



# SDWGA Executive Committee Meeting



Friday, January 23, 2026 at 11:00 at Rusty's

**Attendees:** Jean Cheszek, Jo Helms, Connie Hiles, Sandy Szczerbin, JC Thobe, Ellen Victor, Denise Waddell

**Not Attending:** Jeanne Jensen, Sarah Michelson, Jan Rintala

**President, Jean Cheszek, called the meeting to order at 11:05am.**

## I. **Financial Report** (Denise)

- a. **2025 Financial Reports** -- Denise made a motion to approve the 2025 Financial Reports as sent out earlier. Connie seconded. Discussion followed
  - i. Are there any restrictions on the amount we can carry over to next year? Jo checked with a CPA who said there aren't any requirements or set maximums, but if the IRS decides to audit us, we may have issues. Jean said her WGA filed paperwork to be a 501(C)(7) and the cost for the delay in getting the proper paperwork was \$500 (would have been less expensive if they had filed when the club was originally formed.) We do not; we're not classified as a nonprofit corporation for tax purposes. Ellen did the paperwork for her WGA several years ago; she will do the needed research and let the EC know the costs, etc.
  - ii. Do we publish these financial reports on the website or at Rep Meetings? Historically, the Treasurer would present the current financial standing at Rep meetings; not sure if there were paper reports on the table. Denise will hand out reports at the next Rep Meeting.
- b. **2026 Budget** – Denise presented the Proposed 2026 Budget. She increased the Website expenses to \$375 (was \$300). Ellen confirmed that. She increased the Prize Money Subsidies for the three tournaments by \$100 for the Winter Scotch (WS) and \$200 each for the Spring Partners (SP) and Fall Partners (FP) for a total increase of \$500. Discussion followed:
  - i. **How much history should we be storing?** Jean would prefer that we scan historical documents and keep them on a flash drive rather than paper. We can also store the information on the website – but there are concerns as to what happens to them if/when we change website platforms. The website information goes back to 2019 (when we converted to this platform); should we put all prior Winners Sheets on the website? No decision was made.
  - ii. **Tee Markers** – Connie and Sandy have been researching purchasing new tee markers because the current ones (although lightweight) take up three crates to store/haul. The new ones they proposed are metal and have a golf club face with "SDWGA" etched in the club face. Lots of discussion about them being too dark, too small, cannot push into

the ground easily, and possibly too big. This version costs \$500 for 25 markers (will have back-ups on hand.) Denise made a motion to include no more than \$500 for new tee markers in 2026 and add this to the 2026 Budget. Connie seconded. Sandy will get a prototype of the proposed version for the WS luncheon meeting. Motion carried.

- iii. **Hole-in-One Insurance** – Jean doesn't want to have money designated for the HiO potential expenses. Others disagreed; we agreed to leave it as is.
  - iv. **Increase Prize Money Subsidy** – Since we're over-spending on each tournament, Denise suggested increasing the Prize Money Subsidies by another \$100 for the WS and \$200 for the SP and FP. That would mean an increase of \$1000. Denise made a motion to increase the Prize Money Subsidies to \$1100 for the WS and \$1700 each for the SP and FP. Jean seconded the motion. Even though we will carry over \$7300, we're unsure what will happen with membership and don't want to spend another \$500 on that. Jean called for a vote and the motion did not carry.
- c. Connie made a motion to approve the 2026 Proposed Budget with the change to include \$500 for tee markers. Denise seconded. The motion carried. Denise will send out the Approved 2026 Budget to the EC.

II. **Membership** (Jean) – Denise reviewed our current membership status – we have 744 members. Connie reported Quail Creek isn't going to require all WGA members to be SDWGA members (they currently have 57 mbrs) so this will definitely reduce our membership – although, some of them will probably join as Individuals.

- a. Jean reviewed the stats on her agenda she sent out and Jo's report of the historical membership totals back to 2014. She thinks it's difficult and confusing for Clubs to handle the two Local Tournaments (del Sud and Telegraph) when a small portion of the members play in those events. She proposed using a format similar to how CWGA handles membership – charge \$25 for CLUBS to be a member. We would use this to cover the general operating costs of SDWGA (e.g. website, office supplies.) The Clubs could then use that day's 'game' prize money payouts. Example: All members of the WGA pay in \$5 on a Tues to play the del Sud (and only the del Sud – not another game) and all members compete. Much discussion followed about WGA's not paying to be a member; it's not difficult to host the Local Tournaments when the entire WGA is not competing – only SDWGA members are. Another possibility: We could host a tournament for all the del Sud winners to compete and another tournament for the Telegraph winners to compete. Nothing was decided.
- b. The \$4000 we collect annually in membership dues goes mainly to the three District Tournaments. If we wanted the players in the tournaments to cover the prize subsidies, we would need to charge them \$11 more in the tournament registration fees. [i.e.  $\$4000/360 = \$11$ . (120 players in three tournaments=360)] That would mean there would be an additional \$11 added to each player's tournament entry fee for a total of \$26 in prize money.

- c. Denise feels we will lose clubs over this type of format. Dell Urich, Randolph, and SB Ranch are the only clubs who require all members to be SDWGA members as well. Jo shared her concerns about our total membership decreasing year after year because members are unhappy not getting into the District Tournaments, all the confusion and changes currently going on with the new Registration process, flighting, etc., and all the unrest and confusion is negatively impacting our reputation. JC reported her conversations with her members – they are wondering why we’re trying to fix something that isn’t broken? Denise shared her concerns that we’re not ‘talking up’ about the benefits of being an SWGA member; we need to have our Reps “sell” SDWGA to their membership.
- d. Nothing was finalized on this; everyone needs to think about this possibility.

### III. **Registration Processes** (Jean) –

- a. Jean/Connie reviewed the current configuration of registering. Connie distributed a document showing how the WS registration process worked with the number of envelopes by Postmark Date, by Received Date, and the number of days to arrive. There are some anomalies with the USPS. Jo asked why we can’t have an Opening Week, which is the seven-day period starting with the Opening Date, which is six weeks prior to the event. We then allow two weeks for them to arrive, and we post the Participant’s List three weeks prior to the event. The question was raised (based on Connie’s stats): what happens when an envelope is postmarked within the Opening Week but arrives after the Participant’s List is published. Yes, this may happen, but if so, that team would be added to the wait list. We cannot account for every what-if situation. Another issue is the USPS’s latest announcement that they are changing their procedures such that the postmark date may NOT be an indication of when the USPS assumes responsibility for an envelope. So, using postmark date for tournament entries is subject to error. Denise reported that she went through the TO: names on the email that went out on Dec 15 to the Reps (where we were told seven clubs weren’t included plus the Individuals) and it was only four clubs. Two of them were Tucson Ntl and Oro Valley. This resulted in us allowing those clubs to register by email. Nothing was decided/changed.
- b. Jean reviewed the three golf-specific options she sent out earlier (see attached email): GolfGenius (GG), LeaderBoardKing, and Perfect Golf (PG), as well as non-golf options for registration and payment, some of which are free. (Details for all these options are spelled out in a separate attachment. Upgrading to Premium GG is price prohibitive; she’s meeting with someone from GG to further discuss options for us. Almost all online payment options charge credit card (CC) fees. Kachina uses PG on a “first registered, first in” format; players register and then are required to pay via CC with a 3.9% fee tacked on to the tournament cost.

Much discussion followed about members not adopting online registration due to their technical skills, the CC fees, are all members going to register at 12:01am and what have we gained (aside from driving to the post office);

when do they pay; if they register as a team, can both members pay. With PG, we could pay \$300 per tournament to get the version that eliminates the CC fees. And, then, to get the online scoring feature, it's an additional \$250 per tournament.

More discussion followed about the participant lists being generated after the online registration process is complete, but when do they pay? Are they fully registered ONLY when the payment is received? What are we gaining if a bunch of our members continue to mail in a check – they're still mailing something to us. We need to be cognizant of the fact that of our 750 members, only approximately 220 members play in the District Tournaments; are we invoking a bunch of costs to suit only 220 of our members?

Jean and Connie feel we need to 'plant the seed' with our members about the option of doing this, the benefits, and get their input. Jean will do this at the WS luncheon meeting.

- IV. **Nominating Committee (Jean)** – Alberta Teale is the Nominating Committee Chair. She was unable to attend today's meeting but sent an update to Jean saying: She is actively working on, what seems to be, very good prospects for all three positions (President, Treasurer, Tournament Chair).
- V. **Winter Scotch update (Connie)** – Connie reported they did the course set-up at AZ Ntl yesterday.
- a. They are recommending we play the Teal tees at 4500 yds due to the difficulty of the course (even though the Standing Rules state: *Generally, length will be between 5,000 and 5,500 yards, with carries of 90 yards or less, whenever possible.*) Cat Cup and Kachina played the Combo tees, and they had five-hour rounds. Much discussion ensued:
    - i. Jo reported that the #1-hole handicap hole from the Teal tees (#11 Par 5) ends up being 370 yds which is totally unfair for everyone to get a pop. At a previous event, this raised all sorts of complaints because the longer hitters can reach it in two and have a pop! Initially, we discussed changing the Hole Handicaps to make that hole play "easier" but this is an arbitrary process because we don't have the scorecards to review and compare to determine what makes the most sense. We then discussed changing that one hole to play from the White tees. The carry is a slight concern but there is a bailout area. The Rating would increase by .6 and the Slope by 1 if we back up that hole. Connie will have Chase send a photo of the area between the two sets of tees and measure it, so we have a clear understanding how this lays out.
    - ii. Sandy made a motion to Adjourn at 1:55pm. Connie seconded. More discussion ensued. Jean called a vote on the motion to adjourn, and it didn't carry.

- iii. Since this is a Net only tournament, and due to the difficulty and layout of this course, **we discussed setting a MAXIMUM SCORE of 10 (Gross) for this tournament.** According to USGA Rules of Golf 21.2, this is allowed. This would speed up play. Jo made a motion that for this tournament, we will invoke a maximum gross score of 10 due to the layout and difficulty of this course. Sandy seconded. The motion carried.
  - iv. Connie also reported that AZ Ntl has a Local Rule that states all non-manicured areas are considered Red Penalty areas (not marked). SDWGA doesn't follow Local Rules. Connie reported that Sarah is working on this.
  - v. They also found out that along the desert-side of the #18-hole cart path, there are white out-of-bound markers. However, the residents don't like the players coming close to their backyards, so they move the stakes over to the fairway side (and even out IN the fairway!). Connie will have Sarah put something in the ToC about how the out-of-bounds is handled on that hole (if the stakes are elsewhere.)
- VI. Sandy made a new motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:20pm; Connie seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Secretary, Jo Helms

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Ellen** – Research 501(c)(7) tax status and the cost implications.
- **Sandy** – Get prototype of the proposed new tee markers for the WS luncheon meeting.
- **Denise** – Send out the approved 2026 Final Budget to the EC.
- **EVERYONE** – Think about suggested ideas about increasing membership.
- **Jean** – Discuss online registration processes at the WS meeting.
- **Sarah** – Include the maximum gross score in the WS ToC.
- **Sarah** – Report back to the EC as to how the AZ Ntl course will be handled with Red Penalty areas
- **Connie** – Ask Chase to send a photo of the area between the White and Teal tee boxes on #11
- **Sarah** – Put something in the ToC about hole #18 out-of-bound markings
- **Jeannie** – Ensure the 12/02/2025 and 01/23/2026 Meeting Minutes get approved at the next EC meeting.