- Lots of good member quotes that can be used
- Working with Meg on finetuning photos, etc.
- By the end of June, early July will hopefully be ready.

Documentation Update: Major Decisions, History, Thanks Chris Johnson – Kate Mitchell

- Big thanks to Chris Johnson for her archives work.
 - There are several boxes of neatly organized documents spanning from 1930 to 1999.
 - She is still working on 2000-2020 and then through Peg McBride's Secretary term (another box).
 - Kate has Kathy Sikora's Secretary binders, PR Binder (from Jen Farrington) and Amy has some items to give to Kate for safekeeping.
 - It seems like a good idea that these items continue to be with the sitting Secretary and then handed along at the end of term.
- Major Decisions
 - By-laws state that part of the Secretary's job is to keep up the Major Decisions document.
 - Kate tried to find the electronic version, but it is not on the VSWGGA google drive, no archive on website (was at one time posted there) and inquiry to several past Secretary's also did not have.
 - Kate created a pdf, and Jen saved it to the VSWGGA google drive under Board Documents. This has history through 10/6/2009.
- On-going Major Decisions document
 - Sis Capeless had created a document that tracked handbook and other changes from 2010-2022.

- Kate adopted this to serve as the new Major Changes on-going document and has added in changes since her term started in Oct 2023. Saved on the VSWGGA google drive under Board Documents.

VGA Scholarship Tournament-Proctor Pittsford

- The VSWGGA is a gold sponsor of the event, which includes entry for one team.
- After reaching out to the board and Club Reps, we fielded a second team. The \$400 entry fee for that second entry will be split amongst all 8 players.

Finance Report -Jayne Magnant

- Jayne will have more detailed reports for the July meeting.
- Susan Rand questioned why income is down YTD.
 - Per Jayne, she invoiced the clubs in May last year and this year not until June.

Open time:

- N/A

Future items not addressed at this meeting

- From May Meeting – Jen GHIN “C” or “A” for State Days. Jen Farrington will call the USGA.
 - As an aside, Fran mentioned that during Kathy Allbright’s term the USGA required the VSWGGA to switch from “C” to “A” because they could not believe that we were holding that many true tournaments per week.

Major Decisions for Secretary to track

1. Minimum participation policy (12). State Day will be cancelled on Friday prior to state day if 12 are not signed up. If 12 are signed up but then some cancel after Friday but prior to the state day event, the state day still goes on but only one gross and one net are awarded. This will be added to the 2026 handbook.

Next Board Meeting: July 12th, 2025, Zoom, 9am
Adjourned 10:00 AM.