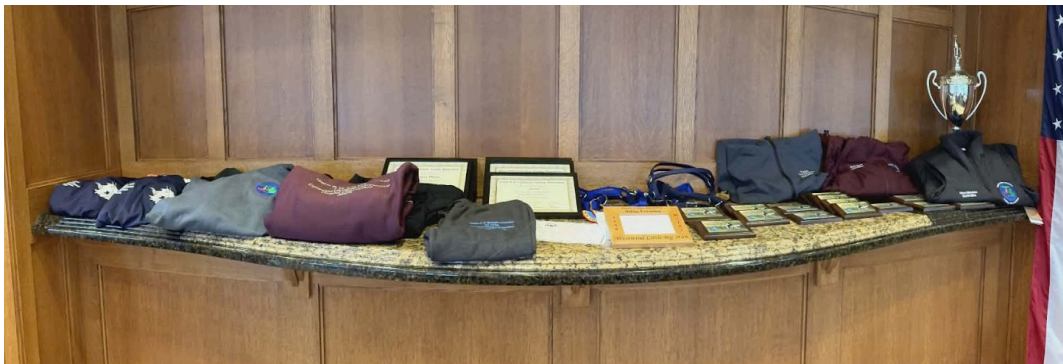




Great Lakes Distance Riding Association Newsletter February 2026

We recently finished the 2025 GLDRA Meeting/Banquet in Clare, MI with many awards presented, new members added to the board, and lots of topics discussed. There were numerous items donated to the silent auction to help offset award costs for this year. GLDRA member Diane Meinders was our guest speaker sharing tips about conditioning your horse, human care, nutrition and answered any questions about distance riding. The day was packed trying to get everything addressed in such a short amount of time, but in the times between the schedule great socialization was enjoyed.



Becke Grams was inducted into the GLDRA Hall of Fame in 2026. Becke has over 9000 competition distance miles and competed over 35 years. Becke has hosted ride clinics, willingly mentors new riders in the sport and has managed the White River rides for many years. Her dedication to distance riding and support for GLDRA through the years is honored by this prestigious honor.

Another prestigious honor goes to Diane Meinders who was awarded her lifetime mileage award of 20,000 distance miles! Congratulations to Diane and her horses who made this accomplishment possible.



2025 Board Members

President- Stephanie Boomgaard
Vice President: Audrey McMurry
Secretary: Jennifer Shooshanian
Treasurer: Kristen Mikula
Member at Large: Damaris Smith
Rider Reps: Teresa Mulherin, Dawn Bouwkamp
Webmaster and Newsletter: Sara Hall
Points Keeper: Kathy Macki
Past President: Jan Wylie



Next board meeting: March 25 7PM

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Stephanie Boomgaard

Stephanie has been a member of GLDRA for nearly a decade and has successfully campaigned two horses in 50+ mile rides. She is a horse trainer based in Muskegon, MI specializing in colt starting and problem solving with an emphasis on trail (endurance) riding. She is looking forward to serving the GLDRA community as the new President and promoting Michigan Endurance rides to grow the organization.



Audrey McMurry

Audrey has been a GLDRA member for 5 years, she got the taste of competitive distance riding back in 2010 but has been consistently active in the aerc community since 2019. She has grown up and ridden all over the tip of the Mitt. She looks forward to serving the Great Lakes Distance Riding Association as the new vice president and inspiring others to join our great sport!

NEW MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT!

This year I'd like to update everyone with our new members! If you see a new face or hear an unfamiliar name announced at a ride, be sure to welcome them!

New GLDRA Members- Shayna Stagg, Karen Woods,
Michele Morris, Katherine Kotrys



Are you attending the Michigan Horse Expo in East Lansing, March 6-8, 2026?
Stop by the table located within the trails groups. There will be GLDRA members staffing the table to answer questions and hand out ride/clinic flyers. Need to renew your membership? Stop by to save on postage or an online fee! If you live nearby or would be willing to help staff the booth, please contact Diane Meinders at diane.meinders@gmail.com as she has the schedule for the weekend. See you there!



Check out the [website](#) for the 2026 Ride Calendar to start planning your season.

Winter riding pictures from members Diane Maxey (left) and Sara Hall (right)

