

## **VKA Board Meeting January 11, 2026**

**Call To Order:** President Copeland called the meeting to order at 8:05pm

**Roll Call:** S. Owen called the roll with the following results:

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

John Copeland

Lynn Haddock

Bill McCornack

Gene Lang

Marty Westen

Kurt Bogerman

Steve Mox

Skip Owen

Jack Hoegerl

Sal Palatucci

Bob Barthelemy

### **Board Members Absent:**

Joe Swantek

Scott Nagel

### **President's Report:**

President Copeland stated the 2026 season is officially underway and is anxious to hear from Joe about Tucson. and from Bob about the upcoming event at Jacksonville. So we'll hear from them if and when they get on.

J. Copeland advised he has been in early discussions with M. Pompiani, an Ohio-based VKA member and graphic designer, about potentially producing a quarterly newsletter. However, he is concerned about having enough content to support quarterly publication. If the project moves forward, board members would need to lean on promoters to contribute materials such as race reports and photos to ensure consistent content, which the board has not really been doing much of. Mailing costs would also need to be evaluated, though Pompiani has bulk mail connections that could help, and an online-only option may be considered. J Copeland hope he will have more to report at the next meeting, he is planning on sending some of Rolf's work in the past, so he has an idea of what has been done in the past.

### **Vice President Report:**

S Mox advised he and S Nagel attended the OVKA show, which seemed to go well overall. There appeared to be more vintage items for sale than modern ones. They discussed the importance of maintaining a presence at the event due to high attendance but are unsure whether having a booth or walking around to engage with people is more effective. Based on experience, they were approached more often while walking around than when stationed at a table.

S Mox is planning on attending Jacksonville the next weekend and hopes for good attendance as the weather appears to be good.

J Copeland advised that the attendance was down at the OVKA event, because the weather was threatening.

J Copland advised the January meeting minutes were approved via email vote.

### **Secretary's Report:**

S Owen stated he wasn't able to update the new officers with the Nevada Secretary of State this month, as it would be early, since it's due in April. He spoke with a women there at the State's office and she advised not to file the updated list until it was time to renew in April, since VKA is a small non profit, there is no need to pay the fee twice in a short period.

All the minutes from last years meeting have now been updated on the website.

S Palactucci advised to maybe check with the insurance company to ensure we are in compliance with them in updating the new board memberships.

**Membership report:**

M Westen provided the membership update for the month of January with the following results:  
14 one-year individual renewals, 1 one-year family renewals, three 36-month individual renewals and 1 three-year family renewal. Also 2 new individual memberships.

Membership count as of January 31st was 493

Northeast - 72

South -89

Midwest -285

West -47

Renewal postcards for March were mailed January 30th, and April are ready to be mailed.

A membership list for Jacksonville, will be mailed to B Barthelemy and S Mox next week for that event.

**Treasurer's report:**

S Nagel is currently not on the call

**Rule and Guidelines:**

L Haddock advise he doesn't have much to add other than since the last meeting, he updated the new rule set that the West Bend people seem to think was needed to the West Bend class.

**Judging and Shows:**

K Bogerman advised he has send out the certificates and other two documentation for the kart shows to bob for the upcoming events in the southeast.

**Regional Reports:**

National-

B McCornack advised he is in the process of shipping out the transponders and hopes to have them all shipped out by Saturday.

B McCornack advised B Barthelemy that he will be shipping out his two transponders for his two upcoming events for giveaways at the drivers meeting.

K Champien had sent an email to B McCornack about how he needs the photos formatted and sent to him, B McCornack advised he will be getting that information over to the Board members and for the promoters.

G Lang asked if B McCornack had received the pictures from Haley, and Bill advised he had. He just needs to write the article from the Norway event and get it over to K Champine for posting but needed to get the transponder promotion completed first.

B McCornack advised he will be checking on the status of the hats and hopes to have some for the Barnesville event.

J Hoegerl has the envelopes ready for the newsletter mailing, once S Nagel has it completed. The Newsletter will go to J Hoegerl to be mailed out.

West-

J Swantek is not on the call.

B McCornack stated he has talked with T Ives and was able to provide an update on the Tucson event since T Ives and J Swantek co-sponsored the event. There were 50 driver, nice weather and event went off well. T Ives was a little disappointed in the turns out as some Californians did not show up, that he had hoped would.

Northeast-

S. Palatucci stated he will be meeting with Mike Lauterborn to plan for Batavia in June.

S Palatucci advised Avon is going to require 2 separate payments this year: \$100 credit card at the gate, then \$40 in cash separately to pay for the event staff being hired by our organizing volunteers on Saturday. L Haddock clarified that the entry fee is basically \$140. S Palatucci agreed. It's a three day event, members only, maximum 2 classes for one price (\$140), all VKA classes are invited. 3 Lap Monte will also be run.

L Haddock asked how it's possible to offer all classes but only two per driver; S Palatucci & K Bogerman explained that similar karts are merged in the heats, with separate trophies awarded based on their finishes. Suck as, 6.1, 8.2 & Sportsman rear may be merged vs. having too few karts in each of those classes.

S Palatucci advised that the NE Region will be having our 3<sup>rd</sup>, pre-season luncheon in Gettysburg, Virginia on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. A discussion will be about our 4 2026 events, and the first team race at Batavia in September: MW vs NE race for at least a Yamaha class.

South-

B Barthelemy stated he had just spoken with J Yost, president of the North Florida Kart Club, and confirmed that staffing is in place for the upcoming event. Two corner workers will be present both days, and B Barthelemy will be handling grid duties. Additional personnel from Barnesville—including a main flagman, EMT support, and timing/scoring staff—are confirmed, so the event is fully staffed barring last-minute cancellations.

There are currently four confirmed advance entries, with at least four more expected, totaling around eight so far. While advance entries are lower than last year's high of 12, the overall goal is a turnout in the 40–50 range, which would make the event worthwhile.

The track, located in a Jacksonville city park, is open daily for practice except before major national events. Participants are welcome to practice Wednesday and Thursday at no charge, though no track staff will be present.

A light hors d'oeuvres meal is planned for Friday evening, with two heats scheduled for Friday and one for Saturday, subject to change. Kart show will take place Saturday morning.

Barnesville event looks good with eight advance entries. Randy Kugler will be attending the event on Friday, possibly Saturday and will be presenting to Dickie Wilson and award inducting his dad Richard Wilson into the Karting Hall of fame. Tony Cirillo will also be in attendance, he was the WKA Gold Cup Announcer for two decades.

B McCornack advised B Barthelemy that he is shipping out the ordered transponders this week to the South region.

Midwest-

G Lang advised all he has for the Midwest at this moment is crappy weather.

**Old Business:**

J Copeland advised the member-get-a-member membership drive proposal had been sent out to the board for review prior to the call.

S Palatucci made a motion to approve the membership drive:

Member-get-a-member program is to encourage our existing members to solicit new members, or previous members who have not renewed prior to January 2025.

Existing members could sign up new members, using a special membership form that Marty has developed, with a special membership rate of \$10 for the first year.

The form would include a place for the existing member to put his name so he can get credit for the new membership.

The program would run from May 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026 and would be open to anyone who has never been a member of VKA, or who was previously a member but did not renew prior to January 2025.

The \$10 membership would be for 1 year only.

After August 31st, 2026, new membership forms will be tabulated and the existing member who has signed up the most new members will be rewarded with \$300 in cash.

In the event of a tie, the winner will be selected by a blind draw.

Seconded by J Hoegerl

Discussion took place among the board

Call for vote: All in Favor Motion passes

**New Business:**

J Hoegerl asked, as a new board member, how the VKA generates their income.

J Copeland stated he will try his best to answer since no treasurer is on the call.

50-50's, apparel sales, memberships and voluntary donations.

VKA does not charge sanctioning fees, as the VKA is not a promoter, but are here to provide guidance to promoters.

L Haddock stated the VKA needs to encourage promoters to do a better job of listing races on platforms like Race Monitor or Speed Hive so fans can follow events remotely. This benefits both the organization and the individual races. At a minimum, promoters should post on the organization's Facebook page with clear details on where and how to follow the race as it can be difficult to find race information online when not attending in person and feels promoters should consistently make that information accessible and what channel it can be found on.

L Haddock would also like to see a little article written up on the benefits of pre-entering an event.

The board discussed the importance of the two points L Haddock pointed out and the need to relay that information to the promoters.

Meeting adjourned 9:06 pm EST.

Respectfully submitted by: Kelly Frazier