

Minutes of December 10, 2025 Annual WGPO Membership Meeting

Laurie Cohen (President) - Present
Bennett Jacobstein (Vice-President) - Absent
Jan Cardia (Treasurer) - Present
John Karris (Secretary) - Present
Josh Greenway (Director) - Present
Shan Abbasi (Director) - Present
William Cody (Director) - Absent

A. Call to Order

President Laurie Cohen called the meeting to order at 8:36 pm Eastern time.

B. Roll Call

Director Shan Abbasi confirmed that the requirements for a quorum have been met.

C. Approval of Agenda

Ian Weinstein moved to approve the agenda. Jan Cardia seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. REPORTS

1. Financial Report

Treasurer Jan Cardia reported that:

- WGPO's financial position is strong
- Approximately 90% of the CCSFF grant funds were used for tournament sponsorships and overhead costs
- Due to increased attendance (resulting in increased merchant fees), members will need to pay their merchant fees for Paypal, Venmo and Square transactions, but Zelle and Check remain free payment options

2. Tournament and Ratings Committee (TRC) Report

Committee Member Winter reported that:

- Committee Member Mike Johnson stepped down after 10 years of service
- Juraj Pivovarov joined the Committee

- Winter presented slides detailing the huge increase in the number of tournaments, tournament participation and the number of distinct tournament players
- Lynda Finn wrote a script to incorporate CoCo ratings
- The TRC faces challenges rating tournaments because of errors in manually submitted results files
- Winter indicated that the use of the tsh tournament application would greatly reduce the number of errors in results files.

3. Report on 2025 Highlights and Accomplishments

President Laurie Cohen reported:

- The 2025 Word Cup was very successful, with Nigel Richards winning the TWL Division and Wellington Jighere winning the Collins Division
- The Board adopted a Code of Conduct and Incident Report forms
- The Board will soon be adopting a Rule Book
- The Lexicon Committee completed the integration of definitions in applications for WOW lexicon
- New Events (4th of July Superstars, Lake George, Pacific Open, Asheville and Reno) were very successful
- There were 23 events in 8 Canadian cities
- Lexicon Committee Chair Jim Sherrill will respond to requests to use the WOW lexicon in word game applications

Director Josh Greenway reported:

- Josh presented slides demonstrating the huge growth in viewership of games being streamed
- Streaming occurred at additional tournaments including Galesburg, IL and Madison, WI
- Josh emphasized the importance of WGPO's services to tournament directors, including the handling of entry fees and prize payments

Motion to Approve Annual Reports

John Karris moved to approve the annual reports. Ian Weinstein seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. New Business

1. 2025 Elections

- Candidates attending the meeting (Jan, John, Tina Yates and Peter Schwartzman) were given an opportunity to speak
- John endorsed Jan noting the unique services she provides in terms of doing the accounting work, tax returns, etc.
- Winter reported that 264 members have already voted, voting remains open until December 15, in past years, over 300 members voted, and there are 1036 eligible voters

2. Looking Forward

- Increase support for directors
- Improve communication via email and social media
- Create more volunteer roles
- Increase collaboration
- 2026 Word Cup goal of \$10,000 first place prize in WOW and Collins
- Recognition of volunteers and personal achievements

3. Member Forum

- Concern about non-profit status
- Concern about whether WGPO should focus more on achievements/ratings/trophies and less on prize money
- Fond memories of Galesburg event
- Fond memories of Decorah event
- Fond memories of 2025 Word Cup

F. Adjournment

John Karris moved to adjourn the meeting. Winter seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:14 Eastern Time.

Link to slides:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oU0Q1WVF9bhe5uVHgbEr6w2RPKdKM12f/view?usp=sharing>