

## National BOD Minutes February 19, 2026

CALL TO ORDER by President John Zelif, 8:30 a.m. CST, February 19, 2026 at National Convention, Austin, TX.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Maria Pilgrim, Bob Insko, Linda Johnson-Conne, Dayna Morgan, Fran Muench, Mollie Kelly, Sherry Garnes (via Zoom), Kris Gray, John Zelif, Marilyn Marston, Kay Gunckel, R3 Alternate, Mary Alice Braun, R6 Alternate, Alex Braun, Technology Chair and Sarah Smith, Executive Director. Ruth Mesimer, Data and Management Chair also in attendance via Zoom. Kandace French-Contreras joined via Zoom at 1:00.

WELCOME.

MINUTES. November 8, 2025. **Motion to approve minutes by Meroshnekoff, second by Kelly. Motion carried.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Zelif. At the end there will be an assignment for the board focused on goals centered around an activity. We need several committee chairs. Education is especially important. Technology fundraising is a little over \$18,000 but we need to keep pushing it. We need to ensure our members are subscribed to E-News as it is our primary mode of communication, particularly for those that are not on social media. We picked up some ground with sponsorships and received a new sponsorship/partnership with State Line Tack that has the potential for growth. Picked up US Rider as a 25% discount partner and Trekk-ETT as future sponsor. We are waiting to hear back from Equescapes as a potential sponsor. Reactor Panel saddle company is another possible sponsor and Riding Warehouse is intending to continue their existing sponsorship.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Smith. Insurance audits and contracts for 2026 are complete and secured. Member support for fundraising in both annual awards and the technology fundraising has been excellent. Leisure Division and Veterinary scorecards have been ordered. Material costs are going up in March so ensured order was placed prior to that.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Gray. 2025 was a break-even year, there was a slight surplus. There was a slight decline in membership but the membership drive was not done at the end of the year as in past years. Sponsorships were down in 2025. Drug testing was below due to not all testing was done so there was savings there. Expenses were fairly in line. We did not have to dip into the savings. Account statuses were shared. We have been profitable the last few years offsetting previous losses.

RIDE MANAGEMENT. Mesimer. Hoping to give information to ride managers in 2026 that will help them. Regions provided RMS admins and points auditors to Ruth. Far less confusion in 2025 with membership and keeping the data tight.

FOUNDATION. Meroshnekoff. Foundation meeting will follow the board meeting.

RIDE SANCTION. Smith/Cumberworth. Two events have occurred so far in 2026 with 19 fully sanctioned and more pending. Every region is projected for clinics which is great. Clinics are good for growth.

TECHNOLOGY/WEBSITE. Alex Braun, Ruth Mesimer and Smith. We have been a little delayed in getting the website out due to holidays and travel. We will be going live next week. A E-News is set to go out as well for members and the webinar regarding the technology changes will be posted which touches on the why, how and several member questions. Upcoming meeting with Shineforth to work on new RMS build next week. Discussion about regional linked pages and having regional representatives for each to add and control content.

VIRTUAL MILEAGE CHALLENGE. Zelif. Sign-ups have begun and there are currently 18. We had 50 last year. It's a great motivational tool. Sign up is the same and all mileage whether recreational, training or competing counts.

MEMBERSHIP. Zeliff and Kelly. Kelly will need regional representative updates and is trying to stay on top of what correspondence and contacts are going out to new members in each region. Ambition to work with 4H groups and youth participation. Need to continue to build membership stats. Strong renewals numbers compared to this time last year. Hopefully that trend continues.

BREED & ORGANIZATION LIASIONS. Smith. Breed liaison changed hands again so Smith handled for 2025 awards. Pilgrim agreed to take on the role and Smith will train for the position.

JUDGES COMMITTEE. Walls and Pam Hess. Dr. Pam Hess is doing a great job in her new role. Recruit judges, we need more judges.

EDUCATION. Vacant. Dr. Pam Hess may be interested in taking on that position.

HP ADVISORY. Dieterich. The 2026 annual edition is well underway and being formatted.

NATIONAL DRUG TESTING. Kim Murphy. Smith will be assisting with testing assignment for 2026 to alleviate more of the workload for Murphy and ease of logistics.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES. Dieterich. Updated P & P was uploaded to shared file and it will be added to the website.

RULES INTERPRETER/SAFETY. Roger Garlitz. Current RI form is uploaded in the folder. Two rides filed reports and there were several minor accidents with reports filed. It was identified that timer interaction is critical to a successful ride.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION. Ruth Mesimer. Honorary and Appreciation recipients report for 2025 was provided for the board. All are being recognized at the 2026 convention ceremony. Certificates for those attending convention were mailed to Fran Muench for convention and those not attending were mailed directly to recipients. The deadline for 2026 nominations is October 1, 2026.

MARKETING/PUBLICITY/ENEWS. Zeliff/Kim Murphy. Need help on marketing. Requesting the board think of people within their regions that could help. Gray asked if there were specific projects that might be on the table so regions could look for people with those specific strengths. The Tevis Forum ad was completed again.

FINANCIAL GROWTH/SUSTAINABILITY. Gray. As far as long-term sustainability we need to look like a unified front, not like individual regions. Money should be directed nationally to be sustainable. Currently regional websites aren't clear in national affiliation and direction which doesn't help the national organization. We need to rebrand and reconnect our organization on a national level to grow and promote as a whole.

## **Old Business**

### **1. RULES & BYLAWS. Muench**

CL#1 – Divisions, Classes and Eligibility –

RP#1 Awards – Leisure Division Awards – Discussion to adjust minimum number of rides to eight rides rather than five rides. Eliminate the sweepstakes language as that does not apply to LeD. Junior teams must have a minimum of six rides versus five. Muench recommended tabling high point rider and horse awards until new system is in place due to logistical scoring. Determined to divide the proposal into three proposals for smaller pieces.

RP#1 – Grand Champion High average leisure team with changes – **Motion by Muench, second by Morgan. Motion carried.**

RP#2 – High point Leisure Rider and Horse with changes – **Motion by Muench, second by Marston. Motion carried.**

RP#3 – Leisure Division National Championships with changes to points and number of rides – **Motion by Muench, second by Meroshnekoff. Motion carried.**

1. CL#2 – Strike out language regarding Leisure Division ineligibility for national team awards – **Motion by Muench, second by Kelly. Motion carried.**
2. NATIONAL CONVENTION. Muench. All is going well and ready to go. 2027 will be hosted in Region 6 projected for Kansas City area by Catherine Gast and Jeff Zeller.

### **New Business**

1. Annual Tax and Non-Profit Status Review. Gray. All filings are complete for the year.
2. Vacant Chair Recommendations
  - a. Breed Organizations
  - b. Education
  - c. Policies and Procedures
3. Election of Foundation at Large Member
3. REGION REPORTS. R1-Meroshnekoff/Pilgrim. Mini convention in March and there are six rides, two LeD only with clinics attached. Working to schedule another full ride in September. A good and active board now. R2-French-Contreras. Firmed up six rides and assigned dates to all but one of them. There is a lot of interest from the endurance community. There was a resignation on the regional board but there is another member interested. Headed in a positive direction. Two clinics in the works. R3-Johnson-Conne. Eight confirmed rides. Region convention is Santa Fe next month. R4-Muench. One ride cancelled but one ride is done. One rider who started as LeD has moved from Led, to CP and now to Open. Several spring rides scheduled. R5-Gray. Mini convention is March 7 which is an LeD combined with an awards dinner. 10 events are scheduled and two calendared for 2027. Two new ride managers. R6 - Zeliff. 7 rides with a 3 ride LeD buckle series. Three clinics and the second ride of the season will host the awards banquet.
4. Board goal setting activity.

SHARED BOARD is \$454.05

**Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.**

Next meeting April 7, 2026 via Zoom beginning at 6:30 p.m. CDT.