

# USMMA Board of Directors Meeting – November 30, 2025

**Date:** November 30, 2025

**Time:** 5:49 PM – 7:55 PM (America/Denver)

**Attendees:** Tia, Lynn (USMMA), Cathy, Tammy, Carolina, Elizabeth, Randy, Jason

**Meeting Type:** General Board Meeting

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## Executive Summary

The USMMA Board convened to approve prior minutes, update the agenda, and discuss upcoming elections, events, and fundraising initiatives. Key outcomes included confirming the 2026 election process and committee, planning for the 2026 annual meeting, and developing a new fundraising campaign. The group also discussed operational improvements such as clearer bylaws, onboarding for new officers, and enhanced volunteer engagement.

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## Purpose of Meeting

To review organizational governance items, confirm election timelines and committees, plan upcoming events, and discuss fundraising and communication improvements.

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## Key Topics Discussed

### 1. Administrative Approvals

- **July 13, 2025 minutes** approved unanimously.
- **Agenda amended** to include:
  1. Elections
  2. Election Committee
  3. Pacific Northwest Endurance Riders (PNER) Convention.

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### 2. 2026 Elections

- **Election Timing:** Target week of **October 11–17, 2026** for Executive Committee elections.
- **Election Committee Appointed:**
  - Jeff Bosley (Past President)
  - Randy Gasset
  - Mandy Erickson
- Members must not serve on the committee if they intend to run for office; Tia will confirm eligibility.
- Committee to finalize election calendar and process.
- Discussion emphasized aligning bylaws and operating rules, defining nomination timelines, and ensuring member eligibility (“good standing” requirement).

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### 3. Onboarding and Governance Improvements

- Proposal for **transition meetings** between outgoing and incoming officers to improve continuity.
- Agreement to document clearer **operating rules** and strengthen linkage with bylaws.
- Suggestion to create a **long-range calendar** for recurring governance tasks.

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## 4. PNER Convention Participation

- **Event:** February 2026, Umatilla, Oregon.
- **Proposal:** Tia to attend and host a USMMA booth.
- **Decision:** Approved as an action item; Tia to determine costs and apply for event subsidy if needed.

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## 5. Fundraising – “Marchador Ears” Photo Contest

- **Concept:** Members submit cropped horse-ear photos; public votes online.
- **Fundraising Mechanism:** Free daily vote + \$1 per additional vote.
- **Next Steps:**
  - Kathy and Tia to draft a detailed proposal.
  - Legal review to ensure compliance.
  - Explore technical setup via Facebook or online form.
  - Potential sponsorships (e.g., Riding Warehouse).
- Recognized need for technical volunteers or social media support.

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## 6. Future Events

- **Cavalgada Ride:** August 4–9, 2026, with George Vilar as inspector.
- **Inspections:** Planned across multiple states (AZ, TN, FL, SC, UT, CO, BC).
- Carolina to confirm if repeat Cavalgada location is permissible.

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## 7. Annual Meeting Planning

- **Date Approved:** January 25, 2026, at 5 PM MST.
- **Notice Requirement:** 45 days in advance.
- **Preparation:**
  - Tammy volunteered to assemble the PowerPoint presentation.

- Randy and Lynn to provide data and prior templates.
  - Carolina to assist with event summaries.
  - **Next Board Meeting:** January 11, 2026, to finalize the annual meeting agenda.
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## 8. Additional Notes

- Discussion on improving volunteer recruitment and engagement strategies.
  - Carolina announced new ABCCMM president: **Dario Dakatuni**, expected to continue international collaboration efforts.
  - Meeting adjourned at **7:55 PM MST**.
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## Major Decisions or Agreements

- Approved July 13, 2025 minutes.
  - Amended agenda to include elections and PNER convention.
  - Formed 2026 Election Committee (Jeff, Randy, Mandy).
  - Set target election week: October 11–17, 2026.
  - Scheduled Annual Meeting: January 25, 2026.
  - Next Board Meeting: January 11, 2026.
  - Proceed with planning the “Marchador Ears” fundraiser.
  - Tia authorized to explore PNER booth participation.
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## Action Items and Owners

**ACTION**

**OWNER**

**DUE**

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Confirm election committee eligibility	Tia	Dec 2025
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Draft election calendar & process	Election Committee	Early 2026
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Send operating rules to board	Lynn	Post-meeting
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Draft detailed "Marchador Ears" proposal	Kathy & Tia	Next meeting
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Research voting platform & legal compliance	Kathy / Elizabeth	Next meeting
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Plan PNER booth logistics & budget	Tia	Early 2026
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Prepare Annual Meeting presentation	Tammy (lead), Randy, Lynn, Carolina	Jan 2026
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Announce Annual Meeting to membership	Tia / Lynn	Dec 2025
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## **Next Steps / Follow-Up Plans**

- Finalize election procedures and bylaws alignment.
- Launch fundraising contest early 2026.
- Prepare and distribute annual meeting materials.
- Continue developing volunteer engagement and technical support strategies.