

August 11, 2025, AERC Board Meeting Minutes

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m. EST.

Board members present were Bruce Burton, Connie Caudill, Marci Cunningham, Maureen Fehrs DVM, Bridget Helms, Jan Stevens, Nick Kohut DVM, Dawn Hilliard, Regina Rose, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Vance Stine, Maribel Paulson, Khristin Seymore-Norsworthy, Tami Rougeau, Olin Balch DVM, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Bob Marshall DVM, Diane Connolly, Mike Maul, Erin McChesney, Laurie Underwood and Lara Worden. Also on the call were Acting Executive Director Giulia Orth and the President of Equisure, Diane Leshner.

Vance Stine made a motion to accept the agenda, which was seconded by Tami Rougeau. Motion passed.

Olin Balch DVM moved to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2025, Board meeting which was seconded by Tami Rougeau. Motion passed with one abstention.

A motion was made by Connie Caudill which was seconded by Vance Stine to excuse Melissa Ribley DVM (out of cell range) and Naomi Preston (horse emergency). Motion passed.

Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss was absent.

The Statistical report was presented by Giulia Orth:

Category	2024	2025	Change
Total Members as of 8/1	3968	3730	(238)
New Members as of 8/1	465	415	(50)
Rider Fees as of 8/1	\$33,323	\$30,419 (in progress)	(\$2,904)
Sanction Fees as of 8/1	\$15,275	\$17,730	\$2,455
Starting Riders recorded through July as of 8/1	7,186 (closed)	6,313 (in progress)*	(873)
*4 rides pending for July 2025 as of 8/1/2025			

Giulia Orth briefed the Board on AERC Office updates. Key points from the discussion:

- Installation of Authorize.net software for credit card processing compliance is underway and implementation is expected by the end of the month.

- The Employee Handbook is under review by a California nonprofit employment law team; feedback is anticipated in two weeks.
- A full-time Member Services Coordinator position was posted on LinkedIn and local community boards for a mid-late September start. Some applicants have been received.
- Vote to approve the new employee position be open to AERC members, with confidentiality agreements required. Passed with one opposed.
- Vote to shred paper records prior to 2024, currently stored electronically on website and SharePoint. Credit cards numbers will not be stored. Passed with one abstention.
- Vote for ride results, sanction applications and membership records to be moved to digital-only storage; hard copies will be printed only as needed. Passed unanimously.
- Mollie Krumlaw-Smith made a motion, which was seconded by Jan Stevens, to postpone membership increases and reconsider in 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

Insurance Discussion

Diane Leshner, President of Equisure, summarized and explained AERC's general liability insurance policy, Directors and Officers (D&O) liability insurance policy, and member-purchasable excess equine liability insurance. She will check premiums for internet, cyber, and crime liability coverages and update the Board. Equisure has reliably supported AERC for over 15 years with consistent policies and we appreciate Diane Leshner.

Written reports were submitted by both the Education and Membership Committees. There was nothing new to report on from Sanctioning and Welfare of the Horse Committees.

John Parke made a motion, which was seconded by Vance Stine, to enter executive session at 9:03 p.m.

Mollie Krumlaw-Smith made a motion, which was seconded by Tami Rougeau, to exit executive session at 9:35 p.m.

In regard to the 2024 AERC National Championship Ride, it was discussed and agreed that all related revenue and expenses related to the National Championship ride be covered by the ride manager.

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion, which was seconded by Khristin Seymore-Norsworthy to adjourn at 9:37 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary.