Draft Minutes of Board Meeting
Word Game Players' Organization

Wednesday, October 7, 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
Peter Schwartzman
Shan Abbasi
Jan Cardia, Treasurer
Josh Greenway

Board members absent:

Tina Yates, Secretary

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

Treasurer's Report
Jan is working on WGPO's tax return and will complete it by the November 15 deadline. After that, she will be able to report on the full amount of funding available for 2027. The draft funding report for 2027 includes $93,900. This may be adjusted when final numbers are available.

Committee Reports: Ratings and Tournament Committee
The Board received an update from the Ratings and Tournament Committee, including the resignation of Ben Lam from the committee.

The Board also continued discussion on the proposal to offer free or discounted entry fees to new players. The board acknowledged the need to set aside money in the budget for this program, although the details still need to be worked out. Josh will draft a proposal of the program with program logistics and funding amounts needed.

Committee Reports: Lexicon Committee
The board will ask Tina for an update during the November Board Meeting.

Tournament Funding
Decisions about funding were needed for Phoenix (February) and Greeneye (March). Jan stated that $4400 was allocated for Phoenix and $1000 was allocated for Greeneye. Discussions about funding of other tournaments will be held in subsequent meetings. Bennett agreed to inform Mike about his tourney funding. Additionally, Board members indicated that they would look for the application form that was created to allow tournament directors to apply for funds.

2026 Elections
The Board discussed preparations and timing for the 2026 election. Laurie announced that she will not be seeking reelection in 2027. Bennett and Josh will continue to update the membership email lists, so that all eligible members will be able to vote. Josh will follow up with the Election Committee to clarify the deadline for adding members to the voting rolls and the process for including bylaw changes and referendum questions on the ballot.

Honoring Mike Johnson for his contributions to WGPO
The group discussed plans to honor Mike's contributions to the organization by presenting him with a special recognition award at the upcoming Madison tournament, with Bennett offering to draft a formal letter from the board acknowledging Mike's service. The meeting also covered election procedures and the collection of new email addresses for the membership database.

Recognition and Honors
Bennett and Peter will continue to work on plans for recognizing and honoring accomplishments of players and WGPO volunteers.

Email Communications Platform
Based on last month's discussion of information gathered by Shan, the Board decided that WGPO would go forward with the adoption of Brevo as its preferred platform. Jan will work with Shan on allocating funding for setup and maintenance of this system.

Next Meeting
The next meeting will be held on November 4, 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 7:52 p.m. Eastern.