

February 22, 2026
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
HIGHPOINTERS CLUB
FINAL

A meeting of the Directors of the Board of Directors of the Highpointers Club (HPC) was held was held on Zoom, starting on February 22, 2026, at the hour of 6:00pm (CDT) Shannon Brumund, President presiding.

Douglas Bernero, Secretary, kept the record of the meeting. The President called the meeting to order and roll was taken (attendance reflects presence on Zoom call during most or all of meeting):
 2025-26 VOTING MEMBERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

	Name	Position	Term Expires	Present	Absent
1	Shannon Brumund	President / Director / Merchandise Chair	2028	X	
2	Denis Dean	Vice President / Director/Election Chair 2025	2027	X	
3	Scott Brumund	Treasurer/Director	2026	X	
4	Douglas Bernero	Secretary / Director	2028	X	
5	Julie Smith	Director/Ecological, Bylaws and Records chairs	2028		X
6	Shelly Binford	Director	2026		X
7	Kathryn Bertine	Director	2026	X	
8	Thomas Shea	Director / Magazine Editor	2026	X	
9	Alan Ritter	Director/Past President	2027	X	
10	Justin Sutton	Director/ Membership Chair	2027	X	
11	Paty Matiskella	Director	2027	X	
12	David Walsh	Director	2027	X	
13	James Graham	Director	2028	X	
14	Gary Szelc	Director	2028	X	

2024-25 NON-VOTING MEMBERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

	Name	Position	Term Expires	Present	Absent
1	Tommy Burns	Co-Editor Newsletter	Open	X	

The meeting was called to order at 6pm CST. President Shannon Brumund opened the meeting by reviewing Board members attending the meeting. Secretary Douglas Bernero determined that 12 voting directors were present on Zoom and two absent constituting a quorum. The meeting having been duly convened, the Board was ready to proceed with business. The meeting was recorded on audio.

A motion was made by Shannon Brumund to approve minutes from the September 20, 2025 Board meeting held in Bishop, CA. The motion was seconded by Justin Sutton. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report—Scott Brumund, Treasurer:

The Club tax return has been filed for 2025. Club books will show a loss primarily due to one-time expenditures on the club website upgrade and on trademarking costs. Club still has funds for moderate one-time expenditures that may arise. Biggest expense is the publishing of the magazine. Printer Alpha Graphics has raised costs 20%, but Scott convinced them to lower the requested price. Scott suggested the possibility of reviewing costs of competing printers and mailers. Scott knows of organizations that mail out similar publications that have shared what printers they use.

Tom Shea added that they considered other printers about two years ago. Alpha Graphics was considered superior because they integrate the printing and mail list services which competitors tended not to do. Tom has been very satisfied with current support from Alpha Graphics and believes time and energy of the club board might be better spent elsewhere. He invited Scott to do more research if he has the time. Scott is happy to gather more information. Tom will share .pdf with Scott that explains the scope of printing and mailing the magazine.

Update of Committee Chair Reports:

Membership—Justin Sutton: A "Membership Operations and Growth Alignment, February 2026" was prepared for this meeting. **The file for this report is included as part of these meeting minutes.**

A membership highlight was the interest surging on Jan.18 following the release of "CBS News Sunday Morning" feature on the club.

Justin asked for volunteers to help with Membership Committee functions. Scott Brumund and David Walsh offered to support Justin.

Newsletter/Magazine Report—Tom Shea: Offered congratulations for Justin on the membership and website redevelopment areas. Magazine issue #148 should arrive near March 1. Features include the CBS News story, West Virginia convention info and registration, Election information for 2026 Board positions, and a story on a former Mt. Washington resident.

Awards—Shannon Brumund: Shannon stated once again she is looking for a person to fill this role. Following the meeting, Board member **David Walsh** has volunteered to become the awards chair. The confirmation of David in this role will be addressed at the next board meeting.

Merc Report—Shannon Brumund: Merc also experienced a surge in activity following the broadcast of the CBS News story on Jan 18. Shannon received 30 orders that day. So, January demand has been strong.

Records Chair— Alan Ritter: No current updates. Justin has some suggestions using Google workspace for electronic records storage.

Webmaster Report—Justin Sutton reporting with Ashraf Hossain: No current updates. Tom Shea inquired about old and stale information still appearing on the website. Tom suggested breaking out website into categories and ask responsible committees to clean up their areas.

Bylaws—Julie Smith: Julie not attending but no bylaws changes since March 16, 2025 meeting.

Foundation Liaison Update—Alan Ritter: Some improvements and changes discussed at Iowa and Indiana highpoints. No detailed updates at this time.

Convention Liaison—Shelly Binford: Detailed update on West Virginia '26 convention later in meeting.

Secretary's Board of Directors Membership Update for the 2026 Election:

Former Board member Tom Martin resigned during 2025. Club member Gary Szalc was offered Tom's Board seat and Gary accepted. That position was due for election in 2026. In late 2025, Krutee Laad also resigned from the Board, and her position was due for election in 2028. In January, Shannon Brumund proposed via email that Gary be presented with Krutee's seat that expires in 2028. This proposal was passed with at least 10 email votes from Board members.

As a result, there are now four occupied Board seats and one open seat up for election in 2026.

Election Chair—Denis Dean: There are 5 candidates for 5 Board seats up for election in 2026. Three Board members for reelection, **Scott Brumund, Kathryn Bertine** and **Tom Shea**. **Shelly Binford** is not running for reelection. There are two new nominations—**Meredith Bennett** and **Lauren Toner-Hickam**. There are exactly 5 candidates for 5 seats. Per the bylaws, the election must be conducted and voting information will be presented in the next A to Z magazine, issue #148. If each candidate receives at least 1 vote, the election will be complete.

Ecological Chair—Julie Smith: Julie not attending meeting--no current update.

Reduction to Honorary Members List—Scott Brumund: Scott emailed a list of honorary members to ask how useful the A to Z magazine was to them. He supplied information to call, text, email or mail a reply. I received a reply from only one of the eight.

Seven honorary members did not reply. Scott made a motion to discontinue mailing magazines to the following honorary members, seconded by Alan Ritter:

Adirondak Loj
AMC Pinkham Notch Visitor Center
Green Mountain Club
McEwen, Barbara - Baraga County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Morris, Adam, MA Dept of Recreation & Conservation
President - Garrett Cnty. Historical Society
Tishomingo County Tourism Council

The motion passed unanimously.

Trademark Registration—Shannon Brumund:

Shannon intends to set up a conversation with Rob Wells to discuss more trademark issues. In the meantime, Rob stated that the club should begin to include the ® (registered trademark) symbol together with the club's approved trademarks where they are published, including "Apex to Zenith," Apex to Zenith logo, "Highpointers Club," Highpointers Club logo and "Highpointers." Shannon will ask Rob about the club's options to notify and object to individuals and organizations that may be inappropriately using our trademarks without authorization. Shannon knows of some usage of "Highpointers" expression for non-club purposes, but no known widespread use. Shannon just wants to appropriately respond to inappropriate use of the club's trademarks if it does occur. Rob Wells firm, **Rock IP, PLLC** researched previous usage and found previous usage mostly by current and former club members.

West Virginia 2026 Convention Update—Scott Brumund on behalf of Alex de la Torre:

Arrangements are well organized for convention on July 23-25 in Davis, WV. A forecast of 230+ registrants is realistic. Extensive details and registration forms are in last magazine issue #147 and will be in next magazine issue #148.

Florida 2027 Convention Update—Pat Young: Pat introduced himself to the Board, he is currently doing groundwork researching Florida cities, towns, hotels and facilities. So far, he believes Pensacola is the best location as the central gathering point for the convention within reasonable distance of the Britton Hill highpoint. He also researched Destin area, which seemed expensive and Panama City which didn't seem as appealing. He is narrowing down Pensacola hotels to select an ideal convention headquarters. Pat is looking for desirable features for a 3-day weekend on the Gulf Coast—such as beach access, free breakfast and nearby attractions. Alan suggested a late Spring early Summer date to avoid hurricane season on the Gulf. If anyone has input to suggest, please email Pat Young at FloridaKonvention2027@gmail.com

Convention Refund Policy: Club hasn't previously had a refund policy on convention registration cancellations. The club previously allowed refunds up to date of convention including processing fees. Scott recommends allowing refunds only up to a date about 3 or 4 weeks before the convention begins. After discussion, James Graham made a motion to standardize cancellation of convention registration possible until 30 days before the beginning day of the convention, and no cancellation possible thereafter. Seconded by Alan Ritter. Gary Szelc mentioned this policy as included in the Convention Handbook was previously at the discretion of the convention organizer. Shannon suggested that if passed, the Handbook be amended to include the new policy. The motion was raised for a vote and carried unanimously.

Records Storage: Dave Covill has created an electronic scan of first newsletter. Scott has created a 750-page scan of newsletters 1 through 40 and is working on separating the pages into separate scans of first 40 newsletters. Scott believes scans of other newsletters exist from John Mitchler and Eric Lichtenstein periods when they were magazine editors. Board voted to reimburse Dave \$45 for cost of scanning which passed unanimously. Discussion took place on how to archive past magazines/newsletters on the club website.

Google Workspace: Justin Sutton wants to use Google Workspace as a tool for club records and membership storage. He and Ashraf have looked for ways to reduce or eliminate the cost perhaps as a non-profit entity. Membership files have been nearly deleted as they resided on an individual's email address. Google Workspace account would be a secure and shared environment to share information. It could be a tool to perhaps replace Dropbox and Zoom accounts. A Google Workspace account can be set up with multiple addresses and possibly be lower cost than multiple accounts the club has now.

Government Bonds: Scott Brumund is looking for alternatives to bank CDs for investing cash balances of the club. Government bonds can be purchased for a period of up to one year. The bylaws address that bank balances must be FDIC insured, but no mention of government investments. Scott believes these accounts are low risk and would be more convenient and deliver higher interest than bank CDs. James Graham was concerned about investing prepaid dues that are a current liability of the club. Doug Bernero mentioned there is little risk that members paying prepaid dues will quit the club and demand refunds of their dues. Shannon will refer this to Julie for a bylaws change to enable certain government investments of cash held by the club.

Mauna Kea/Hawaii Highpoint Situation: Shannon and Scott Brumund visited Hawaii and Mauna Kea recently and found a new sign that restricts access to the actual summit. Kathryn Bertine has

been in touch with Center for Mauna Kea Stewardship (CMKS) regarding the summit and access. The current signs are a result of wishes expressed by local native Hawaiian representatives. The previous sign at the road stated "you have reached the Summit of Mauna Kea." Despite this, foot traffic increased with those walking over and up to the actual summit. Kathryn emailed a contact at CMKS to suggest access days similar to what exists at Charles Mound, the Illinois highpoint. Perhaps 4 or 5 weekends a year with access to the summit and guides to present information about Hawaiian history and culture. Kathryn has heard no response but will report when she does. Shannon recommends that Highpointers members be asked not to violate the restrictions listed by the sign until the Center considers changes the Club has suggested. James Graham asked if the CMKS might be interested in revenue opportunities like paying a fee to visit summit or for guides on potential open access days. It was suggested that the access restrictions be communicated via social media and the next available A to Z magazine issue.

Updating Highpoints: There was discussion about the possibility of changing the Club's official highpoints. Alan Ritter stated that a new Pennsylvania highpoint is unproven at this point. The Michigan highpoint remains somewhat in dispute with Mt. Arvon and Mt. Curwood being almost the same altitudes. Alan suggested that if the state or USGS recognizes a higher altitude for Mt. Curwood, that the Club would change its list as well. If this happens, previous completers would not be expected to visit the new highpoint after visiting a previous official highpoint. Board will discuss further if a highpoint is officially changed by a government entity at some point.

Flags over America for US 250 anniversary-Lanny Wexler

Lanny described a project where Highpointers snap and share recent photos of 50 state highpoints in honor of USA 250th anniversary. It is similar to a project conducted after attacks of 9/11/01. Lanny would like to contact club members to inspire recent climbers to contribute photos, and he would like to complete this project in 2026. Lanny is particularly interested in contacting climbers of the more challenging highpoints. Shannon recommends an email be sent to the club membership list and posting on the club Facebook page to publicize participation in this project.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm CST.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2026, in Davis, West Virginia, time TBD after breakfast.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Bernero, Secretary

I, Shannon Brumund, President of Board of the HPC, and I Douglas Bernero, Secretary, of the Board of the HPC, hereby certify that these are the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on February 22, 2026.

Shannon Brumund, President

Date

Douglas Bernero, Secretary

Date