

**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
**Word Game Players' Organization**  
**Wednesday, April 1, 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  
Tina Yates, Secretary  
Josh Greenway  
Peter Schwartzman  
Shan Abbasi

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**

The minutes of the March 2026 Board Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

**Officer and Committee Reports**

Due to technical difficulties affecting participation, the Board agreed to defer or shorten officer and committee reports and proceed to the primary agenda items.

**Meeting Structure**

The Board discussed meeting efficiency and time management and reaffirmed the goal of keeping meetings to approximately 90 minutes. The Board also discussed possible practices to help manage meeting flow, including the use of estimated time allotments for agenda items, periodic time checks, and additional meetings when needed.

**Strategic Planning Meeting**

The Board discussed scheduling a dedicated goal-setting meeting regarding WGPO membership and broader organizational priorities. It was agreed that this meeting will be held on May 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Eastern for approximately two hours. A meeting invitation will be circulated.

**Communication Practices**

The Board discussed internal communication practices and the ongoing transition to Slack for Board communications. The Board reaffirmed Slack as the primary platform for internal Board-related discussions, while recognizing that email may remain appropriate in limited circumstances, including certain one-to-one, external, or financial communications. The Board acknowledged that the transition remains in progress and will continue over time.

### **Word Cup 2026 Planning**

The Board received updates on planning for the 2026 Word Cup in Richmond. Registration was reported to be ahead of the same point in the prior year, and the Board discussed extending the free t-shirt offer for early registrants through April 30.

The Board also discussed transportation logistics for attendees traveling by air to the Richmond venue, including possible shuttle arrangements and the need to gather additional information from registrants regarding flight details and interest in shuttle service.

Additional event-planning updates were also discussed, including evening social activities and related programming.

### **2027 Word Cup**

The Board discussed future Word Cup site-selection procedures and related planning, including an upcoming meeting to review procedures for the 2027 event and the selection process. The Board also discussed a potential future hosting proposal, including a hotel offer that will be compared against the current event contract for further review.

### **Organizational Growth**

The Board also reviewed recent organizational growth trends, particularly in multi-day tournaments, and discussed how that information might be used in future organizational communications.

### **Website Update**

It was reported that website edits are in progress and additional Board members will soon be set up for content access.

### **Accessibility-Related Tile Initiative**

The Board discussed an accessibility-related tile initiative and related considerations for tournament play. The discussion included possible policy, implementation, and player-experience issues, as well as whether any clarifying rules language may be needed. The matter was referred for further review, with a recommendation to be developed following the next Rules Committee meeting.

### **National Scrabble Day**

The Board received an update on a National Scrabble Day event planned for April 13. The event will include a four-game tournament and related programming, and early participation was discussed. The Board also discussed financial procedures associated with the event, including follow-up needed regarding handling of tournament funds.

### **Tournament Funding**

The Board discussed tournament funding and noted that previously allocated funds from certain tournaments would be available for reallocation. The Board approved funding of \$1,500 for each of two tournament-related requests. The informal nature of the current process was discussed, and the Board agreed that clearer and more structured procedures for future funding requests would be beneficial. The Board also discussed related financial procedures and noted the need for follow-up regarding handling of tournament funds in accordance with WGPO practices.

**IT Planning**

The Board discussed technology planning, including a possible migration to Google Workspace and associated implementation support and training needs. The Board agreed that additional detail would be helpful before any decision is made. The discussion also included broader considerations related to data centralization, shared access, and digital security, and further specifications will be developed for review.

**Deferred Items**

The Board briefly noted that discussion of the Hall of Fame and awards would be postponed to a future meeting.

**Next Meeting**

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

**Adjournment**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:53 p.m. Eastern.