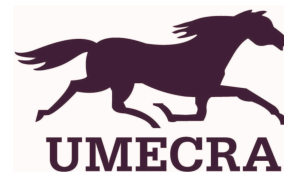


2026
March

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



LETTER FROM THE PREZ ...

Greetings UMECRA!

I hope you are all taking time to relax and start planning your ride season, maybe the weather has improved enough to get some early conditioning in. 2026 is going to be a good year, and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you on the trail!

Please welcome Shelly Carroll as our new UMECRA newsletter editor. Shelly has kindly stepped up and volunteered to take over the newsletter. Anyone who would like to contribute to the newsletter is always welcome to reach out! Contact her through the newsletter email: umecranews@gmail.com.

Do you have ride goals for the season? Is it to hit a certain mileage, maybe finish in the top 10 of your event or try your first 25, 50, 75 or 100? In previous years, we talked about riding one more ride than you have before which is still a good goal. But – what if we considered a new goal? What if we each introduced one new person to the sport we all love? Not only would we have a new person to ride with, but we would all have the opportunity to meet new people and grow the sport.

Peggy Pasillas

👁️ **WANTED** A volunteer to become our Sanctioning Coordinator starting in the 2027 season. Current Sanctioning Coordinator Theresa Meyer would like to train someone this year to take over this critical role next year. The best part of this role is that the busy time is in winter before Convention and ride season! Contact Theresa Meyer at tmeyer753@gmail.com.

👉 **Make sure to renew your UMECRA membership and any others you may need** (state, breed, national organizations) to be ready for the ride season.



DR BEECHER SHINING LIGHT AWARD: RECIPIENT BARB KURTI

Every fall after the ride season UMECRA opens nominations for awards. This past year I've learned the value of really looking at the details of websites and newsletters. So, after seeing the message about nominations, I read up on everything UMECRA offers - which is a lot!

After seeing the description for the Dr Beecher Shining Light Award I knew I had to nominate this person.

Barb Kurti has been competing in distance riding for 30 years with over 9000 competition miles including in 2021 a Tevis Cup completion on her home bred gelding Kulta. In 2010 she began managing Oak Leaf Run. Barb has served on the GLDRA Board holding various positions through the years (currently Vice President), is on the AERC ride manager committee, hosts distance riding clinics to welcome new riders to our sport, and has been a presenter at Michigan Horse Expo. Barb is also a board member of Michigan Horse Trails Association, a group that works in cooperation with public land managers, equestrian organizations, and volunteers to promote, protect and increase access to equine trails and camping in Michigan.

In Sept 2024, Barb committed to the brilliant (some said crazy) idea to bring back the iconic Shore to Shore 7 day pioneer distance ride. 2025 marked 40 years since the first endurance usage of the shore to shore trail. As many of you know, this was a massive undertaking of coordination, management, planning, and determination. There were so many moving parts to this ride, and Barb handled the snags and constantly shifting details with dignity and fluidity. There were many key individuals in coordinating the event, but Barb spearheaded the idea and pushed forward with

sponsors, sanctioning, GPS tracks, and many other logistics. There were riders from Canada and 29 different states represented over the 7 day ride. Due to the rough conditions of the trail, Barb submitted and was awarded a trail grant from AERC. This will bring a new ride to UMECRA in 2026, Au Sable Pines. And as if managing shore to shore wasn't enough, two months later Barb managed Oak Leaf Run yet again, the final ride of the Michigan distance season.

Barb's tenacity within the endurance community is amazing. Her mentor abilities, the willingness to lend a hand, early morning hours of start time send offs and getting volunteers fed and honestly being able to fly by the seat of her pants is undeniable. Barb truly encompasses the full meaning of "To Finish is to Win."

Thank you to UMECRA for awarding her with this honor.



👉 **Check out the Ride Schedule at UMECRA.com** – the most current schedule is always available there, as well as any time sensitive changes you need to know about.

Date	Ride Name	Location
3/28-29	Panther Creek	Tiscumbia, MO
4/11	Silver Creek Distance Riding 101 Clinic	Grandville, MI
4/25	Tally Ho! Novice Ride & Clinic	Tipton, IA
4/25-26	Tin Cup Springs Clinic	Luther, MI
5/2-3	MnDRA I	Hinckley, MN
5/2-3	White River Spring	Hesperia, MI
5/8-10	Glacier Trails	Palmyra, WI

5/16-17	Trade River Run	Rogers, MN
5/23-24	Grand Island	Rapid River, MI
5/30-31	Maplewood West	Pelican Rapids, MN
6/6-7	White River Summer No Frills	Hesperia, MI
6/13-14	DRAWs Kettles N Bits	New Prospect, WI
6/20-21	Kankakee River Ride - AHA Reg. 11 Championship	Bourbonnais, IL
6/20-21	SE Minnesota	Preston, MN
6/20-21	Grand Island North	Munising, MI
6/27-28	Dakota Dash	Ft Ransom, ND
7/3-4	Firecracker Fling/AHA Reg. 10 Championship	Avoca, WI
7/11-12	Hopkins Creek	Manton, MI
7/11-12	Mosquito Run	Rogers, MN
7/24-26	Bonecrusher	Palmyra, WI
7/25-26	Au Sable Pines	Hale, MI
8/1-2	AHDRA Heatwave Hustle	Fayette, IA
8/7-9	Louise Riedel Memorial	Arkdale, WI
8/14-15	Detroit Horsepower Benefit	Milford, MI
8/15-16	Bearfoot Boogie	Hinckley, MN
8/22-23	DRAWs Prairie River Ride	Gleason, WI
9/5-7	White River Pioneer	Hesperia, MI
9/12-13	Charity Cup	Pillager, MN
9/12-13	Pampered Ponies Ride	Augusta, IL
9/18-19	DRAW's Colorama Classic	New Prospect, WI
9/26-27	Waterloo Rock 'N Roll	Grasslake, MI
10/2-4	Huntersville Hundred	Menasha, MN
10/10-11	Iron Oak	Arkdale, WI
10/10-11	Oak Leaf Run	Hamilton, MI
10/16-17	Point Chaser	Theilman, MN
10/24-25	AHDRA Big River	Keithsburg, IL
11/7-8	Field of Dreams Dash	Lehigh, IA

UMECRA Finalized Annual Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2026. Winona MN.

Call to Order – Roll call by Robin Schadt at 1:09pm.

Roll call - Quorum met. 78 delegates and quorum is 52.

Minutes – Linda Mowrer made a motion to approve the general meeting minutes from last year. Roberta Harms seconded. Approved.

President Report – Robin thanked the ride managers and the riders for a good season.

Secretary Report – Janet Sarver gave a summary of board activities for the past year that happened on the IO email account.

Scholarship – the scholarship fund balance is approximately \$118,000. No applications were received this year.

International Fund – Peggy Pasillas reported that there has been no activity in this area. She stated that this fund is available for riders who want to participate FEI in international rides.

Webmaster – Nicole Mauer Storer will be stepping down in her management of the UMECRA website. Brooke Moeller is working to create a new website with the goal of coming online this spring and will take over the role as UMECRA Webmaster.

Treasurer Report – Deb Moe stepped down this year and Emily Schupp volunteered to step into the role of Treasurer. Robin reviewed the changes to the Treasurer position which included the addition of a bookkeeper position created and approved by the board. Emily reviewed the numbers for awards and stated that there was a loss of revenue in this area. Profit this year was lower than the previous year.

Committee Reports

Sanctioning Coordinator – Theresa Meyer reviewed the draft of the 2026 ride calendar. Theresa motioned to approve, Peggy seconded. The ride calendar was approved.

Award Committee – Sarah Maass and Robin Schadt reviewed the current status of awards. The board approved at the April meeting to bring to the membership a proposal to return to top 10 placings and eliminate restricted mileage as an award category for the 2026 ride season. Robin reviewed the recent award survey sent out to membership. Debby Weisbecker made a motion to go back to top 10 and eliminate restricted mileage. Emily seconded. Discussion. Motion passed. In November the board voted and approved to bring to the membership a change in the Rookie award to have a Champion and Reserve Champion. Dr. Alana McNutt moved to change the Rookie award structure and Mona seconded. Discussion. Approved.

Vet Committee – Dr. Alana McNutt shared that she has been collecting a sample of fees that are paid to vets at rides and encouraged others to contact her if they would like to share. She gave some suggestions on information to give vets.

Rules Committee – Sarah Maass reviewed proposed changes (in bold) to the following rules:

UMECRA GENERAL RULES – (Apply to both endurance and competitive rides)

A. Each ride must be open to all breeds. *Equines must meet the following age requirements to participate in each event. The age is determined as of the date of the event.*

1. On a **sanctioned** ride of 35 miles or less, the equine must be at least 48 months old.
2. **On a sanctioned ride of 36 miles or more, the equine**, with the exception of those entered in a single-day 100-mile ride, must be at least 60 months old. (2026)
3. **On a sanctioned single-day 100-mile ride the equine** must be at least 72 months old. (2015) (2024)

A. Sarah Maass made a motion to accept, Peggy Pasillas seconded. Discussion. Voted and approved.

B. Each ride must be open to *all riders, except for the following persons, who are not eligible to participate:*

1. **Riders who are suspended by the UMECRA Board of Directors, or by AERC. A suspended rider may not participate in any aspect of a UMECRA event (including crewing, volunteering, managing, etc.), may not receive a year end award, and shall not be eligible to be elected to or retain a UMECRA office or position. (2026)**
2. **All persons who have outstanding debts owed to UMECRA or to a UMECRA ride, and whose debt (including bank fees) is not paid within 30 days (from the date of written notification), are barred from participating in any ride until the debt is paid. Riders having outstanding debts shall not accumulate points or miles until all debts are paid. (2026)**

C. Riders under the age of 18 must have written permission of a parent or recorded guardian. (2026)

RULE B parts 1 and 2; Rule C. – Linda Mowrer made motion, seconded by Kim Fosler. Discussion. Voted and approved.

D. Prohibited Substances and Treatments. No equine entered in a sanctioned event may be under the influence of prohibited drugs, medications, or stimulants or be given any treatments, lotions, balms, supplements, or alternative therapies that are prohibited by AERC. (A list of prohibited substances and treatments is found in AERC Rule 13 and its Appendixes. All Riders and Owners

are responsible for knowing what substances and treatments are prohibited.) All equines are subject to drug testing while entered in a ride. **Any rider who has received a final determination of suspension by AERC for using prohibited drugs, supplements, treatments or therapies, shall be suspended from any and all UMECRA sanctioned events.** (2015) (2018) (2026)

RULE D. Peggy made a motion to accept. Dr. Alana McNutt seconded. Discussion. Voted and approved.

UMECRA GENERAL RULES – (Apply to both endurance and competitive rides)

5. Awards

A. Everyone finishing within the maximum time, and passing all completion criteria, shall receive a completion award. **Maximum times for LD and Endurance are pre-set by AERC, and maximum times for Competitive Trail, Novice and Drives are determined by ride management, in alignment with UMECRA rules.** (2026)

B. If a rider fails to complete the ride in the allotted time, management may at their discretion give the rider a completion award, but that rider will not be placed in the standings. **S/He** will receive credit toward **their** mileage record.

C. All placings - first through sixth as well as completions - and starting riders who fail to complete shall be **reported in their respective divisions.** (2026)

GENERAL RULES 5. Awards. Kim Fosler motioned to accept. Sarah Mowrer seconded. Discussion. Voted and approved.

SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS

F. The ride schedule is finalized and sanctioning is approved at the annual meeting. Rides seeking sanctioning after the meeting must do so at least 100 days before their proposed ride date.

Additionally, rides may **only be** scheduled with a **two-step process: (step 1)** board approval, **(step 2)** ride manager approval via electronic ballot with a majority of 2/3rds of the managers responding within ten (10) calendar days. (One vote per ride).

Rides seeking approval by board vote must meet one of the following criteria:

1) Be proposed for an open date

2) Be 501 miles or more from an already scheduled ride (as measured using **Google maps** (maps.google.com))

3) If less than 501 miles from an already scheduled ride (as measured using **Google maps** (maps.google.com)), have written approval of those ride manager(s). (2026)

SANCTIONING F. Theresa Meyer motioned to approve. Sarah Mowrer seconded. Discussion. Voted and approved.

Q. All events must carry a minimum of one million dollars per occurrence of general liability insurance that names UMECRA (Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Rides Association) as primary insured or additional insured. The certificate of insurance must be sent to the UMECRA treasurer at least 60 days before the event. (2026)

UMECRA RULES Q. Theresa motioned to approve. Sarah Maass seconded. Discussion. Voted and approved.

FEES

A. Yearly fees per ride are **\$45**. These fees cover the cost of printed ride supplies and include a pro-rated share of printing and mailing of the ride **manager/vet** book. If a ride organization or manager sponsors more than one event per year, the **\$45** fee applies to each ride.

B. For sanctioned events, a fee of \$2.50 per starting **entry shall be paid when results are submitted.** (2021) (2026)

FEES A and B. Theresa motioned to approve, Peggy seconded. Discussion. Voted and approved.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

Section 1. ELECTION. When a quorum of the delegates is present at the annual meeting, a simple majority shall elect a president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer, all of whom shall be members of the Board. During conventions held in even-numbered years the President and the Secretary will be elected to a two year term. During conventions held in odd-numbered years the Vice President and Treasurer will be elected to a two year term. Said officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. For purposes of commencement of the staggered terms of the separated Secretary and Treasurer positions, in 2021 the Secretary shall be elected for an initial 3-year term to be followed by 2-year terms commencing in 2024; and, the Treasurer shall be elected to their normal 2-year term commencing in 2021. (1/20/07) (1/18/20) (1/23/21).

Section 2. OTHER OFFICERS. The Board may appoint such other committees, officers and agents as it shall deem necessary, from time to time, who shall hold their offices for such terms and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as shall be determined from time to time by the Board.

Section 3. OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND TERMINATION OF OTHER OFFICERS. The outgoing President shall remain on the Board of Directors as an additional director-at-large. Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the whole Board of Directors, with cause pursuant to Article V-Section 2, above, or for cause arising from acts or failures to act in a manner or intent contrary to the spirit and responsibilities of participation or attendance in this sport or to the effective conduct of the business of the Corporation. (1/28/17)

Section 4. SALARIES. No member of any committee, officer, or agent of the corporation shall receive a salary.

Section 5. OTHER POSITIONS. An Executive Committee of the Board will nominate (a) proposed volunteer Newsletter Editor(s) for a two-year term, commencing in 1997. The Executive Committee will also nominate a proposed volunteer Sanctioning Director and a separate Points-Keeper for a two-year term commencing in 2004. The executive committee will appoint a volunteer webmaster for a two year term commencing January 2006. Commencing in 2012, the Sanctioning Coordinator and the Newsletter Editor will be appointed to a two year term, these appointments will be made on even numbered years. Commencing in 2013 the Points Keeper and the Webmaster will be appointed to a two-year term made in odd numbered years. (1/15/11) **Commencing in 2026 the Executive Committee may nominate a Bookkeeper to a term that concurs with the Treasurer's term.** The above shall be subject to an approval vote by a majority of a quorum of the Board. The Newsletter Editor(s), Points-Keeper, Sanctioning Director and Webmaster shall be invited to attend all Board or committee meetings. Duties of these positions are as follow, but are not limited to:

- a. Newsletter Editor(s) will edit, author and publish at least 10 newsletters per year both electronic and by hard copy.
- b. The Points-Keeper will keep track of season rider points and division standings and provide them to the Webmaster and Newsletter Editor(s) for publication. Points-Keeper will also keep track of horse and rider mileages seasonally and for lifetime records. The Points-Keeper shall be responsible for record-keeping related to awards at season end, as approved by the Board. (2022)
- c. Sanctioning Coordinator will work with the AERC Sanctioning Director to sanction and coordinate scheduling recommendations to the Board for UMECRA rides and shall edit and coordinate publishing of the yearly UMECRA ride book.
- d. The Webmaster will edit, author and publish the website in a timely manner.
- e. The Bookkeeper shall be appointed to assist and support the Treasurer as deemed necessary. The Bookkeeper shall be appointed by the Board and may be nominated by the Treasurer.**
- f. Generally, these positions are advisory and administrative Board positions, and are non-voting. These positions are also subject to the requirements of the traditional duties and standards of responsibility expected of these positions within UMECRA, subject to the authority of the UMECRA Board and as related needs arise within their areas of responsibility.

BYLAWS. Peggy presented a proposal to change the bylaws to allow the nomination of a Bookkeeper to a term that concurs with the Treasurer. Peggy motioned to approve, Emily Schupp seconded. Passed.

Old Business - there is no old business

New Business

Convention Report - Emily Schupp reported they are looking at Davenport as a host location for the next convention.

Elections

President – Peggy Pasillas nominated, seconded and accepted.

Vice President – open for 1 year. Sarah Mowrer nominated, seconded and accepted.

Secretary - Alice Hubert nominated and seconded. Alice declined. Victoria Robison nominated, seconded and approved.

Wisconsin Regional Director – Beth Frieders nominated, seconded. Approved.

Michigan Regional Director – open for a 1 year term. Sara Hall nominated and approved.

Minnesota Regional Director – Sarah Maass nominated, seconded. Approved.

Rider Representatives - all four currently serving (Crystal Esqueda, Debby Weisbecker, Kim Fosler, Sherry Aune) reapplied. All four were approved.

Veterinary Representative - Dr. Alana McNutt nominated and seconded. Approved.

Appointment: Webmaster – Brooke Moeller

Appointment: Bookkeeper – Jessica Sonnek

Appointment: Points Keeper – Mandi Roggenkamp accepted this 2 year position.

Appointment: Sanctioning Coordinator – looking for a person to help Theresa Meyer this year with the goal to take over the position in 2027.

Meeting adjourned 3:39pm

For Office Use Only:

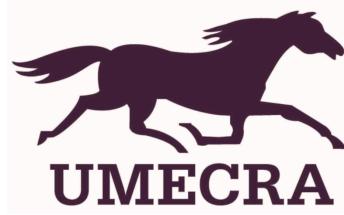
Date Rec'd _____

Check # _____

Amount \$ _____

DB entered? _____

QB Receipt # _____



**UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND
COMPETITIVE RIDE ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Membership year: _____

Credit Card option available online at
www.payumecra.com/membership

SELECT ONE:

☐ **RENEWAL**

☐ **NEW MEMBERSHIP**

SELECT MEMBERSHIP TYPE:	SELECT MEDIA PREFERENCE:
☐ Family — \$45	☐ Electronic Newsletter — \$0
☐ Single — \$35	☐ Mailed Newsletter — \$10
☐ Minor* — \$10	☐ Electronic Ride Book — \$0
*Under 18 as of Dec 1 (the beginning of ride season)	☐ Mailed Ride Book — \$10

*Family memberships shall consist of one or more related, or coupled as significant others, adults, and/or children of such adults who are less than 18 years of age, all of whom reside in the same household. Please include names of all eligible family members below.

Ride Book is available for free by downloading the PDF file at umecra.com/schedule.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

AERC Member Number(s) (if applicable): _____

UMECRA Membership Number(s): _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email: _____

Do you have a new horse? To obtain a UMECRA number for your horse, or report a new AERC number, please inform both the Pointskeeper roggenkamp.mandie@gmail.com and the Webmaster umecrawebdev@umecra.com.

☐ **Check this box if you do NOT want your name and contact info in the membership book**

Pay online at payumecra.com/membership OR mail completed form with check made to **UMECRA** to:

Jess Sonnek – Bookkeeper

1991 County 9

Houston, MN 55943



UMECRA TRAIL GRANT REQUEST

Trail grants are provided to public trails only and are for an organization, not individuals. Requests will be reviewed and voted on at each board meeting three times a year.

Send completed form to: Victoria Robison, 3302 Geselle Ln NW, Rochester, MN 55901.
victoriaridesviggo@gmail.com with questions.

Date: _____

UMECRA Member making request: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount of request (\$500 maximum): _____

Date money is needed: _____

Name required on check if grant is approved: _____

**An organization name, not an individual's name.*

Address to send check: _____

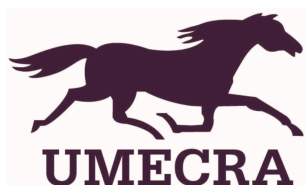
Please explain the reason for the request. Include:

- What the money will be used for (be specific). Use the back of the form or another page if needed.
- How will UMECRA benefit from granting this request?
- How will UMECRA be recognized for this request?

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UMECRA Newsletter
c/o Shelly Carroll
PO Box 853
Park Rapids, MN 56470
www.UMECRA.com

Deadline for next newsletter is 10th of each month.
Send news to: UMECRAnews@gmail.com



President – Peggy Pasillas 9928 Rich Valley Blvd Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 651.353.7959 peggy@pasillas.net	Regional Director at Large IL Deb Searle 12875 E 11670 N Grant Park, IL 60940 815.878.0668 debsearle@mac.com	Sanctioning Coordinator Theresa Meyer 3028 181st Ave NW Cedar, MN 55011 612.804.4593 thmeyer753@gmail.com	Website Editor Brooke Moeller 1625 Cedar Scott Rd New Liberty, IA 52765 563.370.3026 guianowriter@gmail.com
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Pointskeeper Mandie Roggenkamp PO Box 455 Pequot Lakes, MN 56472 218.820.5209 roggenkamp.mandie@gmail.com	Regional Director at Large WI Beth Frieders 315 N 2nd Street Platteville, WI 53818 608.330.2719 bethfrieders@yahoo.com	Director at Large Theresa Meyer 3028 181st Ave NW Cedar, MN 55011 612.804.4593 tmeyer753@gmail.com	Rider Representative Debby Wiesbecker 821 Franklin Ave Winthrop Harbor, IL 708.421.0730 debbyaw21@comcast.net
Treasurer – Emily Schupp 3170 180th Street Muscatine, IA 52761 563.320.7999 Emilyschupp46@yahoo.com	AERC Regional Reps Connie Caudill – Ride Sanctioning 812.967.5973 Maureen Fehrs	Veterinary Representative Alana McNutt, DVM 897 Store Mill Rd Tipton, IA 52772 mcnuttdvm@gmail.com	Rider Representative Kim Fosler 7898 N Carr Road Scales Mound, IL 60175 815.266.8336 kimberlyfosler@gmail.com