

AMERICAN SADDLEBRED VERSATILITY ASSOCIATION (VERSA)
Annual Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2026 – 7:05 PM CST (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM CST by Janet Thompson.

2. Roll Call:

- Board Members Present: Janet Thompson, Deidre Wood, Shiela Wetter, Rebecca Stewart, Katherine Costanza, Sandy Backer, Barbara Grannan, Paula Briney
- Board Members Absent: Darryl Leifheit, Shirley Hughes

3. Approval of Agenda: No changes were made to the agenda.

4. Appointment of New Board Members:

- A motion was made by Janet Thompson to appoint Sandy Backer, Barbara Grannan, Shirley Hughes and Paula Briney to the VERSA Board. All to serve a two-year term ending December 31, 2028. Motion was seconded by Katherine Costanza. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Introduction of VERSA Liaison to ASHBA Board of Directors

- Following the introduction of the new Board members, the introduction of the VERSA Liaison to the American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association Board of Directors was made.
- Sandy Currier, a VERSA member, will serve in this capacity. It was noted that she has also been newly elected to the Board of Directors of the American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association.

6. Treasurer's Report:

- The outgoing Treasurer Deidre Wood, presented the financial report for the year. A copy is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.
- Report highlights:
 - Membership fees are up by \$800 over the prior year
 - Major expenses for the year included the \$600 reinstatement fee to maintain 501-C3 status and the funding of the Haddie Frances Championship Award at the Monarch Horse Show.
- The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

7. Motion to Accept Donation:

- A motion was made by Janet Thompson to accept an \$800 donation to develop a website for VERSA.

- The motion was seconded by Rebecca Stewart.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Mae Condon Award:

Following approval of the donation, discussion took place regarding the Mae Condon Award. Michelle McFarland was recognized as this year's recipient of the Mae Condon Award. Her representative accepted the award at the American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association Conference.

- It was noted that Saddlebred sport horse interests were well represented at this year's conference.

Versa Scholarship Program:

A brief update on the VERSA Scholarship Program followed. It was noted that in 2026, there VERSA would award two scholarships. Each scholarship award would be in the amount of \$250. Funds would be used to fund attendance at clinics to further education in disciplines outside of traditional saddleseat.

8. New Business:

- **A. Member Poll**

A discussion was held regarding conducting a poll of VERSA members and website members to determine their interests and how they utilize their American Saddlebreds across various disciplines. The purpose of the poll is to help guide future programming and strategic initiatives. Further details will be developed and shared with the Board and posted on social media.

- **B. Academy Program Support**

A brief discussion took place regarding supporting academy programs and exploring how VERSA could assist in areas or disciplines that currently lack structured support. Additional information and potential proposals will be forthcoming for Board review at a later date.

- **C. Introduction of New Members**

Following the discussions, new members Katye and Katelyn Nesser and Ann Gossett introduced themselves and briefly spoke about their introduction to and involvement with the American Saddlebred horse. The Board expressed gratitude for their interest, participation, and attendance.

Addendum (Post-Meeting Amendment)

Due to the bank's official request and the omission of a motion to appoint the Treasurer during the original meeting, an electronic vote was conducted on February 20, 2026, to appoint **Sandy Backer** as Treasurer.

- **Motion:** To appoint Sandy Backer as the new Treasurer of VERSA.
 - **Result:** The motion passed with a majority vote of the board members.
 - **Sandy Backer replaces Deidre Wood, effective immediately.**
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9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. CST.

Next Meeting:

May 17, 2026, Zoom Format, time to be determined.

Minutes submitted by:

Katherine Costanza, Secretary

Date: February 23, 2026
