

# UMECRA Board of Director Meeting

11/11/23

Present: Theresa Meyer, Sarah Mowrer, Sarah Maass, Peggy Pasillas, Deb Moe, Janet Sarver, Linda Jacobson, Barb Gardiner, Dr. Wes Elford, Kim Fosler

Present by Zoom: Robin Schadt, Bruce Birr, Karen Jarvi

Other present: Jan Sasena

Absent: Dr. Jen Lorenz, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Tracy Johnson

Meeting officially called to order by Sarah Mowrer at 10:02am

Minutes from March 25, 2023 were approved by the board through the IO account.

## TREASURERS REPORT

- Deb stated she transferred \$20,000 into a savings account. Motion by Deb to put half this amount into a CD for a higher return rate starting Dec. 1, 2023. Seconded by Theresa. Dr. Wes asked about needing this amount for emergency funding. Discussion of revenue. Approved.
- Ride fees were up \$350 and all rides are paid in full.
- Membership total is 311 paid membership units (single, junior and family). There are 45 new members, which is similar to previous years. Taking into account members who dropped there is an increase of 30 overall. This total excludes the 91 free memberships given out at clinics this year. Deb will give a report at the January meeting to track how many free memberships are used starting next year.
- Deb stated she will create a website for ride managers to help manage their ride information. Discussion of having the page open or protected. Agreement to move forward.

## Convention Update – Bruce Birr

- Dates are January 19-21, 2024 and venue will be the Terrace Bay Hotel, Gladstone Michigan. Room rates will be \$119-\$139 which is a special rate for attendees. Use the word “UMECRA” to get this rate. Check in will be 4-6 Friday and 8-9 Saturday. Two speakers have been confirmed for Saturday morning. Reviewed food costs. Information will be put together for the newsletter by November 15<sup>th</sup>. Deb will reach out to GLDRA to finalize things.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Rules Committee – Theresa Meyer

- General Rules 1. Eligibility - Proposal that a horse must be 60 months to enter a ride of 40 miles or more. This is a change from 50 miles previously. Theresa motioned. Sarah Maass seconded. Approved.

## GENERAL RULES – (Apply to both endurance and competitive rides)

### 1. Eligibility

A. Each ride must be open to all breeds. On a ride of 35 miles or less the horse must be at least 48 months old. The equines entered in distances of ~~50~~ **40** or more miles must be at least 60 months of age at the time of the ride with the exception of those entered in single day 100 mile rides. Equines entered in single day 100 mile distances must be at least 72 months of age at the time of the ride. (2015)

- LD Rule 13. Compared AERC rule vs UMECRA rule. Discussion of proposed language. Deb made a motion to table it to be posted to the IO account by November 18<sup>th</sup>. Approved to go to general meeting in January.

### LD Rule

#### Current UMECRA Rule 13

13. All equines must stand a mandatory post ride evaluation within one half hour of finishing the course. Riders may present their equines for the final examination at a time of their choosing during the one half hour period. An equine that does not meet the established criteria within one half hour of arrival time shall be disqualified. Once a completed horse has passed the post ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons. (AERC only). No horse will be certified for UMECRA completion if it needs or receives treatment for metabolic reasons within 1 hour of finishing regardless of whether it has passed its final check. Such horse/rider combination may still receive AERC points and mileage credit.

Revised wording passed at group i/o account from December 1:

13. ***The equine must meet an established pulse rate criterion within 30 minutes of arrival at all control points.*** All equines must stand a mandatory post-ride evaluation within one hour of ~~crossing the marked finish line.~~ ***reaching the timer.*** Riders may present their equines for the final examination at a time of their choosing during the one-hour period. An equine that does not meet the established **completion** criteria within one hour of arrival time ***reaching the timer*** shall be disqualified.

Once a completed equine has passed the ~~postride~~ ***final*** examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons. (AERC only).

No horse will be certified for UMECRA completion if it needs or receives treatment for metabolic reasons within 1 hour of ***reaching the timer*** finishing, regardless of whether it has passed its final check ***examination***. Such horse/rider combination may still receive AERC points and mileage credit.

- UMECRA General Rule to Management Requirements language revised. Theresa motioned, Wes seconded. Approved.

## **UMECRA GENERAL RULES**

### **2. Management Requirements**

I. If ride management, *rider(s), crew, volunteer(s), or family* feels that any personnel have **has** been abused or harassed by a member they (management) have the right to notify the Board, who will respond. in the following order: Upon review the Board will ask for comment from the alleged offending member and other people who might have witnessed the event.; then If deemed warranted, the Board will privately warn that member, part of the warning being that if the offense continues, the member will be publicly warned. If the conduct continues the Board can take whatever further action it deems appropriate, including prohibiting the member from entering **or attending a** the offended ride or **managing** any other UMECRA event in the future.

- Article VIII – Dr. Wes motioned to take off the table, Deb seconded. Discussion about who in a family can have the two votes in a Rider Representative election. Theresa motioned to approve change in language. Seconded by Peggy. Approved.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY. Membership in this organization shall be limited to active members only. Such active memberships shall be granted to individuals, to families and to endurance and/or competitive trail rides.

(a) All persons shall be eligible for an individual membership.

(b) Family memberships shall consist of one or more related, or coupled as significant other, adults and/or children of such adults who are less than 18 years of age, all of whom reside in the same household.

(c) Endurance and/or competitive rides shall be granted a membership on proper application approved by the Board of Directors.

(d) Each member shall abide by the rules and regulations established by the corporation.

Section 2. DUES. No endurance or competitive trail ride, individual, or family shall become an active member of this organization unless or until it/s/he shall first pay to the corporation the annual dues which shall be set by the Board of Directors from time to time.

Section 3. RIDER REPRESENTATIVES. Individual members and family memberships of the corporation shall be entitled to vote for the four Rider Representatives who shall serve as delegates to the annual or special meetings of the corporation. Ride managers are not eligible to be elected as Rider Representatives. Family memberships shall be entitled to ~~as many votes, up to a maximum of two~~ **votes** per family membership ~~as there are adults within the family unit.~~

Awards Committee - Sarah Maass reviewed information about awards offered by other ride conferences. The committee will continue to meet to come up with proposals for UMECRA awards structure.

### Awards

- Jannette Sasena reviewed her inventory and award choices for this year. Discussion of novice jacket color. Kim stated that the discussion in March was that Novice riders get a single color, other riders get a choice. There was also a concern that the wording on the back of the jacket was not consistent. Jannette will confirm with the embroiderer about the back style wording.

Lunch break – 12:25

Meeting restarted – 1:15

#### Awards continued

- 20,000 mile award. Linda stated that Guy Worthington is eligible for this award. Jan will take care of ordering the plaque.
- Confirmed that when people want extra embroidery on their award jacket, they can pay for it. No other jackets can be ordered for non-riders such as family members.

Ride Calendar Committee - Theresa reviewed a few topics they have been discussing. Continued.

Status of Social Media volunteer – agreed to advertise for a volunteer to fill this position.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Fiscal Year – There was a suggestion to change the fiscal year to occur after the annual awards convention. The fiscal year will remain Dec 31 due to the use of expense accruals for awards and the need for a complete financial statement to be presented at the annual meeting. All agreed.

Insurance update - Deb reviewed the cost to the club paying for \$5 extra insurance for each ride. Discussion. Theresa motioned that for 2024 ride year UMECRA absorb the cost for one more year. Deb seconded. Approved.

International Competition (USEF) – Theresa stated there are only a few qualifying rides left in the U.S. and there has been no movement to change the current status.

Scholarship fund – Dr. Wes reviewed the letter from the investment company that manages the scholarship. Dr. Wes moved to continue to contribute 12½% of the silent auction to this fund. Kim seconded the motion. Approved.

Rules Committee – Discussion about who can vote in the Rider Representative election. Theresa read the rule that states that if someone has entered a ride and/or paid their membership they can vote. Deb made a motion that complementary memberships do not have voting rights. Janet seconded. Approved.

- Grace period. This year a grace period was given for the month of May to a few riders who thought they paid but did not. Deb made a motion that any rides that occur in the previous 14 days of a member's join date will be included in year end points and awards. Peggy seconded. Approved.

Awards (revision of awards structure) – Sarah Maass listed some of the concerns that members have brought up about the current structure. Reviewed awards structures in different conferences around the country. Ride data was presented from across four states from 2013-2023. Discussion of purpose of awards and costs. The awards committee will create a survey to UMECRA members on this topic. Sarah brought up a review of the current point structure for distances. Sarah and Robin will create an example for the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Competitive water rule – Sarah Mowrer stated that she would like all water in camp to be natural water to allow for sponging horses for competitive rides. Discussion.

Trail Grant requests - Zumbro Bottoms and Weinberg King Park grants approved. Request for S. Kettle Moraine to resubmitted in January 2024.

Appointments of points keeper and webmaster - Shannon Ployhart will be the new points keeper. Nicole will continue as webmaster

Elections – there are open positions for President, MN, WI, Vet Rep, all four Rider Reps, Secretary. People who want to run for positions, except Rider Reps, need to be present at the convention. Rider Reps will be voted online in early January.

Election process clarification - Rider Rep nominations will be requested through December 20 to Janet Sarver. Announcement to go in the November newsletter. Deb will send out online election ballots.

Stand Alone LD Rides – Dr. Wes stated that AERC did not pass this topic.

Huntersville AHA National ride update – Sarah Maass stated they had 148 riders total, positive reviews on trails.

Dr. Wes motioned to adjourn, Janet seconded. Passed.

Meeting adjourned 4:02pm