October 12, 2026, AERC Board Midyear Meeting Minutes

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.
Board members present were Chelsea Arnold, Olin Balch DVM, Bruce Burton, Connie Caudill, Marci Cunningham, Maureen Fehrs DVM, Bridget Helms, Dawn Hilliard, Nick Kohut DVM, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Bob Marshall DVM, John Parke, Maribel Paulson, Naomi Preston, Melissa Ribley DVM, Regina Rose, Tami Rougeau, Khristin Seymore-Norsworthy, Jan Stevens, Vance Stine, Laurie Underwood, Lara Worden, Executive Director Giulia Orth, and Diane Rowley, Protest and Grievance Committee Chair.

Connie Caudill moved to accept the agenda, with Tami Rougeau seconding the motion. The motion was approved.

Tami Rougeau moved to approve the meeting minutes from September 14, 2026, which Olin Balch DVM seconded. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Connie Caudill which was seconded by Vance Stine to excuse Chelsea Arnold from the 9/1/2026 meeting for a family emergency, and Ashley Wingert (traveling), Diane Connolly (poor ride camp reception) and Mike Maul (medical) from the 10/12/2026 meeting. Susan Kasemeyer was absent.

Giulia Orth presented the statistical report:

	2025	2026	Change	% Change
Total Members through October 1**	3,898	3,755	-143	-3.7%
New Members through October 1	486	520	+34	+7.0%
Rider Fees through October 1	$42,999	$41,577	-$1,422	-3.3%
Sanction Fees through October 1	$17,845	$17,423	-$422	-2.4%
Starting Riders through October 1*	8,746	8,207	-579	-7%

* Pending results from 7 rides
** Launched Fall Special for renewing members (2026 and 2027 at a discount) We had 919 members who were current in 2025 and did not renew in 2026 – yet. Email campaign sent out to them on 10/5/2026.

Committee Reports that were received and reviewed were from the following committees: Competition, Junior/Young Rider, Ride Managers and Welfare of the Horse. The committee

reports are available to be viewed and located alongside the Board meeting minutes on our website at www.aerc.org.

Motion from the Protest & Grievance Committee, presented by Diane Rowley. Revisions are underlined.

> 14.2.4 Invalid Filing. Any protest filed after the applicable deadline or which fails to include the required completed complaint form or filing fee shall be rejected by the AERC and shall not be considered on its merits. The Protest & Grievance Committee may dismiss, without further proceedings, a protest which, on its face, does not present an issue within the scope of the Committee's authority. For a filing fee of $100 and within 15 days, such a dismissal may be appealed to the AERC Board Executive Committee which may then either approve the dismissal or return the protest to the Committee for full consideration.
> Background, analysis and benefit: revised rule would explicitly allow the Committee and Board Executive Committee to quickly, and with minimal labor, dispense with protests that never belonged before the P&G in the first place. The proposed rule is akin to the motion to dismiss for failure to state a cause of action in the legal system. In the case of an erroneous dismissal by the P&G, the abbreviated appeal process to the Board Executive Committee would provide possible corrective action. This motion has the full approval of the Legal Committee.

Motion from Committee passed unanimously.

Suspension List Discussion

The Board discussed publishing the names of suspended members, along with each suspension's start and end dates, on the website's Ride Managers page and notifying ride managers.

Connie Caudill made a motion which was seconded by Tami Rougeau, to notify ride managers of suspended members with start and end dates and publish on the ride managers' page. Motion passed unanimously.

Nick Kohut DVM received Kathy Backus's request to refund her filing fees after her protest and appeal were denied. The Board denied the refund request with 24 votes and one recusal.

John Parke moved to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. which was seconded by Jan Stevens. Motion passed.
Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary