

April 14, 2025, AERC Board Meeting Minutes

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. EST.

Board members present were Bruce Burton, Khristin Seymore-Norsworthy, Connie Caudill, Marci Cunningham, Bridget Helms, Dawn Hilliard, Nick Kohut DVM, Regina Rose, Jan Stevens, Vance Stine, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, Maribel Paulson, Tami Rougeau, Olin Balch DVM, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, Erin McChesney, Diane Connolly, Laurie Underwood and Lara Worden. Executive Director Kathleen Henkel and Tom Rajala were also on the call.

Connie Caudill made a motion to accept the agenda which was seconded by Vance Stine. Motion passed.

Tami Rougeau made a motion, which was seconded by Diane Connolly, to approve the March 6, March 8, and March 9, 2025 convention meeting minutes. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Connie Caudill, seconded by Olin Balch DVM to excuse Melissa Ribley DVM (out of the country), Maureen Fehrs DVM (out of the country) Mollie Krumlaw-Smith (out of the country), Naomi Preston (equine emergency) and John Parke (marking trail for his ride). Motion passed.

Susan Kasemeyer was absent.

Kathleen Henkel presented the statistical report:

Membership as of 04/09/2024: 3,425

Membership as of 04/09/2025: 3,141

Sanction fees as of 04/09/2024: \$13,700

Sanction fees as of 04/09/2025: \$16,310

Rider fees as of 04/09/2024: \$9,001

Rider fees as of 04/09/2025: \$9,414

New members as of 04/09/2024: 295

New members as of 04/09/2025: 260

Ride Starts as of 04/09/2024: 991

Ride Starts as of 04/09/2025: 1,090

Tom Rajala, Chair of the AERC International Committee, gave an update on FEI rides being held in the US.

Young Riders Division

Maribel Paulson held a discussion concerning the Young Riders division within AERC. Nick Kohut DVM, instructed Maribel Paulson to take the discussion back to her committee to determine which options are preferred by her committee, and then send it to all committees for comment.

2026 AERC Convention

The Board will need to decide if the convention will be held virtually or in person. Kathleen Henkel informed the Board that NATRAC is holding their convention in Austin, Texas and has invited AERC to join them. There are many factors to consider, such as the space for the trade show and the limited

number of guest rooms available. The virtual convention would draw a much deeper field of speakers and could be put together with less expense. Austin could be an option for a future convention. The Board will explore further and make a decision by the May Board meeting.

2025 Mid-Year Meeting.

Nick Kohut DVM announced that the midyear Board meeting would be held on Saturday July 19 via Zoom.

Technical Committee

Nick Kohut DVM nominated Jim Jarosik to chair the Technical Committee. Jim Jarosik is a seasoned IT management professional with over 18 years of leadership experience in team management. His expertise includes new system implementations, team development, and issue resolution. The Board approved the nomination unanimously.

Interim Office Transition Plan

A motion was made by Jan Stevens, which was seconded by Tami Rougeau to accept the “interim office transition plan”. Motion passed with three abstentions.

Tami Rougeau made a motion to go into executive session at 8:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Connie Caudill. Motion passed.

Tami Rougeau made a motion to exit executive session at 9:27 p.m., seconded by Jan Stevens. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Nick Kohut DVM which was seconded by Laurie Underwood, as follows:

AERC will cease publication in Endurance News of written fatality reports prepared by the Welfare of the Horse Committee. The Committee will revise its charter to remove the obligation to write and publish fatality reports in Endurance News. The statistics on fatalities will be posted.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Committee made a motion to approve Item #2 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vance Stine moved to adjourn at 9:32 p.m., Jan Stevens seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary