

OEA Board of Directors Meeting: Minutes

April 16, 2026

Present: Sarah Richardson, Bernadette Johnston, Ann Neal, Tori Pengelly, Sue Lavery, Donna Van Beek, Gabrielle Turcotte, Xavier Traisnel, Jacquie Kelton, Stephanie Shatilla, Nikki Maclellan, Doug Topalovic, Winnie Chiu

Regrets: Kendal Lehari, Charlotte Hodgson

Call to Order: 7:04 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

- *Sarah moved, Sue seconded, and it was carried, to approve the minutes with corrections for the OEA Board of Directors meeting of March 19, 2026*
- *Sarah moved, Nikki seconded, and it was carried, to approve the agenda for the meeting of the OEA Board of Directors on April 16, 2026.*

2. President's Report

Sarah noted that there are a few issues that need to be finalized or publicized before the season starts. This is the last meeting before the first event of the year, which promises, among other things, to be an interesting year for EV105, with seven (7) HTs running the EV105 level this season.

Sarah suggested some social media posts be prepared that look forward to the season including posts about HTs 'closing soon' each week and reminding our membership of the Bradley Mark Johnston "On Your Mark" Award and Zara's Legacy of Excellence, which will be awarded again this year, at every HT during the season.

Sarah advised we will need to publicize the changes in the EV60 levels. The Event Entries program is being updated to accommodate this change. Scorers will also be advised on how to score the new penalty points in Event Entries.

A motion was tabled to extend the 2023 EV60 Special Initiative to waive the fee associated with a day membership for EV60 riders who are not already members of the OEA on an indefinite basis until the Board decides to discontinue the incentive.

- *Sarah moved, Sue seconded, and it was carried that the OEA's Special Incentive for EV60 Riders, where the fee associated with purchasing an OEA day membership for EV60 riders who are not already OEA members is waived to encourage riders to try*

out nationally sanctioned Eventing in Ontario, be extended until such time as the BOD decides to discontinue it. EV60 riders must still complete the OEA's Day Membership form. Where EV60 competitors take advantage of this offer, and then subsequently purchase a full OEA membership prior to September 15 in any given year, they will be eligible for the leaderboard and year-end awards for that season and may apply any points already collected to their total, retroactively.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reviewed the February financial report including U25 membership fees, which stand at nine (9) so far in the registration process. Barbara Beaudoin has contacted Bernie to let her know that her bursary payment will be sent soon.

4. Communications

Nothing to report beyond a full series of off-season webinars and a heavy social media schedule to prepare for the coming season.

5. Committee Reports

- **Adult Riders.** Winnie reported that the Katie Wood webinar had been a success and has been posted on the OEA YouTube Channel.
- **U25.** Nikki advised that the U25 Committee had held a meeting with current registrants. They discussed the plans for the 2026 season including the "Red Ribbon Award" to encourage riders to stay at the same level long enough to be successful and safe.

There was positive feedback from some parents on the call about helping with fundraising. A raffle, or a 50/50, was discussed as an option to help with fundraising. A silent auction online was also discussed. Nikki advised there will be further discussions on this in the next few meetings.

- **Clinics/Education.** Nothing to report beyond the webinar series discussed under communications.
- **Organizers.** Sarah reported that an Organizers meeting had been held, primarily to advise on the changes to the EV60 division Guidelines, which have just been updated. She noted also that there is a discussion ongoing about issues concerning an Organizer's right to refuse entries on a case-by-case basis, subject to a clear balance between Organizers rights and the rights of competitors.
- **Officials.** Nothing to report.

- **EC Rules and Local Divisions.** Sue reported on updates to the EV60 Guidelines and stressed the need to educate our members/officials/organizers as a priority before the start of the season.
- **Rider Development Days.** Ann reported that the registrations for the Wits End Development Day were strong for the upcoming weekend.
- **AMM & Awards.** Stephanie advised the BOD that she continues to work on plans and options for the 2026 AMM at the RAWF.
- **Coaching.** Nothing to report.
- **Leaderboard.** Nothing to report.
- **Volunteers.** Anne reported that, due to issues on their end, she is still waiting for the order of YETI travel mugs to offer as 'volunteer incentives' by Organizers at each HT. She will continue to follow up. There was a discussion about how best to encourage volunteerism, and it was suggested that the Organizers be asked what kind of help they need recruiting volunteers.

6. **Other matters.** There were no other matters to discuss.

Next meeting: Thursday May 14, 2026.

Meetings adjourned by Sarah, seconded by Bernie, at 8:10 pm.