

Great Lakes Distance Riding Association

General Membership Meeting

January 31, 2026

- Call To Order- President Jan Wylie
 - The meeting was called to order by Kristen Mikula at 1:27 pm
- Reading Of Minutes – Secretary Jennifer Shooshanian
 - Read February 8, 2025, membership meeting minutes.
- Treasurers’ Report- Kristen Mikula
 - Kristen shared the summary of the account from January 1 to December 31, 2025.
 - A copy of this report is on file with the treasurer and secretary.
 - Linda Hamrick motioned to approve the report as presented, Shannon Weston seconded the motion, and the report was approved.
- Committee Reports:
 - Executive: (No Report)
 - Veterinarian:
 - Bruce Birr reported on behalf of Dr. Rae Birr.
 1. Looking for additional veterinarians to support rides.
 2. If a ride manager needs help finding vets, they can reach out to Dr. Rae for assistance.
 - Michigan Horse Council (MHC) & Trails:
 - Barb Kurti provided the following updates:
 1. Incident reports were filed and are on record with the local police for the “firecracker” incident that took place at the 2025 Shore To Shore Endurance Ride. Charges were filed and later dropped. A fine of \$400 was imposed. Michigan Trail Riders Association (MTRA) and the township have approved a safer alternative to the route.
 2. Michigan Horse Trails Association (MHTA) is launching a program that will provide a water bottle and a sticker for each trail visited.
 - a. GLDRA members can become members for \$10.
 3. Michigan Horse Council (MHC) no longer has a trail committee.

4. Barb has been appointed by the Michigan DNR Equine Trails Sub-Committee (ETS) as the SW Regional Representative to work with the DNR on equestrian trails in the southwest lower Peninsula Region.
 - MTRA is hosting a benefit ride this summer at South Branch
 1. Au Sable Pines
 2. July 25-26, 2026
 - o Finance: (No Report)
 - o Rider Reps: (No Report)
 - o Points and Mileage: (No Report)
 - o Grievance: (No Report)
 - o Awards:
 - Lisa Germann reported the 2025 awards were \$41.93 over budget.
 - Expected budget for 2026 \$1,700
 - o Membership:
 - Shannon Weston is retiring from the membership committee, and a new volunteer is needed.
 - A list of duties have been provided for review.
 - o Newsletter:
 - Sara Hall requested content for the newsletter. Content should be submitted by the 10th of the month.
 - All members were encouraged to send Sara snowy horse pictures.
 - o Promotions:
 - Diane Meinders requested volunteers and provided a sign-up sheet for the booth at the Michigan Horse Expo, March 6-8, 2026.
 1. Any slots not filled will be provided to Sara Hall to publish in the newsletter.
 - GLDRA will have booth passes.
 - Discussed promoting the clinic(s) at the Expo. Participants receive an annual GLDRA membership included with the clinic(s) price.
 - o Web Page: (No Reports)
- Old Business / Action Items:
 - o Virtual Ride Updates:
 - Aurora Walsh reached out to Warhorse Endurance (Christina Hyke) last year to inquire about virtual rides. Warhorse Endurance is hosting 3 rides this year, with proceeds donated to a designated organization.

GLDRA is one of those organizations. The ride is estimated to launch on March 1.

- The route will be the Shore to Shore Trail
 1. Jennifer Shooshanian has provided the routes.
 2. Sara Hall created milestone descriptions with pictures.
 3. Artwork and prize development are in progress.
- Upon launch, campaigns will be promoted on the GLDRA website, Social Media, and in the newsletter.
 1. All members are encouraged to participate and promote.
- Kathy Macki motioned to set the money aside as a separate line item on the treasurer's report and discuss how the funds will be used at a later date. Lisa Germann seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Action Items			
Subject	Date Due	Person Responsible	
Meet with Bruce regarding banquet details prior to the December meeting	12/2025	Jan	✓
Provide a copy of the hotel contract to Carl	11/2025	Carl	✓
Mailchimp to members about details of banquet and annual meeting	12/2025	Carl	✓
Newsletter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWAG Store Link • Banquet information (Nov & Dec) • Bylaws Update: The current language and the proposed language. Also send via Mail Chimp. • Open positions 	November	Jan to communicate the requests to Sara Hall.	✓

Action Items			
Subject	Date Due	Person Responsible	
Website Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ride Results (Emailed to Heather) Bylaws Update: The current language and the proposed language. SWAG Store Link 	November	Jan to communicate the request to Heather Stanford.	✓
Include the mileage form with the welcome packet.	November	Jan to communicate the request to Diane.	✓
Set up a website, meeting time, and committee to include Jan, Heather, Cory, and Carl.	November	Jan	✓

Open Items			
Subject	Date Due	Person Responsible	ü
New tracking system for points and mileage	TBD	Kathy Macki	IP
Audit 2024 finances	Before Year-End Banquet	Kristen Mikula	✓ (See Below)
Write an article for the newsletter about Diane Meinders and send it to Sara Hall	10/10/25	Layla Saatchi / Stephanie Boomgard	Scratched
Add a membership reminder to the timeline document and send the document to Jennifer	11/4/25	Kathy Macki	✓
Provide information about positions and the	11/4/25	Kathy Macki	✓

Open Items			
Subject	Date Due	Person Responsible	ü
qualifications required to Jennifer to develop a summary to post in the next newsletter			

- Linda Hamrick motioned to accept the 2024 summary on the treasurer's report dated January 1 – December 31, 2025, as presented. Shannon Weston seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

- New Business:
 - o Ride Schedule
 - Reviewed and confirmed the UMECRA draft for the rides in Michigan.
 1. Sara Hall noted the Keweenaw Ride was cancelled at the UMECRA meeting.
 - Layla Saatchi motioned to approve the ride schedule, Diane Meinders seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.
 - Ride flyers are due by Feb 1 and should be sent to Sara Hall.
 - o Bylaw Changes
 - Carl Dosmann motioned to approve the Bylaw changes as presented, Becke Grams seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.
 - o Nominations
 - (2) Rider Representatives
 1. Dawn Bouwkamp, Tori Sheppard, and Teresa Mulherin were nominated as a one-year interim ride representative to fulfill one of the 2-year staggered terms.
 - a. Membership voted and Teresa Mulherin will fulfill the position for 2026.
 - b. This will be voted on for a two-year term in 2027.
 2. Dawn Bouwkamp, Tori Sheppard, and Aurora Walsh were nominated for a 2-year term.
 - a. Aurora declined.
 - b. Membership voted, and Dawn Bouwkamp was elected for the 2026-2027 Term.
 - President 2026-2027

1. Stephanie Boomguard accepted the nomination and was elected by the membership.
- Vice President 2027-2028
 1. Audrey McMurray and Linda Hamrick were nominated.
 - a. Linda declined.
 - b. Audrey McMurray accepted the nomination and was elected by the membership.
 - Veterinary Representative
 1. Bruce Birr accepted the nomination on behalf of Dr. Rae Birr. Ray was elected for the 2026 term.
 - Member At Large
 1. Damaris Smith accepted the nomination and was elected by the membership for the 2026 term.
 - Finance Committee
 1. (2) 1 Year Positions
 - a. Damaris Smith accepted the nomination and was elected by the membership for the 2026 term.
- o Finance Committee:
- (2) 1-Year Positions
 1. Tori Shepherd accepted the nomination and was elected by the membership for the 2026 term.
 2. Jan Wiley accepted the nomination and was elected by the membership for the 2026.
 - (2) 2-Year Positions – (Staggard terms)
 1. Heather Neal declined the nomination.
 2. Sandra Wright accepted the nomination and was elected by the membership for the 2026-2027 term.
 3. Michelle Weigand was accepted for the nomination to stay on for 2026 to fulfill the board-appointed staggered 2-year term.
 - *There was some confusion about the appointments and nominations. The Bylaws state:*
 1. *By Laws: A **Finance Committee**, which shall be composed of five (5) members.*
 2. *At each annual meeting, the **general membership** shall elect **one** of the two members for a staggered two-year term. Also, the **Board shall appoint two (2) members for a one-year term***

at its first Board meeting after the annual membership meeting.

- Ultimately, all positions were filled and agreed upon at the membership meeting.
- o Promotions
 - Diane Meinders will continue on the promotions committee and has requested additional member participation.
 - All interested to meet at 5 pm following the membership meeting.
- o Hall Of Fame
 - Becke Grams was nominated and received the Hall of Fame Award.
 1. The traveling trophy will be retired and put on display at Timbers Edge during the White River Rides.
- o Awards
 - In addition to the initial \$1,700 budgeted for awards the following was discussed:
 1. GLDRA Rookie Of The Year
 - a. Shannon Weston has been donating this award, GLDRA will assume the future rewards cost.
 - i. Kathy Macki made a motion that GLDRA will provide and Embroidered Halter, Lisa Germann seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
 - b. Discussed posting the winner with the year end awards.
 - i. Audrey McMurry motioned to post the winner with the year end awards, Stephanie Boomguard seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
 - c. Novice and intro rides do not count towards GLDRA Rookie Of The Year.
 - d. Discussed adding the follow qualifications; A person can't compete in more than 3 sanctioned rides (In or out of Michigan) prior to declaring their intent for this award.
 - i. Kathy Maki motioned to add the qualification that a person can't compete in more than 3 sanctioned rides (In or out of Michigan) prior to delcaring their intent for the GLDRA Rookie Of

The Year award, Sara Hall seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

2. Budget:

a. Discussed additional money being added to the budget for awards:

- i. \$80-Charles Versatility Award (Personalized prize is determined by the awards committee)
- ii. \$50 For A Picture Frame At 1,000 miles (Horse)
- iii. \$35-Embroidered Halter (Rookie Of The Year)
- iv. \$30-Certificates. (200 personal and horse mileage program)
- v. Stephanie Boomguard motioned to approve adding the above to the budget, Kristen Mikula seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

b. Limited Distance (LD) Awards

- i. There are a substantial number of LD riders and there was a discussion to begin recognizing these riders with an award. Plaques for 1-6 place for lightweight and heavy weight will be provided.
- ii. Kathy Macki motioned to approve 1st - 6th place award plaques for Limited Distance lightweight and heavy weight with an additional \$100 added to the budget, Sara Hall seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

3. Hall of Fame traveling trophy

a. Lisa Germann motioned to retire the Hall Of Fame traveling trophy and replace it with a plaque, Kathy Macki seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

4. Personal Mileage awards

a. Discussed increase the budget by \$25 for the personal mileage program to cover the cost of the logo on each item.

b. Kristen Mikula motioned to increase the personal mileage awards budget by \$25, Stephanie Boomguard seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

o Next Meeting:

- Pending confirmation with the Doherty Hotel.
- This will be posted on the website

Kristen Mikula motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer Shooshanian seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Shooshanian