

REGION 17

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Saturday, March 21, 2026 | 8:30 AM PDT | Via Zoom

Executive

Position	Name	Position	Name
Director	Donna Kavanagh	Secretary	Emma Dufresne
Past Director	Carla Jackson	Treasurer	Karen Caughell
Vice Director	Carson Ehret	Youth Director	Molly Grobman

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Gerald, serving as Facilitator, welcomed attendees on behalf of the Vancouver Island Arabian Horse Association. He reflected that this was the first in-person-style gathering since 2020 and noted the importance of working together to keep the Arabian breed relevant in a changing industry.

Director Donna Kavanagh called the meeting to order at 8:41 AM PDT. She set the tone by emphasising that the work of the region centres on community and connection, encouraging all members to be brave, well-informed, and ready to make meaningful decisions.

2. Quorum and Introductions

Quorum was established. Brief introductions were made among attendees.

3. Ratification of Treasurer and Secretary

Motion to ratify Karen Caughell as Treasurer and Emma Dufresne as Secretary.

MOTION: Moved by Donna Kavanagh. Seconded by Pam Zimmerman. **CARRIED**

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented, with amendments noted.

MOTION: Moved by Donna Kavanagh. Seconded by Gerald. **CARRIED**

5. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes (March 22, 2025)

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2025 AGM as circulated.

MOTION: Moved by Donna Kavanagh. Seconded by Brenda. **CARRIED**

6. Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report

6.1 Financial Statements — Fiscal 2025

Gerald presented the financial statements for fiscal year 2025 for review by the membership.

6.2 Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

MOTION: Moved by Laurie Mostowich. Seconded by Pam Zimmerman. **CARRIED**

6.3 Casino License Application

Emma Dufresne presented information on the opportunity to apply for a casino license with the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission (AGLC) and to operate a 50/50 draw in Alberta in conjunction with the 2026 Region 17 Show.

Motion to apply for an AGLC casino license and to run a 50/50 at the R17 Show. Emma Dufresne to follow up.

MOTION: Moved by Laurie Mostowich. Seconded by Pam Zimmerman. **CARRIED**

7. 2026 Budget

7.1 Budget Presentation

Gerald presented the proposed 2026 budget. Key discussion points included:

- Whether to provide stipends for R17 club delegates attending AHA Convention to represent Canadian interests.
- Donna raised the counterpoint of prioritising local show support over convention attendance.
- Suggestion to secure a meeting room at Convention for delegates to discuss and coordinate lobbying efforts.

7.2 Prize Money for 2026 Regional Show

The Show Commission, led by Brenda, proposed the following prize-money allocations:

- Amateur Classes: \$100 for Champion and \$50 for Reserve Champion, totalling \$7,500 from the General Account interest.
- Youth Divisions: \$2,000 from the Youth Fund for Champion and Reserve placings (presented by Youth Director).
- Jackpot Classes: \$1,000 per class for each of the four jackpot classes, totalling \$4,000 from the General Account.

Motion 1: Allocate \$7,500 from General Account interest for amateur Champion and Reserve prize money at the 2026 Regional Show.

MOTION: Moved by Brenda. Seconded by Pam Zimmerman. **CARRIED**

Motion 2: Allocate \$2,000 from the Youth Account for youth Champion and Reserve prize money at the 2026 Regional Show.

MOTION: Moved by Brenda. Seconded by Laurie Mostowich. **CARRIED**

Motion 3: Allocate \$4,000 from the General Account for prize money across the four jackpot classes at the 2026 Regional Show.

MOTION: Moved by Brenda. Seconded by Donna Kavanagh. **CARRIED**

Additional discussion touched on ways to reduce costs for exhibitors, including lower stall costs, reduced entry fees, and fuel cost considerations.

Motion to approve the 2026 budget as amended.

MOTION: Moved by Karen Caughell. Seconded by Pam Zimmerman. **CARRIED**

7.3 Appointment of Accountants

Motion to approve Yates Whitaker as accountants and auditors for 2026.

MOTION: Moved by Karen Caughell. Seconded by Laurie Mostowich. **CARRIED**

BREAK — 10:00 to 10:30 AM

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Website and Directory

- The Region 17 directory is now available online via the website.
- An offer was extended to clubs for a presence on the R17 website.
- A members-only portal is planned to house all member information.

8.2 Stallion Auction

Tammy presented an update on the Stallion Auction. The group agreed to change the reining futurity component to a ranch futurity.

8.3 Youth Report

Presented by Molly Grobman and Ameera. Highlights included:

- Youth merchandise is switching from t-shirts to hoodies.
- Fundraising events planned for the horse show: Kid Zone and silent auction.
- Emphasis on highlighting youth non-competitive involvement — photos of kids with any horse are welcome.
- Youth Tournament Team: six teams submitted; Region 17 placed 5th out of 27 teams.
- Four team shirts with logo were produced.
- Seeking an Alberta-based volunteer to manage High Points awards when the show is held in Alberta to save on shipping costs.

8.4 Bursary

The bursary program will remain as-is for 2026. If no applicants are received in a future cycle, the funds will be redirected. Pam will create social media graphics to promote the bursary, and Doug suggested that show secretaries add bursary information to entry forms.

8.5 Region 17 Show — Show Commission Report

Report delivered by Brenda on behalf of the Show Commission (Brenda, Darlene, Carson, Nicki, Laurie, Howie). Key updates:

- Judges have been hired.
- Local stewards were unavailable; Kevin Johnson has been engaged instead of an American steward.
- All positions are volunteer-based; only the farrier and judges are paid.
- Social events include a progressive barn party and a welcome dinner on Tuesday (unpack day).
- Carson will lead additional fundraising for amateur payback and jackpot prize money.
- Leslie Harpur has raised over \$17,000 in sponsorships, with more expected from trainers.
- The Show Commission will discuss Designated Hazer rules with the steward on-site; existing rules support this approach.

8.6 Canadian Breeders Sponsorship

Total sponsorships reported: \$35,600.

9. Grant Money and Societies Designation

To streamline operations under the Canada Not-for-Profit framework, it was recommended that the R17 BC Society be dissolved.

Motion to shut down the Region 17 BC Society.

MOTION: Moved by Gerald. Seconded by Laurie Mostowich. **CARRIED**

LUNCH BREAK — 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

10. New Business

10.1 Equestrian Canada (EC) Update

Discussion covered several updates from Equestrian Canada:

- Licensed Officials: Streamlined saddle-seat equitation judge qualifications were noted.
- Breed Sport Cards: A reciprocal card system is needed.
- USEF Reciprocal Agreement: Ongoing discussions about judging under USEF, which will affect Canadian judges.
- Coaching: Temporary coaching licenses are being discontinued.

- Social Licensing and Horse Welfare: A universal standard for horse welfare is being applied across all disciplines and breeds with no exemptions (e.g., noseband regulations). New steward categories (A, B, C, D) require stewards to be present until ring closure as stated in the prize list.
- Revised National Code of Conduct: Members are expected to know the rules; ignorance is not considered a defence.

10.2 Canadian National Show Update

Updates include changes to the ranch trail class and revised age groupings.

Motion to donate \$1,000 to CNAC for the 2026 Canadian National Show.

MOTION: Moved by Doug. Seconded by Pam Zimmerman. **CARRIED**

10.3 Meeting Frequency

Motion that the two annual Region 17 meetings be held via Zoom. Carson Ehret will serve as backup facilitator if Gerald is unable to host.

MOTION: Moved by Carson Ehret. Seconded by Laurie Mostowich. **CARRIED**

10.4 Local-Level Committee — Discovery Farms, Meet an Arabian, Academy

Updates on grassroots initiatives:

- Academy classes are being rolled out, with Spring Fling and Aurora offerings highlighted.
- The Trail program is being renamed.
- Meet an Arabian events planned for 2026: Darlene (May), Jeannette (April 19), Donna (May or June). These events regularly attract approximately 150 attendees, promoted through Facebook and social media.

10.5 Breed Promotion and Grants (MDP)

Discussion on available grants for breed promotion through the Market Development Program.

10.6 Schooling Shows

The group discussed the need for grassroots-level unrecognised schooling shows:

- Three Edmonton-area barns are needed to launch local shows, plus Lower Mainland venues for BC.
- Jeannette shared that their value show has been rebranded as a “procedure show,” with one schooling show planned for May and another later in the season.

10.7 Fall Meeting Date

The Fall Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, September 26, 2026**. Members are asked to check for scheduling conflicts in advance.

10.8 Investment Committee

The bylaws do not currently address investment policy. The following actions were agreed upon:

- Engage the accountants (Yates Whitaker) to assess any risks associated with moving funds into mutual funds.
- Contact Sheena Steenhardt for guidance. Heather Downey, a retired investment professional, is also available as a resource.

Investment Committee: Carson Ehret, Sheena Steenhardt, Heather Downey

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM PDT.

Donna Kavanagh thanked all attendees for their time, hard work, and commitment to what is happening across Western Canada in Region 17.

Donna Kavanagh, Director	Emma Dufresne, Secretary