# 2023 EPGC Board of Director Candidate Bios

(in alphabetical order)

Note: there are 11 candidates, only 10 bios – Jim Spachman was traveling and unfortunately was not able to get us a bio by the time we needed to publish, however he is on the ballot.

#### Randy Brooks

1. What is your current occupation?

Equipment Lifecycle Manager, Americas Region, Caterpillar Inc.

In my role at Caterpillar, I work with global accounts to create multi-year budgets for equipment repairs, rebuilds and replacement.

2. How long have you been a member of El Paso Golf Club?

12 years

3. If you are a current Board member, how long have you served and in what capacity?

I am not a current board member

4. If you are a new candidate, have you previously helped with any activities at the Club or served on any committees – if so, please describe your involvement?

I previously served on the Grounds Committee

5. Why would you like to be or continue to be a Board member?

I would like to work with other new Board members to improve the culture and quality of services offered at EPGC. I believe we need to get more members actively engaged to bring new ideas forward. If elected I would ask shareholders to actively attend monthly meetings and make suggestions on how and what to improve at our club. I would also like to have a platform for employees to make suggestions on things we could improve. Based on these suggestions, we could form committees made up of members and employees along with specific Board members to actively improve our golf club, bar, restaurant in 2023.

6. What strengths and/or experiences do you feel you will bring to the Board?

40 years Equipment Management Experience Caterpillar Inc

- Specializing in Fleet Total Cost of Ownership
- Creating Annual Equipment Budgets
- Tracking Actual Vs Planned Spend
- Heavy Equipment Mechanic

6 years serving on the Board of Directors for The Association of Equipment Management Professionals.

7. If you are elected to the Board, what one goal would you have as a member of the Board?

The condition of our golf course maintenance fleet is unacceptable. The fleet is aged and there are frequent unplanned breakdowns, As I board member, I would utilize my equipment management skills to assess the health and safety of our maintenance fleet and create a repair, rebuild, replacement plan to modernize our fleet and insure we have a budget to maintain premier playing conditions.

#### Randy Marten

1. What is your current occupation?

Retired, but active with consulting, boards, and golf

#### 2. How long have you been a member of El Paso Golf Club?

The 2023 season will be my 4th year

# 3. If you are a current Board member, how long have you served and in what capacity?

# 4. If you are a new candidate, have you previously helped with any activities at the Club or served on any committees – if so, please describe your involvement?

Presently serving on the search committee which has been formed for the purpose of recruiting and interviewing candidates for course superintendent and business manager and making a recommendation to EPGC board of directors.

#### 5. Why would you like to be or continue to be a Board member?

I would like to apply my considerable business and board experience to the operation of the board for the overall benefit of EPGC.

- Current board involvements
  - Schwebels Baking Company (Chairman of the Board), Youngstown, Ohio
  - Curious Plot Marketing and Consulting Company, Minneapolis, MN
  - El Paso Golf Club search committee
- Previous board experiences
  - Culinary International Food Company, Los Angeles, CA
  - National Wheat Foundation, Washington, DC
  - Minneapolis Grain Exchange, Minneapolis, MN
  - Specialty Baking Company, Harrisburg, PA
  - Quality Ingredients, Inc., Trenton, NJ
  - USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service Advisory Board, Kansas City, KS
  - Alpha Gamma Rho National Fraternity, Kansas City, MO

# 6. What strengths and/or experiences do you feel you will bring to the Board?

Am highly organized with significant board experiences which will provide insight into a board's role and function.

## Background

- Grew up on grain and livestock farm in Logan County
- Wife, Bobbi, from Minonk
- Attended University of Illinois's College of Agriculture Employment
- Ralston Purina (soy processing, feed manufacturing, grain handling)
- Consolidated Grain and Barge (grain handling/barge transportation)
- Campbell Taggart (Anheuser Busch subsidiary) (baking)
- Miller Milling (partner) (flour milling)

#### 7. If you are elected to the Board, what one goal would you have as a member of the Board?

To continue the successful efforts of management and previous boards in making EPGC a desired destination for golf and dining for our members and guests.

## **Branden Mounce**

# 1. What is your current occupation?

I am currently the Finance Manager at our family car dealership, Mounce Automotive. Here, I have a simple job and that is to stay in compliance with all state and lending guidelines, while also trying to maximize profit for Mounce Automotive. I would like to look for ways to maximize profits for the club to enhance out memberships experience at the course. Since graduating from Bradley University in 2019 with a Finance degree, I have helped lead Mounce Automotive to record year after record year and continue to do so. In recent years it also appears that we may or may not

have been compliant on many issues, and this is of concern to some members and should be looked into.

I am also a part time Woodford County Sheriff's Deputy. I am going on my fourth year as a law enforcement officer in Woodford County and have received awards for my police work. I have learned how to have tough conversations with people of all backgrounds and how to hold people accountable for their actions in the fairest way possible. This is never an easy task to accomplish, but always necessary in serving the communities. At the end of the day, everyone is human and mistakes will be made. I strongly believe in treating everyone with respect even if they have made the biggest mistake of their like.

### 2. How long have you been a member of El Paso Golf Club?

I have been a member at EPGC for about 15 years. In that time, I have seen a lot of changes at the Club, but it always seems that our leaders come from the same group of people. I believe it is time to move onto the next generation at our Club. It is time we get a younger, more active and enthusiastic Board of Directors at EPGC. We need to start, or should have already started, looking into the future of our club and try to get younger members involved early. Change is not always easy, but we are long overdue for new insights and ideas at EPGC.

# 3. If you are a current Board member, how long have you served and in what capacity?

I am not a current Board member

# 4. If you are a new candidate, have you previously helped with any activities at the Club or served on any committees – if so, please describe your involvement?

I have not served on any committees at the Club, but I have been a very active member with almost all golf-related events. In recent years, I have won our Club Championship two years in a row. I continue to play golf competitively around the state of Illinois and represent our Club the best that I can. In the past, I have also helped Steve Fulton teach some junior lessons at the Club.

#### 5. Why would you like to be or continue to be a Board member?

With all of the drama at the Club the last year, I think it is time to get a new, younger set of eyes on the operations of EPGC. I would like to be a part of moving EPGC to the next level. We have always been seen in the area as a very active and successful Club. With a full membership, and more people on the waiting list, I have no doubt that this will continue. However, our Club is long overdue for some change.

With the shocking letter to the board from our past superintendent, it became evident that we need to upgrade equipment and procedures on the grounds. With increased revenues to the club, it would make these purchases easier to accomplish. Changes like upgrading an irrigation system, mowers/equipment and procedures in the restaurant would help move our club to the top club in our area and I would like to be a part of that.

#### 6. What strengths and/or experiences do you feel you will bring to the Board?

With my experience as a Finance Manager and Sheriff's Deputy, I can bring a new perspective on maximizing profits at EPGC and also having the tough conversations with members, employees, and other members of the Board when necessary to protect the integrity of EPGC.

I have also competed in golf tournaments all around the country and have seen golf courses of all calibers in action. I have seen the amount of work it takes to operate a golf course at the highest levels; from the grounds to the pro shop and restaurant. We have a good staff, but I think everyone would agree that we have some tweaking to do in order to provide the best quality of entertainment for our membership and guests.

# 7. If you are elected to the Board, what one goal would you have as a member of the Board?

I have numerous ideas and goals on how to better EPGC as a whole that I would like to introduce as a board member. First and foremost, it is in the best interest of every employee and member to try to quash the drama that has taken over EPGC. This year when I was playing in the Illinois State Amateur and Bloomington City tournaments, I was approached by multiple people that saw our Club in a negative light on social media. This does nothing but hurt our great reputation in the state as a Club.

Moving on from there, I would like to look for ways to generate more income at EPGC. I think it is fair to say that we, as a club, need to look at improving our kitchen and dining experience at EPGC. This would greatly improve our financials and profits if we can get more members in the clubhouse eating and drinking.

I would then like to look into more revenue streams and amenities for EPGC members. It is crazy in my opinion that we do not have gambling machines at EPGC. In the month of November there was over \$431,000 put into gambling machines in just 7 establishments in El Paso. The revenue generated from the gambling machines can help pay for maintenance or repairs on the golf course or wages at EPGC. These are just a couple of the ideas that I have for improving our Club for our members.

We have been a very successful club for years, but are long overdue for change. I hope to be the spark for the younger generation to get involved in our Club. Vote for me to be the energetic leader that our club deserves.

# Sally North

1. What is your current occupation?

I currently work at GROWMARK, Inc in the Treasury Department.

2. How long have you been a member of El Paso Golf Club?

Over 35 years

- 3. If you are a current Board member, how long have you served and in what capacity?
- 4. If you are a new candidate, have you previously helped with any activities at the Club or served on any committees if so, please describe your involvement?

  No
- 5. Why would you like to be or continue to be a Board member?

I feel I can bring knowledge and insight, possibly a new perspective to our Club to keep it a great club in every area and department for our members, stockholders, and guests who experience EPGC. I have a very open mind to listen to new ideas and to hear what has and hasn't worked in the past to help make decisions and contribute ideas to enhance our facility.

6. What strengths and/or experiences do you feel you will bring to the Board?

16 years at a private golf country club involved in every aspect of managing & over-seeing every department. Knowledge and experience of a full-service golf club working with my department managers to budget and manage each department. This was an 18-hole bent grass fairway course with a driving range & 2 practice putting areas, a swimming pool, tennis courts, three dining rooms and a seasonal food and beverage service at the pool facilities. The junior program was very large and included golf, tennis and a swim team. Weddings & receptions were hosted at our club almost every weekend of the year. We also hosted golf outings most every Monday of the golfing season for members & non-members renting our facility. Worked diligently with management and employees to keep the club an affordable value to the membership.

7. If you are elected to the Board, what one goal would you have as a member of the Board?

To keep EPGC a great club at an exceptional value to our members and guests. This includes all aspects of the club, the course, food and beverage, service, employees, pro shop, social events, and the facilities.

# **Andy Patton**

1. What is your current occupation?

**Business owner** 

2. How long have you been a member of El Paso Golf Club?

7 years

3. If you are a current Board member, how long have you served and in what capacity?

4. If you are a new candidate, have you previously helped with any activities at the Club or served on any committees – if so, please describe your involvement?

N/A

5. Why would you like to be or continue to be a Board member?

I want to serve the membership in building a legacy for EPGC that will reach into the future decades.

- 6. What strengths and/or experiences do you feel you will bring to the Board?
  - I am a business owner. As the owner, I make capital expenditure decisions. I am directly responsible for all profits and losses.
  - Corporate Hospitality Management experience.
  - I have been in sales for over 25 years, including a Fortune 500 Industrial Sales company. I was responsible for direct, corporate and end user sales. I managed multimillion dollar sales that reached around the world.
  - I have farmed on our family farm since the age of 12. I have land management, chemical and fertilizer skills.
- 7. If you are elected to the Board, what one goal would you have as a member of the Board?

My one and only goal is to put EPGC first. If it is the right thing for the Club, I will be a supporter. I have no personal agenda beyond this

#### **Roxane Schulkins**

1. What is your current occupation?

I am a self-employed Accountant.

2. How long have you been a member of El Paso Golf Club?

15 years

3. If you are a current Board member, how long have you served and in what capacity?

I have been on the board since 2010 and have been the Treasurer since 2012.

4. If you are a new candidate, have you previously helped with any activities at the Club or served on any committees – if so, please describe your involvement?

N/A

5. Why would you like to be or continue to be a Board member?

I love El Paso Golf Club. I would like to continue to be involved in preserving it as a well-kept, reasonably priced, and enjoyable place to eat, play and socialize.

6. What strengths and/or experiences do you feel you will bring to the Board?

I worked in both public and corporate accounting in the Chicago area for 13 years before moving to Bloomington. During the recent pandemic and recession our club experienced financially challenging circumstances. With my knowledge of the financial operation of El Paso Golf Club, as well as my experience as an accountant, I was able to apply for and receive several funds available to us, from the government. This helped us to keep our employees working, buy new carts and make several improvements to the course.

7. If you are elected to the Board, what one goal would you have as a member of the Board?

I would like to have El Paso Golf Club set aside extra funds in the coming years to help cover the cost of equipment and irrigation updates that will be needed in the future.

# Larry Schumacher

1. What is your current occupation?

Retired

2. How long have you been a member of El Paso Golf Club?

2 years

- 3. If you are a current Board member, how long have you served and in what capacity? N/A
- 4. If you are a new candidate, have you previously helped with any activities at the Club or served on any committees if so, please describe your involvement?

  N/A
- 5. Why would you like to be or continue to be a Board member?

To help guide and improve EPGC

- 6. What strengths and/or experiences do you feel you will bring to the Board? See below.
- 7. If you are elected to the Board, what one goal would you have as a member of the Board?

My goal is to work collaboratively with all members, gather feedback, discuss, recommend, and assist with improvements and help maintain a roadmap for EPGC upcoming months and years.

I live in Normal with my wife Laurel. I've spent most of my life in Bloomington/Normal where I raised my two daughters. I attended grade school, high school and college locally. I have a bachelor's in Business Administration, minor in Economics from ISU. I worked for State Farm Insurance for 36 years prior to retirement. My career included time in Bloomington, Greeley Colorado and Salem Oregon. My positions with State Farm included IT supervisor, Systems Analyst, IT Project Manager and IT Manager.

I also have a building background which includes general contracting for the construction of our homes as well as consulting for friends and other self-builders. Each home had its own unique and very custom design. I've worked with carpenters, roofers, siding, plumbers, HVAC, and excavators for these builds and personally did the electrical, paint, finish trim, cabinet installs, tile, etc. During these builds, I also worked with draftsmen to draw the blueprints and city inspectors each step of the way.

In 2020 I became a licensed Home Inspector and founded LS Home Inspections, LLC. I am building this as my part time retirement business. I enjoy educating home buyers and sellers in better understanding these homes.

Current community involvement includes Town of Normal Historic Preservation Commission and Lake Run Club board member. In addition, Larry is a member of Masters Swimming, Mclean County Wheelers and Friends of the Constitution Trail.

These experiences along with my new fresh insight as a golf club member would be a great addition to the EPGC board. Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this position.

# **Christine Street**

1. What is your current occupation?

Senior Account Executive (Audio/Video Technology and Managed AV Services)

2. How long have you been a member of El Paso Golf Club?

10 plus years

- 3. If you are a current Board member, how long have you served and in what capacity?
- 4. If you are a new candidate, have you previously helped with any activities at the Club or served on any committees if so, please describe your involvement? Yes
  - 1 Year House Committee Attended meetings and participated in discussions about the operations and planning of the bar and restaurant with the BOD House Chair and GM. This was my first experience with the Board.
  - 2 Years (LOTE) Ladies of the Evening President
    - Grew the LOTE league from 40 to 60 plus members.
    - Lowered membership dues from \$20 to \$15 (annual events made enough money with excess)
    - Created new By-Laws for a succession plan for Officers so there was a 2 year commitment.
       Vice President to President, Secretary to Treasurer.
    - Added an optional \$2 SKINS game for those who wanted to play.
    - Changed Board of Directors elections to the End of Year Outing to allow for more participants to be present to vote on officers and select committee volunteers for the next season. This outing was also changed to be A, B, C, D players assigned by Golf Pro and on the Back 9. Similar to how we start the season on the front.
    - Made the league start time earlier for play starting earlier at 3:30pm to open up the tee box for the larger sized league and allow those who play in the morning to continue to play evening league.
  - Started an Annual Pre-Season Ladies Outing (End of April). Reached out to other area clubs
    for attendance via email. Grew it by reserving tee times into a well attended event. Turned it
    over to the club to keep it going and growing. The intention was to encourage more women to
    play at EPGC and during a time when club events had not yet begun.
  - Started the YYH Events Young or Young at Heart Friday/Saturday golf events ending with a "cook your own meal" on the outside grill with sides.
  - Started Fun Fridays 9 Holes (End of 2022) for couples and then single also due to requests. The more the merrier. New games each week depending on attendance.
  - Ran for Board in 2015 (missed by 1 vote) and 2017.
- 5. Why would you like to be or continue to be a Board member?
  - I would appreciate the honor, challenge, and the responsibility of understanding how everything at EPGC needs to work together to accomplish the goals of our not-for-profit club.

- I would enjoy serving alongside other EPGC members to preserve the history of EPGC, while transitioning in 2023 in this very difficult US/IL economy. I have been a resident of the El Paso community for over 30 years and over 7 of those years in the EPGC community.
- This social club is part of my everyday life and I hope to make a difference in its future growth.

### 6. What strengths and/or experiences do you feel you will bring to the Board?

- Client Experience: I provide custom solutions based on what a client wants their user experience
  to be. In doing this, I must understand what the needs and wants are, and prioritizing them into
  their budget. Every client is important, old and new.
- Change through transparency, integrity, and collaboration is what I have heard from our EPGC membership.
- Retention of members and adding new members should be important. A thriving membership that golfs more, eats/drinks more, and participates in club events, keeps our course in a great condition and dues manageable.
- In this economy finding staff is difficult, so we need to be creative on staffing needs and use technology to move us forward.
- Personally, I enjoy event planning for those who know me. This social club has so much potential to do so much more for its membership.

# 7. If you are elected to the Board, what one goal would you have as a member of the Board?

Focus on Member Experience! Our members have great ideas if we take the time to listen. Strategize on how to regain the community's trust and revive our club's reputation. Leverage the experience of the NEW Business Manager, Superintendent, and all the Board of Directors talents, while offering volunteer committee opportunities to members. This transition for EPGC will be to create a prosperous, all-inclusive not-for-profit golf club. Use the S-M-A-R-T approach to setting goals:

- Specific and narrow, not vague.
- Measurable what will prove progress is being made.
- Achievable stay within the club's ability.
- Relevant align with the club's values and long-term objectives.
- Time-based set deadlines for prioritization and motivation.

## Roger Walker

1. What is your current occupation?

Retired from Caterpillar – 5 years logistics, 17 years HR

2. How long have you been a member of El Paso Golf Club?

27 years

3. If you are a current Board member, how long have you served and in what capacity?

No. Served previously for 7 years; 5 years as president, and 1 year as vice president.

- 4. If you are a new candidate, have you previously helped with any activities at the Club or served on any committees if so, please describe your involvement?
- 5. Why would you like to be or continue to be a Board member?
- 6. What strengths and/or experiences do you feel you will bring to the Board?

Previous board experience and 17 years HR experience.

7. If you are elected to the Board, what one goal would you have as a member of the Board?

Bring more transparency to Board activities.

# **Ben Wilson**

# 1. What is your current occupation?

Sr. Planning & Analysis Analyst at State Farm

#### 2. How long have you been a member of El Paso Golf Club?

Approximately 30 years. My parents where members when I was a child and then my wife and I become members in our early 20's.

# 3. If you are a current Board member, how long have you served and in what capacity?

I am not currently a Board Member.

# 4. If you are a new candidate, have you previously helped with any activities at the Club or served on any committees – if so, please describe your involvement?

I served on the board for two terms (6 years) from 2011-2016. I served on the House Committee (Pro Shop, Restaurant, Bar & Social Events) for a couple years and then became the chair of the Committee for my remaining years. During this time, I held monthly meetings with other board members and EPGC members to discuss our areas of focus and to plan all social events.

#### 5. Why would you like to be or continue to be a Board member?

One of the biggest reasons I decided to run again for the board is we have a culture problem at our club. As many of you know my family has unfortunately seen more than most in 2022. Note: The remainder of the first paragraph and the entirety of the second paragraph has been removed from the original submission at the direction of the EPGC Board of Directors.

I want to be a board member to change this culture and reputation that our course now has in the community. I want our course to become a collaborative environment that all voices are heard, respected, and taken into consideration. I have already started putting work in by submitting by-law changes that will set us down a better path to changing our culture.

This is only the first step in what I want to accomplish as our wonderful club goes into its biggest transition in many years. I am ready to put the time and work in to provide the necessary environment for our new Business Manager and Superintendent to excel in their new roles.

#### 6. What strengths and/or experiences do you feel you will bring to the Board?

Keeping a level head and using common sense to make sound business decisions is my biggest strength. My sole intent is to make decisions that are in the best interest for the longevity of EPGC and to make our club the premiere course in central Illinois for the current and next generation of golfers. In addition, I am highly knowledgeable of our current by-laws and was an integral part in modernizing our website several years ago.

# 7. If you are elected to the Board, what one goal would you have as a member of the Board?

My main objective is for our club to be become a collaborative environment run by the membership's direction, with input from salaried employees, instead of being run as a sole proprietorship. Some thoughts I have to achieve this goal are:

- Solicit members to be on sub committees
- Create new sub committees with membership involvement
- Better transparency in board meetings and meeting minutes
- By-law changes to eliminate stockholder rules and implement new rules in which each membership has an equal voice and voting rights without additional costs.
- Intentional meetings or conversations with salaried staff
- Identify other avenues in which members can provide honest and open feedback that is then shared with the board for deliberation.

Thank you for your time and consideration!