

## AERC Board Meeting Minutes, March 3, 2022

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. PST.

Board members present - Olin Balch DVM, Michael Campbell, Connie Caudill, Monica Chapman, Jessica Cobbley, Dawn Hilliard, Susan Garlinghouse DVM, Nick Kohut DVM, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, John Parke, Maribel Paulson, Naomi Preston, Tami Rougeau, Lisa Schneider, Christoph Schork, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Jan Stevens, Vance Stine, Laurie Underwood and Tim Worden. Incoming Board members present - Bridget Helms and Gunnar Frank. Executive Director Kathleen Henkel attended.

Christoph Schork made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Susan Garlinghouse DVM. Motion passed.

Susan Garlinghouse DVM made a motion which was seconded by Christoph Schork to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2022 Board meeting. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Christoph Schork and seconded by Susan Garlinghouse DVM to excuse for medical reasons Susan Kasemeyer and Angie Mikkelson, and also excuse Kelly Williams-Stehman and incoming BOD member Linda Rudolphi. Motion passed.

Chalice Coward was absent.

Announcements from Nick Kohut:

- Nick Kohut DVM thanked the Board members and the office staff for the help they provided to him over the past year.
- Nick Kohut DVM updated the Board concerning an email he had received from the California State Vet alerting him of the EIA outbreak in the state and recommending that equine events in several counties be limited for the next 28 days. Olin Balch DVM suggested that temperatures of horses be taken. Only one AERC ride will be affected, and ride manager Dave Nicholson has alerted the riders on his webpage.

Kathleen Henkel presented the statistical report.

Membership on 2/23/2021	3229
Membership on 2/23/2022	3250
Sanction fees as of 2/23/2021	\$ 8,860
Sanction fees as of 2/23/2022	\$10,060
Rider fees as of 2/23/2021	\$ 3,720
Rider fees as of 2/23/2022	\$ 4,258
New members as of 2/23/2021	227
New members as of 2/23/2022	202

Michael Campbell presented a motion from the Rules Committee that will correct and refine existing rule 10.1.1.

Current rule –

10.1.1 All juniors, sponsored and un-sponsored, must wear approved safety helmets (approved by AHSA, PCA, ANSI Z90.4, or Snell).

Proposed new version -

Rule 10.1.1 Whenever mounted, all juniors (whether sponsored or un-sponsored) must wear properly fastened safety helmets which are approved for equestrian use.

During discussion, it was suggested that the wording be revised to remove “approve” in order to eliminate any possibility that ride managers or AERC might be required to approve headgear.

Motion - Revised rule to be voted on:

Rule 10.1.1 Whenever mounted, all juniors (whether sponsored or un-sponsored) must wear properly fastened safety helmets which are for equestrian use.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Michael Campbell presented a second motion from the Rules Committee in order to establish a helmet rule for Young Riders:

Rule 6 (l). All Young Riders in AERC events, below the age of 18, must wear properly fastened helmets for equestrian use.

This would be a new rule that the committee worked on at the request of the Board to improve safety for Young Riders. The motion also decreases liability to AERC for such riders who may be injured by failing to wear appropriate head gear.

Motion passed unanimously.

Michael Campbell presented a motion from the Rules Committee a policy to disallow sanctioning for multi-day 100 mile rides.

Motion - It is AERC's policy to disallow sanctioning of more than one 24-hour 100 mile event at the same venue or sanctioned ride. The purpose of this policy is to maintain equine safety and event quality.

A thorough discussion was held. It was thought by some that this issue would resolve itself due to not being financially feasible. Others felt the volunteers would get burned out and quit working those events. It was stated that it may be best to regulate how many days in a row that veterinarians would be allowed to work. Some had concerns of tired 100-mile horses being left alone in camp. Most felt that more data was needed before making a decision. The Board would like to be assured that a horse not be allowed to enter more than one 1-day 100 in an event.

Susan Garlinghouse DVM made a motion, seconded by Christoph Schork to table the motion until the Rules Committee could work on the policy some more and bring it back on Sunday.

Motion passed unanimously.

Jan Steven presented a request for funding from the AERC-I Subcommittee. The request is for \$5,000 to come from the existing AERC International funds which would be used to open an account for the Team Challenge event.

This event has been approved by the Board as a standalone AERC ride. Some plans for the funds are to open up a website, have advertising in the Endurance News, rent tents, port a johns, buy awards and buy food for volunteers. The AERC-I subcommittee will be working along with the event ride manager to keep track of the income and expenses.

After discussion the motion from committee was seconded by John Parke and passed unanimously.

Nick Kohut DVM asked the directors for regional reports. Overall, the consensus was that rides were beginning to return back to pre-Covid numbers. Lisa Schneider was excited that the PS region (which has lost some of its rides) has the possibility of a new 100-mile ride and more intro rides.

Strategic Plan discussion:

Trails- Monica Chapman reported that the Trails SP group had met most of their goals and will now work at keeping things updated. She informed the Board that Federal trails cannot be shut down designated trails without public comment.

Finance- Mollie Krumlaw-Smith updated the Board that tax returns had been filed on time. The AERC Legacy Foundation's tax return has been filed for the year. ALF owes AERC \$9,000, which will be repaid soon. ALF is up and running on its own. Financially for 2021, AERC was in better shape than it was pre-Covid. She attributes that to sticking to the budget and to the office's programs.

Governance- Lisa Schneider reported that the Governance group hit the major goals but will need to refine some of it moving forward. John Parke stated that he will write a new conflict of interest policy.

Welfare- Laurie Underwood reported that most of the goals have been met and that they have articles in the works.

Nick Kohut DVM held a discussion on what we could do to bring in new members. Riders want to have fun. We need to move the organization forward. Clinics, LDs and Intro rides bring in new riders. He asked the Board members to give this subject more thought.

John Parke asked that we update and revise the Strategic Plan. He stated that we need to look for new things that are important.

Connie Caudill updated the Board on the Young Rider exchange with Sweden. The ride went well for the 5 young riders who came to ride the 50-mile Gator Run on borrowed horses. She will be putting an application out soon for the AERC Young Riders to apply to go to Sweden in June of 2023.

Connie Caudill spoke on the pros and cons of the possibility of allowing standalone LD rides. There are places that AERC has lost rides due to trail loss or prohibited overnight camping. Some feel that winter rides would be able to take place as well as summertime rides in warmer areas if AERC were to allow standalone 25s. The other side of the coin was that standalone LD rides might take away from established longer distance rides who need the LD riders to be financially stable. This is a subject that needs to be looked into further by the Sanctioning, Rules and Competition committees and the membership of AERC.

Nick Kohut DVM thanked outgoing Board member Michael Campbell for his dedication and service to AERC. Michael has been a long-time director for the Central region, as well as serving as Vice President and President of AERC.

Kathleen Henkel updated the Board on the new website testing. Testing has been continuous and is getting close to launch. It ended up being much more complicated than the website builders anticipated even though they were fully warned. Mike Maul has been helping out with the testing and changes.

Jessica Cobbley made a motion to adjourn at 9:37 p.m. Naomi Preston seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by ConnieCaudill