

March 9, 2026

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MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SOUTHWEST DIVISION OF BOWLS USA

The meeting on Google Meet was called to order by president John Billon at 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Billon, Linda Roberts, Kelly Warren, Chuck Moffitt, Jackie Hogan, Howard Harris, Sheila Conti

OTHERS PRESENT: Anne Nunes, Gary Barnes, Heather Stewart, Vaughan Feather.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The board accepted the minutes of the meeting of February 2, 2026 without amendment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ladies Day --In the absence of Shelley Cohen, John provided updates on Ladies Day. He reported that Jan Pautsch is reworking the Inland Empire Ladies Day, hoping to schedule four events. Kelly Warren clarified that the Inland Empire group's issue is not that they do not want to drive, but that they want more Ladies Day events closer to them, and they seek more integration and respect. He noted that the Hermosa group is also beginning to seek similar support. John Billon suggested creating a "What's Happening" section on the website to promote events in Riverside and Hermosa.

Coaching – Linda reported on coaching activities, confirming intermediate classes in Newport and Oaks North. She also reported that Long Beach is planning a coach training class, which Scott Roberts has broken down into a single day, replacing the previous two day classes. Vaughan inquired about the focus on the role of the introductory trainer versus a full coach, especially in view of the low closing rate on new prospects. Linda suggested that Scott, with help from Gary Barnes, could create a video to highlight key talking points for introductory trainers.

Heather Stewart and Linda discussed the high success rate of converting prospects to members at Laguna Beach. Gary Barnes observed that training programs dovetailing with social bowls helps create a community atmosphere that positively influences people to join.

Tournament Committee – Anne Nunes reported on the AQT, recently concluded in Long Beach, the first international tournament in years Southern California. The U.S. successfully qualified for men's singles and pairs for the 2027 World Championships with Bill Brault and Aaron Zangl going undefeated in pairs and Brault undefeated in singles.

John will write a letter of thanks to Doreen Hall of Long Beach, thanking them for the excellent job done that club hosing the AQT.

Entries for the Southwest Open will open in the middle of March.

Anne confirmed that she is working with Ian Cameron on the North-South tournament, targeting November 14-15 for the event. The proposed format is eight men and eight women from each division, with the Southwest Division using Southwest points to select most of its players. The tournament's historical prize is a large trophy that is currently kept at Cambria.

Digital Media -- Gary Barnes directed participants to the report he had already submitted which detailed preparation for the first tournament of the season. He reported that YouTube subscriptions are at 460 people with little movement. He suggested continuing to mention subscriptions for the livestreaming in most division communications.

Gary and Scott Roberrs are collaborating on adding more videos to the "How" program, having already recorded eight separate videos and releasing one per week. The new videos are unique in that they use footage from actual tournament play to illustrate what should be done and then actually happened on the green.

The digital media team has also discussed creating videos that introduce drills. They are also planning to implement end-to-end scoring using a new widget on the screen. John suggested the possibility of marketing and umpire training videos.

Division Shirt – Jackie Hogan presented an update on division shirts, showing new designs and revisiting those from prior discussions. Discussion ensued, during which John suggested forming a committee of Jackie Hogan, Chuck Moffitt, Vaughan Feather, and Sheila Conti to discuss and consider shirt designs.

Howard Harris raised concerns about the logistics of bulk ordering and distribution through the clubs, suggesting looking into print-on-demand services to reduce risk and simplifying ordering for individual members. Jackie noted that vendor Allegheny, with whom she is working, requires a minimum order of ten and cannot handle single orders shipped directly

to individuals. Heather Stewart stressed the importance of creating a single, unifying Southwest division shirt that could be work by all members.

Code of Conduct – Linda presented a proposed Code of Conduct, which outlines expected behavior and references the disciplinary committee document and bylaws for the definition of non-compliance. Kelly noted that the Code is primarily a guideline for good behavior and not a series of enforceable rules. John suggested stopping at section 4.4 and keeping the bylaws and disciplinary policy as separate items. Kelly will take on the task of revising the code of conduct and then sending around a draft for review and discussion at a subsequent meeting.

Councilors Report –Howard said there is nothing to report since the councilors have not held a meeting a several months.

Treasurer's Report – Kelly reported that the first batch of dues has been received. He noted that the budget for medals was been increased by \$2700 at the AGM, and the total order amount was close to the budgeted number.

With respect to the Southwest Open, Kelly reported that the tournament committee and Gary are managing the event and live streaming respectively and that locations have been secured. John Billon stressed that the Southwest Open is our premier event and suggested involving Vaughan to discuss plans for possible opening or closing events and overall promotion, which Kelly Warren agreed to do.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

The next meeting of the board will be April 6th at 5:30 P.M. on Google Meet.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Moffitt

