



Board of Directors Meeting October
Mon Oct 13, 2025 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM EDT

The Empty heading

1. Call to Order

The October board meeting was called to order noting that the board secretary was absent and the roll call was conducted by Sara Mayer.

a. Roll Call

Attendance

Members

Remote: Diane Hauslein, Sara Mayer, Chris Schubert, Jennifer Dixon, Smith Lilly, Kristen Bagdasarian, Anna Marie Knipp, John Scheidt, Joe O'Brien, Sophia Fischer, James Nichols, Rachel Seifert, Allen Bosworth, Christy Parker, Clif Paulsen, Allison Deardorff, Larry Hartsock

Absent: ASHBA ADMIN, Malissa Welke, Joan Todd, sandra currier, Julie Behrends Jones

Notes: Rachel Seifert Had a prior engagement and left prior to the end of the meeting, after report. nbsp;

b. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following changes. The Finance Council report was moved up to number 3, which would be right after UPHA President's report, and then would move through the rest of the agenda.

c. Minutes Approval

The minutes were approved noting the September Minutes had a date and a numbering discrepancy that Sara agreed to have corrected.

d. Declare Conflict of Interest(s)

Conflict of Interest Reminder issued; members encouraged to declare as needed. No conflicts of interests were declared.

2. UPHA President's Report - Paul Boone

The Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association Board of Directors held their October 13th meeting, with Paul Boone addressing the board about UPHA's efforts to modify rules for

classes in the USEF rulebook. Boone explained that these changes are intended to increase participation and streamline the rule change process, similar to existing arrangements in other organizations like the National Cow Horse Association and Quarter Horses. Paul explained that while the proposed changes to USEF rules would still leave classes governed by existing USEF rules, the organization would have more flexibility to make quick rule changes to increase participation. Christy noted that the board had not voted against the proposal, but rather decided to wait for further discussion.

a. Change of Order: Treasurers Report and Financials.

Treasurer's Report & Financial Package

Rachel presented the financial statements, highlighting a negative net ordinary income for the year to date, primarily due to the recognition of previously held expenses. She also mentioned that Sara had met with the ASHBA investment representative regarding investment strategies to potentially lower costs. The board was asked to approve the financial statements before moving on to discuss policy documents.

The board discussed financial reporting and transparency. One member raised questions about the Breeder's Challenge Fund balance. Rachel explained that the Breeders' Challenge funds were used for expenses and promotions, with Sara and Kristen confirming the money was accounted for and reviewed by the two leaders of the Breeders' Challenge.

The board also discussed cost coding of legal fees as a start to implementing as suggest a cost center type approach with Sara noting they would implement moving forward.

The board discussed the recent extraordinary legal expense and its impact on the organization's financial position, noting they remained solvent despite the extraordinary cost. Sara reported receiving numerous inquiries from members about the expense, with most responses being positive, though two members were upset about the situation. The board agreed to communicate with members regarding the value received from the audit and changes made rather than just about the expense amount.

The board approved a late fee policy, and revisions to financial management policies.

3. President's Report

Smith started by thanking Sara for her accessibility to members. He noted being with Sara and Allen at a fundraising event for William Woods. Thanking everyone for being accessible to members at events and talking to everyone. Smith gave credit to everyone for trying to ensure the success of William Woods and its importance to our industry.

Smith then discussed the USEF affiliate agreement which expires soon. He explained that USEF would like a multi-year agreement, but it is in our interest to pursue another one-year agreement similar to the one we have now where we have our signature classes at shows that weren't necessarily USEF shows and we would like to preserve that in the agreement.

4. Executive Director Report

Sara reported on the hiring of development consultant Mary Petersen, who will work on building the organization's fundraising base and training board members on making introductions for donations.

5. Council Reports

Smith called for council reports to begin.

a. Development Council

The Development Council reported on their upcoming Don Harris Giddy Up and Give phone-a-thon scheduled for November 18th, with a \$25,000 fundraising goal and prizes for top-performing committees. Chris announced additional fundraising initiatives including a Ladies Five Gated Legends panel at the convention and youth conference.

Joe offered to contribute up to \$5,000 towards travel expenses for the fundraising trip winners, and the current fundraising competition standings were shared with top contenders. Fundraising opportunities for Ladies Legends, ASHBA Convention and Youth Conference, Fran Crumpler Aspiring Judges Fund, Equine Welfare were all discussed.

b. Marketing Council

Shelly presented for Joan and gave updates on journal advertising encouraging everyone to support the journal. She introduced a new extensive marketing and branding guide. Shelly also discussed the new amazon storefront and license plate initiative.

c. Registry Council

Katriona reported steady registration numbers compared to last year and 9 new inductees to the Brood Mare Hall of Fame. Breeders' Award medallions are going out with a large number of medallions going out to breeders. She reported an upturn in CH applications this past month with a CHEQ and a CH Sport Horse, which was for endurance. She also noted the members love the announcements of new CH horses on social media

d. Competitions Council

Sara reported on behalf of Sandra regarding the upcoming judges clinics to take place during the UPHA Convention in Las Vegas January 15-16 and during the ASHBA Convention to be held in Lexington February 12-13. Both clinics will feature sessions for the Hackney, Roadster, American Saddlebred and Saddleseat Equitation divisions.

e. Programs Council

Christy report on the youth committee for Malissa regarding the junior judging event in St Louis. The program was a huge success doubling the amount of junior judges to 48 from the prior year, with Katie Case serving as the guest judge and the winners being allowed to join the actual judging panel center ring on Friday night. Ocala will have Christy as the guest judge with meet and greets and a scavenger hunt. Jr. Judging will wrap up the year at National Academy Finals and the American Royal along with a big youth lounge and barn tours in Kansas City.

Michelle reported the ASHBA Convention and Youth Conference was currently a major focus, with Michelle announcing the launch of registration and early bird pricing for the 135th anniversary event in February 2026.

f. Governance Council

The Governance Council, led by Jennifer, presented proposed changes to the bylaws, including a new voting methodology that allows members to be in good standing by December 31st of the previous year, avoiding last-minute rushes to rejoin. Sara confirmed that the governing documents, including the redlined versions, have been reviewed and approved by the board, with final votes scheduled for November. The council also discussed plans for electronic voting at the annual meeting, which will allow members to cast their votes using electronic devices, with assistance available for those who prefer not to use electronics. The meeting will focus on electing board directors and nominating committee members, with results expected within minutes of voting closing.

g. Youth Council

The Youth Council has activities planned for the Ocala Horse Show with Saddlebred and Disney Trivia plus helping with youth activities across horse shows and social media.

6. Reports of Special Committees

Smith thanked the councils and began calling for the special committee reporting.

a. Membership & Volunteer Engagement Ad Hoc Committee

Patricia provided updates on member engagement, upcoming events and reported on the membership drive, which resulted in 45 new members for 2025, despite some technical issues.

Sara provided details on the Board and Council briefing scheduled for the 27th, emphasizing governance topics.

The conversation ended with a brief mention of major awards and voting procedures. The board discussed a procedure to prevent any one person from winning more than one major award in a given calendar year, which was approved by a vote.

b. Nominating Committee

Patricia explained Nomination process the nominating committee's process for the candidates for the board of directors, she said there were 38 nominations submitted, 28 were unique nominees from that number 16 filled out applications, 15 were interviewed resulting in 9 candidates for membership election. Sara clarified that candidates can encourage voting but not compare themselves to others.

c. Database Taskforce

The board reviewed the status of the database migration project, which is moving to the planning phase after completing a feasibility study.

d. Facilities Ad Hoc Committee

The facilities committee noted they have received design proposals from Emily England that need to be reviewed.

e. Audit & Internal Controls Committee

The board discussed Q2 internal controls report and audit updates. They approved amending the financial management policy to allow the Executive Director to enter into contracts with President and Treasurer approval for contracts over a threshold of \$10,000, and the board approving anything over \$75,000 total or 3 years.

The board also approved engaging LBMC to conduct the 2024 audit and financial review with a goal to complete it by November 15th.

Sara reported that the 2023 audit is nearly complete, with final reports to be added to the website when completed

f. November Board Meeting Details

Sara reminded the board to RSVP for the November board meeting in Kansas City, and Sara noted that board members are required to attend the required number of in-person board meetings per year.

7. Voting Item

Youth Scholarship

a. Youth Committee

Youth Scholarship Recommendations were presented. Both the Youth Committee and the Programs council supported the candidates being recommended. The board voted to affirm the two recommended recipients put forward.

8. Adjourn