

April 6, 2006

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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 5:32 P.M.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Anne Nunes, Gary Barnes, Scott Roberts, Heather Stewart

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The board accepted the minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2026 with several corrections for typos.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ladies Day: In the absence of Shelley Cohen, Heather Stewart reported that 54 attendees are expected at the event in several days at Newport. Kelly reported that the Inland Empire is now scheduling Ladies Day four times a year, regularly attracting 20-30 bowlers. Kelly is following up with Hermosa regarding their hosting a Ladies Day.

Coaching: Scott Roberts reported that an intermediate class was held at the Groves for that club and Santa Ana with over thirty attendees. Upcoming events include a coaching course and an intermediate class at McKenzie Park, with plans for additional intermediate classes at Oaks North and Newport. There are also plans for a coaching certification course in Long Beach and one at the Groves later in the summer.

Marketing: John reported that Vaughan Feather is on sabbatical but remains involved by responding to open house questions and offering input on the division slogan and shirts.

Tournaments: Anne reported on the three novice events scheduled for April, noting good signup numbers for the men's novice singles but a lack of women's novice participants. There has been difficulty filling the mixed novice triples at Santa Anita with only twelve teams currently registered.

Anne also reported that a \$75 overtime fee is required by LA County to keep the clubhouse open beyond 3:30 P.M during tournaments. John stressed the importance of promoting Santa Anita as an important part of the division.

Webmaster: In the absence of Giulia, Anne reported that only the Mumma Pairs has been posted on the site recently and several other tournament results and flyers are awaiting posting.

Digital Media: Gary Barnes reported on his team's effort to prepare for and launch the 2026 season with various system additions and improvements. He confirmed that they will not be livestreaming both Southwest Bowls venues, but will cover the finals of all three women's events.

OFFICER REPORTS

Southwest Shirt Designs: Jackie Hogan presented three different shirt pattern choices and color selections, which were the top three narrowed down by committee. Jackie mentioned that some women prefer the logo on the sleeve rather than the chest.

Chuck advocated for shirt designs that appeal to social bowlers, who constitute 93% to 95% of members, and suggested sending out the various designs discussed to club presidents for membership feedback.

Linda suggested sending an email to all board members asking them to rank their favorites to determine the selection with the most points. John agreed with Linda's suggestion and committed to sending an email with numbered options to the board members after the meeting to gather their first, second, and third choices

John Billon: The board discussed scheduling the Spring delegate meeting and settled on May 21st. During that discussion, Kelly jested about having to pitch another \$1 increase.

John received an email from Jan Pautsch reporting that commercial ads are being sent to her club members with the names apparently generated from the division directory. John said that he would send an email to all presidents emphasizing that the information in the directory is confidential and not to be shared for commercial purposes.

Slogan contest: John reported that he had received 114 suggested slogans, quite a few of them produced by AI. He has determined that too few members were aware of the slogan contest despite its inclusion in the newsletter and other announcements. The board discussed continuing the contest but agreed instead to send out a list of proposed slogans to the board with the intention of narrowing it down to a ten, then to send that list to the delegates for their input, so as to give them a sense of participation.

Linda Roberts: Linda provided an update on the Code of Conduct, reporting that she is awaiting further input. John emphasized the importance of such a code, especially for clubs lacking their own disciplinary policy.

Councilors: Jackie introduced the subject of Bowls USA's proposed bylaws revision to be discussed at its April 21st meeting. The changes proposed include adding all of the officers as voting members of the board and removing the votes of half the councilors, thus considerably augmenting the power of the board of directors. It was discussed that the ostensible reason for the change would be to conform to 501(c)(3) regulations, about which several members expressed skepticism. The board agreed that the Southwest Division opposes the newly written bylaws and that an effort should be made by Bowls USA to amend the current bylaws to accommodate the few changes that can be justified.

Kelly Warren: Kelly reported \$14,000 of tournament funds in the PayPal account, \$30,000 in the operating account, and \$82,000 in the CD, totaling around \$112,000.

Kelly further reported on the Southwest Open. He and John agreed that there is a need to make continuous efforts to notify local media

Chuck Moffitt: Chuck reported having difficulty managing the newsletter due to time constraints and the lack of a helper with computer skills, Mauricio Cadavid having said he is too overloaded to continue. Jackie Hogan graciously volunteered to help out, stressing her familiarity familiar with Constant Contact. Chuck will follow-up with Jackie.

John Billon proposed adding multiple people to the Constant Contact account to ensure reliability and coverage for sending timely eblasts, particularly since some previous eblasts were not sent in a timely manner. The individuals proposed to be added include Jackie, who will assist with layout and eblasts; Anne, who is a natural fit due to her need to send tournament eblasts; and Linda Roberts, who will take over the leadership role and needs to learn the system for the following year. The consensus was that adding more people to the Constant Contact account list is necessary to ensure that time-sensitive information can be sent out reliably.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM.

The next meeting of the board will be May 4th at 5:30 P.M. on Google Meet.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Moffitt

