

February 9, 2026, AERC Board Meeting Minutes

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

Board members present at the meeting were Olin Balch DVM, Bruce Burton, Khristin Seymore-Norsworthy, Connie Caudill, Marci Cunningham, Jan Stevens, Bridget Helms, Maureen Fehrs DVM, Tami Rougeau, Dawn Hilliard, Nick Kohut DVM, Naomi Preston, Regina Rose, John Parke, Chelsea Arnold, Susan Kasemeyer, Vance Stine, Maribel Paulson, Bob Marshall DVM, Diane Connolly, Mike Maul, Melissa Ribley DVM, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith and Laurie Underwood. Also present was Executive Director Giulia Orth.

Connie Caudill moved to accept the agenda, with Susan Kasemeyer seconding the motion. The motion was approved.

Jan Stevens moved to approve the meeting minutes from January 12, 2026, and Vance Stine seconded. The motion was approved.

Connie Caudill moved, seconded by Vance Stine, to excuse Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss (work conflict) and Lara Worden (work travel). The motion was approved.

Giulia Orth presented the statistical report:

	2025	2026	Change	Change
Total Members through February 5	2492	2251	-241	-9.7%
New Members through February 5	122	123	+1	+0.8%
Rider Fees through February 3	\$2,749	\$3,505*	+\$756	+27.5%
Sanction Fees through February 3	\$13,760	\$13,958	+\$198	+1.4%
Starting Riders recorded from start of the ride season through February 1	749	591*	-158	-21.1%

*Pending results from 1 ride

Giulia Orth will check on the discrepancy of the rider fees and the starting number of riders.

The Education, Competition, Membership, Sanctioning and Welfare of the Horse Committees submitted quarterly reports which were reviewed by the Board.

Motion Regarding Special Qualification Criteria for the American River Classic Ride.

Following a brief discussion with input from ride management, Tami Rougeau made a motion concerning eligibility requirements. The motion stipulates that in order to participate in either the 50-mile or the Limited Distance (LD) categories of the American River Ride, a rider must have completed at least 150 miles or have completed the American River Ride 50 at least one time within the past three years. Connie Caudill seconded the motion, which was approved with two no votes.

A motion was made by Connie Caudill and seconded by Susan Kasemeyer to enter executive session at 8:59 p.m. to discuss the 2027 Convention. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Tami Rougeau and seconded by Vance Stine to exit executive session at 9:14 p.m. The motion passed.

Motion to adjourn was made by John Parke and seconded by Tami Rougeau at 9:14 p.m. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary.