Minutes of the 2026 U.P.G.A. Annual Meeting
October 31, 2026
Terrace Bluff Golf Club
10:00 A.M. ET

Clubs in Attendance:

Little River, Young's, Pine Grove, Terrace Bluff, Gladstone, Oak Crest, Portage Lake, Escanaba CC, Sweetgrass, Riverside, Marquette, Wawonowin and Nahma.

Additions/Deletions/ Corrections to Agenda:

Team events for the UP and Senior Championships including split tees, high school students playing in the UP Championship and the Senior Monday/Tuesday format.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Youngs, second by Pine Grove – No discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2025 Minutes:

No minutes were shared by the 2025 secretary/treasurer.

Membership:

Reinke reported that there were approximately 20 clubs that were delinquent in paying the 2025 dues and he was instructed by the membership to collect those in addition to the 2026 dues. For the most part, clubs are up to date. He reported that Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan has not paid dues for 2025 and 2026 and received no replies to his inquiries.

Finance Report:

Secretary/Treasurer Reinke included a document that contained a summary page for the finances which included Total Expenses, Total Revenues, the Beginning Checkbook Balance and the Current Checkbook Balance as well as the total breakdown for each category. Also included was the itemized amounts in each category with an explanation of any unusual costs to the Association.

Motion by Marquette, second by Young's to approve the finance report. Reinke was asked if he was concerned that expenses were greater than income and he reported that there is sufficient funds to alleviate any concerns. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of the U.P. Senior Tournament: (Gladstone)

The financial report for the tournament was included in the handout given to each member present. Cole Hansen stated there were 150 participants and he gave specifics about the finances for the tournament. Reinke commented that both championship host clubs (Gladstone and Marquette) were well prepared and very easy to work with.

Report of the Junior Committee: (Marquette)

Kenn Hruska from the First Tee of Northern Michigan gave a detailed report on their efforts to assist the UPGA Jr. Tour program which started in 2026. He spoke of creating a centralized registration process which greatly assisted both parents of participants as well as the host courses. They look forward to continuing their partnership with the UPGA in the future. Reinke noted that the process for reimbursement to the UPGA was extremely efficient and looks forward a continued partnership with the First Tee.

Report of the U.P. Championship Tournament: (Marquette)

Bob Bastian reported that 108 players participated in the event and noted that the financial report was included in the packet. There was considerable discussion regarding the policy of Marquette Golf Club to not permit private carts to be used for the tournament. Marquette does not allow their own members to have private carts. There was concern that not allowing private carts decreased participation and how should the UPGA handle this situation in the future. Wawonowin shared that bringing in rental carts for any event has become increasingly expensive and some clubs welcome private carts for that reason. No consensus was reached regarding this issue.

Future U.P. and Senior U.P. Sites

It was decided to offer Little River the 2030 and Oak Crest the 2031 UP Championships. The 2030 Senior will be played at Oak Crest with the 2031 event at Escanaba CC.

U.P. Championship	
2027	Pine Grove
2028	Escanaba CC
2029	Riverside
2030	Little River
2031	Oak Crest

UP Senior Championship	
2027	Riverside
2028	Pine Grove
2029	Young's
2030	Oak Crest
2031	Escanaba CC

Election of Officers

Motion by Little River, second by Young's to elect Mike Solda from Oak Crest as the President of the UPGA. Motion Carried unanimously.
Reinke praised outgoing president Jill Sabotta from Young's for her service and dedication to the UPGA.

Motion by Little River, second by Wawonowin to elect Cole Hansen from Gladstone as the UPGA Vice-President. Mation carried unanimously.
Reinke praised outgoing vice-president Lew Klein for his many years of service.

New/Old Business:

There was considerable discussion concerning the team events if split tees are used after the qualifying rounds. A problem arises if a team has one or more members that play the shorter course following the qualifying round(s). Motion by Young's second by Pine Grove that all players will play from the same tees on both days of the Senior Championship, with no split tee format, and that all five player scores will be counted. Motion passed unanimously.

The team event for the UP Championship was changed from four days to the first two days in 2026 so that split tees would not be an issue, since all players play the same tees for the two qualifying rounds. There was considerable discussion regarding the number of days and the use of split tees. The general consensus was that the team event should include all four days and split tees are desirable for the last two rounds.
Motion by Young's second by Oak Crest to make the team event all four days with spit tees.
Motion carried with a Nay vote from Marquette.

Motion by Pine Grove, second by Young's to count four of the five scores to determine the team champion. All four of the counted scores must be played from the back tees. A team will be disqualified if any of the four play the forward split tees, and no player that qualifies for the forward split tees will be allowed to move to the back tees to facilitate the team event.
Motion carried unanimously.

Reinke was contacted about a mistake in the history of the UP Championship. Beth Douglas, wife of Brian Douglas, insisted that the 1973 runner-up was Brian Douglas and not Jim Douglas as listed the U.P Tournament History. A newspaper article with the correct runner-up was shared with Reinke and the history was corrected.

During the UP Championship, several players from Pine Grove asked Reinke if it would be possible to allow the Senior Tournament host club to choose a Sunday-Monday format rather than the traditional Monday-Tuesday. Pine Grove is schedule to host the 2028 Senior Tournament. The rational for the request was due to Ladies' Day on Tuesdays at Pine Grove.
Motion by Little River, second by Young's to keep the Monday-Tuesday format.
Motion carried, with a Nay vote by Pine Grove.

The UPGA policy of allowing high school golfers to compete in the UP Championship but not win prizes was discussed. No decision was reached to change the policy.

Adjourn:

Motion by Pine Grove, seconded by Marquette to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Glen Reinke
U.P.G.A. Secretary/Treasurer