

Happy New Year  
2026



Great Lakes Distance Riding Association  
January 2026 Newsletter

Board meeting, general membership meeting, awards, silent auction and MORE!

January 31, 2026

**Doherty Hotel**  
604 N. McEwan St  
Clare, MI 48617



[info@DohertyHotel.com](mailto:info@DohertyHotel.com)  
1-877-2-DOHERTY (1-877-236-4378)  
989-386-1562

Start thinking about questions regarding distance riding! For GLDRA's educational section of the day Diane Meinders and Dr. Rae Birr will answer questions on how to start conditioning after a winter break, horse and human nutrition, and rider care. Submissions can be written anonymously or not depending on your comfort level. No question is considered silly, so don't be shy!



There will also be a silent auction going on at the banquet. Please bring your gently used tack or household items. All proceeds will benefit the GLDRA awards fund.

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\*\*\*SEE PDF IN THE EMAIL BELOW THE NEWSLETTER LINK FOR BYLAW CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING\*\*\*

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**There are a number of positions that need to be filled for the board this year. See below for descriptions of each position that need to be filled.**

**President-** must be elected from the board, must be a member in good standing with GLDRA and have been a board member the past year.

1. preside at all Board meetings and at the annual meeting.
2. enforce the Constitution and Bylaws of GLDRA.
3. be an ex-officio member of all committees. Ex-officio is defined as the right to attend all committee meetings with the right to voice but without vote at those meetings.
4. perform duties as directed by the Board and as customarily pertain to the office of President
5. not concurrently hold the office of Vice-President or Treasurer, or be a family member of anyone who holds the office of Vice-President or Treasurer.

**Vice President-** must be elected from the board, must be a member in good standing with GLDRA and have been a board member the past year.

1. in the absence or disability of the President, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of President, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President.
2. ensure that an internal audit (i.e. peer review) of the treasurer's records be performed annually by the finance committee, or an outside auditing firm if deemed prudent.
3. perform such other duties as directed by the Board.
4. not concurrently hold the office of President or Treasurer, or be a family member of anyone who holds the office of President or Treasurer.

**Veterinary Rep (1 Year Term)**

**Member at Large-** Not affiliated with ride site management of any ride.

**One-year position for rider rep-** Active in distance riding and not affiliated with ride site management of any ride.

**Two-year position for rider rep-** Active in distance riding and not affiliated with ride site management of any ride.

**Financial Committee:**

- a. (2) two-year positions
- b. (1) one-year position.
- c. Duties: The Finance Committee shall guide and direct the organization's financial planning and expenditures as needed, and insure fiscal soundness. The Board shall establish policies for the Finance Committee. Meetings of the Finance Committee, other than at the annual meeting, may be called by any two (2) members of the committee with three (3) weeks' notice.

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Are you looking to sport some GLDRA wearables?! Check out the NEW SWAG store, now live and ready for your custom order! Here's the link below:

<https://greatlakesdistanceridingassoc.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

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2025 Board Members

President- Jan Wylie  
Vice President: Barb Kurti  
Secretary: Jennifer Shooshanian  
Treasurer: Kristen Mikula  
Member at Large: Layla Saatchi  
Rider Reps: Audry McMurry,  
Stephanie Boomgaard  
Newsletter: Sara Hall  
Webmaster: Heather Stafford  
Points Keeper: Kathy Macki

**Next board meeting: Jan 31, 2026 at the annual banquet**

**\*\*TIME TO RENEW YOUR GLDRA MEMBERSHIP!!! RENEW ONLINE  
OR MAIL!! SEE EMAIL FOR LINKS TO FORMS!!\***