

Oakmont Lawn Bowling Club

Annual Member Meeting minutes

November 13, 2023, noon, at the East Recreation Center

Attending: 16 members plus 8 board members.

1. Welcome – Janet Johnson

Janet welcomes us to the meeting and had our members quickly introduce themselves.

2. Treasurer Report – Tony Lachowicz

We have one checking account at Umpqua Bank. Our current balance (including money given to Tony at the meeting) is \$2,014.15.

We usually have between \$2,000 and \$3,000, and our expenses are low, so this is a good amount. Dues for 2024 are \$20 per person for active members, \$15 for associate members. Bowlers who join between now and the end of 2023 will pay \$20 per person, which will include membership through the end of 2024.

Please pay your dues by February 1st to be included in the 2024 Green Book. Leave your registration information plus your check either in the OLBC folder in the OVA office or in Tony's cubby (#40). We also accept cash – please give directly to Tony.

We currently have 87 active members and 5 associate members.

3. Committee Reports – Janet Johnson

Janet began by stating that the committee members work hard and could use some help. Please sign up to help where you can.

- Tournaments – Steve Pickell

The Halloween Bowl has happened.

Thanksgiving Tournament is next. Sign up on the board or on-line. Steve says there will be surprises.

Janet thanked Steve and Pam for the great job they're doing.

- Social Committee – Pam Dempsey

The Social Committee includes Pam Dempsey, Linda Pickell, and Marilyn McKeever. They're looking for new members. Please contact them.

The remaining social event for 2024 is the Gala, which Pam will discuss.

- Training – Mary Blake

Topher Gayle has agreed to become Training Coordinator starting January 1st, though he's already taking a more active role.

Mary asked that more experienced bowlers keep in mind that there's a lot to learn about lawn bowling and have patience with new bowlers.

- Communications – Mary Blake

Communications include articles in the Oakmont News, OLBC e-blasts, web site, bulletin boards and Green Book. Most attending the meeting read the Oakmont News articles and the e-blasts and all were familiar with the website.

Mary asked for suggestions for the Oakmont News articles.

- Status of the Green – Jim Krause

Janet pointed out that the green is spectacular, and bowling is good, thanks to Jim's hard work.

Jim said that the Green needs to be spiked. Spiking should be done every couple of months. Currently, water isn't getting down very far.

Some of our grass is turning brown. Jim said that is the Bermuda grass. He's hoping for another seeding with bent grass.

Jim also pointed out that he's responsible for the trophy wall in the Bowls Room

4. Holiday Party and Awards Gala – Pam Dempsey

The tree is in the bowls room with tags for children in need of holiday presents. There are still quite a few names that haven't been taken. Please take a name (or two or three) by Tuesday, November 28. If you're happy to give money but hate shopping, Pam and Linda Pickell will do the shopping for you.

Please RSVP by November 21st so they'll know how much food to order.

We need volunteers to wrap presents. Sign up in the Bowls Room or contact Pam.

5. Election – Mary Blake

We received 27 on-line ballots. Two were duplicates, probably from households with two club members. We had 14 paper ballots. There were no

write-ins. Totals were: Janet Johnson (41), Pam Dempsey (39), Gerry Macintosh (40). Our current board is:

Janet Johnson – President

Pam Dempsey – Vice-president

Tony Lachowicz – Treasurer

Mary Blake – Secretary

Gerry Macintosh – Director

Steve Pickell – Director

Jim Brewer – Director

Jerry Garland – President emeritus

6. Other – Janet Johnson

Marilyn Garland has taken on Grandparents' Day. It's been very successful and a lot of fun. Children seem to enjoy it and we've seen some great bowling.

Sonoma Wine Country Games (aka Senior Games) will be May 31 and June 1st in 2024

7. Question and Answer

- Michelle Macintosh asked if we'll have T-shirts for sale. Jim Krause replied that they'll be a lot more expensive. He's visited 20 T-shirt makers. With the place he and Jeana Garcia have used, we don't have to order a batch of shirts. He has recently ordered hats.
- Michelle also asked how many new members we've had in 2023. We told her 18, but my numbers say 14.
- Richard Goodwin suggested that, in part to increase club visibility, tournaments become round robins. The advantages would be:
 - Tournaments would be morning and afternoon (shorter games and breaks to make this more feasible) so passersby would see the green in more regular use.
 - A tournament would be finished in one day rather than going on for days and weeks.
 - Bowlers could face more bowlers rather than being knocked out in the first round.
 - Finishing a tournament wouldn't be as anti-climactic.

There was some concern that a lot of bowlers wouldn't want to play through the day, especially in the middle of summer. Jim Brewer suggested we do a test tournament to see if this would be received well by the club.

- Richard also suggested we have more follow-up training and that skips work more closely with advising leads and seconds where and how to bowl. New bowlers are trained and then left on their own without any follow up support except ad hoc. Mary agreed with this and accepted responsibility for that lack. She said that Topher has already taken that task on as part of his job as training coordinator. Richard also felt that skips should give more guidance to the leads and skips. Some members agreed and some weren't sure they wanted that type of pressure. It may be something that each lead or second should discuss with their skips. And Richard suggested that we have a day each month set aside for training. As a follow up to that, Ingrid Thom and Bob Dodd have both stepped forward and offered to help. Mary will discuss this with Topher and offer whatever help she can give him.

8. HELP – Janet Johnson

Throughout the meeting, Janet asked that people who suggest changes also offer to help. A small number of people are doing a lot of the work and we need more help.