



# State Board Meeting Minutes

**Date: February 18, 2026**

**Time: 7:00 pm**

**Location: Zoom meeting**

ATTENDEE	PRESENT	ATTENDEE	PRESENT
President & Newsletter Editor: Caryn Vesperman	Yes	Member at Large & Awards Committee Chair: Celeste Pauli	Yes
Vice-President & Webmaster: Stephanie Severn	Yes	Member at Large: Cindy Riffle	No
Secretary: Carol McKinnon	Yes	Member at Large: Jessica Sims	Yes
Treasurer: Morgan Winter	Yes	Eastern Chapter President: Nicole Trapp	Yes
Membership Recorder: Diane Brault	Yes	Eastern Chapter Alternate: Tammy Risseeuw	No
Member at Large: Melinda DeLuca	No	Eastern Chapter Representative: Jessica Kaczmarek	Yes
Member at Large: Mary Hanneman	Yes	GUEST(S):	-
Member at Large & WHC Representative: Heather Klopp	Yes	GUEST(S):	-

**Call to order : 7:05 pm**

## Approval of Agenda

Mary moved to approve the agenda. Celeste seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## Secretary's Report - Carol

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed.

Jessica K moved to approve the January 20, 2026 minutes with the changes made to consistently use "Jessica K" for Jessica Kaczmarek to differentiate from new board member Jessica Sims "Jessica S". Mary seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## Treasurer's Report - Morgan

Morgan presented the financial status and recent expenses.

- Recent expenses included website renewals, new checks with updated organization name, and liability insurance renewal with added cyber coverage.
- Deposited grant money from Baird (\$1,000 total with half staying with the Eastern Chapter and half going to state level for awards). Morgan will clarify if Baird contribution should be classified, for tax purposes, as a grant or a donation.
- Tax preparation is underway, working with Midwest Financial.

### **Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet - Nicole Trapp & Jessica Kaczmarek**

Nicole and Jessica K provided updates on the upcoming event.

- There are currently 25 registrants with 10 signed up for yoga Sunday morning.
- More silent auction items and sponsors for the event are needed. Board members encouraged to help.
- Confirmed vendors include a saddle fitter, tack shop, a boot vendor, a bodywork practitioner, a bit fitter and a feed company.
- Considering purchasing promotional items such as pens and pads with the new association logo. Will get a quote.
- Will also get quotes for horizontal and vertical banners with new logo.
- Board members encouraged to attend and promote the event.
- Registration information and forms will be sent out to current and past members.
- It was agreed that guests should not be allowed to attend at member prices.
- Incorporating a tack sale at the event was discussed, but the decision was not to, as it would interfere and compete with the vendors.

### **Membership Recorder's Report - Diane**

Diane provided the current membership numbers.

- The Eastern Chapter has 56 members.
- The General Chapter has 33 members.
- Total includes 5 business members and 3 junior/young rider members.
- Total membership is 89, down from 114 at the same time last year.
- Monthly targeted emails are being sent to people who haven't yet joined, encouraging them to renew.
- Conducting membership awards for "Grow Your GMO" and "Early Bird" programs.

### **Member-at-Large Role - Celeste, Cindy, Heather, Jessica S, Mary and Melinda**

Mary explained the outcome of their meeting.

- Members-at-large will divide up zip codes where current members live.
- Each member-at-large will be assigned to specific geographic areas and will serve as liaisons between members without chapters and the board of directors.
- Proposed having a member-at-large specifically for eventing, with Jessica K possibly filling that role as she has contact with eventers in her zip code area.
- Discussed developing resources such as "clinic in a box" and/or "educational event in a box" to help members organize activities.
- Caryn will write an article for the newsletter explaining the member-at-large role.

### **Website and Social Media - Stephanie & Celeste**

Stephanie discussed website updates and Celeste presented the photo consent clause.

- Discussed options for website management including assistance from an Eastern Chapter member and/or the possibility of hiring someone.
- The photo consent clause for the website and membership forms was presented and discussed.
- Will consider adding photo consent clause in small print to future event registration forms.
- Will include links to both the privacy policy and the photo consent clause in the welcome emails to new members.
- The association has a Facebook Page (public) and a Facebook Group (private). All Facebook posts must go through moderator approval.
- The Member of the Year nomination has been extended as no nominations have been received by the original February 1, 2026 deadline.

Mary moved to approve the presented photo consent clause and add it to the website as soon as possible, with plans to use it as appropriate on forms going forward. Diane seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Newsletter Editor- Caryn**

- The Newsletter Editor position is still open.
- Board member profiles needed for upcoming newsletters.

#### **Wisconsin Horse Council Representative - Heather**

Nothing new at this time.

#### **Eastern Chapter Update - Nicole**

- Eastern Chapter meeting scheduled for Saturday with a presentation from a farrier and an osteopath discussing how they work together on different cases.
- Eastern Chapter schooling show planned for the first week in June 2026.

#### **Member Survey Results - Caryn**

Caryn presented the results of the member survey. The survey was sent to current members and also to those who were members in 2024-2025 but have not yet renewed.

Some of the survey results were:

- Strong interest in dressage clinics.
- High interest in Ride & Review virtual tests where the judge can provide training suggestions.
- Half of respondents indicated willingness to drive up to an hour for social gatherings.
- Used tack sale highly requested.
- Website and newsletter valued by members.
- Members showed interest in a variety of educational topics including barn management, equine nutrition, scribing training and trainer panels.

The survey provided direction for future activities and improvements:

- Will highlight key findings from the survey at the annual meeting.
- Celeste will address misconceptions about awards programs in the newsletter. She will address the owner/rider membership requirement question—currently both must be members for awards eligibility.
- Nicole will share survey results with the Eastern Chapter members at their upcoming meeting.
- Survey drawing winner was Carolyn S from Marathon, Wisconsin.

#### **Next Meeting**

The board decided not to hold a March board meeting since the annual meeting and awards banquet will take place that month.

#### **Adjournment**

Stephanie moved to adjourn. Celeste seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

#### **Minutes respectfully submitted by:**

Carol McKinnon, Secretary

## **ADDENDUM TO FEB. 18, 2026 MINUTES**

### **Electronic Voting on Three Motions**

On March 2, 2026, Caryn Vesperman requested a motion be voted on via email.

On March 3, Mary Hanneman made the following motion:

**Motion:**

*I move that starting January 1, 2026, all WDEA awards programs (schooling show, recognized, western and eventing), the OWNERS of horses and ponies entered in any of our awards programs do NOT have to be members of WDEA. Only the RIDERS of the entered horse need to be WDEA members.*

Celeste Pauli seconded.

After a 48-hour discussion period, members started voting on March 5, and **passed the motion**. No nays or abstentions were received.

On March 4, 2026, Caryn Vesperman requested two motions be voted on, via email.

**Motion #1:**

Nicole Trapp made the motion:

*I nominate Jill Dunbar and Monika Wieckowski for Members of the Year.*

Mary Hanneman seconded.

**Motion #2:**

Caryn made the motion:

*WDEA should cover up to \$175 of the cost of the Member of the Year awards.*

Mary Hanneman seconded.

After a 48-hour discussion period, members started voting on March 7, and **passed both motions**. No nays or abstentions were received.