

Wisconsin PGA General Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 27, 2025
Embassy Suites – Brookfield, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order at 12:02 p.m. Mark Voeller welcomed everyone and provided an update on the timing and agenda of the meeting.

Mr. Voeller asked for a moment of silence in honor of Carl Unis, legendary WPGA member.

WPGA Distinguished Service Awards:

Mark Olsen and Mike Warren were presented with the first WPGA Distinguished Service Awards. Erika Pirkl presented Mike and Andy Hansen and Joe Stadler presented Mark Olsen. Mike and Mark shared their gratitude and offered a bit more on their stories and what golf means to them.

Election of District Director Board Members

Derek Guzman (Northwest), Jonathan Stuart (Metro), Jeremy Cabalka (Southwest) and Jamie Christianson (Northeast) were elected to the board to serve 3-year terms as District Directors. The new board members then took the oath of office.

Mr. Voeller asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda and the March 25 Membership Meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve by Jamie Christianson, seconded by John Shipshock. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Committees:

Report of WPGA Secretary – Danny Rainbow introduced the newly elected members, recently specialized/certified and quarter/half century members. Danny recognized members that are newly transferred into the WPGA section. Wisconsin is the 20th largest section with 465 members and 178 associates. Danny thanked Mark Voeller for his time as an officer and everything he has done for the WPGA.

Executive Director Update – Mr. Stadler thanked everyone for having a golf license plate. The funding goes directly to support our scholarship program which gave out \$90,000 in 2025. He thanked Andy Landenberger and Erika Pirkl for all their work in running over 200 foundation events/tournaments throughout the season. He also thanked Chris, AJ, and Jazz for their help. He thanked all the professionals for their efforts with hosting events and for advocating for our initiatives to their owners and boards. He then thanked all the sponsors and donors.

Report of President – Mark Voeller mentioned this was his last report as President of the WPGA. Mark informed the board that Mike O'Reilly has accepted and been elected as the new President of the WPGA. Danny Rainbow is the new Vice President and Scott Walecki is the new Secretary. Mr. Voeller discussed the value of PGA membership and how to get involved and give back. He mentioned that Danny Rainbow will be accepting the PGA of America MOY Award for resorts. The next day Jim Richerson will be inducted into the PGA of America Hall of Fame. Mick Smith and David Roesch qualified for the 2026 PGA Senior Championship.

Mark encouraged all tournament participants to thank the sponsors after each event. Mr. Voeller encouraged everyone to get a Wisconsin Golf License plate as a simple way to support our Foundation. Mr. Voeller concluded his report by offering all the things that the WPGA does and commended the membership for all they do.

Report of Keith Clark, PGA – District 6 Director - Mr. Clark recognized Mike O'Reilly and the team at Kohler for hosting the Collegiate WORKS Championship. Keith mentioned the positives and the negatives at the recently completed Ryder Cup. He wanted the membership to know that the PGA is looking at all aspects of the Ryder Cup and making necessary improvements to ensure similar items do not happen in the future. Mr. Clark mentioned changes at the PGA of America office team. PGA HOPE and the funding model are being examined. New leadership will be in place soon.

Acceptable progress is being changed to 7 years from the current 9 years for new associates beginning on January 1, 2026. PGA Coach is continually being examined and improved. The PGA's stance is still in opposition to the golf ball rollback.

PGA Career Consultant/Employment Committee – Jeff Ellingson introduced himself and provided an overview of the services he can provide to the membership. He encouraged members to reach out any time they had a question or needed some help.

Education – Danny Rainbow provided the highlights of the changes to the new PDR period that began in July. He mentioned the GOLFTec Teaching and Coaching Summit coming up in early June and that information would be coming out soon.

Membership Committee- Brendan Locke shared the website that was developed by the WPGA/Erika Pirkel. He encouraged everyone to attend the mentoring summit at TPC Wisconsin on November 10. Brendan provided an update on the summit.

Player Engagement Report – Scott Walecki mentioned that PGA Junior League grew by 7% in Wisconsin in 2025. He encouraged more to get involved. Scott showed the new uniforms for 2026 and that the issues with timing in 2025 should be fixed. Erika Pirkel showcased the Wisconsin lone DCP finalist, Hallie Fisch. We conducted 22 programs at 14 locations and served 375 veterans through PGA HOPE Wisconsin. Scott mentioned the 2026 Stars & Strikes Bowling Pro-am on February 16 and asked people to get a team and support HOPE with a fun day of bowling.

Old Business - none

New Business – Mr. Voeller mentioned the new business items provided by Brook Schmitt. Mr. Voeller explained that each issue will be discussed at the next TPB meeting.

Open Forum –

Nick Tarasoff mentioned that the PGA Junior League app needs to be improved significantly.

John Shipshock mentioned that he was embarrassed by the spectators at the Ryder Cup and how the PGA did not handle the situation. He asked that this be addressed for future events, so it is not repeated.

Joel Weitz asked about the golf ball rollback and why not consider simply limiting the driver.

Greg Adlington shared a story about Carl Unis and his tip to research the team at any facility you are visiting to assist in the introduction.

Bob Burns thanked everyone that supported his auction and wondered why PGA members need to be paid to teach PGA HOPE programs.

Michael Bradley thanked Mark for being a great mentor and helping him along the way to becoming an associate.

Mark Voeller encouraged everyone to visit the sales representatives and thank them for their support.

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 pm.