



Great Lakes Distance Riding Association Newsletter March 2025



Did you attend the Michigan Horse Expo? The GLDRA booth was located in the trails area which made a strong comeback this year! Several GLDRA members volunteered their time to help out with staffing the booth. Thanks to everyone who helped out through the weekend!



The first ride of the season is on May 3-4, White River Spring in Hesperia, MI at Timbers Edge Campground. Camping reservations have already started booking, so if you're planning on attending RSVP your spot!

<https://www.timbersedgecampground.com/>

**HOOF
HOOF
HOORAY**

Looking for the entire 2025 ride calendar? Check out all the details, distances offered and locations, check out <https://gldrami.org/rides>.

GREAT LAKES DISTANCE RIDING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MINUTES FEBRUARY 8, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 by Vice President Barb Kurti.

There was no President's report.

Kathy Macki read the minutes from the 2024 annual meeting.

Bruce stated that there were copies of his treasurer's report on the tables and he would answer any questions. Linda Hamrick moved to accept the report as presented, Diane Maxey seconded, and the report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

The veterinarian report was the same as the earlier meeting, we need more vets to work rides. If anyone knows of anyone that might be interested, please let Rae know.

The finance committee met and are recommending an increase in membership dues.

They proposed the following membership fees to be effective May 1, 2025: Single - \$30.00, Junior - \$20.00, Family - \$45.00 and Lifetime \$250.00. They also recommended the personal distance and horse distance program fees be increased to \$40.00 and the buyback mileage fee to \$20.00. The increased fees would be effective May 1, 2025.

Bruce made a motion to pass the increased fees, Layla seconded, and the motion passed.

There were a couple of other ideas discussed for raising funds for awards, one being doing virtual rides. There was a lot of back and forth, but in the end, nothing was decided.

There was no membership report.

Promotions: Diane had her sign-up sheets for Expo. She explained a bit about getting a pass to get in free and how long volunteer sessions would be.

Awards: The awards report was a recap of the earlier discussions and can be found on the regular board meeting minutes of this same date.

There were no reports from Mileage and Points or Grievance.

Trails and MHC: This was the same report that Barb gave at the earlier board meeting and the report can be found in those minutes. However, Rae did mention that we need to be ambassadors for our own sport and make people aware that the welfare of our equines is very important to us.

Web Page: Heather gave a recap of her earlier report, and those notes can be found in the minutes from the earlier meeting of this same date. She said she needs more content for the website. Sara Hall has volunteered to do a newsletter monthly and this will be on the website too. Heather will change the artwork on the membership form and update the new pricing prior to April 1, 2025. She said that videos and ride photos are always welcome.

Old Business:

Expo: This was discussed under the promotions in the committee reports above.

New Business:

Ride Schedule: Kathy will get it to Heather for the website.

Nomination and election of Member at Large: Diane Maxey nominated Linda Hamrick who declined the nomination. Diane Meinders nominated Soraya (Layla) Saatchi, Linda Hamrick seconded. Rae moved that the nominations be closed, Carl seconded.

Following a unanimous vote, Layla is our new Member at Large for 2025.

Nomination and election of the one-year Rider Representative position: Linda Hamrick nominated Stephanie Boomgaard, Kathy seconded. Heather Neal nominated Aurora Walsh and Amy Fisher seconded. The nominations were closed, and we voted.

Stephanie will be the rider rep again for 2025.

Nomination and election for finance committee (one-year position): Aurora Walsh was nominated but declined. Kathy nominated Heather Stafford, Linda Hamrick seconded.

Barb Kurti nominated Heather Neal and Linda Hamrick seconded. The nominations were closed, and we voted. Heather Neal will be on the finance committee for 2025.

Nomination and election of veterinary representative: Lisa Germann nominated Dr. Rae and Linda Hamrick seconded. The nominations were closed, and a unanimous ballot was cast. Basically, she is stuck with us 😊

Kathy read the Hall of Fame nominations, and we voted. The winners are announced during the awards. There were three nominations for person, Carl Dosmann, Becke Grams, and Barb Kurti. Carl was voted Hall of Fame Person for 2024. We had four nominations for equine, Kulta (owned by Barb Kurti), Connie (owned by Diane Maxey), Trika (owned by Cassie Green) and Dose (owned by Jan Wylie). Connie was voted as Hall of Fame Horse for 2024.

Anything else: Diane Meinders said she would like to have the ride flyers for Expo.

The February date was not available at the Doherty and so we moved to have it on January 31, 2026. This was approved.

Layla stated she was interested in putting on a ride at Waterloo on September 20-21, 2025. There was some discussion regarding this and while I think she is still interested in trying to put on a new ride, it doesn't seem like it would be this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Macki

GLDRA Secretary

BIG NEWS



WATERLOO ROCK 'N ROLL

1- DAY EVENT: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

The **Great Lakes Distance Riding Association** proudly announces its **FIRST ANNUAL** distance riding event in Southeast Michigan's gorgeous Waterloo State Park.

These lovely scenic trails are mostly wooded and vary between mostly single-track and some two-track with a possible water crossing (depending on the weather). The trails are extremely well-maintained because of the tireless effort of the *Waterloo Horseman's Association* in partnership with the Michigan DNR.

Camping is rustic with lots of mature trees and with easy access to water. Contact the [Michigan DNR](#) directly to reserve your camp site.

Negative Coggins required and juniors must wear helmets. Dogs must be leashed. Saturday night awards will follow after a potluck dinner – main dish will be provided with a (delicious) vegetarian option. Please bring a dish to pass.



**Ride Manager:
Layla Saatchi**

50-Mile Endurance:
\$100 Senior, \$45 Junior
(Non-AERC members
add \$20)

25-Mile LD: \$80 Senior,
\$35 Junior (Non-AERC
members add \$20)

50-Mile Comp.: \$100
Senior, \$45 Junior

25-Mile Comp.: \$80
Senior, \$35 Junior

**15-Mile UMECRA
Novice:** \$25

HOW TO ENTER:

Mail + Cheque:
10801 Last Drive,
Plymouth, MI 48170

**WATERLOO
EQUESTRIAN
CAMPGROUND**

8400 Loveland Road,
Chelsea, MI
Questions?

Email:
lastacresfarm@gmail.com
Phone/Text: 248-302-9414

<https://thesweatyequestrian.com/>



Episode 5:
How to Get Started
When You're New to
Endurance Riding



Listen to podcasts? Check out this website and podcast available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, YouTube or IHeart radio.

Would you like to contribute to the newsletter? Have a story to share? Send submissions by the 10th of each month to sara.hall1388@gmail.com.

2025 Board Members

President- Jan Wylie

Vice President: Barb Kurti

Secretary: Kathy Macki with Jennifer Shooshanian helping

Treasurer: Kristen Miklua

Member at Large: Layla Saatchi

Rider Reps: Audry McMurry, Stephanie Boomgaard

Finance Committee for 1 year position: Heather Neal

Newsletter: Sara Hall

Webmaster: Heather Stafford

Points Keeper: Kathy Macki



Next board meeting: June 4, 2025 Board meeting 7PM

2025 GLDRA Banquet will be at the Doherty Hotel in Clare, MI on Jan 31, 2026