

Great Lakes Distance Riding Association

July 15, 2025, Minutes (Approved)

- i. Call To Order- President Jan Wylie
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Jan Wiley @ 7:31 pm.
- ii. Roll Call and Reading Of Minutes – Secretary Kathy Macki
 - a. The attendees were: Jennifer Shooshanian, Barb Kurti, Kristen Mikula, Becke Grams, Carl Dosmann, Sara Hall, Jan Wylie, Rae Birr, Bruce Birr, Kathy Macki, Layla Saatchi, and Pat Wierengo.
 - b. June 4th Meeting Minutes:
 - i. Two sets of minutes were prepared by Kathy Macki and Jennifer Shooshanian.
 1. Minutes for this meeting will be prepared by Jennifer moving forward.
 - ii. Jennifer's approved with the following changes:
 1. Remove " Annual " from “February 8, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes.
 2. Mailchimp licensing access:
 - a. Corey does not have access.
 - b. Barb and Carl have access.
 3. Correct Becke’s spelling of her last name to Grams.
 - iii. Kathy motioned to approve both sets of minutes with the corrections noted above, Becke seconded the motion, and the report was approved.
- iii. Treasurers’ Report- Kristen Mikula
 - a. Kristen has assumed the full role of the Treasurer position.
 - b. At the time of report preparation, the full transfer of the credit union account was not completed.
 - c. As of today, Kristen has full access, including online, and has the credit card.
 - d. Kristen shared the summary of the account from April 30 to July 15
 - i. A copy is on file with the secretary.
 - e. Kathy motioned to approve the reports as presented, Rae seconded the motion, and the report was approved.
- iv. Committee Reports:
 - a. Executive:

- i. I. Hooray, good job. Very pleased with the ride attendance and seeing the sport gaining ground in Michigan.
 - b. Veterinarian: No Report
 - c. Michigan Horse Council (MHC) & Trails:
 - i. MHC: No Report
 - ii. Trails: The Michigan Horse Trails Association (MHTA) is implementing a program where riders can receive a sticker when they ride Michigan equestrian trails.
 - iii. Michigan Trail Riders Association (MTRA) is planning a trail cleanup out of South Branch this weekend. (July 19/20)
 - iv. The MTRA president and Barb are working collaboratively with local authorities to reroute the Mayham Swamp trail, which has been closed for the past five years.
 - 1. Barb shared history and current challenges.
 - 2. Without this trail, riders have to ride a busy road. If necessary, the Sheriff's department will provide road patrol and escorts.
 - d. Finance: (No Report)
 - i. Kristen inquired about who is on the finance committee:
 - 1. Kathy reported the following:
 - a. Kristen Mikula, Michelle Weigand, Shannon Weston, Becke Grams, Heather Neil.
 - ii. Kristen will coordinate a finance committee meeting before the next meeting.
 - e. Rider Reps: (No report)
 - f. Points and Mileage
 - i. Kathy found a local person with experience with Access. She is willing to help find a way to export the data into a different format, such as Excel, or improve the reporting Access is currently providing.
 - ii. Working to set up a time.
 - iii. Jan inquired about a budget. Kathy offered it, but doesn't believe she will accept compensation.

- g. Grievance: No Report
- h. Awards: No Report
- i. Memberships:
 - i. Jan inquired about streamlining information, inquiring if Shannon Weston received the needed information. Kathy believes she has the required information from the clinics.
 - ii. The process still needs to be clarified and streamlined.
 - iii. Jennifer recapped Carl's recommendations from the June meeting:
 - 1. Carl will send a membership form with all vouchers moving forward, requesting that ride managers facilitate completion and return to Shannon.
 - 2. Shannon will forward it to the appropriate parties.
 - iv. Carl emailed the board members a new format for the membership form and the personal and horse mileage program for review.
 - 1. This form is in an Adobe format, with form functions. It can also be printed.
 - 2. The goal is to have it on the website and tied to the shopping cart. Functions can be implemented to route it to the appropriate parties.
- j. Newsletter-No Report
 - i. Thank you to Sara for her efforts.
- k. Promotions-No Report
- l. Web Page- No Report
 - i. The newsletter has been posted to the website.
 - ii. Heather noted at the June meeting that she would like to create an improved search function like UMECRA's for better user experience and improved web page storage and management. This would require working with Kathy to access her database.
 - iii. This will be added to the new business for the next meeting, as Heather is not present and Kathy is working on the database.
- v. Old Business:
 - a. Bylaws Update:
 - i. Minimal changes were made.
 - 1. Kathy noted that we may need to revisit the bylaws regarding membership. The bylaws define a membership, which should be cross-referenced to the proposed membership form changes.
 - a. Discussion was held about the junior age being 16 or 18

1. Carl proposed a \$20 monthly five-user membership subscription at the June meeting, which was approved.
 2. Carl revisited, and since this is a month-to-month subscription, he recommends we start with three, then we can add more as needed.
 - iii. Kathy motioned to approve, starting with three users and the option to add 2 more as necessary. Pat seconded the motion, which was approved.
 - iv. Carl and Kristen will move this forward. Carl will be the administrator.
- vi. New Business:
 - a. Secretary Position
 - i. The board appointed Jennifer Shooshanian as the Secretary.
 - b. Novice Awards
 - i. Sara Hall reached out to Lisa Germann briefly about Novice awards. This was discussed at the February meeting.
 - ii. I surveyed Novice riders to see what types of awards they would be interested in. Based on their feedback, the following was recommended
 1. Purina sponsorship/donation of items such as Outlast treats and Replenish.
 2. Certificate
 - iii. Plaques are \$15 expense to GLDRA.
 1. This would save GLDRA money.
 - iv. No mileage and points are reported for Novice / Intro riders.
 1. Jan suggested we recognize the number of rides attended with a defined number of rides.
 - v. Kathy shared that we need to add the placings and guidelines to the GLDRA policy.
 1. we can do this “unofficially” this year without a policy change.
 2. Sara recapped notes from the February meeting that stated we would give plaques for up to 6th place.
 - a. Riders need a membership and a certain number of rides to qualify.
 3. Sara will work with her Purina rep for the rewards.
 - a. Sara will coordinate and discuss further with Lisa.
 - b. We may need to provide plaques this year.
 - vi. Jennifer suggested an action items list at the end of the meeting notes.

1. This was well received and will be added below.
2. The unapproved minutes will be emailed within 7-10 days of the meeting, then resent with the conference call information.

vii. President Position

1. Jan would like to begin reviewing who qualifies for next year.

vii. Next Meeting:

- a. Tuesday, September 16 @ 7:30 pm

Kathy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rae seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Shooshanian

Action Items			
Subject	Date Due	Person Responsible	ü
Coordinate the finance committee meeting before next meeting	9/16/26	Kristen Mikula	
Please send the proposed membership form and rider/personal mileage form to all board members for review prior to the next meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathy will review the forms and provide feedback at the next meeting. Including verification of the lifetime price 	9/16/26	Carl / Kathy	
Review membership bylaws before the next meeting	9/16/25	Jan	
Send proposed changes to the bylaws to the board members.	9/16/25	Rae	
Review Shore To Shore Apparel Store	9/16/25	Board Members	

Action Items			
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Set up three users on Mailchimp.	9/16/25	Carl/Kristen	
Discuss sponsorship with Purina.	9/16/25	Sara	