

POWWR President's Report – January 2026

As a volunteer-driven not-for-profit organization, POWWR successfully delivered an expanded range of pickleball programs while supporting numerous community organizations. During the year, POWWR contributed more than \$14,000 in financial donations, along with class sets of paddles and balls, to local schools, community groups, and charitable organizations. POWWR remains a thriving and engaged organization, with a membership of 711 at the end of 2025.

The POWWR Coaching Certification Program continued to develop new coaches while providing ongoing professional development opportunities for certified coaches. POWWR coaches delivered more than 241 private lessons and facilitated 31 sessions for external groups across Toronto, Guelph, Ayr, St. Agatha, Brussels, and Kitchener. Supported by coaches and volunteer on-site administrators, POWWR expanded the range of pickleball programming offered, including the organization's first Adult Summer Camp. In total, 41 programs were delivered to POWWR members in 2025, including two Crazy 8s tournaments and multiple 7- and 8-week programs offered during the Winter, Spring, and Fall sessions.

In 2025, POWWR continued its partnership with the City of Kitchener and secured sponsorship support from Black Knight, Goldsworthy Wellness, Bob's Racquet Works, and Mary Lou Boulanger. The City of Kitchener and POWWR's sponsors made significant contributions that helped offset program costs for members. Additionally, POWWR received a grant from the City of Waterloo in 2025, which was applied toward the Adult Summer Camp.

The POWWR.ca website continued to be an essential communication and engagement platform, recording more than 31,000 views in 2025. The website provides comprehensive information on POWWR memberships and program registrations, as well as access to organizational bylaws, community engagement initiatives, photos, coaching tips, and other valuable resources.

In response to POWWR's continued growth, the organization enhanced its back-office suite of tools. A Mailchimp license was acquired to streamline new member communications, and additional WordPress functionality was implemented to further support and enhance the POWWR.ca website.

POWWR's community outreach initiatives raised funds in support of Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region and Bereaved Families of Ontario – Midwestern Region. In addition, POWWR volunteers participated in three food-sorting events for the Food Bank of Waterloo Region. During 2025, POWWR also provided seven class sets of pickleball paddles and balls to local schools.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all volunteers who contribute their time and expertise both on the courts and behind the scenes. Through their collective efforts, POWWR continues to be a thriving and vibrant organization, offering a wide range of pickleball programs to its members while making a meaningful impact in the community.

Fiona MacGregor

POWWR President

Highlights from 2025

January

- Winter session began with 10 weekly programs of Drill and Play, Open Play, and Youth
- Ran a POWWR player clinic
- Held POWWR Board Meeting
- Received a letter from Waterloo Mayor denying affiliation status to POWWR
- Donated 16 paddles and pickleballs to Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School's pickleball club in Baden

February

- Ran a clinic at St Agatha Community Centre
- Met with a holding company about leasing space for pickleball play
- Donated a class set of paddles and pickleballs to Stanley Park Public School in Kitchener
- POWWR volunteers helped run the Rally for Cancer tournament at RIM Park to raise money for Cancer Research

March

- Held POWWR AGM
- At the AGM, three Board members (Steve Pinney, Lori Barnes and Kevin Manley) who stepped down were recognized and thanked for their contributions to POWWR
- Welcomed 4 new Board members Claudia Knorr, Vivienne Bjorkenstam, Marcia Scheffler and Robin Maxwell
- Held player clinic at North Dumfries
- POWWR loaner paddles were used at Sunnyside Public School.
- Black Knight renewed their Sponsorship Agreement with POWWR. POWWR received paddles for use at POWWR Programs and protective eyewear at discounted cost to sell to POWWR members
- Spring session began with 10 programs: Drill and Play, Open Play, and Youth
- Obtained a storage bin in the KW Badminton Club lounge for coaching and admin equipment
- POWWR Volunteers participated at the Food Bank of Waterloo Region Food Sorting event

April

- Held clinic at North Dumfries
- Ran OSGA District 26 pickleball qualifier for provincial summer games
- Held POWWR Board Meeting
- 4 POWWR Coaches held a pickleball clinic at York University in support of the women's volleyball team
- POWWR participated at the Open Text Wellness Day
- Applied for a City of Waterloo Grant

May

- Held 2 Crazy 8's fun Tournaments in support of the Bereaved Families of Ontario – Southwestern Region and Women's Crises Service of Waterloo Region
- Held POWWR Board meeting

June

- Prepared for Adult Pickleball Camp
- Received City of Waterloo Grant for the Adult Pickleball Camp
- Began 7-week Ladder Play session

July

- Held inaugural Adult Pickleball Camp in mid-July at the KW Badminton Club

August

- Developed a Coaching booklet for POWWR Coaches highlighting responsibilities at different facilities
- Held POWWR Board Meeting

September

- Met with the City of Kitchener about pickleball court configuration for the new Cowan Recreation Complex
- Met with the City of Cambridge about pickleball programs in the new Cambridge Recreation Complex
- Donated a class set of pickleball paddles and balls to Sunnyside Public School
- Distributed the Coaching booklet to all POWWR coaches
- POWWR Volunteers participated at the Food Bank of Waterloo Region Food Sorting event

October

- The Fall session began with a slate of 14 programs
- Met with the City of Cambridge regarding a working partnership when the new Cambridge Recreation Complex is up and running
- Secured a new Bronze Level sponsor Goldsworthy Wellness
- Held POWWR Coaches Clinic for new coaches

November

- Added two new assistant coaches to the POWWR coaching program.
- Held a POWWR Board meeting
- Donated a class set of paddles and pickleballs to Laurentian Hills Christian School
- Donated a class set of paddles and pickleballs St David's CSS
- Initiated the POWWR Membership Renewal Campaign
- Held a pickleball clinic in Brussels

December

- POWWR Volunteers participated at the Food Bank of Waterloo Region Food Sorting event
- Held POWWR Board meeting
- Held POWWR Coaches meeting and coaching clinic for POWWR coaches
- Donated a class set of paddles and pickleballs to Holy Family Catholic Elementary School in New Hamburg
- Donated a class set of paddles and pickleballs to Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School in Baden
- Met with the Pickleball Ontario Director of Refereeing to organize a Referee Clinic in 2026