

WPOAC Membership Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2026

Members in attendance included Kathleen Enders, Jackie Guthrie, Brenda Haldemann, Jon Haldemann, Lisa Hirschman, Patty Jacobson (via Zoom), Brantley Nysse, Kooper Nysse, Bonnie Shepherd, and Samantha TeBeest.

The meeting was called to order at 1:22 pm by Jackie Guthrie on July 11, 2026, at Tower Lanes in Beaver Dam, WI.

The Secretary's Report: Minutes from the April Membership Meeting were emailed to members and posted on the website for review prior to the meeting. Lori Helmer submitted the following correction to the minutes: "Wisconsin Horse Council meetings can now be attended via Zoom as well as in person or by phone." 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: \$12,599.91, Savings: \$2,828.93, Axos High-yield Savings: \$10,096.47, Futurity Checking: \$3,513.68, Futurity Savings: \$2,956.88, Scholarship: N/A, and Royalty: \$4,000.

Lisa reported that during this period, the club received \$12,857.00 in entry income from the May Show and \$16,661.00 in income from the June Show. Profit and Loss statements were prepared by Lisa for both shows. The May Show had a loss of approximately \$371. There are still approximately \$7,200 in outstanding bills from the June Show that have yet to be paid. The club accrues approximately \$30 per month in interest from the Axos High-Yield Savings account.

Brenda asked about the reported loss at West Salem. Jackie explained that entries were lower than expected and the stalls were not filled. Expenses were also higher due to one judge's higher fee and required hotel accommodations, which had not been booked in advance. The club also incurred expenses for a ring steward and announcer, as well as additional shavings that had to be purchased during the show.

The balance for the Futurity Checking account is \$3,513.68. This includes the initial deposit to open the account and approximately \$1,500 in sponsorship income. Sam will contact the bank to determine why the account is being charged a \$5 monthly service fee.

Sam TeBeest made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Brenda Haldemann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

Banquet & Year-End Awards: Sam TeBeest presented an update on banquet planning. She is still waiting to hear back from The Osthoff regarding an estimate for hosting the banquet and whether the club will continue to receive a discounted rate now that Alison is no longer involved in banquet planning.

Sam also obtained a bid from Racer's Hall in Plymouth. The meal cost would be \$35 per person, including three meats, two salads, two sides, and dinner rolls, as well as 5.5% sales tax and 18%

gratuity. The hall rental would be \$275, which includes a bartender. Racer's Hall is approximately 10 minutes from The Osthoff for members who may still wish to stay there, and other affordable lodging options are available in the area. If the club chooses Racer's Hall, Sam will contact area hotels to inquire about securing a room block for members. Sam also asked for recommendations for other banquet venue options in Central Wisconsin.

Discussion was held regarding whether the cost of The Osthoff would outweigh the cost of Racer's Hall. Other venues discussed included 3 Bears Resort, Holiday Inn in Stevens Point, and the Green Bay casino.

The two date options discussed were November 14 and November 21. Lisa made a motion that, in the event that the information and pricing from The Osthoff are the same as or reasonable compared to last year, the banquet be held there, preferably on November 14, and if that date is not available, then November 21. If neither date is available at The Osthoff, or the club does not receive the same discounted rate as last year, the banquet will be held at Racer's Hall in Plymouth, WI. Brenda seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sam presented a new in-hand award in honor of Ali Henning, sponsored by her mother, Linda Antonicci. The award will be presented to the highest-pointing In-Hand Trail Pony. In addition to a traveling trophy, the recipient will receive a certificate toward an award item of their choice. The certificate amount is to be determined after Linda reviews the tiered award options.

Budget Committee: No update was given at this time.

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

Futurity/Maturity Committee: Sam TeBeest presented the Futurity Committee report. The 65th Anniversary Futurity Show will feature a full-color commemorative program booklet created by Sam TeBeest and Tammy Virzi. A limited run of 70 copies will be printed, including 50 copies for exhibitor welcome bags. The booklet will include advertisements, the class list, space for exhibitors to record placings, and recognition of futurity class sponsors. Only one additional ad space was purchased outside of those auctioned. Enough funds were raised through the auction to cover the cost of printing.

Sam shared that the Futurity Committee created a new design for the checks this year featuring stars to tie into the "Stars of Tomorrow" theme. Neck ribbons are scheduled to be delivered, and 100X Equine orders are also scheduled to be delivered soon.

The high-point awards for the show will be rolling suitcases, with a camp table awarded to the reserve high-point recipient.

Sam made a motion to amend the 2026 Futurity Rules to state that membership is not required for owners and exhibitors participating in open all-breed classes. The motion was seconded by Lisa Hirschman. The motion passed with six in favor and one opposed.

Midwest Horse Fair Committee: No update was given at this time. Bonnie Shepard shared that sign-up for demo participants typically takes place in the fall. Jay and Sara should follow up on the sign-up process and ensure that stalls have been requested, if they have not already done so.

Membership Committee: Kathleen Enders reported that the club currently has 112 members, including 42 youth and 70 adult members. Most memberships are family-based. Total membership is below the 2025 total of 131 members. Current membership income is \$920.

Promotion Committee: Kathleen Enders presented an update on the Promotions Committee. She will be working on the Fall newsletter, with a planned release in mid- to late September. The newsletter will include committee updates, a reminder about officer elections, show recaps featuring high-point winners, raffle winners, royalty activity photos, sponsor thank-yous, futurity class winner photos, placings, and payouts. It will again be published online via Facebook and the club website. Kathleen asked anyone with content to contribute to contact her.

Points: Show results for the May Show were published on the website. June results will be posted soon.

Royalty: Sam TeBeest presented the Youth Royalty report. The committee has approximately \$4,000 in its account, which has been switched over into Sam's name. The committee also received a \$1,500 sponsorship from the Wisconsin Horse Council to support activities and send youth royalty members to clinics and educational events next year.

Sam noted that youth participation in activities and at shows this year, including assisting with award presentations, was lower than expected. As a result, she is working to revise the royalty application for 2027. The updated application will clearly outline the responsibilities and expectations of youth selected for the program. The proposed structure will include one King, one Queen, and four supporting positions, which may be filled by boys or girls. The application will also be open to out-of-state members to encourage a broader pool of applicants.

Sam shared that she reached out to past stall sponsors for the August show, but several past sponsors declined to sponsor again this year. Jackie Guthrie, Patty Jacobson, Jenna Seppa (two stalls), and Bonnie Shepard graciously sponsored stalls for this year's show. Royalty members were notified that they should be available for photos when presenting checks and neck ribbons, as well as for carrying flags during the National Anthem both mornings at the show.

The sign-up sheets have been prepared for the Egg & Spoon and Pie in the Face competitions. The Egg & Spoon competition is sponsored by Amber Hansen. Awards will include a bridle bag, water bottle, and Kwik Trip gift card.

Show Committee: Jackie Guthrie presented the Show Committee report. The May Madness Show lost approximately \$371, as discussed earlier in the meeting. The June Show is estimated to make approximately \$1,200.

Kathleen shared feedback from the May and June Show surveys. The May Show received 19 responses, with 12 respondents being POA exhibitors and one being an open exhibitor. Some respondents indicated they did not attend due to scheduling conflicts or personal commitments. Positive feedback included the dog showmanship class on Friday night and the show finishing at a reasonable time. Challenges and frustrations included disorganized check-in and check-out, the lack of porta potties this year, and the arena needing to be dragged more frequently.

The June Show survey received 18 responses. Brenda provided feedback during the meeting that she noticed the female judges conversing during classes. Per POAC guidelines, judges are not to converse during classes. Lisa had reviewed these instructions with the judges before the start of the show. The incident should be reported to the National POAC office.

The June Show survey also noted that check-out was chaotic again. Jackie shared that Dawn declined to handle check-out at shows this year, so Lisa has taken over those duties. Additional feedback included frustrations with the show program not being used. Kathleen will share all survey responses with the Board in a Word document after she has had time to consolidate the responses.

Discussion was also held regarding incidents that occurred at the June Show and how similar situations could be addressed in the future. It was also asked who won the 50/50 raffle at the June Show. Sam will track down the name of the winner.

Jon and Sam provided an update on the August Stars of Tomorrow Show. Jon shared that all staff has been hired. He is still working on finding a tractor or other equipment to rent for dragging the arena.

There was discussion regarding the shavings order due to the need for additional shavings at the May Show. A reminder will be shared with exhibitors that they must reserve extra shavings prior to the show and that additional shavings may not be available at this show. Exhibitors are welcome to purchase and bring their own extra shavings.

Sam shared that the silent auction will be a regular silent auction rather than a dessert silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction will benefit the Youth Royalty Fund. The 50/50 raffle and Schneider's gift card raffles will also be available.

Youth Royalty will host a breakfast on Saturday morning to benefit the Youth Royalty Fund.

Midwest Regional Committee: Jackie Guthrie and Jon Haldemann shared an update on show planning. Jackie noted that while her term as President is ending, she will continue to fulfill her duties as Immediate Past President and remain on the Regional Committee to fulfill her commitment as co-chair.

Jon shared that he is working on sponsorship requests from Delta Defense and West Bend Mutual Insurance. Sam shared that Robin Krogman may be a good resource for additional sponsorship ideas.

Brenda Haldemann purchased and donated Leadline participation awards. Discussion was held regarding potential class awards, and Sam suggested golf towels as an option. An official budget has not yet been established to begin ordering and purchasing awards. Sam would like to get a company to sponsor the awards and then they can also include their own personal branding on them as a perk for sponsoring.

The preliminary class list developed by Jackie and Sam includes 228 classes, not including any futurity classes.

The logo and slogan contest entry form is live, and entries are due September 1. Entries are open to all members, with details and the entry form posted on the Regional event page. Voting will take place at the November Membership Meeting.

A committee meeting will be held virtually in September or October to further discuss these topics.

Scholarship Committee: Kathleen gave an update on behalf of the committee. Sara Pipkorn will be collecting scholarship applications this year, and Kathleen is working to update the application form. Once updated, the form will be available on the website. The due date will be set before the banquet to allow the committee sufficient time to review the applications and announce the scholarship recipients during the awards ceremony.

Trophies & Ribbons Committee: Brenda Haldemann shared an update on ribbons and trophies. She emailed a report to the Board of Directors and provided printed copies at the meeting showing the number of ribbons and trophies handed out at each show. She should not need to order any additional ribbons for the remainder of the season. Approximately 400 ribbons were donated by a woman in La Crosse for the club to use. Brenda will need to iron and rework the ribbons before they are ready for use.

Brenda determined that trophies were not being taken at the May Show because they had not been unwrapped. At the June Show, she unwrapped the trophies, and the youth began taking them.

Wisconsin Horse Council Committee: Bonnie Shepherd presented an update. She shared that Midwest Horse Fair was one of the top five finalists for the Best Event in the Best of Western Horsemen magazine contest. Voting will take place July 13–18 at whmag.com, with members able to vote once per day.

She shared additional details about the 2027 Midwest Horse Fair, including a reminder that stall placement is based on the club's score from the previous year. The score is based on stall decorations, cleanliness, and other factors, as well as the actual demo score. In her opinion, the club does well in stall scoring but tends to lose points in the demo portion.

The Judges Seminar will be held again in Stevens Point. Youth with a Wisconsin Horse Council membership will be admitted free.

Lori Helmer is working on a sponsorship application for the 2027 Midwest Regional through the Wisconsin Horse Council. Dawn Scully and Dan Grunewald will host an educational event on Thursday evening of the regional to fulfill the educational requirement.

Old Business

Secretary Position: Sam's mother, Jenny D., is unable to fill this role so it will remain vacant until the November meeting.

Zoom Guidelines for Membership Meetings: This item was tabled again. Lisa is still working on a bylaw revision proposal.

Wisconsin POAC Open Show Affidavit Proposal: Sam TeBeest recapped her 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.

A formal motion to adopt this program will be presented at the November meeting. The guidelines and information on this are posted under the July Meeting event on the website.

Spring 2027 Open Show Fundraiser: Sam TeBeest provided a recap of the Spring 2027 “Come As You Are” Open Show. Sam TeBeest and Nikki Seehafer will serve as the event organizers and co-chairs.

The event will be held on March 27, 2027, at Heartland Equestrian Center in Custer, Wisconsin. It will be a one-day open show held as a fundraiser for Wisconsin POAC and will not be eligible for POAC points. Megan Sacia will serve as the judge for a flat fee of \$600, which will include her travel, judging fee, and accommodations.

There were some issues with the facility receiving the deposit check. Sam sent a certified check for \$300 to reserve the facility. Lisa is monitoring the account to determine whether the other check has been cashed.

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. Sam TeBeest will serve as the 2027 Show Committee Chair.

- **March 27, 2027** at Heartland Equestrian Center in Custer [No POAC Points]
 - Chairs: Sam TeBeest & Nikki Seehafer
- **May 29–31, 2027** at La Crosse Interstate Fairgrounds in West Salem
 - May 29–30: Pleasure Show; Chair: Sam TeBeest & Jackie Guthrie
 - May 31: Ranch Show; Chair: Colleen Urban
- **August 6–8, 2027** at Alliant Energy Center in Madison
 - Chairs: Jon Haldemann & Jackie Guthrie

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of hosting additional shows in 2027. Concerns were expressed regarding the club’s current financial position and whether it is financially stable enough to host the Regional, in addition to any additional shows.

Suggestions were made to reduce the number of judges to help control expenses. The May Show would tentatively have three judges instead of four. The Regional would have three judges and one relief judge who would rotate in as needed.

Lisa expressed concern that a budget has not yet been established for the Regional and that the club does not currently have an overall operating budget for 2027. Without these budgets, it is difficult to effectively plan for and determine anticipated income and expenses.

If the club decides to host a fourth show, additional dates and location options will need to be explored. The fourth show would tentatively be held in early September. As Show Committee Chair, Sam will contact West Salem, Oshkosh, Elkhorn, Deerfield, Custer, and other potential locations to determine their available dates for 2027. Patty will contact Black River Falls regarding their available dates.

All proposed dates, locations, and show types will be presented for a vote at the November meeting.

2027 Committee Chairs: Committee chairs are needed for all committees for the 2027 year. The sign up sheet is active on the website and has been shared with members. Sign up [here](#).

Members are encouraged to sign up 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.

New Business

2027 Judges Contracts: Lisa has drafted a standard contract for all judges going forward. The contract will clearly outline what is and is not included in the agreed-upon fee.

Judges' meals and refreshments will be covered if purchased through the show food vendor. A lodging allowance will be provided at a set amount, including reimbursement for no more than X number of nights. Reimbursement will be issued after the final day of the show upon submission of proof of payment from the hotel and the name of the hotel. Judges will be responsible for booking their own accommodations.

The contract will also include guidelines outlining expectations for judges' conduct and compliance with National POAC rules.

General contracts for other hired staff will also be drafted. Lisa will share all of these with the board of directors. Discussion then moved to encouraging more volunteers in 2027 and beyond. Ideas were presented for ways to increase volunteer participation and reduce the club's reliance on paid staff.

2027 Membership Form: Kathleen Enders is working to update the membership form for the November meeting. She requested that a specific line be added to clarify who qualifies for the free membership option. Discussion was held regarding the financial impact of offering free memberships, as the club is losing potential membership revenue by offering this option. Discussion then moved to removing the option completely.

Kathleen shared that 15 free memberships were given away this year, which could have resulted in approximately \$300–\$525 in additional income for the club. Sam TeBeest made a motion to remove the Free Membership option from the 2027 Membership Form. Brenda Haldemann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Hirschman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Kathleen Enders seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.