



Board of Directors Meeting May
Mon May 11, 2026 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM EDT

Board of Directors Meeting

5:02 PM EDT

1. Call to Order

President Chris Schubert called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

a. Roll Call

Secretary Malissa Welke called the roll. A quorum was established.

Directors Present: Allen Bosworth, May Chadick, Sandra Currier, Allison Deardorff, Jennifer Dixon, Erin Eichenbaum, Sophia Fischer, Steve Gaw, Diane Hauslein, Melissa Moore, Clif Paulsen, Rachel Seifert, Chris Schubert, Brooke Simpson, Joan Todd, Malissa Welke

Absent: Barbe Smith and CeCe Hagan.

ASHBA Present: Executive Director Sara Mayer.

b. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

c. Minutes Approval

The April 2026 Board of Directors meeting minutes were approved as presented with one correction noted.

d. Declare Conflict of Interest(s)

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. President's Report

President Schubert reported positive year-to-date registry trends, including increased registrations and transfers compared to prior years. Registrations totaled 318 through April 2024, 362 through April 2025 and 465 through April 2026. Chris emphasized the importance of

continuing efforts to ensure registry processes remain efficient, affordable, accessible, and streamlined. President Schubert thanked the Board, staff, and volunteers for their continued dedication to the Association.

3. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Sara Mayer welcomed Robin Carr as the Association's new Registrar and reported on ongoing staff transition and training efforts.

Sara Mayer also provided an update on attendance at the Industry Registry Conference, where discussions focused on the future of breed associations and evolving organizational systems. ASHBA was spotlighted at the conference for its database move. Staff continue to make progress on several strategic initiatives and database modernization efforts.

4. Database Taskforce

Jennifer Dixon and Technology Consultant Erik Lee provided an update on the successful completion of the database migration.

a. Data Base Migration Conclusion

The Association's registry data has been successfully migrated to independent cloud-based infrastructure, providing enhanced security, reliability, backup capabilities, and performance.

b. Portal Migration Update

The Board received an update on the development of a consolidated member portal, My ASHBA, which will provide a unified member experience and simplify access to Association services and resources.

The Board also discussed future member communications regarding database improvements and anticipated enhancements to registration processing and member-facing tools.

5. Council Reports

a. Finance Council

i. Treasurer's Report & Finance Packet

Sophia Fischer presented the Treasurer's Report and Finance Packet.

The Association remains in a strong financial position. Year-to-date income exceeded the prior year, driven largely by direct contributions and fundraising activity, including continued success of the Founder Circle campaign and Youth program support. Expenses remain within budget expectations, and the balance sheet remains healthy.

Fischer also reported that the Finance Council has begun reviewing the Association's investment policy at the request of the Audit Committee.

b. Registry Council

i. Registry Report

Sandra Currier reported on activities of the Breeders Committee and Prize Program Committee, including ongoing work related to embryo tracking, stallion service reporting, and future prize program initiatives.

The Board considered a request from the Half-Saddlebred committee to proceed with formation of a charter club.

Motion: Approve the request of the Half-Saddlebred committee to proceed with the formation of a Charter Club.

Result: Motion approved.

ii. Half-Saddlebred Futurity Future

The Prize Program Committee voted to continue the current Futurity program for another year while evaluating future opportunities, including potential modifications to dates, locations, buy-in options, grace periods, and development of an additional prize program.

iii. Equine Welfare Policies Proposed

The Board reviewed proposed revisions to Equine Welfare Committee policies, including clarification of committee responsibilities and updates to emergency grant approval procedures.

Motion: Approve the proposed revisions to Equine Welfare policies and the updates to emergency grant approval procedures.

Result: Motion approved.

iv. Equine Welfare Grant Request

The Board reviewed a recommendation to utilize the Equine Welfare Fund to come to the time sensitive aid of Saddlebred Rescue.

Motion: Approve the time sensitive aid to Saddlebred Rescue as presented.

Result: Motion approved.

v. Broodmare Hall of Fame

The Board considered amendments to Broodmare Hall of Fame eligibility criteria to maintain qualification opportunities following changes to futurity championship title designations.

Motion: Approve the amendments to Broodmare Hall of Fame Criteria following the changes to futurity championship title designations.

Result: Motion approved.

c. Governance Council

i. No Report

Sophia Fischer reported that the Governance Council will meet prior to the next Board meeting and provide updates as appropriate.

d. Development Council

Erin Eichenbaum reported that the Council will meet prior to the next Board meeting.

Allen Bosworth provided an update on fundraising efforts for the Fran Crumpler Judges Scholarship initiative and reported positive progress in donor outreach efforts.

e. Competitions Council

i. Horse Show Grant

Jennifer Dixon presented the Competitions Council recommendation regarding horse show grant applications.

The Council recommended approval of grant requests submitted by the California Futurity and Illinois State Fair.

Motion: Approve the grant requests of the California Futurity and the Illinois State Fair.

Result: Motion approved.

f. Program Council

i. Youth Report

A written report was submitted.

Malissa Welke reported significant growth in youth programming, including substantial increases in Junior Judging participation and Junior Judging in a Box requests. Positive feedback has been received from horse shows and participants across the country.

ii. Charter Club Update

Allison Deardorff reported that 26 of 28 Charter Clubs have renewed for 2026. The Charter Club Committee has launched a quarterly newsletter and breed promotion challenge.

The Charter Club Committee and Competitions Council will continue reviewing related requirements and recommendations.

iii. Convention & Youth Conference

Planning continues for the 2027 Convention & Youth Conference.

Dates: February 11–14, 2027

Location: The Campbell House, Lexington, Kentucky

The conference theme will be:

"Our Passion, Our Community, Freedom to Build the Future."

g. Marketing Council

i. Learn to Ride for Free

The Board received an update regarding the Learn to Ride for Free event scheduled for May 30, 2026, at Oakwood Stables.

ii. My Saddlebred Story Campaign

Board members were encouraged to continue sharing campaign content and supporting promotional efforts designed to increase breed awareness and engagement.

h. Membership & Volunteer Council

Presented by Sara Mayer on behalf of CeCe Hagan.

i. Membership Survey

The Board reviewed proposed member, past member, and youth member surveys intended to support membership recruitment and retention efforts.

The Board approved distribution of the surveys with an option for respondents to provide contact information if they would like follow-up communication.

Motion: Approve distribution of membership surveys with an option for providing contact information.

Result: Motion approved.

ii. Youth Membership Campaign

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed youth recruitment campaign designed to increase youth membership participation through lesson and academy programs.

Motion: Approve the proposed youth membership campaign.

Result: Motion approved.

iii. Youth Lifetime Membership Pricing Proposal

The Board approved a discounted lifetime membership opportunity for members age 21 and under in recognition of the American Saddlebred's 135th Anniversary celebration.

Motion: Approve the discounted lifetime membership for members 21 and under.

Result: Motion approved.

6. Reports of Special Committees

a. Facilities Ad Hoc Committee

i. No Report

No report.

b. Nominating Committee

i. Nominations & Applications Open May 15th

Joan Todd reported that nominations and applications for Board service will open on May 15, 2026.

Board members were asked to encourage the nomination of qualified candidates. Members may also self-nominate and submit applications directly.

c. Audit Committee

i. 2024 Status Update

Clif Paulsen reported LBMC Accounting and their representative, Renee Valdez Ruiz, continue to delay the completion of the 2024 audit. The Committee continues to work diligently with the current firm responsible for the 2024 review to obtain final deliverables. The timelines promised by LBMC continue to be pushed back. The Committee remains committed to bringing the audit forward for Board review as soon as possible.

ii. 2025 Status Update

The Committee has initiated onboarding with a new Accounting Firm for the 2025 audit process. Preliminary preparation is underway, and the Committee anticipates significant progress toward bringing the Association's audit schedule current.

The Board was also reminded that the next Board and Council Briefing for membership will be held on June 1, 2026.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Adjourn the May 11, 2026 meeting of the ASHBA Board of Directors.

Result: Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:20 p.m.

