Board of Directors June

Mon Jun 8, 2026 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM EDT

AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

President Chris Schubert called the meeting to order at 5 pm EST

A. Roll Call

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

Absent: Malissa Welke

ASHBA Present: Executive Director Sara Mayer and Robin Carr, Registrar

A quorum was present.

B. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented, with the Finance Council and Audit Committee moved to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate guest presenters.

C. Approval of Minutes

The May 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were approved.

D. Conflict of Interest Declarations

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Finance Council

Treasurer Sophia Fischer presented the Treasurer's Report, Financial Package, and Investment Performance Review.

The Board reviewed revenues trending up 65% as compared to May 2025 with continued growth in membership and registration revenues up 46%. Discussion included investment policy documentation and recommendations for future review.

The Board welcomed a guest presenter who reviewed investment performance, changes in market conditions and investment trends.

Action: No action taken.

3. Audit Committee

A. 2024 Financial Review

Rene Valadez of LBMC presented the 2024 Financial Review.

Discussion focused on financial performance, investment income, organizational reserves, and review findings.

Motion: Approve the 2024 Financial Review as presented.

Result: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Amended Forms 990 for 2022 and 2023

The Board expected Rene Valadez to present the 990s. He notified the Board that Jeanna Jones, the shareholder in charge of ASHBA's account was unable to attend this meeting. Rene Valadez stated that Ms. Jones had only informed him a few hours prior to the meeting and he was not prepared to present the 990s.

After Rene Valadez left the meeting, Clif reported that the new Accounting Firm is ready and anxiously waiting to begin 2025 pending the approval of 2024. The firm has had to postpone due to the continued delays by LBMC.

The Board discussed amended Forms 990 for 2022 and 2023. Staff identified corrections related to Principal Officer designation, Board member listings, and signatory information.

The Board directed that corrected versions be returned for review before final approval and execution.

Action: No action taken.

C. Q2 Internal Controls Review

Clif Paulsen presented the Audit & Internal Controls Committee report.

Technology & Infrastructure

The committee reviewed the Association's website Terms of Use and identified typographical errors, outdated references, and areas requiring modernization and compliance review.

Recommendation: Refer the Terms of Use policy to the Governance Council for review and revision.

Action: No vote required.

4. President's Report

President Chris Schubert provided updates on:

2026 Staff additions included:

- Planning for the July 5 Board Meeting in Lexington.
- Follow-up discussions with the Wisconsin Charter Club regarding challenges facing charter clubs and horse shows.
- Positive feedback from the recent Board & Council Briefing program.
- Industry developments related to New World Screwworm and ongoing monitoring of federal and state responses.
- Membership growth, increasing from 4,067 to 4,270 members.
- Board giving participation, currently at 88%.
- Increased registration activity attributed in part to the registration amnesty program.
- ASHBA representation and member engagement efforts at the Rock Creek and Blowing Rock horse shows.

Action: No action taken.

5. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Sara Mayer presented updates regarding organizational operations and strategic initiatives.

- Successfully completed the database migration project.
- Continued modernization of registry, membership, reporting, and financial systems.
- Ongoing efforts to reduce paper-based processes and improve member services.

Staffing & Succession Planning

2026 Staff additions included: Robin Carr, Registrar; Charlotte, Registry Associate; Megan, Marketing Coordinator; and Sophia G., Programs & Events Manager, all of whom started earlier in the year.

Katriona transitioned from full-time employment to an as-needed consulting role.

Learn to Ride for Free Program

The pilot program generated approximately 1,000 qualified leads for participating barns. The initiative is intended to introduce new riders to the industry, track conversion into lessons and horse ownership, and support long-term industry growth.

Board & Council Briefings

The recent Board & Council Briefing generated strong engagement and is expected to continue as a member communication and education tool.

Action: No action taken.

6. Operational Voting Items

A. Region Map Standardization

A revised regional map was presented and is intended to consolidate multiple versions currently in use.

Discussion clarified regional assignments and charter club alignment.

Motion: Approve the standardized regional map as presented.

Result: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Membership Levels

Recommendations were presented eliminating the term “Competing” from membership categories and replacing “Senior Member” with “Adult Member” to improve clarity and better align membership terminology with membership functions.

Motion: Approve the membership terminology revisions, subject to correction of typographical and language inconsistencies.

Result: Motion carried unanimously.

7. Council Reports

A. Governance Council

The Governance Council presented a proposal to amend the bylaws to require Board meetings at least quarterly rather than monthly.

Discussion included Board workload, committee productivity, member perception, and organizational readiness. Directors expressed support for additional flexibility while also noting concerns regarding immediate implementation.

Motion: Table consideration of the proposal until November during discussion of the 2027 Board meeting schedule.

Result: Motion carried.

B. Development Council

Allen Bosworth reported on current development initiatives, fundraising efforts, and progress related to the Fran Crumpler Judges Scholarship campaign.

Action: No action taken.

C. Registry Council

Sandra Currier reported on several ongoing initiatives.

Prize Programs

- Continued review of futurity programs.
- Exploration of future prize program opportunities.

Half-Saddlebred Committee

- Ongoing development initiatives and charter club engagement.

Breeders Committee

- Embryo tracking.
- Stallion service reporting.
- Registry process improvements.

Action: No action taken.

D. Competitions Council

The Council presented the Results Sync Proposal, designed to streamline show results processing and improve operational efficiency.

Discussion was held regarding future implementation.

Action: No action taken.

E. Program Council

Updates were provided regarding:

- Youth initiatives.
- Convention planning.
- Educational programming.

Action: No action taken.

F. Marketing Council

Staff reviewed the Learn to Ride for Free pilot program, including lead generation results and future opportunities for statewide and national expansion.

Action: No action taken.

G. Membership & Volunteer Engagement Council

The Board reviewed ongoing membership survey efforts involving current members, former members, and youth participants.

The Council also presented a Youth Membership Drive focused on recruitment through lesson programs and academy participation.

Motion: Approve the Youth Membership Drive proposal.

Result: Motion carried.

9. Reports of Special Committees

A. Database Taskforce

The taskforce provided an update regarding:

- Completion of the database migration project.
- Future portal enhancements.
- Planned member-facing improvements.

Action: No action taken.

B. Facilities Ad Hoc Committee

No formal report was presented.

C. Nominating Committee

Joan Todd reminded directors that nominations remain open, members may self-nominate, and applications are available to all qualified candidates.

Action: No action taken.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm EST

Motion: Adjourn the June 8, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting.

Result: Motion carried unanimously.

President Schubert adjourned the meeting.