**September 14, 2026, AERC Board Midyear Meeting Minutes**

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

Board members present were Olin Balch DVM, Bruce Burton, Connie Caudill, Diane Connolly, Marci Cunningham, Dawn Hilliard, Susan Kasemeyer, Nick Kohut DVM, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, John Parke, Maribel Paulson, Naomi Preston, Melissa Ribley DVM, Regina Rose, Tami Rougeau, Khristin Seymore-Norsworthy, Jan Stevens, Vance Stine, Laurie Underwood, Ashley Wingert and Lara Worden. Executive Director, Giulia Orth and Protest and Grievance Committee Chair, Diane Rowley, were also present on the call.

Jan Stevens moved to accept the agenda which was seconded by Connie Caudill. The motion passed.

Susan Kasemeyer moved to approve the August 22, 2026, meeting minutes, which was seconded by Vance Stine. The motion passed with one abstention.

Laurie Underwood made a motion which was seconded by Olin Balch DVM to excuse the following members: Maureen Fehrs DVM (travelling); Bridget Helms (travelling); Mollie Krumlaw-Smith (ride management). The motion passed with one abstention.

Absent- Chelsea Arnold.

Giulia Orth presented the statistical report.

| | **2025** | **2026** | **Change** | **% Change** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Members through August 31 | 3,809 | 3,679 | -130 | -3.4% |
| New Members through August 31 | 446 | 477 | +31 | +7% |
| Rider Fees through August 31 | 36,188 | 34,809 | -1,379 | -3.8% |
| Sanction Fees through August 31 | 17,600 | 17,425 | -175 | -1.0% |
| Starting Riders through August 31* | 7,604 | 6,534 | -1,070 | -14.1% |

* Pending results from 7 rides on 7/31/26

Committee Reports that were received from the following committees; Marketing and Veterinary Committees. The committee reports are available to be viewed and located alongside the Board meeting minutes on our website at www.aerc.org.

A motion was made by John Parke which was seconded by Olin Balch DVM to enter executive session at 8:13 p.m. to discuss two pending appeals. The motion passed.

At 8:56 p.m. a motion was made to exit executive session by Connie Caudill which was seconded by Vance Stine. Motion passed.

John Parke made a motion concerning the Roger Ward appeal which was seconded by Susan Kasemeyer to deny the appeal but to increase the penalty to 6 months. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board unanimously voted to deny the Kathy Backus appeal.

Melissa Ribley DVM withdrew the motion regarding Synephrine (which is a prohibited substance) and stated that the Veterinary Committee will take an educational approach and address the topic with articles.

John Parke moved to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. and Susan Kasemeyer seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary