

AERC General Session February 24, 2024

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. MST

Nick Kohut DVM thanked the office staff, Kathleen Henkel, Troy Smith and Giulia Orth, and stated we could not manage without them. He also thanked outgoing Board members Monica Chapman, Lisa Schneider, Gunnar Frank, Jessica Cobbley and Kelly Williams-Stehman for their dedication while serving on the Board of Directors.

Nick Kohut DVM welcomed new incoming Directors, Marci Cunningham, Tami Rougeau, Bruce Burton, Kristen Seymore-Norsworthy and Regina Rose.

The following Regional Director Board members were sworn in and installed into office by Robert Ribley:

Connie Caudill, Bridget Helms, Dawn Hilliard, Susan Kasemeyer, Susan Garlinghouse DVM, Nick Kohut DVM, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, John Parke, Maribel Paulson, Naomi Preston, Jan Stevens, Vance Stine, Marci Cunningham, Bruce Burton, Kristen Seymore-Norsworthy, Regina Rose and Tami Rougeau.

Nick Kohut DVM opened the floor for the nomination of officers. Vance Stine made a motion to nominate current President, Nick Kohut DVM as President, Tami Rougeau as Vice President, current Treasurer, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith and current Secretary, Connie Caudill. Susan Kasemeyer seconded the motion. Bob Marshall DVM made a motion to close officer nominations, which was seconded by Susan Kasemeyer. The Board then unanimously voted to elect Nick Kohut, DVM, Tami Rougeau, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith and Connie Caudill as officers.

Nick Kohut DVM thanked the AERC members for coming to the convention and the general meeting, he then opened the meeting up for comments and discussion.

The following is a summary of the comments and discussion from the members:

- Make the finish criteria for the LD and the endurance distance uniform being timed at the finish line for completion time. Establish a Limited Distance National Championship ride.
- Implement a minimum time limit for completing an LD ride, like the Australians do for their training rides, which will make racing less attractive. Example- 3 hours to complete 25 miles.
- Stand alone LD rides would help membership growth and give a purpose for new riders.
- As of 2025, four-year old equines are no longer eligible for national/regional high mileage and BC awards which did not seem fair to a rider who felt each horse is different. A couple of Board members explained that this change to the awards criteria is for the benefit of younger horses starting our sport.
- Should AERC and NATRAC combine forces to give a boost to the membership?
- Elevator rides should allow riders to receive the mileage that they completed when they decide to stop. A Board member voiced their opinion against this option of “de-elevating”, stating that a rider trains and sets a goal and that is a big part of what endurance riding is about. Riders may

ride faster than they should knowing they can quit if they override and will still receive completion mileage.

- Intro riders should have the option to elevate if the Ride Manager has the logistics and will allow it. One Board member stated that they agree with that concept.
- Max Merlich asked riders to attend the AERC National Championship ride in Oregon on August 15-17, 2024. They are looking for sponsors. Robert Ribley stated it was a fabulous ride and going around a crater makes it unique.
- Jane Huff thanked the Board and all the volunteers for their hard work.

Jan Stevens made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m. MST. Motion seconded by Susan Kasemeyer. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary.