2025 VSWGA Annual Fall Board Meeting

Meeting: **Fall Board Meeting**
Date/Time: **October 15, 2025 9:00 AM**
Place: **Burlington Country Club**

Board and Committee Members Present: Trish Wade, Barb Masterson, Jayne Magnant, Kate Mitchell, Nathalie Lascelles, Jill Appel, Dixie Mercier, Susan Rand, Becky Monty, Amy Butcher (Past President), Jen Farrington (Operations Manager)
Present via video: Jen Steck (Majors).
Board and Committee Members Absent: Pam Boyd (Operations)
Call To Order 9:20AM

Fall 2024 Board Meeting Meetings-Previously Approved:

- The Board previously approved the 2024 fall board meeting minutes at the November 2024 board meeting so they could be posted to the Website.
- A copy was distributed at today's board meeting.

September 2025 Meeting Minutes Approval:
Susan Rand moved to approve. Jill Appel seconded. **Approved**

October 2025 Annual Rep Meeting Minutes Approval:
Trish Wade moved to approve. Susan Rand seconded. **Approved**

- These will be posted to the website (slightly condensed version)
    - We approved them so that they could be posted to the website and emailed out to the Reps rather than waiting until next year's Rep meeting to be approved.
- Jen Farrington will email them out to the Reps.
- Pam Boyd will post to website.

Icebreaker and Introduction exercise – Welcome and integrate new members

Welcome of new board members and appointment of Officers/Liaisons:

		Term Expiration Year
President:	Trish Wade	2028
Vice President:	Barb Masterson	2028
Secretary:	Kate Mitchell	2026
Treasurer:	Jayne Magnant	2026 (2nd Term)
Director North:	Susan Rand	2027
Director Central:	Jill Appel	2027
Director South:	Becky Monty	2028
Director at Large:	Dixie Mercier	2027

Director at Large:	Nathalie Lascelles	2026
NW Liaison :	Susan Rand	2027
NE Liaison :	Nathalie Lascelles	2026
Central W Liaison:	Jill Appel	2027
Central E Liaison:	Dixie Mercier	2027
South Liaison:	Becky Monty	2028

Secretary/Treasurer/Director/Liaison Vote:
Susan Rand moved to approve Kate Mitchell as Secretary. Trish Wade seconded. **Approved**
Barb Masterson moved to approve Jayne Magnant as Treasurer. Susan Rand seconded. **Approved**
Trish Wade moved to approve Becky Monty as Treasurer elect. Jill Appel seconded. **Approved**
Susan Rand moved to approve the above director/liaison assignments. Trish Wade seconded. **Approved**

President Vote:
- Susan Rand nominated Barb Masterson
    - Barb would like instead to be considered as Vice President
- Jayne Magnant nominated Dixie Mercier and Trish Wade
    - Trish Wade would be willing to be President for a year to see if this allows other board members life situations to resolve and possibly fill this role. If after a year she is still needed, she would be willing to stay on as President.
- Nathalie Lascelles also was nominated.
    - Nathalie feels there are others already nominated that could fill the role.
- Jill Appel, Susan Rand, Jayne Magnant, Dixie Mercier, Becky Monty, and Kate Mitchell are not interested.

Jill Appel moved to approve Trish Wade as President. Susan Rand seconded. **Approved**

Vice President Vote:
Dixie Mercier moved to approve Barb Masterson as Vice President. Jayne Magnant seconded. **Approved**

Treasurer's Report
- Jayne Magnant submitted her report with details and highlights.
- Determine any action/guidance for 2026 budget.
- Shadowing/succession planning for Jayne.
    - Treasurer elect Becky Monty to work with Jayne for 2026 to ensure a successful transition.
- Finance subcommittee to work budget proposal.
- Contractor relationships (Jen Farrington, Pam Boyd)
    - Jen stepped out for this since it includes contractor pay.
    - It is important to have backup for Jen.
- VGA GHIN check to the VSWGA is in the mail per John Goodchild.
- The finance committee will work on finance reports to distribute to membership.

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.
- Chairs should be reporting monthly to Board in written form.
- Chairs will report on who is staying on the committees and any new additions.
- Chairs are only listed below (other than Tri-State Captain and Asst Captain).
    - 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 Chair
    - Rules Committee
        - Nathalie Lascelles Chair
    - Communications Committee
        - Jill Appel Chair
    - Tri-State Committee
        - Barb Masterson Chair, Mary Jane Shomo Captain, Nancy Devaux, Assistant.
    - State Day Committee
        - Jen Farrington Chair
    - Major Tournament Committee
        - Jen Steck/Jen Farrington Co-Chairs
    - Pace of Play Committee
        - Kate Mitchell Chair
    - Volunteer Committee
        - Dixie Mercier Chair
    - Financial Review Committee: Trish Wade Chair
    - VGA/VSWGA working group: Trish Wade Chair

Major Tournaments:

- Jen Farrington and Jen Steck (via video) presented the report.
- Majors' binder is very out of date. Jen F is updating this.
- Working on documenting the process of determining locations and the formats for majors to be more transparent.
- Current Committee members: Jen F, Jen S, Jeanne Morrissey, Wendy Drolette, Susie Bremner, Patti Haas, Trish Wade, Mary Brush, Amy Butcher, Kanika Gandhi, Carson Richards, Becky Montgelas, Beth Johnson, Kathy Kemp, Susan Rand.
    - Committee is getting very large. May need to have some come off.

    - Will work on criteria on what roles need to be filled based upon need such as new to majors, veteran to majors, etc.
    - Will be clear that if you are on the committee you are expected to help at the events.
    - Jayne Magnant and Irene Farrar from Orleans will be added since Seniors are being held there in 2026.
    - Amateur
        - More discussion needs to happen before the committee is ready to present the proposed amateur format. Most likely at the December board meeting.
        - Outstanding issues:
            - 2-day tournament add-on, cut after day 2, field size limit, etc.
            - Approve preferential inclusion of Juniors and those 24 years and under if max field limit is reached regardless of handicap.
                - Reason this is the only tournament that this age group can be part of.
                - Further discussion with committee and will be brought forth to the board.
        - Discussed preferential inclusion of Juniors, no decision made.
    - Senior, Mid-Am, Fall Classic issues and concerns.
    - Tri-State update
        - Mary Jane Shomo asked for a debrief with NH and ME but that has not yet happened.
        - There are documented guidelines that were not followed by the NH team.
        - Communication is at a standstill with NH and ME.
        - 2026 will be held in ME.
        - In 2 years, VT will be hosting, and possible location is Neshobe.
        - Code of conduct enforcement for bad sportsmanship/behavior was discussed.
- 2026 tournament venues:
    - Seniors – July 7 & 8, 2026 – Orleans
    - Amateurs – Aug 4, 5, 6, 2026 - Haystack
    - Mid-Ams – Sept 12 & 13 - Williston
    - Fall Classic – TBD (possible locations Quechee, Barre?)

VSWGA/VGA Conversation:

- Update, continuation
- John Goodchild and John Stempek were going to join the meeting via Zoom, but we opted to hold off on doing this until the board has time to further discuss and have time for a more robust conversation.

State Days:

- Nathalie Lascelles and Jen Farrington presented.
- 2026 calendar review
    - What worked, what didn't?
        - This year Nathalie worked directly with the Reps on the calendar vs trying to bring in the Liaisons. It was much more efficient and positive feedback was received.
    - What to do differently next year?
        - Continue to work with Reps directly on the calendar.
    - Balanced north/middle/south?

        - Attempted to do this but it is not always feasible based upon clubs' calendar availability.
        - There are several dates where only one state day is held.
        - Often members make their choice on location vs if it is a 9-hole course, so the calendar setup is more focused on location.
    - Extend later into September/October?
        - Last state day is set for 9/15/26, VNCC.
        - Fall Awards Classic will be 9/22/26.
    - Lottery system review
        - What worked well? What didn't?
        - Current lottery list for 2026: Manchester, Dorset, Woodstock, VNCC
        - Suggestion at the Rep meeting was to open the lotteries at the start of the season.
            - This will be the new plan for 2026.
- Forward Tee - ***Action needed -not finalized.***
    - Field size minimum
    - Gross and Net prizes, number of places
    - Currently 25+ Handicap Index (HI) at noon the day before the event
        - For 2026 Admin will check this on noon on Friday before the event
        - For 2026 we propose that we institute a min# of players to award points. The board will review and most likely revise this at our next board meeting and finalize.
            - 1-5 players. No points.
            - 6-10 players. Two Net. 4 points/3 points.
            - 11-15 players. Three Net. 4 points/3 points/2 points
            - 16+ players. Three Gross/Three Net. 4 points/3 points/2 points

- Min # of players to hold a state day?
    - In 2025 the board approved the following regarding min number of players required to hold a state day:
        - State day will be cancelled on Friday prior to the 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 points will be awarded according to the handbook. This will be updated in the 2026 handbook.
- Should we continue to award ties?
    - Future discussion.
    - Golf Genius can resolve by match of cards.
    - Finance committee will add this to their agenda.
- Events shortened, but full field has completed 9 holes. ***Action needed -not finalized.***
    - Update to the 7/12/25 Board meeting proposal. Jen could not be at that meeting so here is the updated proposal.
    - The board will review and most likely revise this at our next board meeting and finalize.
        - **9-Hole Tournaments**
        - 100-50% finish 18 holes. Treat as an 18-hole tournament (this will ensure our current policy, i.e., if 50% or more finish 18 it will be treated as an 18-hole event)
          OR

        - 49-1% finish18 but 100% finished 9. Treat as a 9-hole tournament
        - Must be based upon weather conditions: the course becomes unplayable or there is persistent dangerous weather.
        - Awards could be given based upon 50% of points, i.e., players would be getting 4/3/2 points.
        - Club Rep and Liaison should be involved in the decision along with the course.
        - Do we need to discuss this further with club reps? ***– Action needed***
        - Admin tested Golf Genius, and it is simple to turn an 18-hole tournament into a 9-hole tournament.

- Financial questions
    - Should we increase fees paid to courses ($25->course)?
    - Most likely the clubs will simply increase their cart fees or require the fee.
- Live Scoring
    - At which events? Some courses do not have good cell service.
        - If there is no cell service, you can still enter the info, and the Golf Genius app will update once there is service.
    - How do we communicate and get feedback?
    - Not make it mandatory but encourage use of it.

Initiatives:
- Rules focus for 2026.
- Increase transparency and communication around decision making.

Project Handbook (Pam Boyd)
- Content and deadlines
    - Three known updates; 9-hole policy (once finalized), min # of players to hold a state day (finalized) and forward tee points (once finalized).
    - Currently ties are awarded for points. We could change it so that ties are resolved by match of cards, i.e. not award ties. Finance Committee should review monetary impact of this change and decide if it is appropriate.
    - Lotteries will open for registration at the beginning of the season rather than 3 weeks prior to the event.
    - All handbook reviews will be done on Google Drive using Google Docs
    - Timing:
        - December Board Meeting – finalize the handbook schedule and process/dates, importance of finalizing decisions on content changes.
        - January
            - Early January Jen and Pam will send draft #1 to the Board.
            - January Board meeting – draft#1 discussion, board finalizes policy changes.
            - 1/15 – round #1 all comments due from the Board.
        - February
            - Early February - draft #2 will be sent to the Board.
            - February Board meeting – draft #2 discussion, any additional changes to policy or practices finalized.

        - 2/15 round #2 comments due from the Board.
        - 2/28 Final version complete; submit to printer.
    - March
        - 3/10 – handbooks back from printer
        - 3/11-5/1 – mail booklets out to members

Board Process for the year:

- How committees should report back
    - Written to the Board for the monthly meeting.
    - Google drive/shared docs.
- Google drive and shared documents
- How to avoid email chaos
- Zoom meeting schedule 2nd Wed of month at 4pm. 2nd Saturday May-August, Time TBD

pMajor Decisions Document Updates:

- Min # of players to hold a state day (previously updated doc)
- Lottery registration at start of season. Lottery drawing by Admin will still be done as published.
- Forward Tee Points (once finalized)
- 9-hold policy (once finalized).
- Payout ties? (once finalized)

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday November 12th at 4pm via Zoom

Jill Appel moved to adjourn, Susan Rand seconded.
Adjourned 2:05-PM