

Minutes of Board Meeting
Word Game Players' Organization
Thursday, January 8, 2026

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Eastern. Board members present:

Laurie Cohen, President
Bennett Jacobstein, Vice President
Jan Cardia, Treasurer
John Karris, Secretary
Josh Greenway
Shan Abbasi
Tina Yates

Board members absent: (none). A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 2025 and December 2025 Board Meetings and the Annual Meeting. The motion passed.

Minutes Protocol

The Board discussed protocols for drafting, approving, and posting meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the following protocol: draft minutes may be shared or posted if clearly labeled as draft; final minutes must be approved by Board vote before posting. The motion passed.

Officer and Administrative Matters

The Board welcomed Tina to her first Board meeting of 2026. The Secretary role and development of a checklist/SOP were discussed. Treasurer term limits and transition planning will be revisited by mid-year 2026.

Officer Assignments

Nominations were made for officer positions.

A motion was made and seconded to elect the following officers, as a single slate:

President: Laurie Cohen
Vice President: Bennett Jacobstein
Treasurer: Jan Cardia
Secretary: Tina Yates

The motion passed.

Membership Definition and Registration

A motion was made and seconded to form a task force to define WGPO membership and develop recommendations for improving the registration process. The motion passed.

Tournament and Word Cup Updates

The Board received an update on Word Cup registration status and prize guarantees. Word Cup registration materials are ready pending email distribution. A first-place prize guarantee for Division I was announced.

WESPA Ratings, Clubs, and Website Capacity

The Board discussed WESPA rating eligibility, creation of a Google Form for club submissions, expanding website editing capacity, and documenting website update processes.

Payment Processing and Venmo

A motion was made and seconded to remove Venmo as a payment option. The motion passed. The Venmo account will be closed and tournament flyers updated.

Discipline Matters

Outstanding discipline matters were acknowledged. Laurie and Josh will meet offline to address and document them.

Future Planning

A separate brainstorming session for 2026 goals will be scheduled via Doodle poll. A decision on announcing the 2027 site will be made by the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern (via Zoom).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m. Eastern.