

General Membership Meeting
March 28, 2026
VTSU- Castleton, Castleton, VT

Meeting called to order at 11:00 AM by President Jenn Baker, with 6 members in person and 6 over zoom.

Jenn introduced the officers and members of the board. Alyssa Rathbun has had to step down from her position on the board due to other obligations. We will look to fill her slot.

Secretary's report from the November membership meeting was read and approved.

Treasurer's report was given with an approximate balance of \$9420.00 after all year end expenses and website hosting renewal were paid. Bernie was called out of town and did not have her club folder with her. She apologized for this and will send out a summary once she is back with the information.

2026 Events discussion:

Show August 14-16, judges hired and signed contracts received. Class list is on the web, all other forms will be posted to the web once we hear back from ApHC that the show is confirmed and double pointed judge is chosen.

The spreadsheet with the list of jobs and one with the sponsors is posted in our shared Google drive for the board members to access in real time. Some folks are still having trouble with getting connected to the drive. Friday gatekeeper will now be Jill Harder.

Product donations for random class draws are complete with 160+ items donated (a large amount of them was from an anonymous donor).

Stall Raffle items currently are 5 grain certificates, 10 Dover cards, need more donations for the raffle, still time. No cash sponsors yet.

Hotel block is confirmed with the Marriot in Middlebury and they need to mention the VT Maple Classic Green Mt Appaloosa to get the special rate before July 15th.

Syrup – Neil is in charge of the acquisition of 20 half gallons and 20 quarts to award to every hi-point other than youth.

Prize ideas for the hi-points are welcomed. Bernie saw some real nice cutting boards at Cheshire for around \$30. Other ideas: Rope bag for Ranch, Tote bags, fleece cooler, bridle bag, garment bag, boot bag, food coolers, offer a variety of useful items. Embroidery lasts longer than screen printing and cricket stickers. Carts on wheels run \$40-\$100, Backpack that converts to a chair \$30-\$70. Everyone can be on the lookout for deals, we have 15 divisions for Ch/Res. Halter just gets syrup.

Carole mentioned there are lots of great deals at Chicks where we could create a bag of several items for a hi-point.

Exhibitor bags will be hand delivered to each exhibitor. They will have apples, carrots, cookie buttons, vet wrap, towel, weight tape. Will need about 75 bags assembled.

A new sportsmanship award is being planned, one for youth and one for adult. Neil is making 2 western saddle racks to donate for these awards. The criteria will be used by the show office staff, judges, ring crew and executive board to determine the recipients.

Other events: Possibly plan a trail ride for the fall with a Halloween theme to solve a mystery with food provided at the end. Need a location or link to a trail system.

Have a pot luck on Saturday night during the show? Need to check with the 4-H food booth to see if their dinner specials was a success last year. We don't want to impose on them. Maybe have a fire pit on the tractor pulling pad for Saturday evening social time.

Sarah Shue's daughter represented the ApHC youth board at our show and offered an activity for the youth. Possibly reach out to her and set up a formal youth activity.

Rules and Point System Changes for 2026:

Jenn suggested that we open up the Open division to include any breed of horse not just Appaloosas. They can show at any show, but MUST show at our show to qualify for a year end award. Discussion of the pros and cons took place. We have the regional awards to award just our Appaloosas. Deb/Jan made the motion to change the Open Division Awards to be the All Breed Open Division with the stipulation of competing in our show as a requirement to qualify for a year end award. Motion passed with no opposition.

Meeting Attendance requirement: we need to encourage our youth to attend and participate at meetings if we are going to cultivate a new generation of volunteers. Jan/Carole made the motion that youth 10 and over must attend a meeting and help at the show to qualify for a year end award. Motion passed unanimously.

We need to market these changes on social media, at local stables, the web site and other breed groups.

Recap of regional meeting: Jenn, Deb, Bernie, Lindsay and Carole attended. It was great to share ideas with the other clubs' members. A show manager/secretary handbook is in the works being created by Lori Wunderlich. She will also offer to train anyone who wants to learn the secretary position. Hosting a NE Regional group show or even the GEAR show in New England was tossed around. A good location is the hardest part to find. The group will reconvene on November 21st to share plans for 2027.

Old Business:

Our membership with the Vermont Horse Council is up for renewal. Bernie/Jan made the motion to renew the club's membership. Passed.

New Business:

Marketing to new members and opening up the All Breed division.

Fall meeting date: 10/18 at 11:00am @VTSU Bernie/Carole. Suspend the usual November date because of the World show and Regional meeting.

Other Business:

Vacant board seat – can leave open or nominate/elect someone today at this meeting of the membership (as per by-laws). Jan/Deb nominated Carole Dodge to fill the vacant two year board slot. Carole was elected.

We should do a review of our club's by-laws at the next meeting.

Board zoom meeting dates:

April 19th 7:00PM

May 17th 7:00PM

June 19th 7:00PM

July 19th 7:00PM

Meeting adjourned at 12:45. Jan/Carole

Everyone then enjoyed a pot luck lunch/snack.

Respectfully,
Deb Danforth
Secretary