



MINUTES OF THE 2025 WORLD LACROSSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 9AM ET

1. GA Opening

Roll Call and Logistics

World Lacrosse (WL) Chief Operating Officer, Eric Parthen (EP), welcomed the members to the 2025 World Lacrosse General Assembly at 9:02AM. EP took the roll call of the delegates and confirmed the meeting had reached a quorum, with 58 voting delegates present (Registered full members 52, Continental Federations 4, Athletes Commission 1, WL Board 1). The list of all in attendance is attached at Appendix A.

EP reminded the members of the protocol for Zoom and the meeting procedures and processes. He reminded all that a test vote was conducted through Election Buddy, prior to the GA, and that any issues had been resolved.

1.1 President's Opening Remarks

President Bob DeMarco (BD) welcomed everyone to the 2025 WL GA on behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff. BD highlighted the continued growth of lacrosse around the world, as well as the expansion of Sixes this summer. BD commended the Korean Lacrosse Association (KLA) for the fantastic tournament in Korea, which was the start of a busy year ahead for WL Championship events. BD reiterated how much progress we have made in preparation for LA 28 and Olympic inclusion, with work already being undertaken to cement our participation in Brisbane 2032.

BD held a moment of silence for European Lacrosse Federation President, Ron Balls, who passed away this month. Ron had greatly impacted the world of lacrosse, and his contributions and legacy had helped shape our federation and sport.

BD thanked all the candidates for applying for our two Board Director positions, for their willingness to run and the leadership they bring to our community. He shared the importance of these two positions in continuing to move our mission and vision forward. He closed by stating that we are writing the next great chapter of our sport's history, and he was proud to be on this journey together with the members of WL.

The full text of BD's comments can be found at Appendix B.

1.2 Membership Changes since GA 2024

BD recognized and welcomed the National Governing Bodies that have become Provisional Members since the 2024 GA. These are Armenia Lacrosse, Bangladesh Lacrosse and Iraq Lacrosse. The three additional NGB's represent a growth of 22 members since the start of 2022. In addition, six NGBs have become Full Members:



Colombia, Ghana, India, Cote de Ivoire, Pakistan and Portugal. The Membership and the WL Board also approved the name change for Greece Lacrosse to the Hellenic Lacrosse Association.

1.3 Confirmation of Agenda

Sallie Barker (SB), WL Finance and Governance Director, reported there were no changes to the formal agenda. No comments were received from members about the final agenda.

1.4 Approval of 2024 General Assembly Minutes

SB introduced the minutes from the 2024 WL GA which had been distributed, in accordance with the WL Constitution, on 18 December 2024. No comments had been received regarding the minutes, and SB stated the vote of approval would be a simple majority by the show of hands.

The motion to approve the 2024 WL GA minutes was made by SB and seconded by BD.

“To approve the 2024 General Assembly minutes as presented (simple majority).”

Motion was carried (58 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions)

1.5 Matters Arising

SB stated that the two action items from the 2024 WL GA had been completed. The actions were to amend the spelling of lacrosse in the GA folder (which was completed post the 2024 GA) and to include all of those in attendance at the future GAs in the minutes. SB stated that this item would be completed in the upcoming 2025 minutes. No other matters were raised.

2. CEO’s Annual Report

2.1 State of the Sport

WL Chief Executive Officer, Jim Scherr (JS), thanked everyone for their attendance and stated that the position of WL was strong, with efforts continuing to be successful in elevating the presence of lacrosse in the international sport community. He shared that this was the busiest year we have had – a true landmark year.

JS highlighted the events that WL had the honor to be a part of, and to help organize. The first was the World Games 2025 in Chengdu. He noted that the event was 5 days long, 8 teams, 18 games, 1 field, 96 athletes, 50 team staff, and 16 officials. He also shared a few highlights from the competition including the first gold for Team USA in TWG Sixes, Australia’s thrilling win over Japan in the bronze medal game and the evolution and maturation of the Sixes discipline. He introduced a video showcasing the excitement



and incredible event that was the World Games in Chengdu. Specific to the event, JS shared the social media and digital footprint from the WG, which had an impressive increase from 2022.

The second event on the heels of the World Games was the WL Men's U20 Championships on Jeju Island, Korea. This event was 10 days long, including 19 teams, 5 games, played on 2 fields, with 417 athletes, 135 team staff and 47 officials. Some things of note were the first WL event championship in Korea, first gold medal for Canada, first bronze medal for Australia since 2003 and eight teams improved their placements from 2022. He introduced the highlight video from the WLMU20C and noted that it was a wonderful championship and thanked the LOC from Korea. The social and digital numbers also greatly increased for this championship from the previous in 2022.

JS shared the qualifying events that took place around the world, sharing that WL implemented a set of standards/requirements for 2025 and provided support to improve consistency and help elevate the events. He also discussed the social and digital numbers from those events and how they have helped lacrosse become a sport that is truly viewed worldwide.

A timeline of what is to come was shared with the GA. In 2026 there is the Women's Championship in Japan, as well as the first Women's Division II Championship in Wroclaw, Poland. In 2027 the Men's Championship in Japan will take place, as well as the first Men's Division II Championship in Wroclaw, Poland. 2027 will also see the first WL Sixes World Championship. We also currently have RFP's out for the 2028 WLBC, 2029 WLWU20C, and 2029 WLMU20C.

JS then moved onto the Olympics where WL is in full preparation for LA28. The venue, the number of teams and athletes, competition format, schedule, and sport manager have all been decided. The team is currently working on the Event Venue Brief, ticketing, and accommodation requests. Some of the senior staff went on a site visit earlier this month; others will be attending seminars and workshops in the final months of the year. The qualification structure will be finalized by IOC staff next month for final approval at the IOC Executive Board meeting in early 2026; this was previously shared with the membership at a webinar, and no adverse feedback was received. JS shared the timeline for qualification including Continental qualifiers, the WL Sixes Championship and a Final "last chance" Olympic qualifying event.

Work has also begun on WL's campaign to become a part of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic program. Senior staff have been working very closely with Lacrosse Australia (LA) to promote lacrosse across Australia and, specifically, the Queensland region and to establish a foothold for our campaign. The partnership with LA has included two presentations in the Brisbane 2032 OCOG and an exploration of a venue partnership with flag football.



A process for inclusion has already been outlined and if lacrosse is selected to move forward, we will be asked to submit a formal presentation in early 2026, for review by the IOC in mid-2026, with final selection at the end of 2026. JS then showed a video that was created to show the impact of lacrosse in Australia and around the world.

JS moved onto the overall state of WL as an organization and provided details in relation to the:

- Social and digital media growth over the last year (one of the leading IF's);
- Developing and refining a sponsorship asset portfolio with major global brands;
- Securing new category partnerships – ticketing, hospitality provider, printing/signage, and the official ball of WL;
- Building the WL Equipment Manufacturers Alliance with endemic brands to strength supply relationships and global access to equipment;
- Launch of the World Lacrosse Foundation as a separate 501-C-3 to create sustainable revenue for the organization;
- Membership growth – 95 members, 30-member increase since 2020 and up 83% over the last decade;
- NOC Recognition by members – 36 completed and 24 in progress
- Officials program growth – 118 new certified WL officials – up 54% - across all disciplines
- \$252,000 across 35 grants to support our members
- Development of a Safeguarding program – 100% from teams/officials at the 2025 WLMU20C and 1,121 users completed the training (training is free to our members)
- Creation of the WL Sixes League – announcement to come shortly

2.2 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Update

JS noted that this strategic plan is an update of the existing strategic plan that was previously shared and approved at the 2024 GA. He went through the WL core strategies and objectives, which have not changed, and focused on the 2025 goals across 7 key areas and the status of the goals. WL is on track to hit 90% of the KPIs/goals by the end of 2025. He concluded by sharing minor updates to our goals for 2026 in relation to our current position and where we are in the process for Brisbane 2032.

JS thanked the staff for their help to make 2025 so special. He also noted the impact of the Board, members, athletes, and other stakeholders who have positively pushed lacrosse forward.

3. WL Finances



3.1 2024 Audited Accounts

SB introduced the audited accounts report from Waugh & Goodwin, LLP. The report was discussed and approved by FARC and the Board in October. She reminded the membership that these are not put forward for a formal vote. No comments or questions were received.

3.2 2025 Q3 Financials

SB introduced the 2025 Q3 financials. She highlighted that we have included more explanation into accounts this year to help provide further insight to members. She thanked the WL Board and staff for their focus on expense management, which has put WL in a great position to achieve our budgeted goals for the remainder of the year. She reminded the membership that these are not put forward for a formal vote. No comments or questions were received.

3.3 2026/2027 Budget

SB introduced the 2026/27 budget. SB reminded the membership that we are required to present a two-year budget; however, we anticipate that the 2027 budget will greatly change prior to implementation. She highlighted a few things of note to the membership:

- 2026/27 budget is like prior years but there is an anticipated positive traction in partnership and private donor fundraising
- Member related income has not changed, but it is under consideration and proposals will be brought forward in 2026
- Marketing communications has been reorganized to reflect how the organization operates
- Events and technical continue to be areas of focus, and both have received increases to reflect the number of events for 2026/27

SB/EP/JS fielded questions regarding the event revenue and expenditures, the hiring of additional staff, partnerships for timing moving forward, and why the budget may change in 2027.

The motion to approve the 2026/27 budget was made by SB and seconded by JS.

“To approve the 2026/27 World Lacrosse budget (simple majority).”

Motion was carried (42 in favor, 2 against, 4 abstentions)

3.4 Approval of Auditors

SB stated that we need to formally approve the auditors for the next 3 years. Waugh & Goodwin, LLC are well respected in both international sports and US nonprofit organizations. They have been an effective partner and working with them in the lead up to LA28 would be beneficial to WL.

The motion to approve Waugh & Goodwin, LLC as World Lacrosse's external auditor was made by SB and seconded by JS.



“To approve Waugh & Goodwin, LLC to continue to serve as World Lacrosse’s external auditor (simple majority).”

Motion was carried (44 in favor, 1 against, 3 abstentions)

BREAK – 15 Minutes (10:25AM ET to 10:40AM ET)

4. Governance

SB provided the background to the proposed changes to the WL Constitution and Bylaws which she presented together for block vote to the membership. These were reviewed and approved by the Governance Committee and Board.

SB highlighted the key changes to both documents which included the introduction of a new type of WL committee, the proposal to move all GAs to virtual, removal of references regarding Legal Counsel, and proposals for a change to the rules process. The changes also included updating definitions and general tidying up.

Finally, SB stated that since the distribution of the GA papers and following discussion between WL and the CF Leadership Group (CFLG), it has been agreed that the CFLG would become a part of the formal committee structure of WL as a Strategic Advisory Council. Following the GA, there will be a formal membership vote, as the CF Position is referenced in the WL Constitution and Bylaws.

There were no questions regarding the proposed changes.

4.1 Proposed Changes to the WL Constitution

The motion to approve the proposed change was made by SB and seconded by SR.

“To accept the Board of Directors proposed Constitutional changes as highlighted in the shared redline Constitution (2/3 majority)”

Motion carried (48 in favor, 2 no, 3 abstentions)

4.2 Proposed changes to the WL Bylaws

The motion to approve the proposed change was made by SB and seconded by BD.

“To accept the Board of Directors proposed Bylaw changes as highlighted in the shared redline Bylaws (2/3 majority)”

Motion carried (48 in favor, 2 no, 3 abstentions)

4.3 World Events: Maximum Cap on Teams

BM moved onto the proposal for a maximum cap on teams in the U20 and Box championships. The proposal was made as a direct result of the issues WL has had in finding hosts who can handle the magnitude of WL Championships. The cap would allow events to be more manageable from both a host and WL perspective and allow bidding countries and locations to know exactly the number of teams they are bidding to



host. This proposal also brings these two championships in line with other WL Championships.

A few questions were asked about who decides on the framework of the events and baseline requirements for participating in events. The Competition Committee will create the framework in conjunction with the staff and Board, but the membership will get to vote on any proposal. There was also a question about having a backup team or two in case a qualified country decides not to attend a championship. Staff responded that there is a process in place if a team cannot participate, but the major issue is the logistics of getting someone to move into the spot as this was time dependent. There was also discussion about the implementation timeline for these changes; the Competition Committee will be meeting shortly to begin work.

The motions to approve the following proposed changes were made by JS and seconded by SB.

4.3.1 ***To cap the WL U20 Championships (men and women) at 20 teams beginning in 2029 (simple majority).***

Motion carried (36 in favor, 19 against, 0 abstentions)

4.3.2 ***To cap the Box Championships 20 men's teams and 10 women's teams beginning in 2028 (simple majority).***

Motion carried (31 in favor, 23 against, 1 abstention)

4.3.3 ***To approve the principle that members must meet a set of baseline requirements to be eligible to apply to participate in World Lacrosse championships (simple majority).***

Motion carried (40 in favor, 10 against, 5 abstentions)

5. Elections for WL Board of Directors

5.1 World Strategic Directors (Two Positions)

BD introduced the Chair of the Nominations Committee, WL Vice President Steph Migchelsen (SM), who reviewed the process for the election of the WL President.

SM thanked all the candidates and spoke about the current nomination procedure and the need for an overhaul, especially with the large number of candidates that we had this year. EP had sent out the way the vote would be conducted prior to the GA.

Prior to voting, there had been a discussion about the needs of the board and what



would happen if those elected did not fit the desired qualifications.

The motion to vote as described below was made by SM and seconded by BD.

“To vote for two of the 21 candidates for the two open seats on the World Lacrosse board of directors. (simple majority)”

Following the initial vote via Election Buddy, Rick Mercurio was elected by a simple majority. A second election was conducted with those candidates who received a vote; after that vote, no candidate received a simple majority. A third vote was conducted after eliminating any others not receiving a vote, and following that election, Sallie Barker was elected via simple majority.

Rick Mercurio and Sallie Barker were elected as WL Board Directors for a 4-year term.

6. GA Close

Presentation on the 2026 World Lacrosse Women’s Championship

Japan Lacrosse presented the status of the organization of the Championship and their excitement at hosting the event next summer. This was not their first time hosting, having previously hosted the 1996 MU20WC and 1997 WLWC. They presented the dates, location, and venues the event will occur in. They also shared their commitment to lacrosse and to showcasing what happens at the venues, including a festival.

6.1 President’s Closing Remarks

BD thanked everyone for their presence and passion. He welcomed the new board members, Rick Mercurio and Sallie Barker. He shared a special thanks for Mike Slattery, APLU President, for all his work to grow the game in the region and for his time on the WL Board.

BD thanked all the candidates who put themselves forward for the election and shared his hope that all would stay involved with WL.

The full text of BD’s closing remarks is attached at Appendix C.

6.2 Date of 2026 World Lacrosse General Assembly

The date of the 2026 GA is 14/15 November 2026 and will be held virtually.

BD closed the 2025 World Lacrosse GA at 12:15PM ET.



APPENDIX A

WL 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ATTENDANCE

Member	Status	Voting Delegate	Observer #1	Observer #2	Attendance
Argentina	Full Member	Guadalupe Oliva Escudero	Carl Starkey		Present
Australia	Full Member	Sharna Spittle	Abbie Burgess Price		Present
Austria	Full Member	Angelika Steiner	Sarah Hedden		Present
Belgium	Full Member	Ronald Hendiks			Present
Bermuda	Full Member	Stephen Michel			Not Present
Canada	Full Member	Terry Rayner	Matt Shearer		Present



China	Full Member	Brendan Mullin	Raymond Fong		Present
Chinese Taipei (Taiwan)	Full Member	Tim Kwan	Henry Yang		Present
Colombia	Full Member	Oscar Castillo Morales			Present
Costa Rica	Full Member	Walter Alberto Rojas Supoy	Flavia Marcori		Present
Cote d'Ivoire	Full Member	Julie Noelle Oule	Ismael Bago		Present
Croatia	Full Member	Bartul Marunic	Anne Marinovic		Present
Czech Republic	Full Member	Pavel Semerak			Present
Denmark	Full Member	Nikolaj Lund	Ronnie Mathiesen		Not Present
Dominican Republic	Full Member	Dilcia Roehrich			Present
England	Full Member	Mark Coups			Present
Finland	Full Member	Caroline Sorensen			Present
France	Full Member	Paul Maitre	Dylan Snyder		Present
Germany	Full Member	Gina Kaysan	Jakob Grossehagenbrock		Present
Ghana	Full Member	Evans Ntiamoah	Isaac Yarry		Present
Haudenosaunee Confederacy	Full Member	Leo Nolan	Rex Lyons		Present
Helenic Lacrosse	Full Member	Peter Ginnegar	Chris Massey		Present
Hong Kong China	Full Member	Warren Allderige	Kelvin Mak		Present
Hungary	Full Member	Laszlo Bajnoczy			Present
India	Full Member	Tausif Ahmad Lari	Hemanshu Sinha		Present
Ireland	Full Member	Michael Kennedy			Present
Israel	Full Member	Ian Kadish	Ori Bar David		Present
Italy	Full Member	Ludovica Giorgetti			Present
Jamaica	Full Member	Calbert Hutchinson	Dwight Clarke		Present
Japan	Full Member	Yusuke Sasaki	Taro Endo		Present
Kenya	Full Member	Kenneth Karani	Linah Anzala		Present
Korea	Full Member	Ryan Park	Heehyun Cho		Present
Latvia	Full Member	Pauls Dzintars Kalnins			Present
Mexico	Full Member	Alejandro Fonseca	Juan Rojas		Present
Netherlands	Full Member	Jasper van der Horst	Lyle Worthington		Present
New Zealand	Full Member	Nancy Yuan			Not Present
Norway	Full Member	Olav Ruud			Present
Pakistan	Full Member	Taifoor Zareen	Mansoor Ahmad Khan		Present
Peru	Full Member	Kat Loh	Natasha Bucher		Present
Philippines	Full Member	Suzanne Rodas			Present
Poland	Full Member	Anna Walas			Present
Portugal	Full Member	Melissa Davis	Gabriel Carvalho		Present
Puerto Rico	Full Member	Miguel Lozada	Sophia Lugo		Present



Saudi Arabia	Full Member	Fahad AlMoamar	Fahad Alarifi		Not Present
Scotland	Full Member	Ethan Harris	Eleanor Hruzik		Present
Slovakia	Full Member	Gregory Tears			Present
Spain	Full Member	Lyndsey Munoz	Lucas Sans		Present
Sweden	Full Member	Teckla Jackson			Present
Switzerland	Full Member	Lukas Heri			Present
Thailand	Full Member	Payu Nerngchamnong			Present
Turkiye	Full Member	Selcuk Gorgulu	Mehmet Sait Ozer		Present
Uganda^	Full Member (non-voting)		Twesiime Liberty	Nakate Sarah	Present
United States	Full Member	Jason Vescovi	Marc Riccio		Present
US Virgin Islands	Full Member	Bill Shatz	Tom Guthrie		Present
Wales	Full Member	Nicola John			Present
British Lacrosse	Multination Member	Leslie Rance			Present
Armenia	Provisional Member (non-voting)		Johnny Mouradian		Present
Brazil	Provisional Member (non-voting)		Cristina Velez		Present
Iran	Provisional Member (non-voting)		Ali Heidari		Present
Iraq	Provisional Member (non-voting)		Ahmed Abbas		Present
Malaysia	Provisional Member (non-voting)		Zakaria Zulkifli	Nikita Lingbawan	Present
Nigeria	Provisional Member (non-voting)		Thomas Adie		Present
Singapore	Provisional Member (non-voting)		Yosuke Yasuda		Present
South Africa	Provisional Member (non-voting)		Lucas Monareng	David Brucie Morris	Present
Zambia	Provisional Member (non-voting)		Isaac Mwaba		Present
Zimbabwe	Provisional Member (non-voting)		Sichelesile Ndlovu		Present
AAL	Continental Federation	Lincoln Nyade			Present
APLU	Continental Federation	Mike Slattery			Present
ELF	Continental Federation	Mason Robbins			Present
PALA	Continental Federation	Ann Carpenetti			Present
N/A	Board, President*		Bob DeMarco		
N/A	Board, Vice President		Steph Migchelsen		
N/A	Board, Finance and Governance Director**	Sallie Barker			Present
N/A	Board, Athletes Commission Chair	James Devine			Present



N/A	Board, Athletes Commission Vice Chair		Jane Lee		
N/A	Board, Director		Don Blacklock		
N/A	Board, Diversity & Inclusion Director		Sabah Cambrelen		
N/A	Board, Independent Director		Kristen Garlinghouse		
N/A	Board, Independent Director		Steve Govett		
N/A	Board, Legal Counsel		Rob McCutchan		
N/A	Board/Staff, Chief Executive Officer		Jim Scherr		
N/A	Staff, Chief Branding Officer		Christy Cahill		
N/A	Staff, Chief of Staff		Alicia Jackson		
N/A	Staff, Chief Operating Officer		Eric Parthen		
N/A	Staff, Director of Events		Kim Rogers		
N/A	Staff, Director of Sport		TJ Buchanan		
N/A	Staff, Education and Certification Manager		Ursula Johnson		
N/A	Staff, Marketing Manager		Amit Mallik		
N/A	Observer, Lifetime Achiever		Sue Redfern		
N/A	Observer, Lifetime Achiever		Fiona Clark		
N/A	Observer, Chair of Ethics Committee		Andrew Harris		
N/A	Observer, Deputy Secretary General of Chinese Handball Association		Cheng Qiao		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Sean Gibson		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Bouker Pool		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Tony Gray		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Stef Groen		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Tari Kandemiri		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Quinn Burke		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Julie oule Noelle ese Bago		



N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Valda Coryat		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Richard Mercurio		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Jay Watts		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Joe Caufield		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Cara Morris		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Eboni Laurent		
N/A	Observer, Candidate for Board Election		Jake Rawsom		

APPENDIX B

WL 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BOB DEMARCO

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening, wherever you are joining us from around the world.

It's a pleasure to officially welcome you to the 2025 World Lacrosse General Assembly – my first as president.

Our community continues to grow stronger and more connected each year. Today, we



gather as 95 members, representing every corner of the globe. Our collective growth is a powerful reminder that lacrosse continues to transcend borders and cultures, carrying with it both deep tradition and new opportunity. 

This has once again been a remarkable year for our sport. We saw the continued rise of Sixes lacrosse on the international stage at The World Games in Chengdu, where our athletes once again demonstrated the speed, skill and spirit that define modern lacrosse.

We also celebrated a milestone event in Jeju, Korea – our Men's U20 Championship – which marked Korea's first time hosting a World Lacrosse event. It was an exceptional tournament that showcased the sport's truly global reach, and saw a new champion crowned for the first time in the history of the event!

One thing is clear – our footprint continues to expand and it is incredibly exciting to see and be part of. Not only are more people playing lacrosse than ever before, but our digital presence and fan engagement continue to reach record levels. The interest and enthusiasm for lacrosse are growing rapidly, and that momentum is opening new doors for the future.

Looking ahead, we face an ambitious schedule – after two world events and three continental qualifiers in 2025, we have even more activity in 2026...it may be our busiest year yet.

This is our time to shine, and it will take all of us – together – to make the most of it.

Our calendar reflects the health and vitality of our game – and the dedication of so many of you who bring these events to life.

Additionally, we've made meaningful progress toward our long- term Olympic goals. We had the privilege and opportunity to meet with, then present our initial case for ongoing Olympic inclusion to the Brisbane 2032 Organizing Committee. While there are many factors at play, I believe we have positioned ourselves very favorably for selection as a sport for the '32 Games.

As we move toward the first steps of the LA28 qualification process next year, we stand on the precipice of an extraordinary moment – one that will shape the future of lacrosse for generations.

Before we move forward with today's agenda, I want to take a moment to remember Ron Balls, president of the European Lacrosse Federation and former secretary general of



World Lacrosse. Ron's outsized contributions over a lifetime of service make him one of the most influential figures in the international lacrosse community. 

I believe former World Lacrosse President Sue Redfern appropriately summed it up when he was presented with our highest honor – the Lifetime Award – in 2020:

Sue said: "Very simply, World Lacrosse would not be where it is today, nor what it is today, were it not for the extraordinary contributions and commitment of Ron Balls. Ron has left an indelible imprint on our International Federation, and generations of players, coaches and officials will continue to benefit from his lasting contributions. He has been tireless in his service and immensely generous in his time."

Rest in peace, Ron. You will be missed.

Finally, beyond our opportunity to connect as a global lacrosse family, this General Assembly also carries important governance business – including elections for two positions on our board of directors. The record interest in these positions by impressive and qualified candidates is a strong indicator of the growth and maturity of our organization.

I thank all candidates for their willingness to serve and for the leadership they bring to our community.

And thank you all for your continued commitment to advancing lacrosse around the world.

Together, we are writing the next great chapter of our sport's history – and I couldn't be prouder to share this moment with each of you.

Now I want to formally recognize the new members that have joined us since the last GA, as well as those that have moved from provisional to full membership.

Armenia, Bangladesh and Iraq have all joined World Lacrosse in the last year. That represents a growth of 22 members since the start of 2022, which is truly remarkable. 

It's also great to see such sustained growth in the diverse Asia- Pacific region. We've had three championship events within the APLU in the last two years, with our upcoming senior women's and men's field world championships set to be staged in Japan over the next two years.

In addition to welcoming our new members, I want to recognize the work of Colombia, Ghana, India, Ivory Coast, Pakistan and Portugal to move from provisional to full members, with three more on track for full member status by year-end.

Our members continue to develop, also in the efforts being made to gain recognition by



your National Olympic Committees. This is an important step on our growth and longevity as a sport, and I commend this important activity.

Thank you.

APPENDIX C

WL 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY CLOSING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BOB DEMARCO

As we conclude the 2025 General Assembly, I would like to sincerely thank our members, continental federations, board, staff, lifetime members and board candidates for being here today.

Special congratulations to our two newly elected board members Sallie Barker and Rick Mercurio. Sallie, you have given so much to the success of World Lacrosse and so happy to continue the journey TOGETHER. Rick, your lifetime of contributions and your passion for lacrosse make you an ideal board member and looking forward to your fresh perspectives and working TOGETHER.

A special thank you to Mike Slattery APLU President, World Lacrosse Board and former President for Lacrosse Australia. Mike will not be seeking another term with the APLU and we know he will work closely with his successor. Mike, your contributions to lacrosse have been pivotal in the success of lacrosse in Australia, Asia-Pacific and the World. Again, thank you for and well done!



Thank you to all the candidates that have stepped forward for this year's board election. Please consider staying involved and we look forward to seeing you on our future committees and working groups.

Before we conclude, I want to remind everyone that our next General Assembly will again be VIRTUAL on November 14-15.

As 2025 comes to a close, we need to look to the future and so much needs to be done.

I want to leave you with a quote from Henry Ford:
"Coming Together is a Beginning,
Keeping together is Progress,
Working together is SUCCESS"

I now declare the 2025 General Assembly closed.