

May 12, 2025, AERC Board Meeting Minutes

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 8:19 p.m. EST.

Board members present were Bruce Burton, Khristin Seymore-Norsworthy, Connie Caudill, Marci Cunningham, Maureen Fehrs DVM, Bridget Helms, Dawn Hilliard, Nick Kohut DVM, Naomi Preston, Regina Rose, Jan Stevens, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Vance Stine, Maribel Paulson, Tami Rougeau, Olin Balch DVM, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, Erin McChesney, Diane Connolly, Melissa Ribley DVM, Laurie Underwood, Lara Worden, Executive Director Kathleen Henkel and Guilia Orth. Tom Rajala was also on the call.

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

Tami Rougeau moved to approve the April 7, 2025, and the April 14, 2025, AERC Board meeting minutes which was seconded by Vance Stine. The motion passed with abstentions from Melissa Ribley DVM, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Maureen Fehrs DVM, Naomi Preston, John Park and Susan Kasemeyer, who were absent from the April 14, 2025, call.

A motion was made by Vance Stine, seconded by Olin Balch DVM to excuse Susan Kasemeyer (internet issues) from the April 14 meeting and Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss (employment conflict) from the May 12 meeting. Motion passed.

Kathleen Henkel presented the statistical report:

Membership as of 05/10/2024	3,741
Membership as of 05/07/2025	3,420
Sanction fees as of 05/07/2024	\$14,175
Sanction fees as of 05/07/2025	\$16,580
Rider fees as of 05/07/2024	\$14,435
Rider fees as of 05/07/2025	\$13,689
New members as of 05/10/2024	374
New members as of 05/07/2025	320
Ride Starts recorded in May 2024	944
Ride Starts recorded in May 2025	635

Tom Rajala provided an update on the AERC International Committee. Several FEI rides have taken place in both the East and West alongside AERC rides. Olin Balch DVM asked how many individual AERC riders are participating in FEI rides in the US? Tom Rajala stated he would have those numbers at the June Board meeting.

The Committee is in the process of restructuring and is seeking members to represent the Mountain and Central zones. Additionally, he is looking for volunteers to serve as Secretary and Treasurer. Interested individuals may contact Tom Rajala or the AERC Office.

Motion from the Competition and JR/Young Rider Committees

Maribel Paulson presented the motion on behalf of both committees.

Proposed Motion - Recognize the top 3 Juniors and Young Riders in Regional Awards. Minimum miles required: 100 for LD's, 200 for Endurance, 200 for Hundreds. Currently, the top 5% are recognized regionally, but due to lower membership numbers, few receive recognition.

Current members by region: NE-12, CT-20, SW-5, NW-9, PS-3, SE-20, MW-10, MT-7, W-13.

Benefits: More Juniors and Young Riders motivated to achieve top positions, keeping them engaged and rewarded.

Financial impact: \$200 for computer work. Top Young Rider receives a jacket; second and third receive certificates and recognition in the magazine and standings.

Motion passed unanimously.

Convention Discussion

John Parke moved to ratify the Executive Committee's vote for the 2026 AERC Convention to be virtual. Olin Balch DVM seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board would like to start work on the virtual convention, and to plan for the 2027 in person convention. Nick Kohut DVM will appoint a Convention Committee and is searching for an AERC member to chair that committee. If someone has experience with convention planning and would like to help, please contact him or the AERC Office.

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 p.m., John Parke seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary.