

General Membership Meeting  
November 16, 2025  
VTSU- Castleton, Castleton, VT

Meeting called to order at 1:05 PM by VP Lindsay, with 9 members in person and 4 over zoom.

Secretary's report from the April membership meeting was read and approved. Bernie/Jan

Treasurer's report was given with a balance of \$16,528.94 and \$560 in the paypal account. Bernie is having some trouble finding the button to move the funds from paypal to the bank account. It appears that the show netted ~\$2855.09. The cash sponsors are what really make the difference in coming out ahead. The food booth at the show is critical to the show's operation and Bernie gave them a \$60 tip to show our appreciation. Report approved. Deb/Jenn

Year End point standings available on site with other handouts (newsletter, BOD list, agenda, etc.).

Nomination and election of officers and board members:

President: Jennifer Baker (Jan/Lindsay)  
Vice President: Lindsay Keyser (Jan/Jenn)  
Secretary: Deb Danforth (Jan/Jenn)  
Treasurer: Bernie Wiesen (Jan/Jenn)  
2 year Director: Alyssa Kennett Rathbun (Jenn/Jan)  
2 -1 year Directors: Jan Lingner, Neil Allen (Jenn/Deb)

Slate elected unanimously.

Jenn took over the meeting at this point.

Year End Awards Dinner: Discussion was held around dates and locations. Consensus was to return to the Bomoseen Lodge. Food was good, location was central. Lindsay will make the reservations again for January 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. Snow date to be 2/1. Deb will send out a flyer to receive the RSVPs for attendance.

Amount to spend on awards up for discussion. Last few years we have spent \$30/\$15 for awards. The treasury is up compared to last year. This triggered a discussion around membership and point fees. It was determined, we would leave the fees as is for now. Bernie did some math and if we leave the award amounts at 30/15 the total would be ~\$900, if we increase the amounts to 40/20 the cost would be ~\$1200.

Patricia/Bernie made a motion to increase the amounts spent on year end awards to \$40/\$20. Opened up for discussion. Bernie/Jan amended the motion to \$35/\$18. Motion passed. We will spend \$35/champion and \$18/reserve for 2025. Everyone winning awards should get their award requests to Deb. If it is something like a belt buckle that requires customization, she will need to know ASAP.

Jenn suggested that for 2026 we consider expanding the number of places we award for year end, with declining values. Potentially increasing the point fees per horse to cover the additional awards.

2025 Show discussion:

Changes to make – show secretary; simplify the entry form by taking off the stalls, campers and shavings. The holding area at the end of the ring for the pattern classes worked well, but not for the rail classes. Gate needs to be closed for safety. Good things – Patricia's two daughters were great to run

cards up the hill. Raffle still is a fun addition to make a little more money and get exhibitors together. Overall our group of workers works well together. The weather this year was great.

2026 ideas – Ask Lori Wunderlich to come back as secretary. Her expertise and credibility are invaluable. More syrup awards, bring back goodie bags, all Ranch events on Friday, all games events on one day, maybe showmanship on Saturday with regular trail on Sunday AM. Send out a survey or post asking for exhibitor's feedback. More changes to be discussed at the board level.

Sponsor ideas – Jenn discussed how other groups offer credit to exhibitors for the sponsor money they bring in or items they get donated. Nice incentive that works well for them.

Judge suggestions: DeeDee Douglas, Joan Werner, Kelly Chapman, Lori Gordon

Other events for the year? With some new members who don't show, we could certainly revive a pleasure trail ride. Those were fun in the past.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Granite State meeting 12/6.

Deb sent out an email to contacts and officers of the other New England, NY regional clubs, Lori Wunderlich and the BASO, to generate interest in having a meeting to get everyone together to discuss how to support each other's shows, how to help clubs with low numbers plan and hold a show so they don't have to cancel. Share ideas and brainstorm. She has heard back from everyone but GSAA. The idea is to try for January at a central location and have a zoom option. Interest so far has been positive.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40. Neil/Jan

Everyone then enjoyed a pot luck lunch/snack.

Respectfully,  
Deb Danforth  
Secretary