

OEA Board of Directors Meeting: Minutes

February 12, 2026

Present: Sarah Richardson, Bernadette Johnston, Ann Neal, Tori Pengelly, Sue Laverty, Donna Van Bleek, Winnie Chiu, Kendal Lehari, Doug Topalovic, Gabrielle Turcotte, Charlotte Hodgson, Xavier Traisnel, Charlotte Hodgson, Jacquie Kelton

Regrets: Nikki Maclellan, Doug Topalovic, Stephanie Shatilla

Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

- *Sue moved, Charlotte seconded, and it was carried, to approve the minutes for the OEA Board of Directors meeting of December 11, 2025.*
- *Sarah moved, Bernie seconded, and it was carried, to approve the agenda for the meeting of the OEA Board of Directors on January 12, 2026.*

2. President's Report

- **EC Omnibus pages.** Sarah advised that the Omnibus pages are complete and the following changes to the calendar are confirmed:
 - Glenarden Farm is running a third horse trial (EV60-EV90) on August 9, 2026.
 - Grandview has dropped the EV115 level from their August 2 event.
 - The September 5-7, 2026 Glen Oro Horse trial has added an EV105 Division.
- **EC Development Levy Fund.** The next meeting with EC is March 2nd, 2026 They will review the feedback and future plans for the bursaries that come from the levies. The president advised she has enquired about the educational fund that EC has access to. This is something we can pursue further over the next year.
- **The Zara Buren Memorial Award.** The announcement date will be pushed back due to some ongoing issues with changes in how the financials are awarded through EC.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reviewed the January financial report.

Bernadette proposed a motion, Sarah seconded and it was carried: That the OEA approve an expenditure of up to \$2,300 for the purchase of forty-eight (48) OEA-branded YETI mugs for distribution through the Volunteer Incentive Program, with one mug awarded at each EC Sanctioned Horse Trial in Ontario.

4. Communications.

Charlotte advised she posted the upcoming webinars on our social channels.

5. Committee Reports

- **Leaderboard.** No updates
- **Adult Riders.** Ann went over the adult rider program proposal.

Adult rider Team Challenge
Adult riders chat webinars
Adult rider webinar series with physiotherapist
Adult Rider Bingo for Team Challenge participants
Adult Riders Scavenger Hunt throughout the season
Pace & Position clinic

The motion is put forward by Ann and second by Tori and if was carried: That the Board of Directors of the Ontario Eventing Association approve the Adult Riders Program as outlined in this plan, including an allocation of up to \$1,600 in 2026 to support ribbons and prizes for the Team Challenge Finale and a series of three webinars, and authorize the Committee to implement and administer the program in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

- **U25.** Kendal advised that her and Nikki have been working on the program. They have a webinar with Karl Slezak and Emily Gilbert. Katie Malensek is going to do one competing while in school.
 - o Kendal proposed that they might run a training camp at Grandview in the spring. It would be a ride a test clinic type event.
 - o Consider implementing the “Red Ribbon award” like the “Blue Ribbon Award” in the US.
- **Clinics/Education.** We have a webinar series lined up for this year.
- **Organizers.** Sarah advised the feedback on the EC levy fund was generally positive. There was some confusion in the application process. Some feedback was that there should not be subjectivity associated with the decision-making process for distributing out the bursaries by EC. Sarah will pass the information on to EC.

It was reported that some organizers have suggested that some elements of the CIP program could usefully be made available on a per-event basis. These could include, for example, fees covering a medic and/or travel costs associated with judges. Bernie will take this discussion into account as she proposes any changes to the CIP program for 2026.

- **Officials.** Ann went over the updated Officials Bursary. The mileage rate has been updated.
 - o The wordings and application form has been updated.
 - o The bursaries will no longer be first come, first served.

Ann put forward a motion: \$3,000 to be awarded. Sarah seconded.

- **EC Rules and Local Divisions.** Sue reported she is working on the updated guidelines for EV60 that we will propose to EC. An update will follow.
- **Rider Development Days.** 5 organizers have expressed interest in hosting this year.

Winnie went over the Development Days proposal.

That the Board of Directors of the Ontario Eventing Association approve the Rider Development Days Program as outlined in this policy, including an allocation of up to \$3,900 in 2026 to support three (3) Development Days, and authorize the Executive Committee to implement and administer the program in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

- **AMM & Awards.** N/A
- **Coaching** Kendal is going to put out a video about the updating coaching guidelines from EC.
- **Volunteers.** Ann advised the program remains from 2025 for 2026.

6. Other matters

Sarah requested we move the meeting in March to the third week in March. March 19, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m. by Sarah, seconded by Sue.