

February 25, 2024, AERC Board Meeting Minutes

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 6:30 a.m. MST.

Board members present were Connie Caudill, Susan Garlinghouse DVM, Dawn Hilliard, Bridget Helms, Susan Kasemeyer, Eric Rueter, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, Nick Kohut DVM, Bob Marshall DVM, Naomi Preston, Maribel Paulson, John Parke, Jan Stevens, Olin Balch DVM, Melissa Ribley DVM, Vance Stine, Laurie Underwood, Tami Rougeau, Regina Rose, Bruce Burton and Marci Cunningham. Also present was Executive Director Kathleen Henkel.

Connie Caudill made a motion, seconded by John Parke, to excuse Maureen Fehrs DVM (traveling), Mike Maul (health concerns), Mollie Krumlaw-Smith (employment conflict), Tim Worden (school) and Khristin Seymore-Norsworthy (traveling).

Kathleen Henkel gave a brief update on the convention. The attendance was much smaller than in years past, and she doesn't anticipate much of a profit. There were attendees from all over the country. The sessions were very well attended and were said to be very informative. The raffle did very well but the tack swap did not do as well as in the past. The veterinarian CE course was well attended. The Wilderness First Aid course was also very well attended.

Kathleen Henkel announced the 2025 Convention will be in Reno, Nevada at the Nugget Hotel and Casino.

Maribel Paulson gave a report on the Junior/Young Rider event held during the convention. She felt it was a great success and drew 19 young people from Minnesota to Australia and points in between. They were happy to be doing something with other endurance riders their own age. The speakers were great. Maribel Paulson will be willing to host it again in Reno next year.

Nick Kohut DVM, announced that the midyear Board meeting would take place via Zoom on Saturday August 10, 2024, and he expects all Board members to be in attendance.

Nick Kohut DVM, nominated Jan Stevens to be on the Executive Committee. John Parke made a motion to accept the nomination, which was seconded by Vance Stine. Motion passed with one abstention.

Nick Kohut DVM discussed how Board members should handle disputes at rides. A director's role is to advise and help ride managers. Directors should always have the current rule book with them at rides. Directors should attempt to informally mediate disputes and should talk to the affected parties, and then the ride manager with the goal of heading off potential protests where possible. Directors should not conduct investigations. Directors should also remember that while their role is to offer dispute resolution options to the ride manager, it is the ride manager's decision on how they handle the dispute.

Nick Kohut DVM had the Strategic Plan groups engage in breakout sessions where each group discussed their goals and goal implementation strategies. He noted that the Strategic Plan is on the AERC website.

At the conclusion of the breakout sessions, the Board reconvened and continued discussion of the Strategic Plan with group chairs giving a synopsis of their breakout session discussion.

John Parke moved to adjourn at 10:19 a.m. MST, seconded by Jan Stevens. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary