

November 10, 2025, AERC Board Meeting Minutes

Vice President Tami Rougeau called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m. EST.

Board members present were Olin Balch DVM, Bruce Burton, Connie Caudill, Marci Cunningham, Jan Stevens, Dawn Hilliard, Naomi Preston, Regina Rose, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Vance Stine, Maribel Paulson, Khristin Seymore-Norsworthy, Erin McChesney, Bob Marshall DVM, Diane Connolly, Mike Maul, Melissa Ribley DVM, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, Laurie Underwood and Lara Worden. Executive Director Giulia Orth was also on the call, along with Diane Rowley, Chair of the Protest and Grievance Committee, and Jim Jarosik, Chair of the Technical Committee.

Connie Caudill made a motion to accept the revised agenda, which was seconded by Olin Balch DVM. Motion passed.

Jan Stevens made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on October 13, 2025, which was seconded by Maribel Paulson. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Connie Caudill and seconded by Vance Stine to excuse Maureen Fehrs DVM (travelling); Nick Kohut DVM (family commitment), Bridget Helms (personal commitment) and Mollie Krumlaw-Smith (managing a ride). Motion passed.

The Statistical report was presented by Giulia Orth:

Category	2024	2025	Change	% Change
Total Members through November 3	4203	3950	-253	-6.0%
New Members through November 3	579	514	-65	-11.2%
Rider Fees through November 3	\$52514	\$50436 (in progress)*	-\$2078	-4.0%
Sanction Fees through November 3	\$15485	\$17855	+\$2370	+15.3%

Starting Riders recorded from start of the ride season through November 3	11400	9942 (in progress)*	-\$1458	-12.8%
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- 3 rides pending up to 11/3/2025

Quarterly Committee Reports

Education Committee. The Education Committee report was submitted by Committee Chair Naomi Preston. The Committee has written monthly articles for Endurance News and has arranged a webinar featuring Nancy Loving. Participants registered to date were 250.

Membership Committee. The Membership Committee report was submitted by Committee Chair Maureen Fehrs DVM. The Committee has commenced a review of available educational materials with the goal of improving resources for new and prospective members. In outreach and promotion efforts, AERC will host a booth at the Pony Club National Convention, to be held near Chicago from January 28 – February 1, 2026. Maureen Fehrs DVM and several UMECRA members will assist in staffing the booth to promote endurance riding and AERC membership opportunities.

Sanctioning Committee. The Sanctioning Committee report was submitted by Committee Chair Connie Caudill. The Committee has approved several ride sanctions that are managed by Committee members and approved a first-year pioneer ride.

Marketing Committee. The Marketing Committee charter and report were submitted by co-chair Giulia Orth. The Committee charter was approved unanimously by the Board.

The Strategic Plan was updated 10/14/2025. The Marketing Committee was added to the plan.

A motion was made at 8:27 p.m. by Connie Caudill and seconded by Bruce Burton to enter Executive Session to discuss a Protest appeal. Motion passed with one objection.

A motion was made by Connie Caudill to exit Executive Session at 9:09 p.m., which was seconded by Vance Stine. Motion passed.

John Parke made a motion that the Board deny the protest against Debi Sanger but accept the other rulings of the P & G Committee. Motion was seconded by Olin Balch DVM. 9 voted in favor of the motion, 10 voted against, 2 abstained, and Maribel Paulson recused. The motion failed to get a majority from those present and did not pass.

Vance Stine made a motion to support the P&G decision. Susan Kasemeyer seconded the motion. 10 voted in favor of the motion, 10 voted against, 1 abstained and Maribel Paulson recused. The motion failed to get a majority from those present and did not pass.

Vance Stine made a motion to table the issue regarding the appeal until the December meeting. Olin Balch DVM seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

John Parke expressed his appreciation to Diane Rowley, stating that he values her service as chair of the P&G Committee.

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion, which John Parke seconded, to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary.