

WPOAC Membership Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2026

Members in attendance included Bonnie Shepherd, Brenda Haldemann, Jackie Guthrie, Jon Haldemann, Kathleen Enders, Lisa Hirschman, Lori Gregoire, Patty Jacobson, Samantha TeBeest, Tricia Kurszewski. Virtual attendees included Sami Bruns and Sara Sternberg.

The meeting was called to order at 11:18 am by Jackie Guthrie on January 18, 2026, at Tower Lanes in Beaver Dam, WI.

The Secretary's Report from the November Membership Meeting was emailed and posted on the website for prior review before the meeting. The position is still vacant. Patty Jacobson volunteered to record minutes for this meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was shared by Lisa Hirschman. The current balance for the club accounts are as follows: Checking \$13,031, Savings \$12,828.26, Futurity \$5,456.57. Hope Trabue is currently conducting an audit of the club's finances. Lisa is working with her to provide statements.

Committee Reports

Banquet & Year-End Awards: Sam TeBeest presented the Banquet and Year-End Awards report. Members expressed interest in improving the quality of year-end high point awards. ~~In 2025, approximately \$4,000~~ **\$1,768.59** of the \$5,000 budget was allocated toward participation awards, with ~~the remaining funds~~ **\$2,693.25** allocated toward high-point awards. Sam discussed implementing a tiered award system based on total POA points earned while continuing to award placings from first through fifth place, as previously approved during the November meeting.

Sam will prepare a proposal for the next membership meeting outlining the points-to-dollar structure for the tiered award system, including how awards would be applied and whether members would have the option to upgrade to a higher award tier at their own expense. She will also present a detailed budget breakdown showing how the allocated funds would be distributed between high point awards and participation awards. Participation awards will remain in place, with the committee adjusting the distribution to increase the value of placing awards while continuing to encourage show participation.

Lisa Hirschman made a motion for the Banquet and Year-End Awards budget to be set at an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for 2026, with the committee responsible for determining the distribution of funds. The motion was seconded by Brenda Haldemann. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion then moved to banquet logistics. Tricia expressed frustration regarding insufficient seating at last year's event. The committee was asked to consider arranging additional seating to accommodate potential increases in attendance. The group also discussed offering separate attendance options, including attending with dinner and attending without dinner for the banquet and awards presentation. The committee will take these suggestions into consideration during the planning process.

Budget Committee: No update was given at this time. A chairperson is still needed.

*Red text denotes a correction.

Bylaws Committee: No formal report was given at this time. A chairperson is still needed. Lisa Hirschman is working on a proposal for potential changes.

Futurity/Maturity Committee: Jackie Guthrie and Sam TeBeest presented the Futurity Committee report. Committee members include Sam TeBeest, Lori Gregoire, Nikki Seehafer, and Brenda Haldemann.

Entry fees will remain unchanged. Entries will be accepted until 8:00 PM on the Friday evening prior to the start of the show. The Early Entry Fee will be \$30 per class through July 25, 2026, and entries must be postmarked by that date. The Late Entry Fee will be \$40 per class from July 26, 2026, through August 8, 2026, at 8:00 PM. Entries will be submitted to Sam TeBeest.

The committee presented the proposed Futurity/Maturity class list, which was emailed and posted on the club website prior to the meeting. The committee proposed hosting 46 total classes, including 29 POA-only Futurity/Maturity classes and 17 All-Breed Open Futurity and Jackpot classes. Of the POA-only classes, 12 may be run concurrently with corresponding regular classes.

Sam TeBeest made a motion to accept the proposed Futurity class list as presented by the committee. The motion was seconded by Lori Gregoire. The motion passed with eight votes in favor, one abstained, one opposed.

Patty Jacobson made a motion to approve the Futurity rules as proposed, with the following amendments: total payout will be 90% with 10% withheld; owners and exhibitors entered in Futurity/Maturity classes must be current members of the WPOAC; and exhibitors who do not purchase an overnight stall will incur a jump-out fee not to exceed \$35 per pony. The motion was seconded by Sam TeBeest and passed unanimously.

Sam TeBeest proposed opening a separate checking account for Futurity/Maturity funds, which are currently held in a savings account. She stated that a separate checking account would allow easier depositing of sponsorship funds and withdrawing for expenses, while also providing clearer financial tracking. The Futurity Chair, President, and Treasurer would be authorized signers on the account, which would be opened with Associated Bank.

Sam TeBeest made a motion to open the checking account and transfer \$2,500 from the current savings account, with the remaining funds staying in savings. Lori Gregoire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sam discussed the committee's idea to use silent auction funds to purchase a \$300 gift card from Schneiders Saddlery to raffle at the show. It was noted that the club would need a license to host this raffle. Jackie Guthrie made a motion to spend \$300 from the silent auction funds to purchase a \$300 gift card from Schneiders Saddlery following approval of the club's nonprofit status. Sam TeBeest seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee presented proposed sponsorship levels and benefits, including Platinum (\$150), Gold (\$100), Silver (\$50), and Bronze (\$25) levels. Platinum and Gold sponsors would receive an 8' x 8' vendor space at the show on a first-come, first-served basis. Platinum sponsors would also receive ringside recognition, multiple business name announcements throughout the show, large logo placement on the club website, individual Facebook recognition, and a Champion class win photo. Benefits decrease incrementally with each sponsorship tier.

Sam TeBeest made a motion to accept the proposed sponsorship tiers as presented by the Futurity/Maturity Committee. Brenda Haldemann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Midwest Horse Fair Committee: Jackie provided an update on behalf of the committee since Jay and Sara were unable to attend. The application for stalls at the Midwest Horse Fair was submitted by Sara at the end of last year. Bonnie reported that the club should soon receive information regarding stall allocations. The MWHF team must first review clinic applications to determine participant needs before allocating stalls to additional groups. Bonnie asked Sam to coordinate WPOAC royalty participation in the celebrity chair at the Wisconsin Horse Council booth.

Promotion Committee: Kathleen Enders presented an update on the Promotions Committee. She is currently utilizing the private Facebook group for reminders, updates, and direct communication with members only. Since it is private, anything posted there can only be viewed by members already in the group.

The public Facebook page will be used to connect with families outside the club, potential new youth members, and individuals interested in POAs or club events. Using the public page for promotion will help reach more people and increase visibility for both the breed and the club.

Jackie addressed scam emails that were sent to various club members impersonating her and requesting money. Kathleen reminded members not to send money to anyone making requests through email. The club will never request money electronically outside of official forms or entry submissions.

Kathleen stated she will be working on the spring newsletter in the coming months and invited members to submit content. Jackie asked whether advertisements would be included. Kathleen explained that she does not currently have the capacity to manage advertisement sales or design. She also noted that the club's newsletter is distributed digitally and is intended to serve primarily as an informational communication tool focused on club news, updates, member highlights, and educational content. Because digital newsletters typically have lower production and distribution costs, they are generally not structured as revenue-generating publications and often prioritize readability and timely communication over commercial content. Kathleen stated she would like the newsletter to follow a format similar to the 2025 Spring Newsletter created by Autumn and the current format used by the Minnesota POAC.

Kathleen further explained that printed show programs and magazines historically serve a different purpose than newsletters. Those publications are typically produced in connection with shows or major events, have higher production costs, and are often designed as keepsakes, promotional materials, and revenue sources through advertising sales. She noted that advertising would be more appropriate for printed show programs or similar promotional publications produced by the club in the future for events such as the 2027 Midwest Regional.

The group discussed whether the club should purchase an advertisement in the Midwest Horse Fair magazine. The submission deadline is February 1, 2026. Advertisement costs are as follows: Full Page: \$1,025; Half Page: \$655; Quarter Page: \$345; Eighth Page: \$210. Lisa suggested that the club invest more funds into promotional materials at the stalls at MWHF rather than purchasing a magazine advertisement. She also stated that the club does not currently have sufficient funds available for ad placement. Members agreed to table the discussion until planning for the 2027 MWHF begins.

Jackie also discussed placing an advertisement in the National Year-End Magazine distributed at the National POAC Convention. She informed Linzy Zahm that the club would be submitting an advertisement. Kathleen asked what content should be included and asked whether the show "Save the Date" graphic she created would be sufficient. Lisa asked Kathleen to revise the graphic to include expanded Futurity class offerings. Sam TeBeest made a motion to spend \$50 to place an advertisement in the National Convention magazine to promote the 2026 shows. The motion was seconded by Jackie Guthrie. The motion passed unanimously.

Royalty: Sam TeBeest presented her report on Youth Royalty. There is approximately \$2,000 in the royalty account. All royalty members plan to attend the Midwest Horse Fair at various times throughout the weekend.

The royalty has not yet met to plan activities for the year; however, Sam asked each member to submit a video sharing what they are excited about for the 2026 show season. In 2025, the royalty hosted silent auctions, root beer floats, a scavenger hunt, and tie-dye t-shirts. Sam reported that plans for 2026 have not yet been finalized, but later in the year the group intends to offer a different fundraiser or activity in place of the silent auction at the banquet.

Show Committee: Jackie Guthrie shared that Autumn Quinn Reilly has resigned from her role as Show Committee Chair due to personal reasons. All judges have been hired for the three shows. Autumn will be sending Jackie the judge contracts so she has all necessary information. No one will fill the chair position for the remainder of 2026.

Show chairs will be asked to take on additional responsibility in the planning, preparation, and execution of the shows due to the absence of a Show Committee Chair. Jackie Guthrie will chair the May show, Patty Jacobson and Lisa Hirschman will chair the June show, and Jon Haldemann will chair the August show.

Lisa Hirschman asked that the Show Committee establish job descriptions for various volunteer and paid show roles so individuals clearly understand expectations and responsibilities.

Scholarship Committee: Kathleen provided an update in Jackie Pertzborn's absence. Jackie asked Kathleen to inform the membership that Sara Pipkorn will be collecting forms for 2026.

Trophies & Ribbons Committee: Brenda Haldemann reported that there should be enough trophies and ribbons available for the first two shows of the season.

Wisconsin Horse Council Committee: Bonnie Shepherd recommended that someone from the club submit all WPOAC show dates to the Wisconsin Horse Council website and newsletter calendar. This listing is free of charge and can be completed by submitting the form available on the WHC website. Bonnie also asked Kathleen to provide the club website link to WHC so it can be added to their website as part of the benefits of the club's WHC membership.

Bonnie provided information about the upcoming judges seminar and reminded members that youth receive a free WHC membership as a benefit of WPOAC's membership with WHC. She also discussed the Bonus Bucks program and Jackie asked Sam to apply for that opportunity. Bonnie reminded Jon and the Regional committee to apply for WHC sponsorship for the Regional show, noting that an educational component will be required in order to qualify.

Old Business

The Show Committee finalized the 2026 standardized showbill. The showbill was revised by Autumn and Sara based on membership feedback. Kathleen Enders made a motion to approve the standardized showbill as presented by the Show Committee, with Ranch classes to be added by the show committee at the end of the showbill pending updates to the National Rulebook and Guidelines to determine which classes can or are required to be added. Futurity classes will be added to the August showbill. The motion was seconded by Lori Gregoire. Motion passed unanimously.

The 2026 show fees were presented and discussed. The group discussed stall fees and shavings. It was proposed to eliminate offering shavings and no longer include them automatically with stall fees to reduce stall costs. It was also proposed that members pick up shavings from a central location instead of having them placed in each stall by volunteers or staff. The club had a significant amount of shavings left over after the August show that Jon Haldemann purchased and took home. The September 2025 show also had leftover shavings that the facility purchased and deducted from the club's facility rental bill. The issue is caused by cancellations after shavings have already been ordered. It was suggested that all entry forms clearly state that additional shavings must be pre-ordered or they will not be available. The Show Committee will make it clear that extra shavings will not be available unless ordered in advance.

Brenda Haldemann made a motion to include two bags of shavings for each pony and tack stall as part of the stall fee. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Enders. Motion passed with nine in favor and one opposed.

The group then discussed stall fees for 2026. The Show Committee did not present a formal proposal due to varying facility costs, so Kathleen Enders shared stall fees from 2025 and requested input from members in attendance. The feedback survey indicated that members preferred having stalls cleaned. Stall fees in 2025 were \$65 per stall for pony or tack and included two bags of shavings per stall. Black River Falls charges an additional \$5 per stall cleaning fee at the end of the show, while West Salem incorporates cleaning into the stall rental fee.

Jackie Guthrie made a motion to set stall fees at \$70 per stall for West Salem and Black River Falls, including two bags of shavings and facility stall cleaning. Kathleen Enders seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Additional information regarding cleaning costs for Oshkosh is needed before setting a stall fee for that location, so that fee was tabled until the next meeting.

The discussion then turned to potentially offering day stalls for exhibitors attending only one day. The consensus was to table this idea until next year when clearer facility pricing is available. The Show Committee would need to factor cleaning and shavings costs into offering day stalls. Jackie Guthrie made a motion to table the day stall proposal until next year and to continue offering a tie-out fee instead. Her motion set the tie-out fee at \$15 per pony or horse for all three shows. Sam TeBeest seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sam TeBeest made a motion to keep camping fees the same as 2025, setting them at \$35 per night with electrical and \$25 per night without electrical for all three 2026 shows. Brenda Haldemann seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathleen Enders made a motion to maintain the same office fee structure as 2025. Fees will remain as follows: National Pony Fee of \$7 per judge, State Pony Fee of \$4 per judge, and a \$10 per pony show office fee. Sam TeBeest seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathleen Enders made a motion to keep class fees at \$5 per judge per class. Tricia Kurszewski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion then turned to the all-day/all-weekend entry fee. Kathleen Enders stated the current fee is \$80 per judge per pony/rider combination. Sam TeBeest expressed concern that the club is losing money by offering this option and emphasized the need to generate revenue to help support the upcoming regional show. She asked how many families currently utilize the all-weekend fee and it was noted that approximately four to six families take advantage of it. Jon Haldemann stated that the club's break-even point is approximately 17 classes, after which the club begins losing money. It was also noted that no other states currently offer an all-weekend fee.

Sam TeBeest made a motion to eliminate the all-weekend entry fee. The motion did not receive a second. Discussion followed noting that the fee helps families with multiple children save money on entries and encourages youth to try additional classes. The motion died.

Brenda Haldemann made a motion to increase the all-weekend entry fee from \$80 per judge to \$85 per judge for 2026, resulting in a four-judge weekend fee of \$340 per pony/rider combination. Patty Jacobson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jackie Guthrie gave an update on the 2026 Show High Point offerings. She plans to have high point awards at the May show. These awards will be covered by sponsorship money only.

2026 Year-End Awards Budget was voted on in the Banquet and Year-End award committee report update earlier in the meeting.

Kathleen Enders presented a breakdown of the qualifying classes and high point division categories based on the memberships vote in November to offer to place and award 1st through 5th place in all age divisions—Leadline, 9 & Under, 10–13, 14–18, 18 & Under W/T, 19 & Over W/T, 19 & Over W/T/C, Non-Pro W/T, Non-Pro W/T/C, Junior Pony, Senior Pony, JPFC 2 & 3yr Olds, JPFC 4 & 5yr Olds and In-Hand—in the following categories: One Pony/One Rider, Equitation, Non-Timed, and Timed.

Tricia Kurszewski made a motion to accept the proposed year-end qualifying classes and high point division categories as presented. Sam TeBeest seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2026 Futurity Rules & Classes were voted on in the Futurity/Maturity committee update.

Members were asked to submit recommendations for the 2027 show dates and locations by the next meeting so dates can be voted on and secured at the next membership meeting.

New Business

Kathleen Enders presented an updated Show Rules and Guidelines document. The document was emailed and posted on the club website prior to the meeting. The members in attendance asked to table an official vote on approval until the next membership meeting after they've had more time to review.

Lisa Hirschman provided an update regarding the club's 501(c)(5) nonprofit status. The club has not been current on maintaining this status since 2011. Organizations are required to file Form 990 annually after approval to maintain nonprofit status, and this has not been completed, causing the status to lapse. There is a \$600 application fee required to regain this status. Lisa explained that the club would need to file Form 1024, which details the organization's activities and finances to demonstrate that it improves conditions for those in labor, agriculture, or horticulture in order to regain nonprofit status.

Jackie Guthrie made a motion for the club to spend \$600 to file the application and required form to regain 501(c)(5) nonprofit status. The motion was seconded by Tricia Kurszewski. Motion passed unanimously. Lisa will handle this process in her capacity as both an attorney and the club Treasurer.

Lisa then moved the discussion to the club savings account. She proposed moving the money currently in savings into a seven-month Certificate of Deposit (CD), which would earn interest at a rate of 4.5%. She noted that the 2025 shows were profitable and that the deposit for the Regional at the Alliant Energy Center has already been paid. She also stated that Wisconsin Horse Council membership has been paid and that sufficient funds remain in the checking account to cover the remaining 2026 show expenses.

Brenda Haldemann made a motion to move \$10,000 from the club savings account into a CD. Sam TeBeest seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Hirschman also spoke about the recently added Zoom Guidelines for Membership Meetings included in the club bylaws. She is currently working on a proposal to add additional rules specifying how voting and participation would occur during virtual meetings.

Jon Haldemann shared that the club currently does not have a Microsoft subscription for the show laptop. Kathleen Enders made a motion for the club to purchase a Microsoft subscription for the show laptop. Lisa Hirschman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Club Sponsorship of 2026 POAC Events: Jackie asked the club what money they would like to put towards sponsorships this year. Jackie shared the sponsorship levels of the Midwest Regional hosted by Minnesota POAC will be. The premiere level sponsor levels will be \$3,000, \$1,500, and \$1,000. The regular sponsorship levels will be \$500, \$300, \$100, and \$50. Sam TeBeest made a motion to sponsor the 2026 Midwest Regional at the gold level of \$300 that includes the choice of high point sponsor, arena sign, ½ page ad in the regional program, PA recognition throughout the show, small logo displayed on the website, office, and social media. The preference for the high point would be 9 and under. Patty Jacobson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Hirshman made a motion to sponsor a class at the National POAC Congress for \$150. Tricia Kurszewski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jackie asked when members would like to hold the next membership meeting. It was agreed that members did not want to hold the meeting in conjunction with a show. July was initially suggested, but members were reminded that Congress is held during the first week of July.

Kathleen suggested scheduling a spring meeting, noting that the bylaws state the club may host meetings within the following timeframes: Fall (September 1 through November 30), Winter (December 1 through February 28), Spring (March 1 through May 31), and Summer (June 1 through August 31). At minimum, the club is required to host two meetings annually, with the annual membership meeting and awards banquet required to take place during the Fall or Winter timeframe. Holding an earlier meeting would allow the membership to address club business in a timely manner rather than waiting until July when the show season is nearly complete.

The group discussed meeting in April and agreed to avoid scheduling the meeting on the same day as the judges seminar on April 11. Jackie proposed April 12 as the tentative meeting date. Board members in attendance agreed to attempt to reserve Tower Lanes as the meeting location. The meeting is planned to begin at 1:00 PM. Lisa Hirschman requested that the club explore the possibility of hosting an additional membership meeting later in the summer. The date and location will be discussed at the next meeting.

Tricia Kurszewski shared that the Futurity Committee is working on creating a photo backdrop for the show. Her husband will be building it, with the goal of having it available at the first show so it can be used throughout the entire season. The backdrop would feature a general background with interchangeable banners for shows, Futurity, Banquet, and other events.

Kathleen Enders also shared with the Futurity Committee that she has the logo and check design she previously created if the committee would like to utilize them to maintain continuity. She also noted that there were leftover checks from the 2025 Futurity and recommended the committee connect with Autumn Quinn Reilly about using them for 2026.

Jackie Guthrie asked if there had been any new activity on the committee sign-up sheet. Kathleen Enders shared that she had not seen any updates. She reminded members that links to the sign-up document and other club resources are available on the website for anyone who cannot locate them.

Lisa Hirshman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Tricia Kurszewski seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patty Jacobson
Vice President