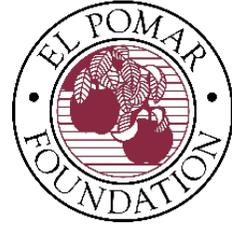


## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## El Pomar Foundation Announces Board Elections and Departures for 2026

**Colorado Springs, Colo. — February 24, 2026** — El Pomar Foundation is pleased to announce the re-election of Dave Palenchar as Board Chair, Andrea Aragon as a new Vice Chair, and the addition of Paul O'Brien as a new Trustee to the Foundation's Board. The Foundation also bids a fond farewell to three members of the Board.

### **Board Officer Changes**

Dave Palenchar, who has served as an El Pomar Trustee since 1998 and was El Pomar Chief Operating Officer from 1998-2013, was re-elected as Board Chair for 2026. Andrea Aragon was elected Vice Chair. As a Trustee since 2016, she has served on the Julie Penrose Award, Governance, and Awards for Excellence committees (chairing the latter two), and currently serves as Executive Director of Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation. Thayer Tutt continues to serve as a Vice Chair.

### **New Trustee Elected to Board**

In December, Paul O'Brien was elected to serve as the Board's newest Trustee. Paul is an El Pomar Fellow Alum, and Principal Owner of PEOB Consulting LLC, a firm specializing in non-profits, grantmaking, and high-impact community projects. Most recently, his work has supported the Security Open Space and Agriculture Resilience (SOAR) program, as well as playing a key leadership role in seeking to establish the Pikes Peak Sentinel Landscape, a federal designation that will strengthen environmental resilience around Department of Defense assets through collaboration with five military installations and more than 50 local Pikes Peak region partners. Paul was previously Colorado Director of a national service dog organization for 22 years and helped develop a national \$10M grant making initiative and fellowship program for the United States Golf Association.

### **Board Departures**

After six years serving as a Trustee, including two as Vice Chair, Nechie Hall's term on the Board concluded at the end of 2025. During her time as a Trustee, she served in many capacities including Regional Trustee on El Pomar's North Regional Council, co-chair of the Julie Penrose Award committee, chair of both the Audit and Investment committees, and she also participated in six Colorado Assistance Fund activations. In March, when their terms expire, Dr. Mike Edmonds and Emily Robinson will both roll off El Pomar's Board of Trustees. During their time on the Board, Mike served on El Pomar's Central Peaks Regional Council and Emily chaired the Finance committee, among their many valuable contributions. The Foundation extends its deep appreciation to Nechie, Mike, and Emily for their years of service to El Pomar and the people of Colorado.



*Dave Palenchar*



*Andrea Aragon*



*Paul O'Brien*



*Nechie Hall*



*Mike Edmonds*



*Emily Robinson*

With these transitions, as of April 1, 2026, El Pomar's Board of Trustees includes: **Dave Palenchar**, Chair, **William J. Hybl**, Chair Emeritus; **Andrea Aragon**, Vice Chair; **R. Thayer Tutt, Jr.**, Vice Chair and Chief Investment Officer; **Kyle H. Hybl**, President and CEO; **Matt Carpenter**, Board Secretary and Chief Operating Officer; **Kathy Boe**; **Colonel Gail Colvin**, USAF, Retired; **Erik Estrada**; **Ken Montera**; **Paul O'Brien**; and **David Siegel** (Fellowship Alumni Trustee).

### **About El Pomar Foundation**

*El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately \$30 million annually through grants in the areas of arts and culture, civic and community initiatives, education, health, and human services, as well as community engagement and leadership development programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations. In addition, the Foundation owns and operates three historic properties: Penrose Heritage Museum, Penrose House Conference Center, and Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937 with the mission to enhance, encourage, and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.*

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