

OEA Board of Directors Meeting: Minutes

January 15, 2026

Present: Sarah Richardson, Bernadette Johnston, Ann Neal, Stephanie Shatilla, Tori Pengelly, Nikki Maclellan, Sue Laverty, Donna Van Bleek, Winnie Chiu, Xavier Traisnel, Kendal Lehari, Doug Topalovic, Gabrielle Turcotte.

Regrets: Charlotte Hodgson and Jacquie Kelton.

Call to Order: 7:03 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

- *Ann Neal moved, Nikki seconded, and it was carried, to approve the minutes for the OEA Board of Directors meeting of December 11, 2025*
- *Bernadette moved, Nikki seconded, and it was carried, to approve the agenda for the meeting of the OEA Board of Directors on January 15, 2026.*

2. President's Report

The President asked everyone to disclose any possible conflicts of interest:

- Sarah Richardson: Boards her horse and trains at Stevens Creek Farm where she helps Organizer Teddie Laframboise run the horse trials and is a volunteer Show Secretary for the SCF Shows and horse trials.
- Ann Neal: Runs Spring Hill Farm in King City which is boarding stable where her daughter operates a business. She sits on various EC committees.
- Bernadette Johnston: None.
- Stephanie Shatilla: Part-boards a horse from Rebecca Novia, an organizer of the horse trials at Wits End.
- Nikki Maclellan: Operates Raynham Stables with her father and coaches OEA Directors Stephanie Shatilla and Gabrielle Turcot.
- Gabrielle Turcot: Trains with Nikki at Raynham Stables, where she also coaches.
- Tori Pengelly: Rides with EC coaches at times.
- Sue Laverty: Is an OEA Organizer at Lane's End Farm where she runs an EC sanctioned horse trial each year. She is also a Technical Delegate.
- Donna Van Beek: Is Show Secretary for the Caledon and Cherrylane horse trials. Helps at FEI events as a part time secretary/scoring. She is also an owner.
- Winnie Chiu: Rides with Silver Fox Farm.
- Doug Topalovic: None.
- Xavier Traisnel: None.
- Kendal Lehari: Owns Reindalyne Farm

- **EC Eventing Levy Development Fund.** Sarah provided an update on the EC Eventing Levy Development Fund including the Grassroots Development Fund, Support for Organizers-Officials, Support for Officials & Coaches, Volunteer Recognition and National Rankings.
- **EC Omnibus pages.** Sarah advised that the Omnibus pages are complete and the following changes to the calendar are confirmed:
 - Glenarden Farm is considering running a third horse trial (EV60-EV90) on August 9, 2026.
 - Grandview has dropped the EV115 level from their August 2 event.
- **The Zara Buren Memorial Award.** Sarah reported that due to the changes to the CRA's income tax rules related to charitable giving, EC will become a more significant partner with the Zara Buren Memorial Foundation, and the OEA, in the management of the annual Zara Buren Memorial Award and associated Grants. This includes a more robust role on the selection committee and the direct disbursement of funds to the Award and Grant recipients. Discussions between the OEA and EC are ongoing regarding how this new relationship will work in practice. In the meantime, the Award is open for applications which close at midnight on January 19.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reviewed the December financial report. There was no discussion.

4. Communications.

Sarah presented a revised OEA Social Media Policy, which had been updated since the discussions at the December meeting.

Sarah tabled a motion to adopt the January 15, 2026 version of the OEA social media policy. Ann seconded. All agreed, and the motion passed.

5. Committee Reports

- **Leaderboard.** No updates
- **Adult Riders.** No updates.
- **U25.** Nikki advised that she and Kendal will meet this month to get the registrations ready.
- **Clinics.** No updates.
- **Organizers.** Sarah reported that a meeting has been scheduled with the Organizers at the beginning of February to, among other things, review the Competition Improvement Program and ensure it is meeting the organizers needs. Donna and

Bernadette offered to consult with the Organizers in advance and develop a draft proposal to the next meeting.

- **Officials.** Stephanie reported that in 2025 the OEA increased the amount available for the Officials' Bursaries to \$5,000 and suggested that we move the deadline to later in the season so that officials are being reimbursed. She suggested further a review of the application. Steph suggested reviewing the weighing of the bursary and reviewing the application. The board agreed on the direction of the changes and Stephanie will work with the Committee and bring changes to the next BOD Meeting.
- **EC Rules and Local Divisions.** Sue reported on 2026 EC rule changes in Eventing and advised that her committee would work on issues around the OEA's EV60 Guidelines along with EC rules governing Organizers' Rights.
- **Rider Development Days.** No updates.
- **AMM & Awards.** Stephanie confirmed what ribbons were left to be mailed. Sarah suggested that we should review and update the Awards section of the OEA website.
- **Volunteers.** Sarah proposed that the OEA might want to nominate someone to receive one of the EC's Volunteer Recognition grants associated with the Eventing Levy Development Fund. Members of the volunteer committee will work on this over the next month.

6. Other matters

There was a discussion in support of organizing some webinars over the winter months including working with Elise Hicks (Mental Performance and Eventing) and Nardine Oakes (The Strong Rider). Kendal volunteered to approach Elise and Stephanie volunteered to approach Nardine.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m. by Sarah, seconded by Sue.