

November 13, 2023, AERC Board meeting minutes

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m. EST.

Board members present were Connie Caudill, Monica Chapman, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, Gunnar Frank, Maureen Fehrs DVM, Susan Garlinghouse DVM, Dawn Hilliard, Bridget Helms, Susan Kasemeyer, Eric Rueter, Nick Kohut DVM, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, Naomi Preston, Maribel Paulson, Melissa Ribley DVM, Lisa Schneider, Kelly Williams-Stehman, Vance Stine, Jan Stevens, Laurie Underwood, and Tim Worden. Also present was Executive Director Kathleen Henkel. Tom Rajala, chair of the AERC-I Committee, and Jay Mero DVM, chair of the Veterinary Committee also were in attendance.

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Susan Garlinghouse DVM and seconded by Vance Stine. Motion passed.

Susan Garlinghouse DVM moved to approve the October 9, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Lisa Schneider. Motion passed.

Connie Caudill made a motion to excuse Jessica Cobbley due to a pet's urgent care and to excuse John Parke for ride manager duties. Monica Chapman seconded. Motion passed.

Olin Balch DVM was absent.

Kathleen Henkel presented the statistical report:

Membership as of 11/09/2022	4583
Membership as of 11/13/2023	4402
Sanction fees as of 11/13/2022	\$12,285.00
Sanction fees as of 11/13/2023	\$12,790.00
Rider fees as of 11/13/2022	\$53,485.00
Rider fees as of 11/13/2023	\$51,601.00
New members as of 11/09/2022	633
New members as of 11/13/2023	622

Nick Kohut DVM noted the continued downward trend in membership numbers. Mike Maul stated that he regularly analyzes the data, and it appears that new members tend to remain involved in the sport if they maintain their memberships for 3 years, and that further analysis is needed to determine the courses of action which could/should be taken to reverse the trends.

Update from the AERC-I Committee

Tom Rajala, AERC-I Committee chair, presented a committee update.

Motion from the AERC-I Committee to Sanction the 2024 Young Rider Championship

Tom Rajala presented a motion to sanction the 2024 Young Rider Championship to be held on August 16, 2024, and will coincide with the 2024 AERC National Championship ride. The 2024 AERC Championship is planned for August 15, 2024 through August 17, 2024 at the Mary and Anna Memorial

Ride in the Northwest region. The ride manager has offered to host a 75-mile ride for the 2024 Young Rider Championship on the day between the 100-mile championship ride and the 50-mile championship ride. Motion from committee passed unanimously.

Two Motions from the Welfare of the Horse Committee

Laurie Underwood presented two motions on behalf of the Welfare of the Horse Committee to revise the criteria for each award.

Motion to Revise the Award Committee for the National Limited Distance Mileage Championship Award and the National Limited Distance Best Condition Award

This motion is to eliminate the incentive to compete for national titles on young horses and to improve safety and address horse welfare concerns by adding the following to the award criteria: “Equines under 60 months of age are not eligible for this award.”

The requested revisions would change the criteria for the National Limited Distance mileage and best condition awards as shown below:

National Limited Distance Mileage Championship:

The award criteria, as amended, shall read: “The National LD Mileage Championship is based solely on mileage (25-35 mile rides). Honors the top 3 Senior and top 3 Junior rider/horse teams with the most miles accrued during one season. Equines under 60 months of age are not eligible for this award.”

National Limited Distance Best Condition Award:

The award criteria, as amended, shall read: “Started in 2018, the Limited Distance National Best Condition award is presented to the horse who has earned the most Best Condition points during the ride season (any number of riders). Top ten placements are awarded. Rides 25-35 miles count towards this award. Equines under 60 months of age are not eligible for this award.”

Motion to Revise the Award Criteria for the Regional Limited Distance Mileage Championship Award and Regional Limited Distance - Best Condition Award

This motion is to eliminate the incentive to compete for regional titles on young horses and to improve safety and address horse welfare concerns by adding the following to the award criteria: “Equines under 60 months of age are not eligible for this award.”

Regional Limited Distance Mileage Championship Award:

The award criteria, as amended, shall read: “The regional LD mileage awards are for those riders who have accumulated at least 100 limited distance miles on one equine. These awards are for the top seven senior riders and top three junior riders (regardless of ties) in each region who have accumulated the minimum number of limited distance miles on one horse. The actual award will be the same given that year to the regional high point endurance riders receiving weight division awards. Equines under 60 months of age are not eligible for this award.”

Regional Limited Distance – Best Condition Award:

The award criteria, as amended, shall read: “Honoring the top 5 horses winning Best Condition throughout the season in 25-35 mile rides. Points are awarded on a per mile basis, not vet scores. Best Condition points are not applied toward the overall point system. Equines under 60 months of age are not eligible for this award.”

These revisions are to be implemented on 12/1/2025 which will give the computer programmer time to set them up. A discussion on the merits was held. The motions from the Committee passed with one abstention.

Motion from the Veterinary Committee to Update Rule 13 Appendix E - Known Detection Time for Substances Used Therapeutically in the Horse

Jay Mero DVM presented this motion on behalf of the Veterinary Committee to update Appendix E of Rule 13. These powerful medications are currently on our prohibited substances list. Detection can occur months or years after administration, however, current guidance is that detection after a 30-day withdrawal suggests distant, past use.

The motion reads as follows:

Proposed Motion:

A detection time of 30 days for the two FDA approved class of drugs known as bisphosphonates, brand names Osphos and Tildren, will be added to Drug Rule 13, Appendix E.

Background, Analysis and Benefit:

There are two FDA approved medications within the class of bisphosphonates, Osphos and Tildren. This class of drugs inhibits bone resorption and the indicated therapeutic use is for the treatment of signs associated with navicular disease in the horse. Bisphosphonates are listed in Appendix B, Prohibited Substances, of the AERC Drug Rule 13. The use of this class of drug has become increasingly common in the performance horse and can be analytically detected through laboratory sampling of blood samples for years beyond the time of administration. In consulting with the UC Davis Maddy Laboratory, and based on their level of detection, the AERC Veterinary Committee recommends the addition of these two medications to Appendix E, with a known detection time of 30 days.

The addition of detection times for these two medications will provide guidance to AERC members who are administering these medications to their competing equines.

This motion out of committee passed unanimously and will be implemented immediately.

Update from the Junior and Young Riders Committee

Committee chair Maribel Paulson gave an update on plans for the Juniors and Young Riders AERC Convention program. She is going to follow the same format from the Jacksonville Convention and plans to have people who have sponsored Juniors to address the group. She is asking for ideas and seeking potential sponsors for the Convention program.

Albuquerque Convention Update

Kathleen gave an update on speakers for the convention. She said they will be listed in the December edition of Endurance News along with the hotel information.

Trails Committee Update

Monica Chapman gave an update on the Trails Committee and advised the Board that AERC has received a large donation from the Estate of Julie Jackson. The donation is specifically designated for trails in the

MW region. The Trails Committee's 2024 budget includes \$25,000 from this donation. She is hoping the members in the MW will have some trail grant requests.

A short discussion was held concerning SafeSport incidents, and the AERC Code of Conduct (which is linked to the AERC website).

Action items

1. Kathleen Henkel to send the AERC logo, AERC's motto "To Finish is to Win" and Endurance News to attorneys for trademark investigation. Update on 6/14/2023 - The attorney is currently researching. Update on 11/13/2023 – Everything is in the hands of the attorneys.
2. John Parke will write a more expansive Conflict of Interest policy. He will provide a sample COI Policy.
3. John Parke will write a revised policy that limits the authority of the executive committee and Executive Director to enter into contracts. John will provide a sample non-profit operating policy.
4. Diane Rowley will work with the office on revising the protest submission form. Update on 11/13/2023 - Kathleen Henkel and Diane Rowley will work on this.
5. Nick Kohut requested that Kathleen Henkel provide a breakdown of the new members by region. Status - Completed.

Central	14%
Midwest	13%
Mountain	8%
Northeast	15%
Northwest	12%
Pacific South	7%
Southeast	14%
Southwest	5%
West	12%

6. Naomi Preston requested that Kathleen Henkel provide the year-end membership numbers over the past ten years. Kathleen Henkel said she will provide the information for the Board. Status - Completed.

2012	5187	
2013	5130	
2014	5014	
2015	5260	
2016	5162	
2017	5057	
2018	5095	(618 new members)
2019	4718	(585 new members)
2020	4354	(500 new members)
2021	4737	(703 new members)
2022	4609	(645 new members)
2023 YTD	4402	(622 new members)

During 2015 the membership committee held several educational clinics which most likely attributed to the better numbers.

Naomi Preston asked Kathleen Henkel to provide the 10-year membership numbers by region when she has time.

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to adjourn at 9:04 p.m., which was seconded by Lisa Schneider. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill.