Minutes of the POAC Board of Directors Meeting **(Minutes not yet approved)**

Zoom Call, May 17, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:12pm EST by President Scott Shingleton.

Roll call, present: Directors Beverly Tabor, Linzy Zahm, Terry Thorson, Kent Rorick, Ryan Cate, Tracy Keen, Tracy Filla, Pam Klein, Diana Peaton, Allen Killion. Jess Drish Kata joined the meeting a few minutes late.

Also present: CEO Bill Harless and Kirstin Schaefer, marketing/promo committee.

Finance report. Director Tabor gave a quick financial report. The club had negative income for April; however, it was pointed out that entries for national events will start bringing money in.

Discussion of options for setting up investment accounts. CEO Harless had talked to Regions Bank and reported on their business checking account and money market options. The finance committee also presented the proposal from Hope Gerdes at Smith Moore. Director Tabor assured the board that Ms. Gerdes will not make money off of the investments. Director Cate made a motion, seconded by Tabor, to invest $250,000 with Smith Moore, leaving approximately $89,000 in the operating fund. In favor: Peaton, Tabor, Filla, Klein, Cate, Thorson, Rorick. Opposed: Keen, Zahn, Drish Kata, Killion, Shingleton. Motion passed 7-5. The brokerage account with Smith Moore will be set up with $250,000. Director Tabor will get this done as soon as possible.

Per the March 29 meeting, POAC will also open a business account at Bank of America so that the club will have a bank in Tulsa to deposit funds from Congress.

Budgets need to be created for 2027, and the finance committee will begin working on these immediately after Congress. The P&L for the Convention will also be worked on.

The outstanding Congress account from 2025 has made a payment, but the account is still not settled. The club will follow up for the remainder of the payment.

CEO report. CEO Bill Harless reported that he has been reviewing the website proposals. He has been unable to meet with the current web provider due to health issues but will continue to try to get this done. He questioned exactly what the website should allow members to do through a member portal or for the general public to do and look at on the website. If we just want the website to look different, we can get that done fairly quickly. But, if we want a member portal and other features, we need to have a better idea of what we want.

The 2026 stud book has been put together and is being reviewed, and it should be available soon.

2026 Congress. Director Cate reported that stall reservations and entries are open. The judges are lined up, with one judge declining and a replacement being hired. Golf carts have sold out, but we are checking with another company. The photographer is set. Awards are coming in. The hotel is the Hampton Inn & Suites Tulsa Central, and the club just needs to get a booking code. The bid for printing the show programs was good, and they'll be spiral bound this year. Director Keen suggested reminding members that points are higher this year due to the change in the rules. The marketing/promo committee asked if they could work more closely with the Congress committee. They will contact the CEO to discuss this request.

Director Keen asked about the drug fees per pony/rider combination. Discussion that the club needs to not lose money on drug fees. Some factors affecting cost include whether a vet is on call or stays at the Expo Center, whether the vet has an assistant, and how many samples are sent in. All samples drawn should be sent in. Ponies who test positive but are at or under the allowed limit are OK.

Motion by Director Cate, second by Tabor, that any excess drug fee monies collected would be put in an account in case of litigation. In favor: Unanimous. Director Tabor will take care of this and add an account to the chart of accounts.

Director Drish Kata suggested forming a committee to look into drug testing and the drug use rules in the rulebook, as these have not been reviewed recently. Drish Kata will be the chair, and Director Cate will also be on the committee. Rosslyn Spencer Biggs may also be asked to join.

State baskets will be auctioned off at Congress; clubs can also provide Regional baskets.

2027 Convention. We are awaiting word from Darrin Schaefer concerning the 2027 Convention contract and any price breaks we could get for a multi-year contract at Hotel Julien Dubuque. Having a separate Hall of Fame luncheon will be too expensive, and may draw a smaller audience, so we will keep the HOF presentation at the awards banquet. CEO Harless suggested we try to find members or others who would present seminars at little or no cost to the club. Director Zahm will email the survey results from the 2026 Convention to the board after this meeting.

Marketing/promo committee. The SOP could be redone to review timelines and revisit who gives approval for information/posts going out. We need to be mindful of the availability of committee members and their time. Brief discussion on removing the executive committee from this and adding the CEO to approve posts. This discussion was tabled until the CEO meets with the committee.

Judges/inspectors. This will be reviewed and the website updated with the most current lists. CEO Harless is working with Pat Burton on the judges list and adding carded judges on the POAC website. It is current thru March. Director Klein requested that Mr. Burton be asked to meet with the board at the Congress to discuss horseIQ, how the process is supposed to work for judges to get carded and posted on the website, and the difficulty smaller clubs are having retaining judges. The board needs to investigate what we can do to retain our long-term judges.

Director Peaton noted that it's difficult to keep an updated state inspectors list and to ensure that inspectors are members. She would like to see the maintenance of this list go back to the office. CEO Harless will review the list and discuss with Peaton the issues she is encountering. Brief discussion on whether the club could do away with state inspectors entirely and just have national inspectors. Also, the club could consider having a program in which youth members could begin the process of becoming an inspector.

Podcast. A discussion on Director Rorick's podcast and how it might work with the POAC as a possible "official podcast" was tabled at the futurity meeting last year. Director Rorick noted that he had written to Joyce Bannister when she was CEO to get the podcast started. Director Thorson pointed out that podcasts are huge right now, and that we could move POA forward with an active podcast and updated website. CEO Harless will discuss this with Director Rorick and will follow up in the July board meeting at Congress.

Treasurer/secretary. Discussion on the proposed bylaws change to Article VIII, Sec. 1 that was presented by Director Cate at the 2026 National Convention. Motion by Director Zahm, seconded by Rorick, to have Director Cate amend his proposal and split the secretary and treasurer positions, but no longer include a parliamentarian. The secretary would take minutes but would have no vote in the executive committee. In favor: Unanimous. Director Cate asked to call a membership meeting at the Congress.

Other business. Director Thorson would like to ensure that the membership is made aware of any upcoming board meetings held via Zoom.

Director Drish Kata noted that the same person is no longer managing Gordyville. Prices could go up in the future, but are set for 2026.

The concern about a member's behavior at a national event last year has been addressed by the POAC attorney and a letter was sent to the individual.

CEO Harless will offer our temporary office employee a permanent position with POAC.

Motion to adjourn by Director Killion, second by Zahm. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:42pm EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Director Tabor.