

## **2025 EPGC Board Candidates**

**There are 7 candidates for the Board of Directors 4 positions**

**Bios are included below for each candidate in alphabetical order**

### **Mike Haas:**

#### **What is your tenure and involvement at the El Paso Golf Club?**

I've been a member of EPGC for over 20 years. My parents were members during my childhood, and I became a member in my late 20s. Additionally, I worked at the golf course for eight years, starting in the kitchen and later joining the grounds crew until I was 22.

#### **Why do you wish to serve on the El Paso Golf Club Board of Directors?**

I believe I have valuable ideas and insights that could help improve this course for everyone. I have an open mind and am willing to listen to different perspectives on how the course should move forward. I've heard many people's frustrations, and I feel it's time for me to step forward and make a meaningful impact. I am someone who can connect with a wide range of members, and they feel comfortable expressing their concerns to me. As a Board member, I will be directly connected with members and will have both their and the club's best interests at heart. This golf course is a part of my family, and I am passionate about making it a better place.

#### **What skills/experience/talents do you have that you feel would be an asset to the El Paso Golf Club?**

I believe that being around this golf course for over 20 years has given me a broad range of perspectives. I've witnessed the course through both its highs and lows. Additionally, I have experience serving on the Alumni Board for Delta Upsilon at Bradley University. I was on the board for over five years, including 2.5 years as the Alumni Board President. During my tenure as President, I navigated the challenges of the COVID pandemic, balanced the budget, and found creative solutions for the undergraduates.

Currently, I am the manager of the Implementation Team at Benefit Plans Plus, LLC, where we administer over 1,800 retirement plans and \$4.3 billion in assets. My team implements over 250 plans annually. I emphasize continuous improvement to my team, and I would bring that same mindset to the Board of Directors position.

## **Brett Hendren**

Brett Hendren is an independent insurance agent and financial advisor with Country Financial and has an office located in Pontiac, Illinois. Brett's affiliation with EPGC began around the age of 15 when he started working under golf pro, Brett Blakemore. Because of the mentorship he received under Brett Blakemore, he not only fell in love with the game of golf, but decided he wanted to pursue this business as a profession. After golfing for Danville Area Community College, he received his degree in Turf Management followed by a BS in Plant and Soil Science with a minor in Business at SIU Carbondale. Early in his career Brett became the golf course superintendent at the Lincoln Elks Country Club. This experience entailed a major renovation which included an entire revamp of the irrigation system and converting all fairways and tee boxes from bluegrass to bent grass. Armed with a strong portfolio of knowledge in the golf course business, Brett decided to purchase Wolf Creek Golf Club in Pontiac in 2001. The following 20 years were spent running that business before making a career change that enabled the opportunity to coach and support his two young boys. Both of Brett's boys are avid baseball players with the youngest currently playing on the varsity golf team at NCHS.

Brett brings a strong business acumen in golf course management and would be an asset to the Board at EPGC. He is able to prioritize projects including pricing, restaurant and bar management, course conditions and staffing. He leads with honesty and a passion not only for the game of golf, but also his long standing relationship with this facility. If allowed to serve Brett would bring a collaborative spirit along with level headed decision making to the Board. He is hopeful and would be honored to have a seat at the table.

## **Randy Peterson:**

My family and I have been members at EPGC for over a decade and I consider it one of the better decisions I've made in my golfing life. The camaraderie and friendships that I have experienced are blessings that I appreciate very much. I've played several times a week throughout the golf season, frequented the bar quite a bit after rounds, and had some great meals with my family at EPGC. EPGC means a lot to me and I've spent a lot of time the last few months thinking about running for the Board. I wanted to make sure I could give the time and energy that it takes to be a successful Board member. I appreciate those fellow members who have encouraged me to run and am committed to doing my very best to do my part to help my fellow members experience the same benefits of membership that I've received over the last

decade. I've also reviewed the financial documents as part of my due diligence and asked questions to understand exactly where we are at as a Club. I am an actuary by trade, working at State Farm in that capacity for almost 25 years, with experience in actuarial and financial disciplines. I also think my 20 plus years of leadership experience can serve the Board well as we work together to address some of the challenges that we have experienced recently. In closing, I'm excited to help continue the great value proposition we can offer for member golfers at EPGC and more than willing to listen to new ideas if I'm fortunate enough to be elected to the Board. Thank you for your consideration!

**Tony Rice:**

I joined EPGC on Good Friday, 2021. When I joined, Steve told me I was the last member in that year. (I've heard from a few others Steve told them the same thing!) I've played in Men's league every year I've been a member. I joined as a single, and didn't know a single member. It was through Men's League that I met a lot of great guys and was able to get myself into regular Saturday and Sunday groups quickly. It's been a great experience.

I like the direction the club has taken the past couple years. I would like to serve on the Board of Directors to help maintain that positive direction. I've played at just about every course in the Central Illinois area over the past 35 years, and I don't think there is a better value.

My current role at Caterpillar is a Project Manager and Business Solutions Architect. I've led multiple large projects and have a technical background.

**Ryan Sharrow:**

**What is your tenure and involvement at the El Paso Golf Club?**

-I have been golfing at the El Paso Golf Course for over 20 years or more. I was able to join and am currently an active member since 2019.

-I am a current stockholder and have participated on the membership and planning committee.

-Throughout the 2024 golf season I volunteered my time to help stage golf carts on a routine basis.

-I have also participated in multiple golfing events that are held by the club each year.

**Why do you wish to serve on the El Paso Golf Club Board of Directors?**

-Throughout the past few years, the club has faced many difficult challenges.

-I feel by serving on the board my contribution to any decisions or changes that need to be made going forward will be beneficial in promoting the El Paso Golf Club in a positive way to our members, staff and surrounding community and to help reverse any negative impacts that have occurred.

**What skills/experience/talents do you have that you feel would be an asset to the El Paso Golf Club?**

-I have over 30 years of experience working within the auto industry, from sales, financing, and for the past 10 years to current as an inventory manager for Mounce Automotive. This experience has given me the opportunity to work directly with the public, employees, and other businesses.

-I am very proactive, and I am always looking beyond what can be done, focusing on what needs to be done to bring positive results to any situation.

-I take pride in my work ethic and have a great feeling of satisfaction with all my accomplishments, whether they be work related or personal.

**Brett Tennison:**

**What is your tenure and involvement at the El Paso Golf Club?**

I have been a member of the club the last 5 years since moving back to the area.

**Why do you wish to serve on the El Paso Golf Club Board of Directors?**

Part of the reason we built our residence where we did was due to becoming a member of the El Paso Golf Club. It has always been viewed as a great club with positive experiences by both members and non-members. In recent years it seems some of that has changed. Would like to be a part of getting that culture back and be a place for both members as well as non-members to feel welcome and want to experience what the club has to offer both from a golf and social perspective.

**What skills/experience/talents do you have that you feel would be an asset to the El Paso Golf Club?**

I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, received Master of Business Administration degree and am a licensed Certified Public Accountant with 15 years of public accounting experience with nine years as partner at Hjerpe and Tennison CPAs LLC. I currently hold a board position on the Board of Directors for Prairie State Bank and Trust. I served as Treasurer for 8 years on the board of Central Illinois Society of Financial Service Professionals. I served as a councilman for the City of El Paso for 4 years. I have an autonomous management style and have always served as an open-minded, honest, and transparent leader. When working on committees, boards, etc. I have always had the mindset that best decisions are made from a collaborative approach leveraging the experiences, knowledge, and skills of all members of the team.

**Rick Weldon:**

**What is your tenure and involvement at the El Paso Golf Club?**

I am a 5-year Member of the EPGC. I joined our club because it is a friendly course that everyone can enjoy and get away from Life's drama. Prior to that, I was a Union Steward within my profession.

**Why do you wish to serve on the El Paso Golf Club Board of Directors?**

In 2023, I was asked by the long-time GM to join the Board of Directors. At that time, I was on the Club Committee for a short time followed by the Grounds committee. During that time, I helped with improvements within the Clubhouse. Later I assisted our Ground Superintendent in transitioning our OLD owned/maintained equipment to a new Lease program. As a result, we did not need mechanics so that employees could do their jobs without taking time to do repairs.

Recently I was asked to lead the Search Committee for a replacement GM. This involved interviewing and selecting. At this writing, Jeff Yager will be starting January 13.

**What skills/experience/talents do you have that you feel would be an asset to the El Paso Golf Club?**

I am outgoing and strongly believe in documenting everything. I am also good with numbers and have helped out in the Club Office part-time.

As a current Board Member, I feel that we need to be transparent with everything we do. To do that we need to communicate Timely and Often to our Members.