

Minutes of the Pony Of the Americas Club, Inc., Board of Directors Meeting

Sept. 24, 2025, Gordyville USA, Gifford, Illinois

(Approved Minutes)

Meeting called to order at 8:05am CT by President Scott Shingleton.

In attendance: Darrin Schaefer, Diana Peaton, Tracy Filla, Pam Klein, Tommy Tomlin, Kent Rorick, Allen Killion, Tracy Keen, Linzy Zahm, Jess Drish Kata. Bev Tabor was in attendance by phone.

Motion and second to accept the minutes of the July 2, 2025 Congress board meeting, with the following corrections: adding Klein's name to the list of board members present; noting Rorick's No vote for approval of the Feb. 21 board minutes; Keen's No vote on the futurity location; the Ranch *Division's* three-year trial is up; correcting the spelling of several names (Michelle Payne, Mackenzie Jenkins, Terry Thorson, Director Tabor); and correcting a few other typos. In favor: Unanimous.

Motion and second to accept the minutes of the July 24, 2025 call-in board meeting, with correction of the spelling of Brandi Herndon's name and adding the names of directors in attendance. In favor: Unanimous.

Financial report

Director Schaefer provided a balance sheet and P&L, and noted that a few Congress sponsorships were still out.

Discussion on some of the expenses for Congress, such as meals and hotels for show staff, and the possibilities for cutting costs to have a more profitable show. What Tulsa charges for food is what we have to pay. And when we run two arenas, we need staff for the second arena. The club does get some money from Visit Tulsa.

For the 2025 West World, profits are approx. \$8,000.

Discussion on possibly raising fees to cover costs such as for the year-end magazine and to potentially offer higher pay to be able to hire and retain new office staff. The club could offer multi-year memberships as other breeds do, and look at family memberships vs. individual memberships. Maybe cut down on the number of magazines we send per household? But there's a minimum number of magazines we need to print to get a price break. For the last magazine, we printed 800 magazines and shipped about 700.

The board can change fees, but if we want to charge a separate fee for a youth membership, we should look at changing Rule 1 in the rulebook. Director Tabor said the finance committee can review the current fee structure and make recommendations to the board, aiming for Nov. 1 in order to get membership fees set for 2026.

Office report

POAC is having a hard time keeping office staff. The last two office hires have left after a short period of time. The last person, a bookkeeper, left after a week to take a higher paying job. Someone with QB experience has been hard to find for what POAC pays. With regard to hiring, Director Drish Kata noted that using a headhunter didn't work for her business. Can we look at colleges? Temp services?

It was also noted that the POAC has a new copier in the office.

Director Zahm reported that the software is working better, and it's getting closer to where it needs to be.

Finance committee

Director Tabor noted that the finance committee had asked the treasurer for information and had not received a response, making it difficult for the committee to come up with a budget and offer financial recommendations to the board. The committee would like to see bank statements/check register, along with other documentation.

POAC used to have financial information for the membership at the general meeting at the convention. We have not provided that for our members in a number of years.

Motion and second to have an accountant do a year-end review. Motion passed, with Peaton and Keen voting No. Schaefer abstained.

Futurity committee

Director Drish Kata reported that sponsorships for the futurity are about \$22,000, with approx. 277 stalls, which is an increase from the previous year, with some transit stalls. The yearling and 2-year-old classes are large this year. The futurity will be back in Gordyville for 2026 and will be in Des Moines starting in 2027.

Promotions committee

Wendi Schmid gave the committee report. They have looked at several projects including creating branding guidelines; updating the POAC website; social media posts (e.g., event reminders, holidays); and the newsletter. It has been difficult to get information for the newsletter, so it may be put on hold for now. Suggested that the POAC could budget for a new website, and we could do the website in phases. With a new website, the club could have a membership portal, offer merchandise, and other features that are not possible now. The POAC has a lot of info on the current website that's not stored anywhere else, so that will need to be addressed. The committee would like to have a budget to pay for things such as brochures and advertising. We also need to update the POA logo to a more useful format.

Motion by Director Keen and second by Filla to spend up to \$200 to update the crossed ponies logo from a jpg to a higher quality digital file (such as eps). In favor: Unanimous.

The board took a 10-minute break and reconvened at 10:20am.

Sponsorship committee

The committee is looking to raise approx. \$100,000 in sponsorships. They proposed several levels of corporate sponsorship, from \$5,000 to \$25,000, with recognition at the shows, on the POAC website, and on social media. But it's difficult to ask for corporate sponsorship money if we don't have an updated website, and we need to ensure that we can follow through and that sponsor logos can be posted quickly.

Discussion on designating the *Black Hand and Beyond* podcast, hosted by Director Rorick, to be the national podcast of the POAC. POAC can't claim the podcast numbers unless it's the national podcast. The committee saw this as an opportunity to recognize sponsors on the podcast. The board will continue this discussion at the next meeting.

Inspection committee

Director Peaton noted that Sara Gronski and Lexi Yu had met the requirements for national inspectors and asked the board to approve them. Director Keen made a motion to accept Sara Gronski and Lexi Yu as national inspectors, second by Drish Kata. In favor: Unanimous.

Breeders committee

There was no report from the breeders committee.

Scholarship committee

Michelle Payne gave the scholarship committee report. The account balance as of August 28, 2025 was \$9,571.36 with the \$30,000 CD currently drawing interest. As approved at the July meeting, four \$500 scholarships were awarded this year. Discussion that the scholarships are awarded at Congress, but it would be good if the winners could be announced at their high schools in May. The committee would also like to look at the possibility of offering \$1,000 scholarships.

Rules committee

Director Killion summarized the rules proposals that had been discussed by the rules committee this year. He also noted several proposals that were being rewritten to be resubmitted to the committee.

For the Equestrians With Disabilities proposal, the committee felt that we could use program, but the POAC should start smaller and expand the program later as needed. The committee requested that the proposal be rewritten and resubmitted.

A proposal had also been submitted to make changes to IBC shows and to specify that 18&U classes were required in addition to the 19&O classes listed in the rule. Also, having an option for fewer halter classes might encourage exhibitors from other breeds to show with us. Another proposal was to offer awards to POAs who are participating in disciplines such as rodeo, jumping, and dressage and who don't necessarily show at POA shows. The families would be required to be POA members, which could bring more members to the POAC and might also keep more ponies with their papers. Both of these proposals were rewritten to include more details, and the rules committee will review.

A tracking exemption was proposed for halter and hunter in hand, and the rules committee had requested that this proposal be rewritten to allow a tracking exemption for halter only.

Director Killion presented the following rules proposals for the board to consider:

1. Proposal to increase the number of points at Congress to ensure that other show combinations do not receive more points than Congress.

Change Rule 70.O.3 to read as follows: "This show shall be pointed as three **B&P shows** with each judge's card given **B&P** points (see Rule **62**). Exception: All Grand and Reserve classes. Additional placings beyond the six placings of a **B&P** show will be: 7th place – 12 points; 8th place – 11 points; 9th place – 10 points; 10th place – 9 points."

Director Klein noted that the wording should be corrected to read: "This show shall **also** be pointed as three B&P shows..." and noted that the proposal should say "see Rule **65**" instead of Rule 62.

Director Keen made a motion to accept this proposal with the changes indicated, second by Tomlin. All in favor, except Klein who voted No.

2. Proposal to add Rule 70.H.2 to prevent ties that occur with the combined Junior, Senior, and Overall halter placings at the National Congress. (The board had previously agreed to use this method at the 2025 Congress, and the Congress results were more accurate.)

This proposal would help to eliminate ties and give ponies a true combined placing overall. The proposal would place to six ponies, if available, with a graduated system if fewer ponies are exhibited. These points are used only to calculate the combined placing, not to award additional national points: 1st – 6 points; 2nd – 5 points; 3rd – 4 points; 4th – 3 points; 5th – 2 points; 6th – 1 point.

Motion and second to approve the point system to calculate the combined placing at the National Congress.

In favor: Unanimous.

3. Proposal to change to W/T Division, Rule 106.B.4 as follows: "All exhibitors in the Walk-Trot Division are eligible to participate only in the following classes: all classes listed in Sec. C.2 below, as well as **other classes designated as only Walk-Trot**, Halter, Showmanship, Hunter in Hand, Costume, Driving, gymkhana classes, and Yearling/2 Year Old In-Hand Trail and Longe Line."

Director Keen made a motion to accept the proposal as written, seconded by Filla. All in favor, with an abstention by Drish Kata.

4. The Ranch Division 3-year trial period ends in 2025. Members seem to like the ranch classes, and we have had good participation. Motion and second to accept the Ranch Division. The notes in the proposal that relate to the trial period will be removed when the information is included in the rulebook. The new Ranch Division information will replace the information currently in the rulebook for Ranch Riding, Rule 126, except that the Ranch Riding patterns will be kept.

In favor: Unanimous.

Lunch was delivered at about 11:50am and board members grabbed lunch. The meeting then continued as the board finished lunch.

Discussion of the **year-end awards budget**. The budget for 2024 was approx. \$20,000.

Motion and second to have a budget of \$25,000 for the 2025 year-end awards. In favor: Unanimous.

Director Keen, as chair of the **hearing committee**, noted that a complaint had been filed against the board alleging that a candidate should not have been allowed on the ballot in the 2025 election for MidWest director. The hearing committee met on Sept. 17 to discuss.

Director Klein noted that, per the rulebook, a complaint must be filed within 30 days of an alleged violation for non-show rules. The complaint had been filed 60 days after the alleged violation and was therefore invalid. The hearing committee meeting was also invalid because the board were the accused, and all of the hearing committee members are board members. Per the rulebook, no member of the hearing committee may preside in a matter involving himself/herself.

Director Rorick made a motion to accept the election results, with Terry Thorson as the new director for the MidWest Region. Tomlin seconded. In favor: Rorick, Tomlin, Filla, Klein, Peaton, Killion, Tabor. Opposed: Zahm. Abstentions: Keen, Drish Kata. Motion passed.

President Shingleton thanked directors Tomlin and Schaefer for their service on the POAC board. Motion and second to adjourn the meeting. In favor: Unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm CT. *Minutes submitted by Klein, for Schaefer.*

Following are the minutes for the second part of the meeting with the new board in place. Tommy Tomlin and Darrin Schaefer moved off the board; Ryan Cate was seated on the board from the MidAmerica region and Terry Thorson is the new director for the MidWest region.

Meeting called to order by Director Scott Shingleton at 12:45pm CT.
In attendance: Directors Kent Rorick, Ryan Cate, Pam Klein, Tracy Filla, Diana Peaton, Terry Thorson, Linzy Zahm, Jess Drish Kata, Tracy Keen, Allen Killion. Director Beverly Tabor was in attendance by phone.
A number of POA members were in the audience.

Election of officers, committees

Director Keen made a motion to nominate Shingleton as president, Peaton seconded.
Director Cate made a motion to nominate Rorick as president, Klein seconded.
Motion and second to close nominations for president. Vote was taken by paper ballot and votes were counted by two of the members in attendance.
Director Shingleton was elected president for the upcoming year.

Director Rorick made a motion to nominate Cate for vice president, Filla seconded.
Director Keen made a motion to nominate Peaton for vice president, Filla also seconded this.
Motion and second to close nominations for vice president. Vote was taken by paper ballot and votes were counted by two of the members in attendance.
Director Peaton was elected vice president.

Director Keen made a motion to nominate Tabor for secretary/treasurer, Klein seconded.
No other candidates were nominated, and nominations were closed.
Director Tabor was elected as secretary/treasurer.

President Shingleton appointed Director Killion as rules committee chair.
The rules committee chair will serve on the hearing committee per the bylaws. The board voted by paper ballot for the additional four directors on the hearing committee: these are Directors Keen, Filla, Cate, and Drish Kata. Director Killion will be the chair of the hearing committee and Director Keen will be the vice chair.

2026 West World bid

Director Klein presented the bid for the 2026 West World to be held in Longmont, Colo., June 13-14, 2026. This was the only West World bid received for 2026. Arena rental fees have increased and are now \$300/day and stall fees have increased; otherwise, this bid is very similar to previous West World bids from Colorado. The Rocky Mountain Regional would be held concurrently, which would split facility fees and other costs between both shows. The dates will be the same as the East World for 2026, as these are the hereditary dates for the Longmont facility; however, these two shows are more than 500 miles apart (~1,200 miles apart) as allowed per the rulebook. Director Filla made a motion to accept the Colorado bid for the 2026 West World, seconded by Peaton. Motion passed, with Director Killion voting No.

2026 Congress showbill

Director Killion presented a draft of the 2026 Congress showbill. Classes will run Wednesday, July 1, through Wednesday, July 8. Discussion on cutting down on overtime and having yearling long line in the Mustang arena, while jumping classes are in the Ford Truck arena. But both jumping and long line have a lot of interest, and we should try to have both in the Ford Truck arena. With the approval of the Ranch Division by the board, W-T ranch classes could be added to the Congress schedule, and it was suggested to move ranch classes to Tuesday. A few other required classes that are missing will be added to the showbill. Wording has been changed from "open" to "all-breed" to make the distinction between all-breed classes and POA classes such as open jumping and open costume.

Director Killion noted comments from Michelle of Broke Girls regarding the 2025 Congress, including comments on the pinwheel obstacle, difficulty of finding judges for what we can pay, and suggestion to have four judges for the McClaren. Members said they would love to see more judges, as sometimes exhibitors are dumped by one judge. Question on how that would be handled by the software. For McClaren/Trout futurities, it was suggested to look into four judges.

Members suggested ways to approach judging costs: For the Color Breed, judges accept a fee and they are there the whole time. Another idea is to look online at approximate costs to travel the distance to show, offer judges an amount for travel, and let judges make travel arrangements.

Short discussion on leadline trail. Leadline has become more competitive. Members suggested increasing the difficulty of patterns where you can, but keeping safety in place. Judges should use maneuver score to reward better exhibitors.

Futurity entries/fees

Director Cate brought up the recent question of futurity entries and how it was handled. The futurity committee was split on several situations in this year's futurity. The board had been asked to decide whether to allow the entries in question to show or not. Discussion centered on some these issues: the rulebook and the forms given to entrants had conflicting information; if following the rulebook, which does not mention a postmark date, then folks who used the postmark date to send in entries should technically be disallowed to show; precedent had been set in previous years of allowing folks to pay late fees and show; question of board members showing against those ponies and having a conflict of interest in voting.

Director Cate made a motion to allow the futurity exhibitors under discussion to show, seconded by Thorson. In favor: Rorick, Cate, Klein, Filla, Peaton, Thorson. Opposed: Zahm, Keen, Killion. Abstained: Drish Kata, Tabor. Motion passed.

Congress awards

A member commented on a youth award at Congress that was not comparable to the adult award in the same division. This led to discussion of where saddles were purchased and cost of saddles for Congress. Recently, the club has used RS Saddlery and Schneiders. Director Cate will reach out to RS Saddlery and possibly another saddle company to work on a deal for future years at Congress.

Motion to adjourn by Director Rorick, seconded by Director Cate. In favor: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm. *Minutes submitted by Director Klein for Secretary Tabor (who was attending via phone).*