

October 13, 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, Naomi Preston, Regina Rose, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Vance Stine, Maribel Paulson, Khristin Seymore-Norsworthy, Erin McChesney, Tami Rougeau, Bob Marshall DVM, Diane Connolly, Mike Maul, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Melissa Ribley DVM, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, Laurie Underwood and Lara Worden. Acting Executive Director Giulia Orth was also on the call.

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to accept the agenda, which was seconded by Connie Caudill. Motion passed.

John Parke made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on August 11, 2025, which was seconded by Susan Kasemeyer. Motion passed.

A motion to excuse Olin Balch DVM (traveling) was made by Connie Caudill and seconded by Susan Kasemeyer. Motion passed.

The Statistical report was presented by Giulia Orth:

Category	2024	2025	Change
Total Members through October 7	4,149	3,890	(259)
New Members through October 7	554	490	(64)
Rider Fees through October 7	\$45,488	\$43,561 (in progress)*	(\$1,927)
Sanction Fees through October 7	\$15,405	\$17,845	\$2,440
Starting Riders recorded from start of the ride season through October 7	10,003	8,713 (in progress)*	(1,290)

* 8 rides pending up to 10/7/2025

Quarterly Committee Reports

Junior and Young Rider Committee Report presented by Committee Chair, Maribel Paulson, provided a comprehensive update.

Competition Committee Co-Chair, Naomi Preston, delivered a detailed progress report.

Ride Managers' Committee Chair, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, had no new updates at this time but noted upcoming activity regarding webinars.

Welfare of the Horse Committee Co-Chair, Laurie Underwood, had nothing new to report.

Discussion on Single-Event Insurance

Giulia Orth led a Discussion regarding single-event insurance from Equisure.

After a thorough discussion, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith made the following motion which was seconded by Naomi Preston.

AERC adopt a policy to only provide insurance for AERC sanctioned events.

Motion passed unanimously. (Note that endurance clinics are considered sanctioned events).

AERC-I Committee Chair

A motion was made by Nick Kohut DVM to approve Samatha Ellis as the AERC International Committee Chair. The motion seconded by Connie Caudill, and passed unanimously.

Formation of Marketing Committee

Nick Kohut DVM made a motion to the Board to form a Marketing Committee, which will be Co-Chaired by Kim Minarich and Giulia Orth. Naomi Preston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion from the Competition Committee Regarding 100-Mile Points. Naomi Preston presented the motion on behalf of the Competition Committee:

To award full points for 100 mile rides when there are 5 or more senior riders.

The motion was passed at the September 8, 2025, Board meeting with an amendment to include junior and senior riders to count as starters. AERC's computer program made this a difficult task since juniors and senior points are calculated differently. The Rules Committee worked on revising rules 1.2 and 8.5.5.1 to allow full points for 100 mile riders if there are at least five senior riders starting. This would be implemented at the start of the 2026 ride year.

Motion from Committee passed with one no vote.

Motion from the Protest & Grievance Committee to Revise Rule 14.3 (Regarding Mediation).

Jan Stevens presented the following motion (note – additions are underlined and in italics, and deletions are in strikethrough):

14.3 Mediation. *At the discretion of* the Chair of the Committee, ~~shall first refer~~ the protest **may first be referred** to non-binding mediation to provide the protestor and respondent an opportunity to voluntarily settle the matters in dispute. **If the protest is referred to mediation,** the Chair of the Committee shall select the time during the protest process to refer the protest to mediation...

The benefit to members: This rule revision will help enable the P&G Committee to adjudicate protests more efficiently.

To be implemented for the 2026 ride season.

Motion from committee passed unanimously.

Motion of the National Championship Committee for Approval of the East Coast Ride and Tie Association to host their regional championship in conjunction with the AERC National Championship ride on June 11-13, 2026. Diane Connolly presented the following motion:

Allow the East Coast Ride and Tie Association to host their Regional Championship in conjunction with the National Championship June 11, 12, and 13th, 2026

The Ride and Tie organization has their own ride secretary, handles their own registration, and holds their own awards ceremony at a different time than the endurance awards.

Motion from committee passed with three opposed and two abstentions.

Executive Session

Jan Stevens moved to enter executive session at 9:14 p.m., the motion was seconded by Tami Rougeau.

At 9:30 p.m., Susan Kasemeyer moved to exit executive session; the motion was seconded by Tami Rougeau.

Nick Kohut DVM, requested a vote from the Board to retain Guilia Orth as Executive Director with new benefits, which passed unanimously.

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to adjourn at 933 p.m., which was seconded by John Parke. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary