

WPOAC Membership Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2026

Members in attendance included Kathleen Enders, Jackie Guthrie, Brenda Haldemann, Jon Haldemann, Lori Helmer, Lisa Hirschman, Patty Jacobson, Bonnie Shepherd, and Samantha TeBeest.

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 pm by Jackie Guthrie on April 18, 2026, at Tower Lanes in Beaver Dam, WI.

The Secretary's Report: Minutes from the January Membership Meeting were emailed to members and posted on the website for review prior to the meeting. Sam TeBeest submitted the following correction to the minutes: "In 2025, approximately \$1,768.59 of the \$5,000 budget was allocated toward participation awards, with the remaining \$2,693.25 allocated toward high-point awards." No motion was made to approve the amended Secretary's Report.

The Treasurer's Report: The report was shared by Lisa Hirschman. The current balance for the club accounts are as follows: Checking: \$9,759.58, Savings: \$2,828.58, Axos High-yield Savings: \$10,007.76, Futurity Checking: N/A, Futurity Savings: \$2,956.70, Scholarship: N/A, and Royalty: N/A.

Lisa reported that during this period \$10,000 was moved from the club general savings account to a high-yield savings account with Axos with an interest rate of 3.54%. The club earned \$7.76 since transferring the funds.

Payments for the May and June shows were made. \$3000 will be sent to Oshkosh for the August show. There was no motion made to accept the Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports

Banquet & Year-End Awards: Sam TeBeest presented her proposal for a tiered awards system. She outlined 38 total award categories with 190 placings, recognizing 1st through 5th place. Under the proposal, 1st place would receive 6 points and \$30, 2nd place would receive 5 points and \$20, 3rd place would receive 4 points and \$15, 4th place would receive 3 points and \$15, and 5th place would receive 2 points and \$10. This would result in a total allocation of \$90 per award category.

The funds earned for each placing will be accumulated for award winners and used toward the purchase of their year-end awards. Each recipient's total earnings will determine the amount available for them to spend.

The total cost for all high-point awards under the proposal is projected at \$3,420, leaving \$1,580 allocated for participation awards, for a total awards budget of \$5,000. No formal motion was made to adopt Sam's proposed tiered points system or budget breakdown.

Sam also reported that she will contact Alison Marx to obtain an estimate for hosting the banquet at the Osthoff and determine whether the club will continue to receive a discounted rate despite Alison no longer being involved in banquet planning. If a discount is no longer available, Sam will seek estimates from alternative venues and locations. She will also work on identifying potential date options in November.

Jackie noted that Judy Katzenberger will be responsible for creating the 2026 year-end awards program booklet.

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

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: Sam TeBeest presented the Futurity Committee report. All classes have been sponsored. The committee is currently waiting on six payments from members who have sponsored classes. Some sponsors are waiting for the club's Venmo account to be set up in order to remit payment.

Lori reminded the committee that the Wisconsin Horse Council sponsorship should specify "District 3."

Lisa is working to secure Schneider's Gift Cards. The Futurity Committee will host a raffle and sell tickets for two Schneider's Gift Cards: one \$100 gift certificate (\$5 per ticket) and one \$200 gift certificate (\$10 per ticket). All proceeds will go back into the Futurity checking account.

The 65th Anniversary Futurity Show will feature a full-color commemorative program booklet created by Sam TeBeest and Tammy Virzi. A limited run of 50 copies will be printed and included in exhibitor welcome bags. The booklet will include advertisements, the class list, space for exhibitors to record placings, and futurity class sponsor recognition.

Advertising rates will be \$75 for full-page ads and \$45 for half-page ads. Premium ad placements—including the front cover, inside front cover, centerfold, inside back cover, and back cover—will be auctioned online through the Wisconsin members-only private Facebook group. The cover auction will run from May 12 at 7:00 PM through May 18 at 7:00 PM. Ad spaces will be posted in the private Facebook group for bidding. All ad artwork and payments are due by June 30.

Kent Rorick will record a special podcast episode later in the year highlighting the WPOAC Futurity's history.

Jackie requested that the club reimburse or purchase stamps for Sam, as she has been using her own funds for mailing thank-you cards and club communications. Jackie Guthrie made a motion that the club purchase a roll of stamps for Sam TeBeest. Brenda Haldemann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Midwest Horse Fair Committee: Kathleen Enders provided an update on behalf of Sara Pipkorn and Jay Wolfe. The following members will participate in breed demonstrations and represent Wisconsin POAC at Midwest Horse Fair: Sydney Pipkorn, Myah Swanson, Lisa Hirschman, Myah Katzenberger, Claudia Wolfe, Claire Wolfe, Annie Labs, and Brooke Labs.

Breed demonstrations will be held Friday, April 17 at 9:00 AM in the Blain's Farm & Fleet Coliseum and Saturday, April 18 at 2:40 PM in the Tribute Superior Equine Nutrition Pavilion 2 Arena. Stall numbers are 3413–3402.

Sara created a signup sheet for members to help answer questions and engage with fair attendees. Members are encouraged to sign up for available time slots.

Kathleen printed showbills for all three shows along with large promotional posters for display at the booth. Sara and Jay will provide informational brochures about the club and National POAC.

Sam TeBeest noted that Youth Royalty will be present in the Wisconsin Horse Council booth from 12:00–1:00 PM all three days to represent WPOAC. She will also prepare Futurity packets for interested attendees.

Lori Helmer and Bonnie Shepard provided additional updates regarding activities, clinicians, and other events at the fair.

Membership Committee: Kathleen Enders reported that the club currently has 82 members, including 28 youth and 54 adult members. Most memberships are family-based. Total membership is below the 2025 total of 131 members. Current membership income is \$665. Since April 1, membership fees have increased by \$5 for the remainder of the year.

Promotion Committee: Kathleen Enders presented an update on the Promotions Committee. A Google Form is available for members to submit social media post requests, including committee updates, breed spotlights, and member spotlights. A master content calendar is scheduled through the end of August, and members are welcome to review posting dates.

The Spring 2026 newsletter was published on April 11 and has been well received.

She clarified the distinction between the two club Facebook platforms. The private Facebook group is used for member-only reminders, updates, and direct communication. Because it is private, only approved members can view its content.

The public Facebook page is used to reach families outside the club, potential new youth members, and individuals interested in POAs or club events. This helps increase visibility for both the breed and the club.

Jackie requested that all content posted to the public page also be shared in the private group.

Points: No update was given at this time, as no shows have been held yet.

Royalty: Sam TeBeest presented the Youth Royalty report. All three shows will include a 50/50 raffle to benefit both royalty and the general club fund.

At the May Madness Show, a dog showmanship class will be held Friday night, and drawstring tie-dye activities will be available throughout the weekend for WPOAC members.

At the June Show, root beer floats and a water balloon toss will be hosted.

At the August Show, the Youth Royalty Breakfast and dessert silent auction will take place. An egg-and-spoon competition sponsored by Amber Hansen will be held Saturday night, with sign-up available at the show. Entry is \$2 to nominate and \$5 to back out. There will be youth and adult divisions, with sign-ups and payments collected at a table outside the show office. Sam will also be baking and donating a 65th Anniversary cake and cupcakes for Saturday of the Futurity show.

A “Pie in the Face” competition nomination period is open through the conclusion of the August show. Youth may nominate youth or adults, with each \$5 nomination counting as one vote. Full guidelines will be shared closer to the August show, and the pie event will take place at the year-end banquet.

Patti Jacobson and Bonnie Shepard have each agreed to sponsor a royalty stall, and Lisa indicated her firm may also sponsor one. Three additional stalls still need sponsors, and Sam will reach out to past sponsors.

Show Committee: Jackie Guthrie presented the Show Committee report. The Wisconsin Horse Council Bonus Bucks were split between the first two shows: \$350 was allocated to May Madness High Point Awards and \$350 to June "Makin' A Splash" High Point Awards. High point awards have been secured.

May Show Chairs reported \$990 spent on high point awards. Grand Champion awards will be leather halters with engraved nameplates. Reserve Champion awards will be cowhide-print fleece blankets with leather patches. A hospitality table will include donuts from Linda's Bakery, coffee, hot chocolate, and donated fruit and yogurt if available. Bottled water is sponsored by Joslynn Seehafer and her stud. Youth royalty activities include dog showmanship Friday night sponsored by Seehafer Performance Horses and drawstring bag tie-dye sponsored by Wisconsin Horse Council.

June Show Chairs reported Grand Champion awards will be Zero Gravity chairs, and Reserve Champion awards will be waterproof Bluetooth speakers. Participation awards are sponsored by Lisa H. Vendor fees have been set at \$25, and additional vendor opportunities are being explored.

August Show Chairs are securing sponsorships and awards. Arena construction is planned over the summer but is not expected to impact the show. All Futurity classes have been sponsored. Meg Livingston is the official show photographer.

Sam TeBeest raised a concern about keeping the show running efficiently and recommended splitting the holding area into two sections—one for the class on deck and one for others warming up—to reduce gate delays. Final decisions will be made by the show chairs.

The Regional Committee provided an update on planning. Lita Perrin will serve as Regional Judge, Kevin Woodford as Promotional Judge, and Dawn Scully as the third judge. Dan Grunewald will be contracted as a rotating relief judge. Contracts have not yet been signed, but all judges have provided verbal commitments.

The committee is also exploring educational activities to qualify for Wisconsin Horse Council sponsorship.

Jackie and Sam are developing the class list and showbill, currently totaling 213 classes excluding Futurity. Jackie expressed concern that adding Futurity classes may make the schedule too large, while others believe Futurity classes will increase exhibitor participation. There is also interest in offering a full slate of ranch classes. Jackie suggested running two arenas, with jumping and driving in the smaller arena and main classes in the larger arena. Additional member input is needed to finalize the showbill.

Versatility and Youth Challenge guidelines will be presented at the next meeting.

Kathleen will organize slogan and logo contests, with winners receiving a \$25 Kwik Trip gift card donated by Jackie Guthrie. The contest will be open to all members, with details posted on the Regional event page on the website soon.

Scholarship Committee: No update was given at this time.

Trophies & Ribbons Committee: Brenda Haldemann reported sufficient trophies and ribbons for the first two shows. Some plain trophies were set aside for IBC exhibitors who may not prefer patterned pony trophies. Six prizes per show have been allocated for leadline bags.

Jackie requested recommendations for Midwest Regional awards next year. Brenda advised avoiding medallions or dated ribbons unless they can be reused if left over.

Brenda requested approval to replenish ribbon supplies after the May Show if needed. Lisa Hirschman made a motion to allow ribbon replenishment after the May Madness 2026 Show. Bonnie Shepard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wisconsin Horse Council Committee: Bonnie Shepherd and Lori Helmer presented an update from the Wisconsin Horse Council Committee. They requested that an alternate director be appointed in the event that either of them is unable to attend Wisconsin Horse Council meetings to represent the club. Jackie Guthrie volunteered to serve in this role. The club must attend at least 50% of the meetings to remain in good standing. **Wisconsin Horse Council meetings can now be attended via Zoom as well as in person or by phone.**

Old Business

2026 Show Fees Proposal: Kathleen requested member input on stall fees for the August 2026 show. Sam TeBeest reported that a 4-H club has been secured to clean all stalls for \$5 per stall.

In 2025, stall fees were \$70 per stall. Sam TeBeest made a motion to increase the fee to \$80 per stall, which would include stall cleaning and two bags of shavings for pony and tack stalls. The motion was seconded by Jon Haldemann and passed unanimously.

2026 Show Rules & Guidelines Approval: Kathleen Enders presented the proposed rules and guidelines for the 2026 shows. These were emailed to members and posted on the website in advance for review prior to the meeting.

Lisa made a motion to amend the proposed rule regarding year-end award points as follows: If a POA measures within the National height requirement at the start of the show season but is later found to be over height at a subsequent show, the pony may continue to compete in IBC or Open classes where permitted. The pony must be issued a new back number and pay the applicable fee to reflect its updated status. From that point forward, the pony and exhibitor will be considered Open exhibitors. Points earned before and after the measurement change will be recorded separately under the respective back numbers; however, all points earned by that pony and exhibitor combination during the season will be combined for Wisconsin POAC Year-End High Point Awards.

Brenda Haldemann seconded the motion. The motion passed with seven members in favor. Bonnie and Patty abstained from voting.

Club 501(c)5 Status Update: Lisa Hirschman provided an update on the club's 501(c)5 application. The application has been approved and the status has been granted.

A question was raised regarding whether donations made to the club are tax-deductible. It was clarified that the club is organized as a 501(c)5 organization, not a 501(c)3 charitable organization; therefore, donations to the club are generally not tax-deductible as charitable contributions.

Zoom Guidelines for Membership Meetings: This item was tabled for the next meeting.

50/50 Raffle Fundraiser Approval: Sam TeBeest presented a proposal for a 50/50 raffle fundraiser. Ticket pricing will be 1 for \$5, 3 for \$10, or 8 for \$20, with a limit of 500 tickets available per show. Tickets may be purchased from designated sellers on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

A question was raised regarding whether the club requires a raffle license. Lisa clarified that, since the club is not a 501(c)(3), a raffle license is not required.

Sam made a motion to approve the raffle, with tickets sold at \$5 for one, \$10 for three, or \$20 for eight. Proceeds will be split as follows: 25% to the general club, 25% to Youth Royalty, and 50% to the raffle winner. Patty seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business

Jackie Guthrie presented the nomination of Nikki Seehafer to fill the Secretary position for the remainder of the term. Nikki would serve from April through November 2026.

Brenda Haldemann made a motion to approve Nikki's appointment to the Board of Directors to fill the remainder of the Secretary's term. Sam TeBeest seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Since her appointment, Nikki has resigned from the position. The Secretary position is currently vacant.

2027 Show Dates & Locations: Jackie Guthrie provided an update on 2027 show dates and planning. At this time, no official show dates have been secured.

Colleen Urban has expressed interest in helping plan and host a ranch-only show over Memorial Day weekend in 2027. The proposed event would be a one-day show. Additional details and updates will be shared as planning progresses.

Patty will reach out to Black River Falls for 2027 dates. Sam will ask Heartland Stables for available dates in September 2027.

Spring 2027 Open Show Fundraiser: Sam TeBeest presented a proposal for a Spring 2027 "Come As You Are" Open Show to benefit Wisconsin POAC. Sam TeBeest and Nikki Seehafer would serve as the event organizers and co-chairs.

The event would be held on March 27, 2027, at Heartland Equestrian Center in Custer, Wisconsin. It would be conducted as a fundraiser for Wisconsin POAC, with all proceeds donated to the club. The event could be conducted with less than \$1,000 in start-up costs, including a \$600 facility rental fee. The club would not be held responsible for any financial losses.

The show would be a one-day open show and would not be eligible for POAC points. A single judge would be utilized, and exhibitors would be encouraged to participate with no show attire required. Proposed entry fees are \$5 per class, plus a \$5 office fee per exhibitor. Stall rentals would be available for \$35, with a \$10 jump-out fee option.

Jackie Guthrie made a motion to accept the proposal. Lisa seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2027 Committee Chairs: Committee chairs are needed for all committees for the 2027 year.

Members are encouraged to contact the Board of Directors if they are interested in serving as a chair, co-chair, or committee member for any of the following 2027 committees: Banquet & Year-End Awards, Budget, Bylaws, Club Equipment, Futurity, Inspectors, Membership, Midwest Horse Fair, Points, Promotion & Publications, Royalty & Hospitality, Scholarship, Show, Sponsorship, Wisconsin Horse Council, and the 2027 Midwest Regional Committee.

Sam TeBeest volunteered to serve as the 2027 Show Committee Chair. She also volunteered to chair the May show, provided she has assistance from another member. Lisa indicated that she is also willing to serve as a show chair, pending the final schedule for next year.

Wisconsin POAC Open Show Affidavit Proposal: Sam TeBeest presented a proposal for implementing a Wisconsin POAC Open Show Affidavit Program beginning in 2027. The proposed program would mirror the National POAC Open Show Program and allow current WPOAC members to earn year-end points by competing in Open classes at non-WPOAC shows. Exhibitors would be required to submit an affidavit form, class results, and a copy of the show bill to receive credit.

To be eligible, both the exhibitor and owner would need to be current WPOAC members prior to submitting an affidavit. The program would be open to all breeds, not just POAs. Only Open classes would be eligible for points, although results from Open classes held at other breed association shows could also be submitted.

The program would consist of four divisions: Youth In-Hand, Youth Riding, Adult In-Hand, and Adult Riding. Affidavits would be required to be signed and submitted monthly, along with a show bill, by the 5th day of the following month.

The proposed nomination fee would be \$20 per horse-and-rider combination, plus a \$10 fee for each division entered.

No formal motion was made to adopt the program at this time.

Club Insurance: Brenda made a motion to approve the renewal of our insurance coverage before the May Madness show.

Next Meeting: Members discussed the proposed date of July 11, 2026 for the next meeting. The tentative location will be the Wautoma World War II Memorial Building pending availability. The cost will be \$10. Brenda made a motion to accept the proposed date and location. Sam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sam TeBeest made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Lisa Hirschman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:43pm.