

January 8, 2024 AERC Board meeting minutes

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. EST.

Board members present were Connie Caudill, Monica Chapman, Gunnar Frank, Maureen Fehrs DVM, Dawn Hilliard, Bridget Helms, Susan Kasemeyer, Eric Rueter, Nick Kohut DVM, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Mike Maul, Naomi Preston, Olin Balch DVM, Maribel Paulson, Stepanie Palmer-DuRoss, Melissa Ribley DVM, Lisa Schneider, John Parke, Kelly Williams-Stehman, Vance Stine, Laurie Underwood, and Tim Worden. Also, present were AERC Executive Director, Kathleen Henkel, and AERC-I Chair, Tom Rajala.

A motion was made by Connie Caudill to excuse Olin Balch DVM (but he was able to join the meeting a few minutes late) and Jan Stevens due to a family emergency. The motion was seconded by Naomi Preston and passed unanimously.

Absent- Susan Garlinghouse DVM, Bob Marshall DVM and Jessica Cobbley.

Vance Stine moved to approve the agenda along with the December 11, 2023, minutes as corrected. Lisa Schneider seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Kathleen Henkel presented the statistical report:

Membership as of 1/09/2023	2103	
Membership as of 1/08/2024	2109	
Sanction fees as of 1/03/2023	\$7,970.00	
Sanction fees as of 1/04/2024	\$2,085.00	
Rider fees as of 1/03/2023	\$0.00	reported as of this date last season
Rider fees as of 1/03/2024	\$290.00	
New members as of 1/09/2023	137	
New members as of 1/03/2024	69	

Tom Rajala gave an update of the AERC International Committee and the Pan American Championship ride was held in Chile.

Trademark Application

Kathleen Henkel updated the Board concerning the trademark application. Our attorney requested information regarding the first time the new trademark (logo) was used. Kathleen provided the information and is advised that the application has been submitted.

2024 Convention

The 2024 Convention update was given by Kathleen Henkel. The tradeshow booths are nearly sold out, the hotel block of rooms are half full, Langdon Fielding DVM has been confirmed as a presenter for both the AERC membership and at the Veterinarian CE. The Veterinarian CE and the wilderness emergency first aid courses are filling up quickly.

Nick Kohut DVM requested committee chairs who are working on motions to be presented to the current Board at the Thursday night convention meeting get them into the office within the next couple of weeks. He is recommending that the Strategic Plan groups work in the four incoming members during the Sunday meeting. The Protest & Grievance Committee will prepare talking points to instruct Board members ways to resolve ride-related conflicts at the ride site.

Connie Caudill made a motion to go into executive session at 8:25 p.m. for staff salary discussion, seconded by Mollie Krumlaw-Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Mollie Krumlaw-Smith moved to exit executive session at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Maureen Fehrs DVM. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by John Parke to approve payroll portion of the 2024 budget, seconded by Maureen Fehrs DVM. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items - December 2023

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 1/9/2024- Attorney has sent in application.
2. John Parke will write a more expansive Conflict of Interest policy. Update 12/11/2023- will have at the January Board meeting and discuss at the convention.
3. John Parke will write a revised policy that limits the authority of the executive committee and Executive Director to enter into contracts. Update 12/11/2023- will have at the January Board meeting and discuss at the convention.

Motion to adjourn made by Susan Kasemeyer, seconded by John Parke at 8:45 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill.