



## Conference Call Meeting January 11 2016

A conference call meeting was scheduled for 7:00 pm on January 11, 2016 to discuss the proposed changes in the by-laws.

Present on the call: Jill Feller, Bonnie Mielke, Dianne Schmidt, Jon Wagner, Maxine Bernsdorf, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Sarah Mowrer, Theresa Meyer, Tony Troyer, Wayne Gastfield; Guest: Art Priez

### Article 1:

- Most of the changes in this section were 'housekeeping' to correct addresses and titles.
- Added: Section 2: *The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for annual or periodic renewals of the corporation's good standing with Minnesota Secretary of State.*
  - No discussion was held to this addition to this section; currently the president was taking care of this annual renewal.

### Article 2:

- Most of the changes in this section were 'housekeeping'.
- Added: February to the sentence: *An Annual Meeting shall be held in January or February of each year commencing in 198.*
  - A short discussion was held about why February would be added. The annual convention has held in February once due to better pricing and availability with the convention hotel. Adding February, gives UMECRA some flexibility; the preferred convention month is January.

### Article 3:

- Section 1: Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be published in a report to the members *postmarked via U.S. Mail or sent via membership email address at least five business days prior to the meeting or by posting the same on the UMECRA website [www.umecra.com](http://www.umecra.com).*
  - A discussion was held if the last 'or' should be 'and'. IF and was put into the sentence, it would change how UMECRA currently announces the annual meeting. Currently the meeting date is posted on the website and is advertised in the newsletter. There are many UMECRA members who do not receive the newsletter, by their own choice, and go to the website to read it. Replacing the word 'or' with 'and' would mean that everyone one of these members would need to be sent an email or letter announcing the annual meeting. After discussing the pros and cons of the 'or' 'and' dilemma the BOD decided 'or' would be the proper choice for this sentence.
- Section 2:
  - Special meetings: There was some housekeeping in this section also. The biggest change was who can request the special meeting and who will pay for the room. The proposed change states: *Special meetings of the Corporation may be called at any time upon request of the President, Vice President or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors, or upon written request submitted by certified U.S. Mail with return receipt requested by half or more of the endurance/competitive trail rides sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season by its ride managers as listed on its original sanctioning application. If a Special Meeting is so requested by the majority of the ride*



*events as described, then they must procure and pay for the meeting room. The Executive Board will promptly decide in which city the meeting will be held.*

- There was a lengthy discussion about the sentence stating that the ride managers requesting a special meeting would have to procure and pay for the meeting room. The BOD members were divided on this issue. Having the RM's procure and pay for the room would ensure that they were serious about needing a special meeting; however, if ½ of the RM's feel a special meeting is needed, they already are serious and they should not need to procure and pay for the meeting room. The BOD decided to continue this discussion at the morning meeting at the convention as no agreement could be made during this call.
- Section 3:
  - Quorum: changing the quorum has been an on-going discussion with the BOD for over a year with many different opinions. The by-law proposed language creates a higher standard than previously needed to create a quorum. The proposed language is: *A quorum is determined based upon the presence in person at an Annual or Special Meeting of official voting delegates representing either twenty (20) of the previous year's or season's sanctioned and held endurance/competitive trail ride events or twenty-five (25) of the eligible voting delegates, not including alternate voting delegates nominated by any endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season as recorded by the Secretary, whichever is less, plus the President or Vice President and at least one (1) Rider Representative.*
  - Note: eligible voting delegates include Rider Representatives and the Veterinarian Representative
  - A discussion followed regarding this proposed language. Looking back at the previous annual meeting in MI, there were enough eligible voting delegates at that meeting to satisfy this quorum definition. After discussion, no changes were made to the proposed language.
- Section 5:
  - Delegates: the proposed wording changes include: *Official voting delegates must have actively participated in the management of the endurance/competitive trail ride and be listed on the sanctioning application.*
    - A short discussion was held on how to police this; this will be the honor system. The sanctioning form will be updated to reflect this change if this proposed language is approved.
  - Proposed: *Ride managers of cancelled rides, who have paid their sanctioning fees before the ride has been cancelled, and where the cancellation occurred for good cause shown, shall retain voting rights for the next Annual Meeting.*
    - A short discussion followed but no changes to the proposed language were suggested.
- Section 6:
  - Voting Procedures: the proposed wording: *Each sanctioned and held endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned and held from the immediate preceding year/season shall be entitled to appoint a single voting delegate for each ride-day of their ride/event. For example, for a ride held over a Friday, Saturday and Sunday, that event shall be entitled to three (3) voting delegates, regardless of whether they have multiple*



*divisions or events on a particular ride day up to a maximum of seven (7) delegates. Any endurance/competitive trail ride which schedules itself to exceed seven (7) days must apply for as a separate event for those additional days, and in the case of consecutive scheduled events shall still be limited to seven (7) voting delegates.*

- Art explained to the BOD that the reasoning behind this proposed language is to prevent one ride to dominate a quorum. No further discussion was held.
- Article V: Section 2:
  - Code of Conduct: *Upon election or appointment, the Board of Directors and appointees shall sign and abide by the UMECRA Board of Directors Code of Conduct, as adopted by the Board from time to time. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action and may lead to removal from the board by the affirmative vote of a majority of the attending quorum of Board of Directors.*
    - The proposed language was welcomed by the BOD. The BOD created a Code of Conduct for members in 2015; however, if a BOD member violated any of the code, there was not consequences. The BOD also wanted to show that the Code of Conduct was an important part of UMECRA and requested Art to add language to the by-laws. Art had previously approved the Code of Conduct document before the BOD signed copies of it.
- Article VIII: Membership: Section 3:
  - Rider Representative: the proposed language in the last sentence: Family memberships shall be entitled to as many votes, up to a maximum of two per family membership as there are *members aged 14 or older* in the family unit.
    - Art explained that in MN, children age 14 and older are considered legal for certain rights and since UMECRA is a MN corporation, the legal language was inserted it the by-laws.
      - No further discussion on this proposed wording.

There was no other sections of the proposed by-laws that were discussed during this call.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Feller  
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**BOD Meeting Agenda  
Wisconsin Dells WI  
January 23, 2016**

Attending: Jill Feller, Theresa Meyer, Jon Wagner, Sarah Mowrer, Max Bernsdorf, Bill Suskey, Dianne Schmidt, Wayne Gastfield, Tony Troyer, Olivia Rudolphi, Bonnie Mielke, Peggy Pasillas, Nicole Mauser-Storer

Meeting called to order by President Theresa Meyer at 7:10 am

- **Secretary Report:** The November minutes were presented via email before the convention. Joslyn motions to accept the minutes from the November meeting as presented; Max seconds motion. Passed
- **Treasurer Report:** The Treasurer's report was presented via a Balance Sheet comparing 2015 to 2016, a summary Profit and Loss (P&L) was also presented along with notes explaining any unclear numbers. Tony motions to approve reports as presented; Bill seconds motion. Passed.
- **Ride Insurance:** The costs of 2016 insurance costs were discussed. Currently horse fairs and endurance clinics all pay 100% for insurance costs if the insurance comes through the UMECRA insurance company. Dianne motions that UMECRA pays the same insurance costs and percentages for the horse fairs and clinics as we pay for rides. Sarah seconds motion. Passed.  
*Note: UMECRA pays ½ of the daily costs for ride date insurance and the rides pay 100% of the cost for additional insured; these will be the same costs for horse fairs and clinics.*
- **Ride Schedule:** The 2016 ride schedule was presented. Bonnie motions to approve the proposed schedule as presented; Max seconds motion. Passed.
- **Bylaws:**
  - Special Meetings. On January 11<sup>th</sup> the BOD had a conference call to discuss the by-law proposed changes. During that call, there was not a consensus met regarding the wording in the Special Meeting section. A discussion followed discussing the pros and cons of having the meeting organizers procure and pay for the meeting room. Tony motions to strike the sentence "*If a Special Meeting is so requested by the majority of the ride events as described, then they must procure and pay for the meeting room.*" Dianne seconded motion. Passed.
  - A discussion was held on the new wording for quorum that is presented in the by-laws; no changes to the proposed wording happened after the discussion.
    - *A quorum is determined based upon the presence in person at an Annual or Special Meeting of voting delegates representing either twenty (20) of the immediate preceding year/season's sanctioned and held endurance/competitive trail ride events or twenty-five (25) of the eligible voting delegates nominated by any endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned, the immediately preceding year/season as recorded by the Secretary, whichever is less, plus the President or Vice President, and at least one (1) Rider Representative. That number shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.*
  - Dr. Olivia motions to change the wording under Article VIII Membership Section 3:



- Proposed wording: *Family memberships shall be entitled to as many votes, up to a maximum of two per family membership, as there are members aged 14 or older in the family unit.*
  - Olivia motions to change the wording to: *Family memberships shall be entitled to two votes.* Jon seconds the motion. Passed.
  - Motion made to pass the housekeeping language and word changing and all other changes written in the new by-law language. Wayne motions to accept all other changes to the by-laws including the housekeeping and word changes and pass the by-laws to the annual meeting; Joslyn seconds motion. Passed.
- **Ride Attendance Numbers:** Robin presented a report on the 2015 ride attendance. This report will be posted on the UMECRA website for all ride managers to view.
- **Trail Grants Awarded:** A trail grant was presented from the Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association for trail improvements. There will be three of the UMECRA rides held on these trails in 2016. Max motions to approve grant; Joslyn seconds motion. Passed.
  - Joslyn motions that the trail grant maximum amount be raise to \$300 with a minimum amount of \$500 always kept in the account. Wayne seconds the motion. Passed.
- **Horse Fairs/Expos:** A discussion was held regarding the cost of hosting a booth at the various horse fairs and expos. Besides the cost of the booth itself, there are additional costs such as electricity, renting tables, chairs, etc. and it all adds up. Dianne motioned to increase the cost of horse fairs/expos to up to \$350 with receipts presented showing the costs involved with the booth. Sarah seconded the motion. Passed.
- **Promotion/Publicity Report:** Nicole gave a report about what the promotions committee has done over the past year. The state horse fairs/expos have provided good exposures for UMECRA. The committee has also partnered with AERC on several promotional items. Anyone interested in being on the promotion committee should contact Nicole; she is a committee of one right now.
- **ICF update:** Dr. Olivia gave a report on the ICF fund; only three requests for funds have been awarded from the fund since 2006. Several requests from 2015 were rejected because the criteria for receiving funds was not met by the applications. The ICF committee is looking at changing the criteria to allow more members to meet the qualifications.
  - Jill motions that we take ICF fund to the general meeting to see if there is still support for the ICF fund to even exist before we move forward with new guidelines on how the existing funds can be distributed. Joslyn seconded the motion. Passed.
- **2017 Convention (Minnesota):** Dianne gave a report on two different hotels that she is looking at for the 2017 convention; the Marriot and Doubletree, both in Rochester, are the two options being considered. No specific plans/location have been decided.
- **2018 Convention (Illinois):** Tony gave a report on one option IL is considering; no specific plans/location have been decided.
- **Missing Rules:** Theresa asked if any BOD members know of any missing rules. A discussion followed on the junior qualifications for awards that may have been different in years past due to the pointskeeper changing the points calculation but there has been no documentation found supporting this change.
- **More committees:** Should there be more committees in UMECRA? The current committees:
  - Rules/bylaws
  - Promotions



- Audit
- ICF
- New members
  - No more committee were established. ALL UMECRA members have an option to be on any committee; you do not need to be a BOD member.
- **Other:**
  - **Junior Membership:** Jill motions that we have a junior UMECRA membership available for a cost of \$10 to be effective immediately with any junior memberships already paid will be adjusted to the new rate. This rate includes no ridebook and an electronic NL; Peggy seconded the motion. Passed.
  - **AHA Distance National Championship Sponsorship:** Tony is requesting a \$250 sponsorship donation which would include our logo on the rider bags, an acknowledgement on the official ride program and on the AHA Distance Nationals webpage. Tony motions that UMECRA purchase a \$250 sponsorship for the AHA Distance National Championship ride; Joslyn seconded the motion. Passed.
  - **Annual meeting time limit:** Tony motions there will be a two-minute limit per person on discussions during the annual meeting; people can talk a second time for another two minutes; Bill seconded motion. Passed.
- **Motion to adjourn:** Jill motions to adjourn the meeting at 10:07; seconded by Sarah.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Feller  
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**Annual Meeting Agenda  
Wisconsin Dells WI  
January 2016**

**Meeting called to order by President Theresa Meyer at 1:06 pm**

**Roll call of delegates;** there were 73 total votes. 69 ride votes, 3 rider reps and 1 vet rep

- **Minutes from 2015 annual meeting:** The 2015 annual meeting minutes were published in the February 2015 newsletter and were also sent out to all ride managers before the annual meeting to read through. Tony Troyer motions to accept minutes as presented; seconded by Joslyn Seefeldt. Passed.
- **Treasurer's report:** The annual treasurers report was presented by a balance sheet and Profit & Loss (P&L) summary sheet with explanations where needed (attached to these minutes) Motion made by Tony Troyer to accept the treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Joslyn Seefeldt. Passed.
- **Ride Insurance:** The ride insurance will continue at the same costs of \$45/day and \$20 for each additional insured. The BOD voted in the morning meeting to allow the same co-payment for the insurance for organizations hosting booths at the various horse fairs and for hosting ride clinics. Anyone hosting a ride clinic should contact AERC as they may be able to receive the ride insurance coverage at no cost through AERC.
- **2016 Ride Schedule presented:** The 2016 ride schedule was presented. There were several minor changes made to some of the rides; mostly the changes were additional novice events. Motion made to accept by Bonnie Mielke to accept the 2016 ride schedule with the changes; seconded by Max Bernsdorf. Passed.
- **Junior Membership**
  - **Resolution brought forward from the morning BOD meeting:** Jill motions that we have a junior UMECRA membership available for a cost of \$10 to be effective immediately with any junior memberships already paid will be adjusted to the new rate. This rate includes no ridebook and an electronic NL; seconded by Peggy. Passed.
    - Dianne Schmidt motions to accept this resolution; Ruth Stewart seconded the motion.
    - A discussion was held if this change would need to be added to the by-laws; it was determined that it does not need to be added to the by-laws.
    - Motion passed.
- **Daily rider fee for UMECRA rides (from spring BOD meeting):**
  - **Resolution:** A ride manager wanted the BOD to consider putting a daily fee in place for non-UMECRA riders. The BOD held a discussion and decided to take this decision to the annual meeting. Motion made by Jon Wagner to put a \$5.00 fee/ride for any rider that is not a UMECRA member in place; seconded by Bill Suskey. Passed.
    - Motion made by Tony Troyer to accept this resolution, seconded by Joslyn Seefeldt.
  - A discussion was held as to the pros and cons of charging the \$5 fee. The fee could be a detriment to rides on the outer limits of the organization where only a few UMECRA riders attend but the ride is sanctioned with UMECRA. Motion failed.
- **Sanctioning fees paid by Feb 1 (from fall BOD meeting):**



- A discussion was held on the proposed wording of the rule change:
  - **UNDER: Sanctioning Requirements: 2. UMECRA RULES: "O":**
  - *All sanctioning fees must be paid by February 1<sup>st</sup>. If not paid by this date, the ride loses sanctioning for the year. The SC will send an email to the RM (call or letter sent by confirmation delivery) and document that contact has been made requesting the funds. It is the ride manager's duty to contact the SC and Secretary/Treasurer if their contact information has been changed from the previous year. Motion made by Tony Troyer; seconded by Jill Feller to accept this change to the annual meeting.*
    - Passed
- **Family Award wording (from fall BOD meeting):**
  - **Resolution:** *A family (as defined for the Jan Scott Family Award) shall consist of ~~one or two~~ parent (s), step-parent, or legal guardian (not to exceed 2 adults) and all dependent children 18 years old or younger ~~who are living at home~~. The family must be a member of UMECRA. Endurance & competitive points shall be awarded on only one horse and rider combination for each member of the family. Participants are required to register with the pointskeeper and secretary/treasurer listing full names of all family members before points will be counted. All members of the family who participate will be listed. Motion made and passed to take to the annual meeting.*
    - Jon Wagner motions to accept this resolution; seconded by Max Bernsdorf.
    - A discussion was held on this wording and if the same horse needs to be used or should the wording be changed to multiple horses? There were no changes made to the original resolution wording.
      - Resolution passed.
- **By-law discussion (need 2/3 votes to pass)(brought forward from morning BOD meeting):**
  - There are three levels of changes; one is housekeeping; one is minor word changes meant to provide clarification but not change the meaning of the sentence and the third changes are substantial changes that need discussing.
    - Max motions to accept the housekeeping rules as are changed by UMECRA lawyer Art Preiz without further discussion; seconded by Joslyn Seefeldt. Passed
    - Group two changes: Theresa Meyer asked the attendees if they want to look at this next section of 'word' changes and accept all changes at one time or to go through each change separately and accept each one individually. The majority of the attendees wanted to accept the group of changes all at once. After the discussion started, there was confusion on some of the changes. Ride managers only had one week to read through all of the changes and wanted more time to digest the changes to ensure they were the best for the organization.
      - **Sarah Mowrer motions to table the entire by-law changes to the next annual meeting in 2017; seconded by Elinore Tonsor. Passed.**
- **Code of Conduct:** Because the by-law changes were delayed until 2017 annual meeting, Tony Troyer motions to accept the Code of Conduct wording in the proposed by-laws as a resolution for 2016; seconded by Joslyn Seefeldt. A discussion followed as to the purpose of the Code of Conduct and why the BOD feels it is important. Resolution below passed.



- *Code of Conduct: Upon election or appointment, the BOD and appointees shall sign and abide by the UMECRA BOD code of conduct, as adopted by the Board from time to time. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action and may lead to removal from the board by the affirmative vote of a majority of the attending quorum of BOD.*
- **Ride Attendance in 2015 (report from Robin Schadt):**
  - Robin has looked back 10 years and put a report together to look at ride attendance over the years. This report will be posted on the website. Some rides are doing well with attendance but some are not.
- **Membership and horse number review:**
  - Memberships are slightly up but ride entry numbers are slightly down.
  - The horse numbers program has been working well and there were a lot less mistakes with points because of the horse numbers.
- **Promotions/Publicity report:**
  - Nicole has made the website mobile friendly making it easier for searches via phones. The Midwest horse fairs all have booths representing UMECRA. UMECRA members are encouraged to contact Nicole with PR suggestions and join the promotions committee.
- **Scanned minutes available to members:**
  - All of the old minutes are available on the website for members to read. These are all searchable PDF files.
- **Concerns regarding missing rules & BOD conference calls:**
  - Elinore cited a rule that seems to have disappeared regarding a competitive rule where once a rider leaves the grounds, the placing cannot be changed. This rule is still in existence in the current rules (it was found and read during the meeting).
  - BOD conference calls will be recorded and published in the future.
- **Competitive Ride Sheet:** The competitive ride sheet needs to be updated. The original document cannot be found; therefore to update the sheet, it needs to be recreated. Jill started working on 'freshening up' the sheet to make it clearer to read. The current sheets are a copy of a copy of a copy and the wording and numbers are getting very blurry to read. Wes and other vets had lunch today and part of their discussion was the competitive ride sheet and some changes that they would like to see. Should a committee be created to update this form? Anyone interested in being on the committee should see Theresa after the meeting to nominate themselves.
- **ICF fund:**
  - The ICF committee consists of: Dr. Olivia, Robin Schadt, Bill Suskey, Candy Barbo and Lucy Stafford. Only three grants were given out over the past 10 years but the fund continues to be funded through the silent auction. To receive a grant from the fund, there are guidelines and an application to be completed. There were three requests in 2016 but no one qualified based on the criteria set by the previous ICF committee.
  - Jill motions that we take ICF fund to the general meeting to see if there is still support for the ICF fund to exist before we move forward with new guidelines on how the existing funds can be distributed. Seconded to Joslyn. Passed.
    - Motion made by Dianne Schmidt to stop UMECRA contributions to the fund. All donations will come from sources outside UMECRA. UMECRA will continue to manage the fund. Seconded by Jill Feller. Failed



- Motion made by Robin Schadt to suspend UMECRA funding to the ICF fund until such time it is necessary to refund it. Seconded by Roberta Harms. Sarah Mowrer requests an amendment that the fund suspension begins once the fund reaches \$3000.
- Jill Feller motions that the 12.5% from the ICF goes to the trail fund until time the ICF fund needs to be refunded. Passed.
  - Full motion is: Robin Schadt motion to suspend UMECRA funding to the ICF fund until the fund falls to \$3000. While suspended, the 12.5% from the silent auction previously designated for the ICF fund will go to the trail fund. Passed.
- AERC rules:
  - Dr. Olivia discussed some of the new rules/discussions with AERC.
    - There is more money available for drug testing.
    - There were nine equine fatalities in 2015. RM's and vets need to report these ASAP so AERC can follow up on these.
    - Susan Garlinghouse has a lot of tutorials on YouTube that you can share in clinics.
    - AERC mentor list is looking for new members.
    - AERC is looking at changing junior riders.
    - USEF made a new rule that all shows horses need to show all vaccination dates. Dr. Olivia will check to see if this rule will move into the endurance world.
- **Rider Rep announcement:** The rider rep voting took place at the convention. Those members voted in as rider reps include Bonnie Mielke, Joslyn Seefeldt, and Maxine Bernsdorf. There was a tie for the fourth position between Cathy Cook and Janette Sasnea. There was a ballot vote taken for the four position.
  - **Ballot vote results:** Jan Sasnea
- **Elections:**
  - **President:** Theresa Meyer, Elinore Tonsor, Jon Wagner; Winner is **Theresa Meyer**
  - **Vet Rep: Dr. Wes Elford.** Dr. Olivia was nominated but declined the nomination.
  - **MN Rep: Darlene Molitor**
  - **WI Rep: Jon Wagner**
- Motion to adjourn was made by Tim Casserly; seconded by Katie Bachhuber.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Feller  
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



Silent Auction Financial Summary:

YEAR	Trails fund	Convention fund	Scholarship fund	ICF Fund	TOTAL
	50%	25%	12.5%	12.5%	
2010	\$372.00		\$372.00	\$2,232.00	\$2,976.00*
2011	\$1,334.00	\$667.00	\$333.50	\$333.50	\$2,668.00
2012	\$1,873.25	\$936.63	\$468.31	\$468.31	\$3,746.50
2013	\$1,580.00	\$790.00	\$395.00	\$395.00	\$3,160.00
2014	\$1,344.50	\$672.25	\$336.12	\$336.13	\$2,689.00
2015	\$790.50	\$395.25	\$197.63	\$197.63	\$1,581.00
2016	\$1,357.00	\$678.50	\$339.25	\$339.25	\$2,714.00

- Formula was different for dispersion of silent auction funds.



**BOD Meeting  
Wisconsin Dells WI  
March 19, 2016**

**Attending:** Jill Feller, Theresa Meyer, Jon Wagner, Max Bernsdorf, Bill Suskey, Wayne Gastfield, Tony Troyer, Wes Elford, Bonnie Mielke, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Joslyn Seefeldt, Jan Sasnea, Darlene Molitor

**Guests:** Linda Jacobson, Sue Herrick

Meeting called to order by President Theresa Meyer at 9.08 am

- **Secretary Report:** Motion made by Tony to accept minutes from January BOD meeting and the conference call minutes, seconded by Jan. Passed.
- **Treasurer Report:** Report was presented as a Balance Sheet and Summary Profit & Loss (P&L) from January 1- March 13, 2016. Motion made by Bonnie to accept reports as presented, seconded by Max; passed. *Copy of the balance sheet is at the end of the minutes.*
- **Review of 2016 annual meeting:**
  - A discussion was held on how the annual meeting went along with some comments that were sent to rider reps from a UMECRA member.
    - Suggestions included
      - Having the BOD prepare a parliamentary procedure to be used at future meetings which includes people being recognized to speak, an order in which issues will be presented and discussed and how to handle attendees who are 'out of order'.
      - The voting delegates should be sitting separately from non-voting members.
      - Having flags for voting members to hold up for easier recognition.
      - Voting for officers following the by-laws decisions.
    - A committee was created to write up some guidelines for the next annual meeting. The committee will present a draft of their ideas via the group emails with the finalizing of the procedures to be discussed at the November meeting. The committee will consist of Tony Troyer, Joslyn Seefeldt and Chris Power (if he accepts when Joslyn contacts him).
  - Jon was contacted by a UMECRA member about the voting of Rider Reps at the convention. Concerns presented are that that voting will be held in the even years which means the voting will be at the IL and WI conventions. Also mentioned as a concern is the fact that members have to attend the convention in order to vote. The member would like to see a ballot vote returned for this process. In 2014, we did a ballot vote and the turnout was very poor which is why the process was changed.
    - A survey monkey process may work but voters would need to be identified to eliminate multiple voting. If there is a tie with the voting, the tie would be broken by 'lot' such as flipping a coin. The tie breaking vote needs to be written in the voting process guidelines.



- Joslyn motions to nominate Nicole and Bill to create a process for electronic voting for rider rep in 2018 and present their process at the fall BOD meeting; seconded by Tony. Passed
  - Jan Sasnea presented an idea from Dianne Schmidt to change the Rider Reps to be the same way as the state directors with each state electing their reps at the conventions in the respective states. (i.e.: MN rider rep will be elected when the convention is in MN, etc.)
    - The rider reps at the meeting voiced their concern about the lack of interest with members of being a rider rep. Bonnie stated that she has talked to several people and tried to get them to nominate for rider rep and she has received a 'no' each time.
    - If the by-laws are changed, the rider reps could be elected two each year instead of all four in one year.
    - No motion was made to move forward with this idea.
- **Marketing document:**
  - Nicole would like to see a program where we would look at the new people who attend a UMECRA event (ride or clinic) and someone in each state reaches out to these new people to help educate them. Joslyn and Jan volunteered to help Nicole with this program.
- **Donation levels to be a UMECRA Sponsor:**
  - A vendor is donating product for a clinic and the vendor wanted to know how she could get to be a sponsor on the UMECRA website. Currently we have no guidelines regarding what makes a vendor a sponsor.
  - It would be to UMECRA's advantage to provide advertising for vendors who are willing to donate money or products to benefit UMECRA or a UMECRA event. Nicole will create a page of UMECRA Supporters where these vendors would be listed. Nicole and Bill will create some guidelines to present to the BOD via the group email.
- **Trail Grants:**
  - Dianne Schmidt sent a trail request for Forestville trails where SE MN is held. Motion made by Bonnie, seconded by Jos to provide \$300 to Forestville trails; passed.
  - Tony Troyer requested a grant for trail maintenance where RRRCR is held. There are trails that need repair but IL does not have any excess money right now to provide to any trails. Motion made by Joslyn, seconded by Wayne to give \$300 to Mathiessen for trail maintenance; passed.
- **Wes' ride proposal:**
  - Wes presented an idea for a team of 9-12 members contest within UMECRA. There would be competition in competitive, LD and endurance, current rides would be used and there would be a monetary award; however only one ride would host the event each year. Organizations within UMECRA would donate money toward the awards. A full outline of this idea can be found at the end of the minutes.
    - The merits of having a team competition was discussed. Wes will write up an article to put in the NL to generate feedback and excitement about a potential team event.



- **Update from by-law committee:**
  - Jon gave an update from the by-law committee; there are eight members on the committee. After the annual meeting, the bylaw committee met via phone call and during this meeting a subcommittee was formed consisting of Jon, Nicole, Linda Rudolphi and Marty Power.
    - The subcommittee wrote the article that was posted in the March NL.
    - The subcommittee will also post monthly updates on the proposed changes to the membership to review and be prepared to vote on these in January 2017. A sample of the comparison document that will be presented each month via the NL is attached to the end of these minutes.
    - Some of the 'housekeeping' changes may not be viewed as 'housekeeping' but as more substantial changes.
- **2017 Convention (Minnesota):** The fees for the 2017 convention were discussed. There is a fee for parking at the hotel along with a cost for each meeting room. UMECRA does have convention guidelines, but they do not include having **only** a member of the BOD or EBOD signing the contracts instead of having the convention manager sign them.
  - Tony motions that convention managers cannot sign any contracts for conventions. Only a member of the EBOD can sign the contracts; seconded by Joslyn. Motion withdrawn:
  - Tony motions that convention managers cannot sign a contract binding UMECRA to any location or pricing for a convention. Only a member of the EBOD, who is not the convention manager, can sign a contract after it is approved by the entire EBOD. Seconded by Joslyn. Passed.
  - MNDRA is donating \$1000 toward the costs of the 2017 convention in MN.
- **2018 Convention (Illinois):**
  - The 2018 convention will be held in Illinois. Nicole and Tony are working on a few locations and sending information to the BOD to review and make suggestions as to the locations and amenities of the choices they are reviewing.

#### **Sanctioning requirements:**

##### **UMECRA Rules:** *change in italics*

C. For rides previously on the schedule the Sanctioning Coordinator shall contact ride managers *in October or November* with the following:

- The proposed ride schedule for the next ride season
- Ride insurance forms
- Request for number of printed ride forms needed for ride
- Confirmation of ride manager contact information
- Sanctioning fee information
- A timeline for creation of the upcoming year Ride Book

Tony motions to accept the above wording; seconded by Bill. Passed.

- D. Ride managers must announce their mileage to the UMECRA Sanctioning Coordinator at least seven (7) days before the annual meeting otherwise they will receive the same mileage as the previous year. ~~Changes at the annual meeting may not be approved.~~ *Corrections and/or adjustments can be made during the annual meeting before voting to approve the schedule.*
  - Jon motions to add the sentence in italics, seconded by Tony; passed.



- E. The names of official delegates to the annual meeting must be submitted in writing *or orally* to the UMECRA Secretary prior to the meeting (cut-off date to be announced). Motion made by Tony to accept change in italics, seconded by Wayne; passed.

## General Rules

### Protests **CURRENT WORDING**

A. A protest must concern an infraction of the rules, must be received in writing within 7 days of the ride, and must be accompanied by a fee of \$25. The Board may also investigate and confront management, veterinarians, and participants of attendees whose acts of failure to act are contrary to the spirit and responsibilities of participation or attendance in this sport (in the same manner and procedures as with protests). If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the complainant. The protest will be sent to the UMECRA president and will be adjudicated at the next board meeting. The president will notify all concerned parties and the Board members within 14 days of receiving the protest. Concerned parties will be given 14 days to submit their opinions.

In the case of a protest which is disallowed the board members shall state their reasons and the protestor so informed, without specifying board members names.

- *A protest must concern an infraction of the rules, must be received in writing within 7 days of the completion of the ride, and must be accompanied by a fee of \$25. The protest will be sent to the UMECRA president and will be adjudicated within 30 days, unless extended for just cause as determined by the BOD. The president will notify all the Board members within 48 hours of receiving the protest. The Vice President or designated investigator appointed by the President will contact the complainant within 3 days of receiving the protest. Concerned parties will be given 14 days to state their responses in writing. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the protestor. Please refer to the UMECRA Protest Procedure on the UMECRA website for details. In the case of a protest which is disallowed, the board members shall state their reasons and the protestor will be informed, without specifying board members names.*
- *B. The Board will also investigate and confront management, veterinarians, participants or attendees whose acts or failure to act are contrary to the spirit and responsibilities of participation or attendance in this sport (in the same manner and procedures as with protests)*
- Motion made by Joslyn to accept the new wording, seconded by Tony; passed

## ENDURANCE RULES

12. Ties: In the case of ties, the points to be awarded shall be the sum of the positions divided by the number of people who tied.

- **Ties:** Bonnie motions to delete the current TIES rule and use same wording GENERAL 5c: Horses that tie will receive identical placings and the next placing will be omitted. (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, etc.) Darlene seconded; passed.

14. C. An AERC member 14 years or older who has completed 500 miles or more in the AERC rider mileage program may ride unsponsored but will compete in the senior division. Parent or guardian must sign a consent form.



- A discussion was held but no motion was made. This topic will move to the November meeting. Jill will contact AERC and get more information to present in November.

## COMPETITIVE RULES

### 1. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

- a. C2. Juniors under the age of 18 as of the beginning of the UMECRA ride season shall be accompanied by a sponsor. EXCEPTION: if they are between ~~13~~ 14 and 18 and it can be validated by the UMECRA points keeper that they have completed at least 500 miles in competitive, limited distance and/or endurance. They must have the approval of a parent.
  - Jon motions to accept the change from 13 to 14, Joslyn seconds; passed.

### 2. RIDER REQUIREMENTS

- A. Natural water only is allowed on the trail. Drinking water only is allowed at rest stops. A horse shall not be denied drinking water from a bucket and/or other approved source at a scheduled vet check. Horses may be sponged after the final vet check. Depending on ambient conditions, veterinary judges may allow sponging at vet checks.
  - Tony motions to accept the last sentence added to this rule, Wayne seconded; passed.

- **Other:**

- **ICF:** a request was made for Ansley Suskey to attend the Young Riders Championship ride in July. The request is for financial assistance but no specific amount was requested. \$1500 per year can be awarded from the ICF funds. Jon motions to award Ansley \$500, seconded by Bonnie; passed. *Note: the ICF fund awards a maximum of \$1500/year to riders who qualify. Therefore, there is another \$1000 to be awarded in 2016 to qualified riders/events.*

- **MI riders request:**

- MI riders would like a discussion on limiting a ride manager to a certain amount of rides and specific trails. Although the UMECRA BODs understand this concern, UMECRA does not dictate the amount of rides or trails that a ride manager can manage or use. There was no further discussion on this matter.

- **UMECRA:**

- BOD is working on writing a policy which will be presented at the annual meeting allowing the UMECRA BOD to respond to a situation in which there is a RM with outstanding bills and/or behavior that is affecting the credibility of UMECRA.

- **Welcome to three new BOD members.**

- **Wes gave a thank you for his Hall of Fame award.**

- **Motion to adjourn:** Motions made by Jill; seconded by Bonnie.

## Respectively submitted

Jill Feller

UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



Balance sheet:

		March 13, 2016	March 13, 2015	\$ change	% change
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Checking/savings					
	Convention Fund	6355.29	5607.24	748.05	13.34%
	ICF Fund	8282.32	7937.12	345.20	4.35%
	May Saving Bank	15512.40	15869.03	-356.63	-2.25%
	Trail Checking	4944.44	4587.44	357.00	7.78%
	TOTAL Check/Save	35094.45	34000.83	1093.62	3.22%
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>35094.45</b>	<b>34000.83</b>	<b>1093.62</b>	<b>3.22%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES/EQUITY</b>					
<b>EQUITY</b>	Opening Bal Equity	16860.34	16860.34	0.00	0.00%
	Retained Earnings	19695.24	20429.44	-734.20	-3.59%
	Net Income	-1461.13	-3288.95	1827.82	55.58%
	TOTAL Equity	35094.45	34000.83	1093.62	3.22%
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES/Asset</b>		<b>35094.45</b>	<b>34000.83</b>	<b>1093.62</b>	<b>3.22%</b>

**Proposal for Ride- from WES ELFORD**

Here are some thoughts for something different. I think that there are a few people that might entertain supporting the venture.

Team contest; overall goal is to attract participants to the ride hosting the event.

create some excitement/interest in the Upper Midwest

3 riders to a team---determined by state of residence or membership to the organization(DRAW, MNDRA, GLADRA, AHDRA)

3 categories of events; Endurance 50 miles; LD 25 up to 35; Competitive 25 up to 50

Cost of event to be addressed and studied; Awards and Vets

Each organization to anti-up \$250 or \$500 or whatever... DRAW, MNDRA, GLADRA, AHDRA

Winning organization gets double the anti back. Rest goes to putting on the ride--awards/vets, etc.

Sponsors---businesses and/or personal.

Aug/Sept. Later so everyone is in shape--move from state to state---3 or 4 day ride because of the ride categories

Rides---DRAWarama/Colorama, SE Minnesota/ Mosquito Run, Rock River/Endure, Don't know MI rides

Entries a little higher, 50 Endurance--\$100 or \$300 per team, 25 LD \$60 or \$180 per team, Same for Comp. Each organization could have as many teams as they wanted.



Awards expenses would be determined by the amount each organization anti-upped so if each antied \$500 the we would have \$1000 for awards with the other \$1000 going back to winning organization. If they only antied up \$250 then there would be only \$500 for all the awards. That would be guaranteed. If there were a lot of entries or sponsorships there may be more for awards.

Profits if any--#1 to UMECRA or #2 split between organizations or #3 to the ride that puts it on. Managed by the ride manager of the ride with help from a designated Team Assistant Manager volunteer. Strict AERC/UMECRA rules and procedures. UMECRA would have to be behind this all the way to that the schedule could be arranged so everyone could participate.

This would have to be put on at least 4 years to give it a good trial and see it flies.

**BY-LAW CHANGE TABLE:**

Current By-law	By-law Changes (words inserted/added are <u>underlined</u> ; words removed are <del>struck out</del> .	Rationale
COMMENTS:		



BOD Meeting Minutes  
Wisconsin Dells WI  
November 12 2016 – 9 am

Attendance: Jill Feller, Theresa Meyer, Maxine Bernsdorf, Tony Troyer, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Bill Suskey, Jon Wagner, Darlene Molitor, Joslyn Seefeldt, Wes Elford, Janet Sasnea

Guests: Linda Jacobson, Barry Saylor, Deb Moe, Kristin Glaze

Meeting called to order by President Theresa Meyer.

- **Secretary Report:** Joslyn motioned to accept March minutes, Wes seconded; passed
- **Treasurer Report:** Joslyn motioned to accept financial minutes, Wes seconded; passed. Copy of balance sheet is at the end of these minutes.

### OLD BUSINESS

- **Outline of penalties for Code of Conduct violations:**
  - Theresa explained the reason that that Code of Conduct was put into place. At the annual meeting in January 2016, the voting membership wanted a process put in place for a Code of Conduct violation. Theresa presented a process for the BOD to review of what would happen if the Code of Conduct is violated by a BOD member. Once approved by the BOD, this process will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting in January 2017. A discussion of the guidelines followed. Do the bylaws contain enough embedded language to deal with a violation to the Code of Conduct or is a separate process needed?
    - Wes motions for the presented process to be moved back to Theresa to rework for January meeting; seconded by Max. Passed. Theresa and Jill will work on rewriting the process into a simpler one and present it to the BOD at the morning BOD meeting in January.
- **Possible Electronic Voting for Rider Reps:**
  - Bill sent out two different voting processes to BOD members to review as a method for electronic voting for Rider Reps. One of the processes is free while the other is a cost of \$25/400 people. The method with the cost is more robust and simpler to set up and use.
    - After a discussion, it was decided that Bill will send out a sample survey before the convention for all members to experience the voting method to allow a discussion at the annual meeting. Bill and Peggy will work together to put a communication in the December newsletter about this process and the sample survey.
- **14. C. An AERC member 14 years or older who has completed 500 miles or more in the AERC rider mileage program may ride unsponsored but will compete in the senior division. Parent or guardian must sign a consent form.**
  - Jill contacted AERC about what their process was regarding a junior riding unsponsored. AERC sent their rule and a copy of the letter they send to the young rider. Ride managers at any AERC ride may refuse to accept this letter and make the junior ride with a sponsor. A discussion followed but no further action was taken as a UMECRA ride manager can refuse to accept the letter and require the junior to ride with a sponsor.
- **Ride Manager Debt:**
  - *If the UMECRA BOD becomes aware of a RM with outstanding bills, the BOD will take appropriate action.* This topic was originally discussed at the spring 2016 meeting with no action taken.
    - Theresa will be discussing this subject with Art to see what obligation UMECRA has and if there are any liability concerns; no further discussion was held on this topic.



- **Tabled bylaws from 2016 Annual:**
  - Jon led the discussion as he was the chair of the sub-committee regarding the by-law proposed changes.
    - The committee sent out regular updates to the newsletter with a chart showing 'current' bylaws vs. 'proposed' bylaws.
    - Jon also presented the letter that the subcommittee wrote and submitted to the EBOD members explaining their views on the changes and what they suggest should happen to the bylaws going forward.
      - It is the suggestion of the subcommittee that the BOD look over the approved 'housekeeping' changes that were approved in the January 2016 annual meeting to see if we want to 'keep' them or suggest some changes.
      - The BOD should be prepared on how to present the bylaws at the annual meeting. *A copy of that letter is at the end of these minutes.*
      - Jon motions to return to the 2014 wording for the termination of membership (Article VIII; section 4); seconded by Tony. Passed.
        - **CURRENT WORDING:** Section 4. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP. The Board of Directors may by a *majority of a quorum* of the Board present vote to terminate the membership of any member who has been shown to have conducted himself or herself in a manner which is inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the organization. Thereafter such terminated member shall not be entitled to participate in any corporate functions or other corporate activities in any manner whatsoever.
        - **CHANGED WORDING:** Section 4. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP. The Board of Directors may by a majority of a ~~quorum~~ of the Board present vote to terminate the membership of any member who has been shown to have conducted himself or herself in a manner which is inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the organization. Thereafter such terminated member shall not be entitled to participate in any corporate functions or other corporate activities in any manner whatsoever.
      - The remaining bylaw changes were discussed as they will be presented at the annual meeting.
- **Annual Meeting Guidelines Committee report:**
  - Tony, Jos and Chris Power met as the committee to create some guidelines for conducting the meeting in January. Suggestions were made on the guidelines presented. Tony will update these guidelines, send them out to the BOD for final approval and then they will be posted on the website two weeks prior to the meeting.
  - A discussion was held on identifying voters. Colored paddles with ride name will be handed out to voting delegates. During roll-call, those delegates called will be required to identify themselves so a voting paddle can be given out. The paddles will be used as a 'counting' vote only if a voice vote is too close to call.
  - Colored paper will be handed out for election of officers; these will be handed out with the voting paddles. There will be no more 'tearing' of paper to vote with. Each office being voted for will have a different color of paper.
- **Sanctioning coordinator report on 2017 rides:**
  - 39 rides are currently on the 2017 schedule with 2 new possible rides. One ride is looking at changing dates. Eleven rides have already sanctioned and seven have paid sanctioning fees.
- **Marketing Document:**
  - Nicole created a marketing document several years ago and there have not been any significant changes since that time. Nicole has not received any help from members over the past years when she has asked.



The ride clinics have been successful along with horse fair presence. The BOD will continue to promote ride organizations such as DRAW, MNDRA, AHDRA and GLDR to hold clinics and to host a booth at their respective state horse fairs. UMECRA does provide up to \$350 for costs associated with the horse fair booths.

- **Convention Updates for 2017 and 2018, particularly the planned RM meeting for 2017:**
  - **2017**
    - MN convention- 100 rooms set aside at \$119 each held until January 6.
    - RM meeting will be held in the morning; Theresa is communicating to Dianne that this meeting needs to be held at 9 am so the RM's who are on the BOD can attend the meeting.
    - There will be coffee and bagels for the BOD meeting on Saturday morning.
    - Friday registration begins at 3 pm and AHDRA awards at 7 pm.
    - Saturday: 7 am- BOD meeting; 8 am RM meeting (*note that this will be changing to 9 am*); 10 am speaker; 1 pm annual meeting.
    - Registration for this convention was discussed along with checks from members being sent to the Treasurer to be deposited in the Convention account. No checks from members sent for the convention are to be cashed and/or deposited by the convention manager.
  - **2018**
    - Grand Bear Lodge near North Utica IL will be the venue.
    - Tony asked for clarification on what and who can sign the contract with the venue.
    - Guests will have a complimentary breakfast.
    - Rooms cost will be just over \$100 with exact cost not determined yet.
  - **2019**
    - MI may have two proposals; one in Upper MI and one in Lower MI but nothing has been presented yet.
- **General Rule L:**
  - Current rules states: *G. Changes to a scheduled ride must be submitted to the SC for Board approval 60 days in advance of the ride start date or to the EBOD for their approval or as early as possible in emergency situations. Sanctioning votes by the BOD can be taken via email. Members without email will be contacted by the UMECRA President.*
  - *L. Rider points will only be given for mileage which the ride applied for, or for which notice of a mileage change has been made at least 60 days in advance.*
  - Note: AERC has allowed a ride manager to add additional distances (such as adding a 75 endurance ride) to an already sanctioned ride with less than 60 days' notice before the date of the ride. If AERC allows the additions of new distances, UMECRA will follow GENERAL RULE L. In addition, GENERAL RULE L will also be followed with any ride that wants to add new distances to competitive rides, add a drive or novice ride with less than 60 days' notice before the date of the ride.
  - After a discussion; no action was taken as the rule suffices at is stands and no changes are needed.
- **Require use of UMECRA entry form for all rides:**
  - The AHAM ride last year used a unique entry form with a shortened version of the UMECRA form. The UMECRA entry form contains all the state equine law language and any ride that is sanctioned with UMECRA should be using the UMECRA entry form. A ride can also use a unique form for their ride, but all riders are required to complete and sign the UMECRA entry form.
    - Joslyn motions: Any event sanctioned by UMECRA is required to use the UMECRA entry form. Failure to do so may result with UMECRA withholding sanctioning on the following year. Seconded by Darlene. Passed.
- **Revised Comp Sheet:**
  - Wes presented a revised Competitive form for review. A discussion was held on adding body score to the sheet however that would require a rule change. No action was taken at this time. A few other



suggestions were given on the new form. We will take back to the vet committee the following topics for further discussion before presenting the form again at the BOD meeting in January:

- Adding the body score
- Changing manner deductions up to 40 points/incidents
- **Clarification on what goes on the UMECRA Sponsorship web page:**
  - Some guidelines for the UMECRA website were posted to members after the spring meeting but it appears that they are not fully understood. For clarification, if a sponsor donates items/prizes to a ride, that sponsor can be posted on the UMECRA website as a sponsor. An announcement will be made at the annual meeting to all ride managers so they understand and can get some advertising for sponsors who assist them with prizes/awards for their ride.
- **Family award:**
  - The definition of the family award was changed in January; part of this wording, that was not changed, required the family to notify the pointskeeper to nominate their family. The website wording did not require notification to the pointskeeper. There was a family riding I 2016 who did not notify the pointskeeper that they were nominating for the family award. At the end of the year, this family had the highest number of points. A motion was made by Joslyn, seconded by Max to allow the family award be given to the family this year with the highest points even though that family did not nominate with the pointskeeper. *The website is now updated to say that the family must contact the Pointskeeper before the start of the season to nominate for the family award.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Parent/Guardian signatures on UMECRA entry forms:**
    - Elinore contacted the BOD requesting that junior riders need to have a notarized entry form completed and presented to UMECRA at the beginning of each year and that the date-of-birth be added to the entry UMECRA entry forms. The notarizing would ensure that the parent did agree with the entry form and is allowing their junior to compete. The ride manager then knows that it is truly the parent's signature on the form.
      - A discussion followed. Several BOD members went to youth organization websites and looked at the methods they use to identify 'youth/juniors' and no site was found that required any notarizing methods for parents. Memberships on these sites were granted by completing a form and sending it to the organization with the proper payment. No action was taken on this subject.
      - If a date-of-birth is put on the UMECRA entry form, the document would then be considered PII (Personally Identifiable Information) and needs to be handled and protected as such. No action was taken on this subject.
    - A suggestion was made that UMECRA puts the articles back in the newsletter and it can be a topic at the annual convention to remind ride managers to check the signatures at their rides. The ride manager can ask the junior rider for an ID to proof age or to require the junior entry form to be signed by the parent/guardian at the ride in front of the ride secretary.
  - **BOD Positions and SOP's:**
    - Jon suggests that there is no sort of training/orientation for new BOD members. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) should be written for different positions. These SOP's would be general guidelines and not exact processes of what the position does and what the responsibilities are.
    - Theresa made an assignment that a SOP template be created. Once created, some sample SOP's will be created to share to all positions. Jon and Jill will create a SOP template.
- AERC Championship Ride possibilities:**
- Barry Saylor gave a presentation about the AERC National Championship ride. Two ride sites for the 2017 AERC NC ride have been submitted but AERC is looking for a more central location. Barry has contacted AERC and has been assured that if he puts an application in for the 2017 AERC NC ride to be held at



Zumbros Bottom in MN, he will be awarded the ride. The ride would be held on Wed- Sept 27<sup>th</sup> for the 100-mile ride and Friday- Sept 29<sup>th</sup> for the 50-mile ride at Zumbro Bottoms. AERC supplies \$7500 for the ride.

- Barry is asking for approval for UMECRA to be the ride sponsor and that UMECRA on all the financial responsibility of the ride. Any profits from the ride would go into the UMECRA treasury and any losses will be removed from the treasury.
- UMECRA has never sponsored a ride and if the 2017 AERC NC ride is sponsored, it sets precedence for UMECRA to sponsor other rides. What will be the guidelines as to what rides UMECRA sponsors and which ones they do not sponsor? Jon motions that the subject of UMECRA financially sponsoring an AERC National Championship ride be taken to the membership at the annual meeting; seconded by Peggy; passed.
  - Barry will put together a financial/business plan to present at the annual meeting.
- **Appointment of Points Keeper & Website Coordinator:**
  - Nicole and Robin both have agreed to continue in their current positions. Motion made by Jon, seconded by Wes to keep Robin as pointskeeper; passed. Tony motions to keep Nicole as webmaster, seconded by Joslyn; passed.
  - Joslyn will assist Jill with this year's sanctioning coordinator duties this year.
- **Updating Rules and RM/Vet's Handbook:**
  - A member asked why the new rules that were approved at the spring meeting were no in place for the past ride season. All rules need to be approved at the annual meeting; therefore, the new rules will be in the books once they are approved at the annual meeting.
- **Bylaw addition proposals**
  - **Bylaws**
    - Jon would like the article of incorporation added to the bylaws (these were replaced by the bylaws) but it would be nice to see these added as an amendment as the wording in these remind us all as of the reason that UMECRA was founded.
    - Jon created some definitions that he presented at the meeting defining the different 'delegate' terms that are used in the bylaws. He suggested that these definitions be added to the bylaws as an amendment. Theresa will read through the definitions to make sure they are clear and then these will be posted for members to read before the annual meeting.
  - **Article III, Section 7**

*Meetings of UMECRA shall be conducted to provide for fair discussion and deliberation in providing for constructive and democratic meetings, to help, not hinder, the business of the Corporation. While decisions shall be taken by the will of the majority, the rights of a minority to be fairly heard shall be provided. For that purpose, Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised, may be consulted to provide for an orderly process.*

    - Motion made by Tony to approve this wording; seconded by Joslyn. Passed. This will be presented at the annual meeting for a vote by the membership.
  - **Article VI- Officers- Section 1. ELECTION**

*When a quorum of the delegates is present at the annual meeting, the person receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected a president, a vice president and a secretary/treasurer, all of whom shall be members of the Board. Commencing at the January 2008 convention, the President will be elected to a two-year term. Commencing at the January 2007 convention the Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer will be elected to a two-year term. Said officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.*

Motion made by Joslyn to accept this wording; seconded by Bill. Passed 5/4.



- Other:
  - A rider rep brought up a concern about comp rides and the concerns are coming from more than one state. Some of the rides are making the comp rides very fast and riders are concerned about this. The time for comp is in the rules as 5.5 – 7 mph. The time for ride should be conducive to the trail conditions and weather. If the trail is hard or sloppy due to wet conditions or the weather is hot and humid the ride manager should be considering these factors when deciding the ride time needed to safely complete the trail.
  - Max reported that the 2016 awards are in progress. Max, Boots and Linda will not be continuing to do awards after this season. Jan volunteers to be on the committee going forward.
  - A trail request was presented from Peggy Pasillas for a \$250 grant for Three Rivers Park District for trail repairs. Motion made by Wes, seconded by Nicole to grant the request.
  
- Motion made by Bill; seconded made by Jill to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Feller  
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



## BOD Meeting Minutes Rochester MN January 28, 2017

Call to order at 6:30 am by President Meyer.

**Present:** Theresa Meyer, Darlene Molitor, Bonnie Mielke, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Jan Sasnea, Maxine Bernsdorf, Jon Wagner, Tony Troyer, Bill Suskey, Wes Elford, Sarah Mowrer, Jill Feller

**Guests:** Bruce Birr, Carl Dousman

**Secretary Report:** Bill motioned to accept the minutes from the November meeting, seconded by Jon; passed.

**Treasurer Report:** Report included the balance sheet and P&L summary comparing 2015 to 2016 numbers was presented. Motion made by Wes and seconded by Jon to accept the financial reports as presented; passed.

- **ICF update**
  - The committee will be revisited in March. Ainsley was not awarded her approved money from 2016 because the Young Rider's event that it was to be used for was cancelled.
- **Financial audit results**
  - Wes reported that the financial audit was completed by himself, Linda Mowrer, Tony Troyer and no discrepancies were found. Motion made by Wes and seconded by Max to accept the audit results; passed.
- **Ride Insurance**
  - UMECRA insurance is with a new carrier and the certificates of insurance will be sent out after March 8<sup>th</sup> when our policy begins. The certs will be sent to the ride managers once they are available.
- **Ride Schedule**
  - There is a new ride proposed, Salamonie Stomp on Sept 23-24, put on by Maureen Fehrs in IN. Ride is over 600 miles from Run for the Ridge which is the only other ride scheduled on that weekend. Salamonie Stomp has been added to the ride schedule.
    - Tony motions to accept the ride calendar as presented with the Salamonie Stomp ride added, seconded by Bill; passed.
  - MI riders approached Theresa and Tony about sanctioning the AHAM ride for 2017; what would it take to get that ride put back on the UMECRA calendar? The riders were told if the ride is put under new management and a new name the ride could be sanctioned. GLDRA will be discussing this situation at their meeting in February.
- **National Championship**
  - Barry sent Theresa an email in the past week stating he was withdrawing his request for the NC ride.
  - Wes feels this is a lost opportunity to UMECRA.
- **Electronic Elections for Rider Rep**
  - Bill sent out a test sample to members last week to try this sort of voting. He received back 142 votes out of 357 sent; there were 33 rejected emails. This electronic process cost \$20. Members without an email address could either be sent a paper ballot or information on how to access the link/code to vote online through a computer.
  - Motion made by Wes to accept this method of voting for the rider reps, seconded by Max; passed.
    - More discussion will be done in March meeting with feedback from members



- **Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)- board members**
  - Several samples of SOP's were created by Jon and Jill since November and shared with the BOD electronically. Theresa will get those samples sent out to the BOD members for review.
- **Ride Attendance Numbers**
  - Robin sent the ride attendance numbers to Theresa this past week. In 2016 there were 40 rides/4359 riders; 2015 there were 4502 riders; 2015 there were 4581 riders. The full table of ride numbers will be published in the NL for members to see.
- **Trail Grant Awards**
  - There were no grants requested.
- **Promotion/Publicity Report**
  - There are no new initiatives; horse fairs and clinics are working well.
- **2018 Convention (Illinois)**
  - Will be held at the Garden Hilton in Rockford IL on January 27 & 28. Room rates will be \$99.
- **2019 Convention (Michigan)**
  - Carl and Bruce have the convention guidelines info and will be discussing a location at the GLDRA meeting in February.
- **Awards committee for 2018**
  - Jan Sasnea will be leading the awards committee; she will get more members to assist her. Robin will continue to assist with the committee.
  - Max, Boots and Linda were given a thank you for their past work over the years.
- **Competitive Score Sheet Review**
  - Wes led the discussion of the new form. The body score (BC 1-9) is on the form and pre/post ride trot out scores. Motion by Sarah, seconded by Nicole to separate fatigue and attitude scoring on the new form; passed.
- **Discussion of annual meeting (Light beige paper)**
  - Bonnie will be timer for discussions. Topic will be held with 2 minutes of discussion/person and each person gets 2 chances to speak per topic.
  - A discussion also ensued which covered the wording of the proposed by-law changes.
- **Article VIII membership**
  - Section 4. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP. The Board of Directors may by a majority of a quorum ~~the whole~~ of the Board vote to terminate the membership of any member who has been shown to have conducted himself or herself in a manner which is inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the organization. Thereafter such terminated member shall not be entitled to participate in any corporate functions or other corporate activities in any manner whatsoever.
    - Motion by Wes, seconded by Bill to change the wording to say 'whole' board; passed
- **From Yahoo email group:**
  - In 2016, the UMECRA BOD became aware that the AHAM ride was not using the UMECRA entry form for their ride. A call was made to the RM by Tony Troyer and the RM confirmed that the ride had created their own entry form. A written letter was sent to the AHAM RM stating that he was required to use the UMECRA entry form for all ride entries; he was also allowed to use his own form as long as the UMECRA form was also signed by riders. IF the UMECRA form was not used, the AHAM ride sanctioning with UMECRA would be in jeopardy in 2017. In fall of 2016, AHAM ride requested sanctioning for the ride for 2016. At that time, the BOD made calls to several riders who attended the AHAM ride and they confirmed that they did not sign the UMECRA entry form. The AHAM RM was contacted and he was required to send copies of his ride entry forms to the UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer by January 11<sup>th</sup> showing that he complied with the written request in summer. No entry forms were ever received from AHAM ride; therefore, the following action happened.



- *January 13, 2017: Tony Troyer motions that AHAM sanctioning be taken off of the ride schedule for 2017. A letter of explanation is to be sent as to the rule(s) that have not been adhered to, along with the refund of their sanctioning fee. Seconded by Nicole Mauser-Storer. Motion passed.*

Respectively Submitted  
Jill Feller  
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**Annual Meeting Minutes  
Rochester MN  
January 28, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by President Theresa Meyer

**Roll Call – Distribution of voting devices & packets**

- 65 votes for the annual meeting; majority is 33; 2/3 vote is 43 votes
- **Secretary Report:** 2016 annual meeting minutes. Motion made by Peggy Pasillas, seconded by Tony Troyer to accept minutes as presented; passed.
- **Treasurer Report:** presented with balance sheet and Profit & Loss comparison of 2015 to 2016. Motion made by Tony Troyer, seconded by Bill Suskey to accept financial report as presented; passed
  - **Ride Insurance**
    - There is a new ride insurance company as our past one is no longer covering any equine events. The premium for 2017 has been paid and the certificates of insurance should be sent sometime in March; they will be sent out to RM's after they have been received from the carrier.
  - **2017 Ride schedule**
    - Proposed ride schedule for 2017 was reviewed. There is a new ride in IN at Sept 23-24 run by Maureen Fehr.
    - Motion made by Linda Jacobson, seconded by Alice Hubert to accept the 2017 ride schedule with a few minor updates on ride lengths. The ride schedule will be posted on the website in the next two weeks.
    - Ride managers were reminded to send their ride flyers by February 5<sup>th</sup> to Sanctioning Coordinator.
- **Tabled Bylaw Proposed Changes**
  - Motion made by Wes to take remaining bylaw changes off the table, seconded by Tony Troyer; passed.

Current Bylaw	Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and <del>removed</del>
<p><b>ARTICLE II PLACE AND TIME OF MEETINGS SECTION 2</b></p> <p>An Annual Meeting shall be held in January of each year commencing in 1986. Election of the Board of Directors and Officers and other general business shall be transacted at such meeting. The first election of Directors shall be at the Annual Meeting of the corporation in 1986, with the present Board of Directors, as provided in the Articles of Incorporation, serving until that time.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Maxine Bernsdorf to accept changes, seconded by Darlene Molitor; passed</i></p>	<p><b>SECTION 2.</b> An Annual Meeting shall be held in January <u>or February</u> of each year commencing in 1986. Election of the Board of Directors and Officers and other general business shall be transacted at such meeting. The first election of Directors shall be at the Annual Meeting of the corporation in 1986, with the present</p>

Current Bylaw	Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and <del>removed</del>
<p><b>ARTICLE III NOTICE OF MEETINGS, QUORUMS &amp; VOTING SECTION 1 ANNUAL MEETINGS</b></p> <p>Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be published in a report to the members at least five business days prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> the 2014 bylaws required a notice of five days as well; however when the "housekeeping" changes were approved at the 2016 Annual Meeting the word "business" was added to the language as a house keeping item.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Jon Wagner, seconded by Jan Sasnea to accept changes. Motion passed with amended wording</i></p>	<p>Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be published in a report to the members <u>postmarked via U.S. Mail or sent via membership email address at least five business days prior to the meeting or by posting the same on the UMECRA website &lt;www.umecra.com&gt;</u></p> <p><i>Motion made by Nicole Mauser-Storer, seconded by Elinore Tonsor to amend the wording to say: Amendment passed</i></p> <p>Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be published in a report to the members <u>postmarked via U.S. Mail or sent via membership email address at least five business days prior to the meeting or by posting the same on the UMECRA website <a href="http://www.umecra.com">www.umecra.com</a> and published and posted on the UMECRA website&lt;www.umecra.com&gt;</u></p>



<p>Current Bylaw</p> <p><b>ARTICLE III</b>  <b>NOTICE OF MEETINGS, QUORUMS &amp; VOTING</b>  <b>SECTION 2 SPECIAL MEETINGS</b> Written notice of a Special Meeting of the Corporation stating the time, place and object thereof shall be published in a report to the members at least five business days before such meeting. Special meetings of the Corporation may be called at anytime upon the request of the President, Vice President, or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors, or upon written request to the President, Vice President and the Secretary by twenty (20) or more members.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Tony Troyer to accept the first section of changes (underlined) as worded. Motion passed with both amendments.</i></p>	<p>Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and removed</p> <p><b>SECTION 2.</b> Written notice of a Special Meeting of the Corporation stating the time, place and object thereof shall be published in a report to the members postmarked via U.S. Mail or sent via membership email <u>address at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting or by posting the same on the UMECRA website &lt;www.umecra.com&gt;</u></p> <p><i>Motion made by Nicole Mauser -Storer, seconded by Tony Troyer to amend wording to: Amendment passed.</i></p> <p>Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be published in a report to the members postmarked via U.S. Mail or sent via membership email <u>address at least five business days prior to the meeting or by posting the same on the UMECRA website <a href="http://www.umecra.com">www.umecra.com</a> and published and posted on the UMECRA website&lt;www.umecra.com&gt;</u></p> <p>Special Meetings of the Corporation may be called at any time upon request of the President, Vice President, or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors, or upon written request <u>submitted via certified U.S. mail with return receipt requested to the President, Vice President and the Secretary and must be requested by half or more of the endurance/competitive trail rides sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season by its ride managers as listed on its original sanctioning application. The Executive Board will promptly decide in which city the meeting will be held.</u></p> <p><i>Motion made by Nicole Mauser-Storer, seconded by Tony Troyer to amend wording by removing 'original'.</i></p>
<p>Current Bylaw</p> <p><b>ARTICLE III</b>  <b>SECTION 3. QUORUM FOR ANNUAL OR SPECIAL MEETINGS</b> The presence in person of twenty (20) or a majority, whichever is the lesser amount, of the delegates to a meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. After a Meeting is duly commenced, the absence of a quorum in the meeting room/hall at any meeting may result in adjournment from time to time at the discretion of the President or the Vice President. However, unless the meeting has been so adjourned, the delegates present at a duly called or held meeting may continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum. The President, or in their absence, the Vice President, or in their absence any other person designated from time to time by a majority of the Board of Directors, shall preside at all Annual or Special Meetings.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Peggy Pasillas, seconded by Jan Sasnea to accept changes. Passed with both amendments.</i></p>	<p>Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and removed</p> <p><b>SECTION 3. QUORUM FOR ANNUAL OR SPECIAL MEETINGS</b> <u>A quorum is determined based upon the presence in person at an Annual or Special Meeting of official voting delegates representing either twenty (20) of the immediately preceding year/season's sanctioned and held endurance/competitive trail ride events or twenty-five (25) of the eligible voting delegates, not including alternative voting delegates (see Section 5 below), nominated by any endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season as recorded by the Secretary, whichever is less, plus the President or Vice President, and at least one (1) Rider Representative. That number shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. After a Meeting is duly commenced, the absence of a quorum in the meeting room/hall at any meeting may result in adjournment from time to time at the discretion of the President or Vice President. However, unless the meeting has been so adjourned, the delegates present at a duly called or held meeting may continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum. The President, or in their absence, the Vice President, or in their absence any other person designated from time to time by a majority of the Board of Directors, shall preside at all Annual Or Special Meetings.</u></p> <p><i>Motion made by Nicole Mauser-Storer, seconded by Tony Troyer to amend the wording by removing the word "held".</i>  <i>Motion made by Elinore Tonsor, seconded by Ruth Casserly to amend the wording to the following:</i></p> <p><b>SECTION 3. QUORUM FOR ANNUAL OR SPECIAL MEETINGS</b> <u>A quorum is determined based upon the presence in person at an Annual or Special Meeting of official voting delegates representing either twenty (20) of the immediately preceding year/season's sanctioned and held endurance/competitive trail ride events or twenty-five (25) of the eligible voting delegates, not including alternative voting delegates (see Section 5 below), nominated by any endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season as recorded by the Secretary, whichever is less, plus the President or Vice President, and at least one (1) Rider Representative.</u></p>



Current Bylaw	Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and removed
<p><b>ARTICLE III</b>  <b>SECTION 4.</b> Business transacted at all Special Meetings shall be confined and limited only to the purposes stated in the call to the Special Meeting. These limitations do not infringe upon the powers enumerated in Article V, herein.</p> <p><i>Motion by Wes Elford, seconded by Jon Wagner to accept the new wording; passed</i></p>	<p><b>SECTION 4.</b> Business transacted at all <u>Annual Meetings</u> shall include all purposes allowed under these rules and as accepted by a majority of a quorum of the Board of Directors from its previous fall meeting and at its morning meeting, or as raised and accepted by the President or other person presiding over the Annual Meeting during discussion of "new business" items. Special Meetings shall be confined and limited only to the purposes stated in the call to the Special Meeting. These limitations do not infringe upon the powers enumerated in Article V, herein.</p>

Current Bylaw	Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and removed
<p><b>ARTICLE III</b>  <b>Section 5. DELEGATES</b> Each endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season, by one of its ride managers as listed on its sanctioning form shall submit the names of its official voting delegates or its authorized alternate voting delegate(s) [also referred to as proxies] to be recorded by the Corporate Secretary prior to any meeting of members.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Darlene Molitor, seconded by Jan Sasnea to accept new wording. Failed- article to go back to committee for rewording.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ARTICLE III</b></p> <p><b>Section 5.</b> Each endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season, by one of its ride managers as listed on its sanctioning form shall submit the names of its official voting delegates or its authorized alternate voting delegate(s) [also referred to as proxies] to be recorded by the Corporate Secretary prior to any meeting of members. <u>Official voting delegates must have actively participated in the management of the endurance/competitive trail ride and be listed on the sanctioning application.</u> Ride managers of <u>cancelled rides, who have paid their sanctioning fees before the ride has been cancelled and where the cancellation occurred for good cause shown, shall retain voting rights for the next Annual Meeting.</u></p> <p><i>Motion by Elinore Tonsor, seconded by Stacy Vanderwoude to amend wording by removing sentence above that has strikeout through it.</i></p> <p><i>After discussion of wording, motion made by Bob Egerer, seconded by Jon Wagner to 'commit' this article to go back to committee for rewording; passed</i></p>

Current Bylaw	Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and removed
<p><b>ARTICLE III</b>  <b>SECTION 6. VOTING PROCEDURES AT MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATION.</b> Delegates shall be chosen by each endurance/competitive ride sanctioned and held the previous season or year as follows, including:</p> <p>a. The members of the Board of Directors, Officers, Veterinary Representative and Rider Representatives of the Corporation shall serve and be accredited as voting delegates of the Corporation. However, Advisory Positions on the Board may not serve as voting delegates unless otherwise qualified herein.</p> <p>b. Each sanctioned and held endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned and held from the immediate preceding year/season shall be entitled to appoint a single voting delegate for each ride-day of their ride/event. For example, for a ride held over a Friday, Saturday and Sunday, that event shall be entitled to three (3) voting delegates, regardless of whether they have multiple divisions or events on a particular ride day. Any eligible endurance/competitive trail ride event must have at least one sanctioned event or division on a day for it to qualify as a ride - day for purposes of assigning voting delegates. Additionally, the Board shall reserve the right to confirm appointment of voting delegate(s) to the spirit of this Section, in order to avoid dilution or the artificial increasing of voting delegates by an event organizer or its ride management (such as the splitting of days at the same ride location time and place in an effort to increase appointment of voting delegates).</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE III</b>  <b>SECTION 6. VOTING PROCEDURES AT MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATION.</b> Delegates shall be chosen by each endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned and held the previous season or year as follows, including:</p> <p>a. The members of the Board of Directors, Officers, Veterinary Representative and Rider Representatives of the Corporation shall serve and be accredited as voting delegates of the Corporation. However, Advisory Positions on the Board may not serve as voting delegates unless otherwise qualified herein.</p> <p>b. Each sanctioned and held endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned <del>and held</del> from the immediate preceding year/season shall be entitled to appoint a single voting delegate for each ride-day of their ride/event. For example, for a ride held over a Friday, Saturday and Sunday, that event shall be entitled to three (3) voting delegates, regardless of whether they have multiple divisions or events on a particular ride day <u>up to a maximum of seven (7) delegates. Any endurance/competitive trail ride which schedules itself to exceed seven (7) days must apply for as a separate event for those additional days, and in the case of consecutively scheduled events shall be limited to seven (7) voting delegates.</u> Any eligible endurance/competitive trail ride event must have at least one sanctioned event or division on a day for it to qualify as a ride-day for purposes of assigning voting delegates.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Nicole Mauser-Storer, seconded by Tony Troyer to amend wording by removing "and held".</i></p>



<p>c. Although one person may serve in a combination of the above positions, s/he may exercise only one vote as a delegate. Said delegates shall elect the Officers and Directors of the Corporation and shall, by majority vote of the delegates present at any such meeting, approve rule changes proposed by the Board of Directors or decide whether to permanently adopt interim rules previously made by the Board of Directors, together with such other powers as may be authorized under these Bylaws.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Jan Sasnea, seconded by Darlene Molitor to accept new wording of bylaw. Passed with amended wording.</i></p>	
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<p>Current Bylaw NONE</p> <p><i>Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Tony Troyer to added Article V, Section 2 to bylaws. Passed with amended wording.</i></p>	<p>Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and removed</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ARTICLE V</b></p> <p><u>SECTION 2. CODE OF CONDUCT.</u> Upon election or appointment, the Board of Directors and appointees (see Article VI, Section 5) shall sign and abide by the <u>UMECRA Board of Directors Code of Conduct, (see Appendix A) as adopted by the Board from time to time. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action, and may lead to removal from the Board by the affirmative vote of a majority of the attending quorum of the whole Board of Directors.</u></p> <p><i>Motion made by Nicole Mauser-Storer, seconded by Elinore Tonsor to amend the wording above "attending quorum = whole".</i></p>
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<p>Current Bylaw</p> <p><b>ARTICLE VI OFFICERS SECTION 3. OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND TERMINATION OF OTHER OFFICERS.</b> The outgoing President shall remain on the Board of Directors as an additional director-at-large. Any Officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the whole Board of Directors, with cause.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Tony Troyer to accept new wording; passed.</i></p>	<p>Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and removed</p> <p><b>ARTICLE VI OFFICERS SECTION 3. OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND TERMINATION OF OTHER OFFICERS.</b> The outgoing President shall remain on the Board of Directors as an additional director-at-large. Any Officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the whole Board of Directors, with cause pursuant to Article V-Section 2, above, or for cause arising from acts or failures to act in a manner or intent contrary to the spirit and responsibilities of participation or attendance in this sport or to the effective conduct of the business of the Corporation.</p>
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<p>Current Bylaw</p> <p><b>ARTICLE VII BOOKEEPING AND BYLAWS SECTION 1. INSPECTION OF THE BOOKS.</b> Members shall be permitted to inspect the books of the Corporation at all reasonable times.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Jan Sasnea, seconded by Darlene Molitor to accept new wording; passed.</i></p>	<p>Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and removed</p> <p><b>ARTICLE VII BOOKEEPING AN BYLAWS SECTION 1. INSPECTION OF THE BOOKS.</b> By written request by certified mail with return receipt to the President and Vice President and with appropriate notice, members shall be permitted to inspect the books of the Corporation at all reasonable times at a time and place set by the Executive Committee.</p>
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Current Bylaw	Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and removed
<p><b>ARTICLE VIII</b>  <b>SECTION 4. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.</b> The Board of Directors may by a majority of a quorum of the Board present vote to terminate the membership of any member who has been shown to have conducted himself or herself in a manner which is inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the organization. Thereafter such terminated member shall not be entitled to participate in any corporate functions or other corporate activities in any manner whatsoever.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Tony Troyer to accept new wording; passed with amendment.</i></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE VIII</b>  <b>SECTION 4. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.</b> The Board of Directors may by a majority of <del>a quorum</del> of the entire <b>whole</b> board vote to terminate the membership of any member who has been shown to have conducted himself or herself in a manner which is inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the organization. Thereafter such terminated member shall not be entitled to participate in any corporate functions or other corporate activities in any manner whatsoever.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Tony Troyer to amend wording by replacing ‘of a quorum with whole’.</i></p>

Current Bylaw	Bylaw Changes/ Changes underlined (added) and removed
<p><b>ARTICLE IX</b>  <b>STANDING COMMITTEES (1/10)</b>  <b>SECTION 4. AUDIT COMMITTEE.</b> The President may, upon the affirmative action of the Board of Directors, designate two or more persons from the membership of the Corporation to constitute an Audit Committee, which, to the extent determined by the President, shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the auditing of the accounts of the Corporation and shall have full access to all books of the Corporation in the possession of any Officer of the Corporation. The Secretary/Treasurer shall submit her/his accounts to the auditing committee and any time at their request.</p> <p><i>Motion made by Jan Sasnea, seconded by Peggy Pasillas to accept new wording; passed</i></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE IX</b>  <b>STANDING COMMITTEES (1/10)</b>  <b>SECTION 4. AUDIT COMMITTEE</b> The President may, upon the affirmative action of the Board of Directors, designate two or more persons from the membership of the Corporation to constitute an Audit Committee, which, to the extent determined by the President, shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the auditing of the accounts of the Corporation and shall have full access to all books of the Corporation in the possession of any Officer of the Corporation. The Secretary/Treasurer shall submit her/his accounts to the Audit Committee at any time within ten (10) business days with their reasonable request.</p>

**New Business**

- **Code of Conduct violation process**
  - A Corrective Action and Suspension process for Code of Conduct violations was created by the BOD and presented to the membership.
- **Bylaw change wording from November (p. 16-31)**
  - Article VIII Membership
    - Section 4. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP. The Board of Directors may by a majority of ~~a quorum~~ **whole** of the Board vote to terminate the membership of any member who has been shown to have conducted himself or herself in a manner which is inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the organization. Thereafter such terminated member shall not be entitled to participate in any corporate functions or other corporate activities in any manner whatsoever. Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Tony Troyer; passed.
    - **Article III, Section 7 (all new- adding to bylaws)**
    - *Meetings of UMECRA shall be conducted to provide for fair discussion and deliberation in providing for constructive and democratic meetings, to help, not hinder, the business of the Corporation. While decisions shall be taken by the will of the majority, the rights of a minority to be fairly heard shall be provided. For that purpose, Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised, may be consulted to provide for an orderly process.*
      - Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Tony Troyer; passed.
- **Article VI- Officers- Section 1. ELECTION**
  - When a quorum of the delegates is present at the annual meeting, ~~a simple majority~~ the person receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected a president, a vice president ~~and~~ or a secretary/treasurer, all of whom shall be members of the Board. Commencing at the January 2008 convention, the President will be elected to a two-year term. Commencing at the January 2007 convention the Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer will be elected to a two-year term. Said officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.
    - Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Tony Troyer to accept the changed wording above. In this scenario, the person getting the highest number of votes would be elected. Failed.



- Tony amends it to say 'a majority of the votes' seconded by Wes Elford. Person would need to get 51% of the vote in this scenario in order to be elected; there could be more than one vote taken until someone gets 51% of the vote. Failed- 23 votes
- Motion made by Jen Moore, seconded by Tony Troyer: a majority of votes with successive votes will be held removing the individual who received the least amount of votes until a majority is held by a candidate; failed.
- Wording will remain as "Simple majority".
- **Rule Change Proposals:** ~~addition in italic underline, deletion strikethrough~~
  - **Sanctioning requirements:**
    - **UMECRA Rules:**
      - C. For rides previously on the schedule the Sanctioning Coordinator shall contact ride managers in October or November with the following:
        - The proposed ride schedule for the next ride season
        - Ride insurance forms
        - Request for number of printed ride forms needed for ride
        - Confirmation of ride manager contact information
        - Sanctioning fee information
        - A timeline for creation of the upcoming year Ride Book
          - Motion made by Linda Mowrer, seconded by Sarah Maass to accept the new wording as underlined; passed.
      - D. Ride managers must announce their mileage to the UMECRA Sanctioning Coordinator at least seven (7) days before the annual meeting otherwise they will receive the same mileage as the previous year. ~~Changes at the annual meeting may not be approved.~~ Corrections and/or adjustments can be made during the annual meeting before voting to approve the schedule.
        - Motion made by Bill, seconded Linda Mowrer to accept the new wording as underlined; passed
      - E. The names of official delegates to the annual meeting must be submitted in writing or orally to the UMECRA Secretary prior to the meeting (cut-off date to be announced).
        - Motion made by Peggy Pasillas, seconded by Sarah Mowrer to accept the new wording as underlined; passed
    - S. Any event sanctioned by UMECRA is required to use the UMECRA entry form.  
Failure to do so may result with UMECRA withholding sanctioning on the following year.
      - Motion made by Tony, seconded by Bill to accept the new rule.
      - Ruth Casserly motions to change this wording to: Any competitor who enters a UMECRA sanctioned ride, is required to use the UMECRA entry form; seconded by Elinore Tonsor. Amendment is withdrawn and moved to wording below.
      - Ruth motions to change wording to below verbiage, Tony seconded; amendment passed. Rule passes as amended.
      - S. Any event sanctioned by UMECRA is will required to the use of the UMECRA ride entry form.  
Failure to do so may result with UMECRA withholding sanctioning on the following year.
- **General Rules**
  - **Protests CURRENT WORDING**
    - A. A protest must concern an infraction of the rules, must be received in writing within 7 days of the ride, and must be accompanied by a fee of \$25. The Board may also investigate and confront management, veterinarians, and participants of attendees whose acts of failure to act are contrary to the spirit and responsibilities of participation or attendance in this sport (in the same manner and procedures as with protests). If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the complainant. The protest will be sent to the UMECRA president and will be adjudicated at the next board meeting. The president will notify all concerned parties and the Board members within 14 days of receiving the protest. Concerned parties will be given 14 days to submit their opinions.

In the case of a protest which is disallowed the board members shall state their reasons and the protestor so informed, without specifying board member's names.

*Redline of changes (see below for changes without redline):*

A. A protest must concern an infraction of the rules, must be received in writing within 7 days of the completion of the ride, and must be accompanied by a fee of \$25. ~~The Board may also investigate and confront management, veterinarians, and~~



participants of attendees whose acts of failure to act are contrary to the spirit and responsibilities of participation or attendance in this sport (in the same manner and procedures as with protests). If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the complainant. The protest will be sent to the UMECRA president and will be adjudicated at the next board meeting. The president will notify all concerned parties and the Board members within 14 days of receiving the protest. The protest will be sent to the UMECRA president and will be adjudicated within 30 days, unless extended for just cause as determined by the BOD. The president will notify all the Board members within 48 hours of receiving the protest. The Vice President or designated investigator appointed by the President will contact the complainant within 3 days of receiving the protest. Concerned parties will be given 14 days to state their responses opinions-in writing. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the protestor. Please refer to the UMECRA Protest Procedure on the UMECRA website for details. In the case of a protest that is disallowed, the board members shall state their reasons and the protestor will be informed, without specifying board member's names.

B. The Board will also investigate and confront management, veterinarians, participants or attendees whose acts or failure to act are contrary to the spirit and responsibilities of participation or attendance in this sport (in the same manner and procedures as with protests).

((Moved from original Section A above to clarify that there are some acts that fail to rise to protest level, but should be dealt with in an official manner.))

#### **New wording to be approved:**

- A protest must concern an infraction of the rules, must be received in writing within 7 days of the completion of the ride, and must be accompanied by a fee of \$25. The protest will be sent to the UMECRA president and will be adjudicated within 30 days, unless extended for just cause as determined by the BOD. The president will notify all the Board members within 48 hours of receiving the protest. The Vice President or designated investigator appointed by the President will contact the complainant within 3 days of receiving the protest. Concerned parties will be given 14 days to state their responses in writing. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the protestor. Please refer to the UMECRA Protest Procedure on the UMECRA website for details. In the case of a protest that is disallowed, the board members shall state their reasons and the protestor will be informed, without specifying board member's names.  
B. The Board will also investigate and confront management, veterinarians, participants or attendees whose acts or failure to act are contrary to the spirit and responsibilities of participation or attendance in this sport (in the same manner and procedures as with protests)
  - Motion made by Tony Troyer, seconded by Bonnie Mielke to accept new wording of rule; passed.
- **ENDURANCE RULES**
  12. ~~**Ties:** In the case of ties, the points to be awarded shall be the sum of the positions divided by the number of people who tied.~~
    - Delete Current UMECRA Endurance tie rule. Endurance (like every other division in UMECRA) will use GENERAL rule 5c: Horses that tie will receive identical placings and the next placing will be omitted. (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, etc.)
      - Motion made by Tony Troyer, seconded by Sarah Mowrer to accept removal of rule 12; failed to pass. Rule will remain as is.
- **COMPETITIVE RULES**
  1. **MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS**
    - C.2. Juniors under the age of 18 as of the beginning of the UMECRA ride season shall be accompanied by a sponsor. EXCEPTION: if they are between 13 ~~14~~ and 18 and it can be validated by the UMECRA points keeper that they have completed at least 500 miles in competitive, limited distance and/or endurance. They must have the approval of a parent.
      1. Motion made by Sarah Mowrer, seconded by Tony Troye to change age from 13 to 14; passed.
  2. **RIDER REQUIREMENTS – *did not have time to discuss at meeting***
    - E. Natural water only is allowed on the trail. Drinking water only is allowed at rest stops. A horse shall not be denied drinking water from a bucket and/or other approved source at a scheduled vet check. Horses may be sponged after the final vet check. Depending on ambient conditions, veterinary judges may allow sponging at vet checks.
- **AERC Championship Ride possibilities-** request for NC ride was removed from agenda before meeting started
- **Promotion/Publicity Report- *did not have time to discuss at meeting***
- **ICF report (during treasurer's report)- *did not have time to discuss at meeting***
- **Ride Numbers summary- *did not have time to discuss at meeting***
- **Revised Comp sheet-** discussion was held during elections. New form will not be seen until 2019 season.
- **Election of Officers**



## PERSEVERE

- Vice President: **Tony Troyer** (Pam nominates, Ruth C seconds)
- Secretary/Treasurer: **Bruce Birr** (Dianne nominates, Linda H seconds)
- Illinois Regional Director: **Nicole Mauser-Storer** (Sarah nominates, Roberta seconds)
- Michigan Regional Director: **Lisa Germann** (Diane M nominates, Linda H seconds)
- Director at Large: *Ruth Casserly (Jen M nominates, Wes seconds)- turns down nomination*
  - **Peggy Pasillias** (Lynda Z nominates, seconded Jen M)
  - *Linda Jacobson (Jon- turns down nomination)*
  - Roberta Harms (Nicole nominates, seconded Sarah M)
  - *Sarah Maass (Dianne nominates, seconded Holly) turned down nomination*
  - Bill Suskey (Bonnie nominates, seconded Darlene)
- Director at Large:
  - **Bill Suskey** (Jen M nominated, seconded Ruth)
  - Roberta Harms (Marge nominated, seconded Stacy)
- Motion made by Tony Troyer, seconded by Wes Elford to separate fatigue and attitude for competitive rides as the new competitive form states. Motion failed as there was not enough time for a discussion of the topic with the attendees of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Feller  
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer

## UMECRA Draft Minutes from the March 25, 2017 BoD Meeting

- A. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by President Theresa Meyer at 11:05 am.
- B. Roll Call** Also in attendance were board members Joslyn Seefeldt, Jon Wagner, Maxine Bernsdorf, Janette Sasena, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Bonnie Mielke, Peggy Pasillas, Tony Troyer, Bill Suskey, Dr. Wes Elford, Bruce Birr, and by telephone for most of the meeting, Lisa Germann. Guests in attendance were Laura Husser, Linda Jacobson, and Ruth Casserly.
- C. Approval of Agenda** After adding Old Business item 7B (regarding ICF), the agenda was approved by consensus.
- D. Approval of previous minutes** Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by motion / second of Bill Suskey / Maxine Bernsdorf, and passed unanimously.
- E. Treasurer's report** There treasurer's report was handed out (copy attached) and was unanimously approved by motion of Tony and Bonnie.
- F. Old Business**

1. *Did everyone sign code of conduct?* Discussion ensued on whether we knew who and who had not yet signed the code of conduct. Bruce will check into where those records may be. Other discussion led to a motion and second by Bonnie and Jon stating that a signed code of conduct was good for the duration of any contiguous board member service, and that copies of the code of conduct were to be available at the annual meeting and signatures garnered right after board member makeup was known at that meeting. This passed unanimously.

2. *Can we make quorum with the following change: **ARTICLE III Section 3. QUORUM FOR ANNUAL OR SPECIAL MEETINGS.** A quorum is determined based upon the presence in person at an Annual or Special Meeting of official voting delegates representing twenty (20) of the immediately preceding year/season's sanctioned endurance/competitive trail ride events as recorded by the Secretary, plus the President or Vice President, and at least one (1) Rider Representative. After a Meeting is duly commenced, the absence of a quorum in the meeting room/hall at any meeting may result in adjournment from time to time at the discretion of the President or the Vice President. However, unless the meeting has been so adjourned, the delegates present at a duly called or held meeting may continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum. The President, or in their absence, the Vice President, or in their absence any other person designated from time to time by a majority of the Board of Directors, shall preside at all Annual or Special meetings. (1/28/17)*

*Deleted suggested language during meeting: or twenty-five (25) of the eligible voting delegates, not including alternative voting delegates (see Section 5 below), nominated by any endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season*

This topic was discussed moderately. Jon stated that a way to automatically adjust the number of ride managers needed for a quorum be based on a percentage of the number of rides held, so that if that number fluctuated, the number needed for a quorum would adjust accordingly. Peggy stated that there

should be a requirement to have at least one ride manager from each of the four primary states, and this was discussed as being ideal, but could possibly hamstring the ability to meet a quorum if a state decided to boycott the annual meeting for some reason. Eventually, it was decided that the 4-states requirement was good, but not feasible to mandate. Bruce stated he thought a good percentage of rides to use for the quorum number be 40%. Eventually a motion and second was made by Tony and Joslyn that this be the percentage used, and this passed unanimously. Proposed wording that will be voted on at the 2018 annual meeting:

**ARTICLE III Section 3. QUORUM FOR ANNUAL OR SPECIAL MEETINGS.** A quorum is determined based upon the presence in person at an Annual or Special Meeting of official voting delegates representing **forty percent (40%)** ~~twenty (20)~~ of the immediately preceding year/season's sanctioned endurance/competitive trail ride events as recorded by the Secretary, plus the President or Vice President, and at least one (1) Rider Representative. After a Meeting is duly commenced, the absence of a quorum in the meeting room/hall at any meeting may result in adjournment from time to time at the discretion of the President or the Vice President. However, unless the meeting has been so adjourned, the delegates present at a duly called or held meeting may continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum. The President, or in their absence, the Vice President, or in their absence any other person designated from time to time by a majority of the Board of Directors, shall preside at all Annual or Special meetings.  
(1/28/17)

**3. Proposed rewording from annual meeting:**

**ARTICLE III Section 5.** *Each endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season, by one of its ride managers as listed on its sanctioning form shall submit the names of its official voting delegates or its authorized alternate voting delegate(s) [also referred to as proxies] to be recorded by the Corporate Secretary prior to any meeting of members. Official voting delegates must have actively participated in the management of the endurance/competitive trail ride and be listed on the sanctioning application. Ride managers of cancelled rides, who have paid their sanctioning fees before the ride has been cancelled and where the cancellation occurred for good cause shown, shall retain voting rights for the next Annual Meeting.*

*Motion by Elinore Tonsor, seconded by Stacy Vanderwoude to amend wording by removing sentence above that has strikeout through it.*

*After discussion of wording, motion made by Bob Egerer, seconded by Jon Wagner to 'commit' this article to go back to committee for rewording; passed*

After discussion, a motion and second was made by Tony and Peggy respectively, that passed unanimously, that stated that the strikeout section of the above be changed to read as follows (in bold italic underline) and will be presented at the next annual meeting.

**ARTICLE III Section 5.** Each endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season, by one of its ride managers as listed on its sanctioning form shall submit the names of its official voting delegates or its authorized alternate voting delegate(s) [also referred to as proxies] to be recorded by

the Corporate Secretary prior to any meeting of members **Ride managers as listed on their sanctioning form, or as amended, must have actually participated in the management of the sanctioned event.** Ride managers of cancelled rides, who have paid their sanctioning fees before the ride has been cancelled and where the cancellation occurred for good cause shown, shall retain voting rights for the next Annual Meeting.

#### **4. Proposal to add definition of terms to appendix of bylaws, including definition of simple majority as UMECRA has been using it.**

**ARTICLE VI- Officers- Section 1. ELECTION** *When a quorum of the delegates is present at the annual meeting, ~~a simple majority~~ the person receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected a president, a vice president and or a secretary/treasurer, all of whom shall be members of the Board. Commencing at the January 2008 convention, the President will be elected to a two-year term. Commencing at the January 2007 convention the Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer will be elected to a two-year term. Said officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.*

- *Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Tony Troyer to accept the changed wording above. In this scenario, the person getting the highest number of votes would be elected. Failed.*
- *Tony amends it to say ‘a majority of the votes’ seconded by Wes Elford. Person would need to get 51% of the vote in this scenario in order to be elected; there could be more than one vote taken until someone gets 51% of the vote. Failed- 23 votes*
- *Motion made by Jen Moore, seconded by Tony Troyer: a majority of votes with successive votes will be held removing the individual who received the least amount of votes until a majority is held by a candidate; failed.*
- *Wording will remain as “Simple majority”.*

This was discussed. Jon suggested we leave the language alone since it has stood and been used for years, and if anyone wants to change it, let them come up with some language to be considered. Bill agreed, as did most or all of the Board. No action was taken, and it is being left alone.

#### **4. Electronic Election of Rider Rep - How to we deal with family ballots? Do a test with number voting?**

There was slight discussion on Bill’s suggestion to require one email address per voting member. Motion by Bill and second by Maxine has the wording stated as follows: “Each eligible vote will require a separate email address for the purpose of electronic balloting for rider reps.” This passed unanimously, with discussion afterward on the issue of collection email addresses, and that this is to be publicized heavily in the newsletter.

#### **5. Promotions - Spring/Summer efforts**

There was discussion on upcoming clinics and other things of a promotional nature: DRAW clinic, MNDRA clinic April 8, Midwest Horse Fair in April, MN Expo the last weekend of April. No known MI clinics, though WR rides are holding novice rides on all weekends. Bruce mentioned what MI has done the last few years with half-price memberships for new folks who join at the MI Horse Expo. Bruce was instructed that tracking

new members obtained at various clinics is something that has been (and should be) done in the membership database.

## **6. Board standard operating procedures**

Theresa asked Board members to write up SOP's for their positions by April 30, even if only to get a draft version of those down on paper to start the process. While Jill developed a rather extensive one for the Sec-Treas position, SOP's were also needed for President, Vice-President, Vet Rep, and Director-at-Large, Sanctioning Coordinator, and maybe others.

## **7. AHAM/Hopkins Creek**

It was mentioned that no response had been received yet from GLDRA or Dakes to the letter which had been sent to them by Theresa. She also mentioned that the ride flyer for that ride on the AERC website still listed the ride as having UMECRA sanctioning, and Theresa will contact both Dakes and AERC to have that statement removed.

## **7B. ICF**

Bill suggested that the present listed requirements for adults and juniors (which currently differ) should be equalized. He made a motion (seconded by Peggy) that the ICF grant request language be amended to state as follows: The following guidelines have been established for the ICF fund:

- o Rides requesting funds to host an FEI ride will need to be a UMECRA sanctioned ride for at least the past 2 years.
- o ~~Adult Riders:~~ Riders: must have at least 500 lifetime ride miles in UMECRA and a minimum of 200 UMECRA ride miles/(in the previous calendar) year. Requested funds can only be used for 3 or 4 star FEI rides,
- o ~~Young Riders: riders must be 14-21 years old. Riders must have a minimum of 200 UMECRA ride miles/year. Requested funds can only be used for Young Rider Championship events.~~ o The UMECRA BOD will approve requests for ICF grant money.
- o The maximum amount of grant money to be removed from the ICF fund within one UMECRA fiscal year is \$1500.
- o The ICF fund will carry a minimum balance of \$500.

This was passed unanimously by the Board.

## **8. 2017 Convention Review - including financial**

This topic was discussed at some length, with comments on the 'different' way that this past convention was managed, to how it should be managed. Historically, there was only one contact person in touch with the hosting hotel, but this year had at least two, and a lot of confusion and delineating of costs and payments ensued. Theresa asked Bruce to prepare a small table/chart to clearly and accurately depict the income and costs of the convention, and he said he would do that the next week. Due to the unbalanced way in which hotel costs were handled, Tony made a motion (with Joslyn seconding) for UMECRA to reimburse AHDRA some of their added expense due to the mixed up situation, in the amount of \$419.18. This passed with one NO vote. Discussion followed on the problems which were encountered, ranging from financial accounting to some upset family members for comments made to them at the convention. Convention guidelines were and are discussed later during this meeting.

## **G. New Business**

### **1. Friday night room fees for Rochester Convention**

This was already dealt with in the immediately preceding board discussion and action.

### **2. Convention 2018**

Tony and Nicole described their accomplishments with regard to room and other rates to date for the 2018 convention in Rockford. The speaker is booked and preparations are coming along nicely.

2. *MI for convention 2019?*

Bruce stated that nothing definitive is in place, but did want to get some information on the number of motel rooms which needed to be available (he was told 40-60 rooms is adequate), and the capacity needed in the main meeting room (and he was told 100-125). He stated that he had gleaned a lot listening to Tony discuss the plans made for Rockford, and that he was texting with Kathy Macki regarding the above numbers and a facility in the Escanaba area. He and Kathy will meet them next week to start preparations, and that they were hoping that an Escanaba area facility would be more conducive to UMECRA membership attendance than if it were to be held in Lower Michigan.

3. *Update convention guidelines update rates.*

There was discussion on amending the Convention Guidelines page, and some changes were approved, with more to be adjusted in the future. It was stated that we should ask those who request special diets to state their preference, and turn that over to the hotel for their abilities to provide same, with the understanding that there may be a higher cost for that (this in response to the comments that a vegetarian and/or gluten-free option be made available). A committee was drawn up to tackle the Convention Guidelines consisting of Tony (Chair), Nicole, Bruce, and Kathy Macki.

4. *Convention fee*

There was discussion on the need for a convention fee if rates were high enough already in the banquet charge. It was felt that those who do not buy a dinner ticket should still pay something to come for the speaker presentations. It was moved and seconded, by Bonnie and Jon respectively, that we delete item #12 from the Convention Guidelines, and this passed unanimously. (The previous Convention Guidelines item #12 read as follows: "All attendees that come to a speaker need to pay the convention fee; this includes both members and non-members.")

5. *Secretary/Treasurer position transition*

Bruce stated that there was a learning curve involved, and that the workload was greater than he anticipated, but that he was starting to get things under control. He asked for some clarifications on the use of Dropbox and QuickBooks, and received some very useful help with using Dropbox from Nicole after the meeting. Wes commented that perhaps the Secretary and Treasurer jobs should be separated, and this resulted in some discussion but no further action.

6. *Review of Annual Mtg. 2017 - Any tweaks to the meeting guidelines?*

There was general agreement that things seemed to work well.

7. *AERC drug rule, UMECRA drug rule*

After some discussion, there was a motion and second by Peggy and Tony respectively, to change or add the following wording to our rulebook: "All horses entered in a sanctioned event must not be under the influence of...". This would come up for vote at our next annual meeting, and this was passed by the board unanimously. The current wording is this:

UMECRA General Rules – Rider Requirements F. ~~Horses~~ All horses entered in a sanctioned event must not be under the influence of drugs, medications or stimulants, except those allowed by AERC, and may be subject to drug analysis while entered in the ride (See AERC Rule 13 and its Appendixes for allowed and prohibited substances and treatments.) (2015)

*8. Follow endurance rules in general rules*

As the meeting was long and it was getting late, this was one item that was set aside until a later meeting, such as in November.

*10 Define event duration*

This was another item which started to be discussed, but realizing it was not an easy or quick task, this was set aside as well.

*11. Conference call monthly meetings*

This was briefly discussed with no formal action taken, though it is expected that we will have monthly conference calls.

*12. Trail Grants & Other Funds Requests*

Bruce stated that he had received one or more such requests, but had forgotten them at home and that he would email them to the board for review the following week.

*13. Ride insurance update?*

Bruce stated that he was getting more familiar with his job, and that he would get up-to-speed on handling this in a more timely fashion. As Jill had volunteered to be the ‘resident agent’ for this year, we would not have to delay things any longer (this in response to an email that Bruce got stating that if the insurance remained in his name and he being from a different state, the insurance company would have to review everything and possibly at a different cost).

*14. Competitive score sheet*

There was a LOT of discussion on this, especially as some comments had been received from some members about their agreement or disagreement with the proposed scoresheet. Areas of concern were (among others) ‘lesions’, ‘lift and palpate’, and ‘fatigue and attitude’. Ultimately, the decision was to rework the current (old) form into the new form, without (for now) making any changes to the scoring process. Bill and Jon both pointed out that when we do tackle this at the annual meeting, that we “parcel process” it similar to how we do/did bylaw amendments. Nicole will re-draft the new form with the current (old) form scoring. A committee was selected to continue working on this, and consists of Linda, Lisa, Ruth, Laura, Nicole, and Wes.

*15. Ride entry agreement*

A draft of the new ride entry agreement was distributed, and it was felt we could make it fit on one side of one page. Bill offered to help Bruce accomplish that. Jon wondered why we were changing it after Art had already approved our old one, and we decided to stay with the old in light of that and the fact that many copies of the old (i.e. current) form are out there.

## **H. Next meeting Nov. 4, 11 or 18?**

The date of November 11 was suggested, but no formal action was taken, and it will be decided at a later time.

## **I. Adjournment**

Motion by Jon and second by Max to adjourn at ~4:05 pm. This passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Bruce A. Birr

## Minutes from UMECRA BoD Conference Call on August 29, 2017

The “meeting” was called to order by President Theresa Meyers at ~7:35 pm, CDT. Also in attendance were Nicole Mauser-Storer, Bruce Birr, Tony Troyer, Dr. Wes Elford, Jon Wagner, Darlene Molitor, Jan Sasena, Lisa Germann, and Maxine Bernsdorf.

The first topic that Theresa brought up was to ask if anyone had any questions of Bruce on the Treasury. Tony asked if ride fees were coming in regularly and if deposits were being made regularly. Bruce replied that for the most part ride fees were coming in properly, and that he made deposits at least weekly when receipts supported that. Being no more questions of Bruce, Theresa moved on to the next topic – Electronic Member Cards.

Discussion ensued: Wes asked to have that explained a bit as to what it was and how it would work. Theresa described what she had previously emailed to the board. Max asked if it would be printable for those who wanted a hard copy, and Theresa replied that it would be so. Wes asked for clarification on what the procedure would be and it was stated that nothing would be printed unless the member wanted/needed that. The resulting ‘card’ could be printed, or taken a picture of for saving on a smart phone. Tony stated that there had to be a way for some members (maybe 10%) who could or would not be able to log onto the website for their member card, and it was discussed that there would be a way for the member to state that on their member form so that a paper member card could be mailed to them. Lisa agreed that a paper option is needed. Jan stated that a facebook poll should maybe be done to gauge interest in such a system. After much more discussion, Darlene stated that we just go ahead and go that route (at least on a one year trial basis) and see what kind of feedback we got – that it wouldn’t pay to offer folks too many choices in the matter. Tony stated that monies should continue to go to the Treasurer, and then made a motion (which Bruce seconded) to proceed. Before he could support it, and while he was not opposed to an electronic member card, he wanted to see what the process/procedure was first. Bruce suggested a committee to draft such a procedural document. Max mentioned that the Board needed to establish a definitive start and end date to the ride year, and it was agreed that this was a necessary action for the Board, but was not relevant to this topic. Bruce asked if this had to get settled before our November Board meeting, and it was felt it could probably wait, but would be good to settle and get voted on before then as it would likely require a change in the membership form which could be wanting to be included in the November newsletter. Tony and Bruce withdrew their motion, and Theresa then chose members for said committee – Nicole, Bruce, and herself (since no one else stepped forward).

Theresa then moved on to the topic of Member Coordinator. Jon suggested that we get the member card issue settled. Wes suggested that Theresa draft a SOP for that position for consideration by the Board. Bruce supported Jon’s idea as it may help define what leftover tasks are needed for the ‘new’ position, and that maybe what was needed was a person to welcome new members with offering information. Theresa mentioned that a person from each state to address new members from that state, has not worked well in the past because of inconsistent outreach. She also stated that since we weren’t going to wrap up this issue tonight, that we wait a month for the Member Card committee to come up with and present a process/procedure draft to the Board.

The last topic presented was for a report on the upcoming Convention. Nicole and Tony briefed the Board on the plans for the speaker, and that input was needed on how many topics our guest speaker could/would cover. There was apparent interest to have as many topics be presented as possible by “Dr. Susan”, and they thought the idea of having the hotel provide box lunches would be pursued (and the Board agreed) so as to avoid ‘downtime’ for a lunch break --- though this was not firmly decided. General consensus from the Board was to have as 3 or 4 90-minute topics presented (apparently topic talks could be ~60 or ~90 minutes each.)

Tony moved and Darlene seconded to adjourn, and this passed unanimously at 8:35 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Bruce A. Birr, Sec/Treas

## UMECRA Board Meeting UNAPPROVED Minutes – November 11, 2017

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by President Theresa Meyer. Also in attendance were board members Peggy Pasillas, Janette Sasena, Bill Suskey, Jon Wagner, Maxine Bernsdorf, Tony Troyer, Bonnie Mielke, Darlene Molitor, Dr. Wes Elford, Joslyn Seefeldt, Bruce Birr, and Nicole Mauser-Storer (10:28a). Guests present were Roberta Harms, Linda Jacobson, and Eleanor Tonsor (10:21a – 1:14p).
2. **Review and approval of minutes from March, and Conference Call meeting in August**  
March, and August conference call board meetings minutes were approved upon motions and seconds as follows: March – Maxine/Peggy, August – Peggy/Tony. August minutes need yet to be published in the December newsletter.
3. **Treasurer's Report** Bruce handed out a Profit & Loss report for the year to date, and gave a verbal balance sheet report, which is to be published in the December newsletter. The report (PDF attached) was approved by motion of Wes and second by Max.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. **Standard Operating Procedures** SOP's still lacking were rider rep, director at large (Bill will write), points-keeper, website, and newsletter (Peggy will write). A committee of Wes, Jon, and Max was formed to obtain and pull all SOP's together into a cohesive document.
  - b. **2018 Sanctioning received to date** Joslyn presented a list of rides, of which 14 have requested sanctioning for 2018 so far.  
**Competitive score sheet** The latest draft of the 'electronic format' of the sheet was presented along with a report from Wes on the committee's work. Discussion resulted in a few changes. The result was approval to take to the members at the convention by motion of Tony and second by Bruce.
  - c. **Rule change proposals** Many potential rule changes were discussed, as follows (All motions and seconds were in order to bring the proposal to the point of it being a motion that could be debated and ultimately voted on):
    1. A proposal to waive UMECRA rider fees for riders from "non-UMECRA" states at UMECRA rides was made by Joslyn and seconded by Jon. [Rationale: It could mean more riders from non-primary UMECRA states, and/or cost savings to the primary states rides.] After discussion, this was unanimously defeated.
    2. A proposal to change the minimum age of a sponsor of a Junior in endurance, from 21 to 18, was made and seconded respectively by Bill and Max. [Rationale: This would agree with AERC's requirements, and because 18 is voting age.] This was approved by the board.
    3. A proposal to more clearly define the ride year and age for which one qualifies for being a Junior in endurance was made by Peggy and second by Bonnie to have the 14 – A wording to read as follows: "A junior is a rider who was under the age of 16 as of December 1<sup>st</sup>". This motion was passed. [Rationale: Agrees more with AERC wording and ride year, and satisfactorily agrees with UMECRA's ride season/year.]
    4. A proposal was made by Peggy and second by Bonnie to amend the Competitive Rules, section 2, Management Requirements, item C to read as follows: "*There shall also be a*

*Junior Division. A junior is a rider who was under the age of 18 as of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Juniors generally must ride in the junior division (unless they and their parent/legal guardian have advised the UMECRA secretary/treasurer and the UMECRA points keeper in writing of their intent to ride as seniors before their first ride of that season.) Placing and completion awards should be furnished.”* A sub-motion and second were made by Bill and Jon respectively for removing some of the language missing from the above result, as well as a sub-motion for additional strike language made by Tony and second by Bonnie, and both sub-motions passed. The overall motion passed unanimously.

5. In reference to the above Competitive-2-C, it was moved by Tony and second by Peggy to amend sub-item 2 (and approved motion/second of Jon/Max to add the words “...and points keeper...”, and a failure to approve the motion/second of Bonnie/Jos to strike the words “limited distance and/or endurance” from the list of acceptable ride types to account for the 500 miles) to ultimately read as follows: *“Riders in the Junior Division shall be accompanied by a sponsor 18 years of age or older. EXCEPTION: If they are between 14 and 18 and it can be validated by the UMECRA points keeper that they have completed at least 500 miles in competitive, limited distance and/or endurance and have notified the secretary/treasurer of their intention to ride as a senior and have this letter on file with UMECRA by which a parent/legal guardian consents to the request for unsponsored status. A copy of this letter should also accompany the junior to each ride.”* This resulting motion passed.
  6. Again in reference to the above section Competitive-2-C, a motion by Bruce and second by Jon was approved to amend the language of sub-item 1 to read *“All riders under 18 years of age are required to wear helmets.”*
  7. Regarding a section of rules under Endurance dealing with a ‘gate into a hold’ (sub-item 9), a motion was made to strike sub-item 9B, was made by Peggy and second by Joslyn. [Rationale: riders shouldn’t have to wait a minimum of 20 minutes at a vet check if it is early in the ride and extremely hot weather is happening or forecast.] The motion was defeated.
  8. Regarding defining ‘event duration’, there was discussion but no motion. (This was referring to General Rules, 3. Veterinary Requirements A. Horses must be under veterinary supervision throughout the duration of the event.) The board's consensus being "duration of event" for this situation is defined as from vet-in to an hour after the finish.
  9. A motion was made by Tony and second by Joslyn to delete UMECRA General Rules, rule N, regarding the paying of ride fees and posting of ride results. This motion passed.
- d. **Convention update – IL (’18)** Convention dates are January 26-28, 2018 at the Rockford, IL Hilton Garden Inn.
  - e. **Convention update – MI (’19)** There was a very brief update about a possible convention activity similar to a murder mystery dinner, and the board thought that sounded fun and worth pursuing.

## 5. New Business

- a. **Use of PayPal and/or other for fee collection by UMECRA** Bill presented some info and costs on using some these, but aside from further investigation, no action was taken.

Bill is to submit a written summary for the December Newsletter so members understand that electronic payment options for small groups are very complicated.

- b. Timeline for Rider Rep vote** Three nominations received to date (Maxine Bernsdorf, Tracy Johnson, and Laura Savatsky). The nominations will appear in the December newsletter, and the board approved electronic only voting and only January 2-15.
- c. Membership notification (e-cards or other; Set Procedure)** Nicole and Bruce will work out the details of this, but member cards will generally only be mailed to those who do not provide an email address on their membership application. It might also be presented to members via US Postal Service ride book mailing on the address label.
- d. Name Newsletter Editor and Sanctioning Coordinator** Joslyn has accepted the job of Sanctioning Coordinator, and she was approved by motion/second of Tony/Peggy. Peggy wants to step down as Newsletter Editor, but with no one stepping forward yet to take on that job, she was approved to continue by motion/second of Tony/Jan.
- e. Increasing membership (Joslyn)** Joslyn brought forth some ideas that she and Eleanor discussed and will work towards member recruitment. Elinore and Joslyn will bring back more concrete steps and suggestions within roughly a month so a conference call can be scheduled in mid-December among the board to consider which plans to pursue.
- f. Bylaw glossary for delegates, alternate delegates, proxy, etc.** Theresa and Jon offered to work on this before our January meeting.
- g. Insurance – new vendor; How did it go?** Slight discussion, and Joslyn and Bruce agreed that she would forward him insurance needs after the November 30 deadline, and he would proceed to get quotes.
- h. Trail grant awards review** Bruce mentioned that two applications had been received (but he didn't bring them with him). A grant in the amount of \$300 was approved for Coon Valley (motion/second of Bill/Max), and South Kettle Moraine group was approved as well for \$300 upon motion/second of Janette/Joslyn.
- i. Streamline Endurance and LD rules in Rulebook** This topic was postponed.
- j. Webpage revisions – points, entry form, member form more prominent, etc.?**  
Discussion was had, but no specific actions taken.
- k. Hall of Fame and Shining Light awards, if needed** No nominations received yet. Tony will check with Jen Allen to see if she will coordinate the Rider Choice Award nominations and ballots at the banquet.
- l. Other?** Several things were brought up:
  1. It was stated that future board meetings should have some agenda time for strategizing on issues
  2. Bruce presented a modified membership application form and asked for permission for the organization to use it. The new form has a place for "office use only", which would make it easier for him to keep track of memberships, payments, deposits, etc. The board agreed to the use of the new form.
  3. Bruce asked for input on an uncertain item from the March meeting (info given) and asked for and received some guidance on how much detail the board wanted in the minutes.

**6. Next meeting, and Adjournment**  
adjourned at 2:53 pm CST.

Upon motion of Tony and second by Jon, the meeting

Respectfully,

/s/ Bruce A. Birr, Sec-Treas.

The UMECRA conference call board meeting was called to order by President Theresa Meyer at 6:35 pm CST on January 11, 2018. Also attending were board members Bruce Birr, Tony Troyer, Jon Wagner, Lisa Germann, Bill Suskey, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Dr. Wes Elford, Maxine Bernsdorf, and Jan Sasena.

The first topic discussed was the status of trail grants, and Bruce reported that no new grant requests had been received since our November board meeting, but that one which was approved then had yet to be sent out and he would do that soon. Jon stated that a grant request would almost certainly be forthcoming from the North Kettle Moraine group.

Next discussed was the status of e-voting for Rider Reps. Bill gave the statistics on how many "ballots" were sent out (337), the number viewed (182), and the number who voted (146), with 3 opting out of future e-vote emails. Voting is allowed through January 15, and the results are not known until the voting deadline passes. Bill is to keep the results unbroadcast until the convention.

Also brought up was any feedback received on the non-use of "member cards", and neither Nicole or Bruce had heard anything negative from anyone.

The topic of membership strategies was postponed to a later meeting.

Meeting procedures for the upcoming convention were discussed, and the consensus was that the guidelines and procedures used last year worked very well, so they will be followed again this year. They are listed on our web site. Dr. Wes has the voting 'paddles' and colored papers for voting, and will bring them to the convention.

The topic of having a table where people could sign up to be members was discussed. There are several people who are willing to staff that table, and Bruce is to have member forms and 1000-mile horse forms available for that. After some discussion, it was felt that there would be several people available (who were not voting delegates) to handle the vote counting at the convention.

Items which were briefly discussed to be put on the agenda for the March board meeting were handling and tracking of \$ for awards, and the 100-mile horse program. Other discussion and/or clarifications related to what to include in packets for the meeting, the numbers to have printed and available, and who is responsible for providing them.

Adjournment took place at 7:42 pm CST upon approved motion of Tony Troyer and second by Dr. Wes Elford.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Bruce A. Birr, Sec-Treas

## UMECRA 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2018

President Theresa Meyer called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm, and proceeded to share comments on procedures to be followed for the meeting, the time limit authorized for speaking and that Bonnie Mielke was the timer, and stated who the vote counters would be (Ed & Wendy Hauser, Jean Allen, Lisa Docter, and Sally Hoff). She then had Sec-Treas Bruce Birr take the roll call. There were 29 rides represented (met quorum criteria of 20) by 63 people, plus the 4 rider reps and the vet rep for a total of 68. Half and two-thirds numbers were calculated (35 and 46 respectively).

**The Minutes** from the January, 2017 meeting were approved upon motion/second of Wes Elford / Linda Mowrer.

**The Treasurer's report** was similarly approved (Tony Troyer / Maxine Bernsdorf).

Linda Mowrer stated that a committee consisting of herself, Dr. Wes Elford, Tony Troyer, Linda Jacobson, and Jon Wagner had conducted an internal review ('audit' of sorts) of the treasurer's records the night before, and that the results were that things were good.

Bruce stated that ride insurance rates had not gone up from the preceding year, so insurance costs would be the same/similar to last year.

**The 2018 ride schedule** was reviewed with changes noted from what was printed. Namely these were as follows:

Drawarama – adding a 6-mile drive to both days

Lincoln Trail – Location is to be Middle Fork at Oakwood this year, as well as adding a 15-mile drive on Saturday

Run for the Ridge – There will be two LD's on Friday, one being a night ride.

Next discussed was the **revamp of the Competitive Score sheet**, which Wes Elford presented and moved for approval, and this was seconded by Tony Troyer. This passed.

**Under Old Business**, Rule or bylaw change is shown in **bold italic**:

### COMPETITIVE RULES

#### 2. RIDER REQUIREMENTS

E. Natural water only is allowed on the trail. Drinking water only is allowed at rest stops. A horse shall not be denied drinking water from a bucket and/or other approved source at a scheduled vet check. Horses may be sponged after the final vet check. ***Depending on ambient conditions, veterinary judges may allow sponging at vet checks.***

This passed (Tony Troyer / Roberta Harms).

Also under Old Business, the following bylaw changes were approved:

ARTICLE III, SECTION 5 DELEGATES. Each endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season, by one of its ride managers as listed on its sanctioning form shall submit the names of its official voting delegates or its authorized alternate voting delegate(s) [also referred to as proxies] to be recorded by the corporate Secretary prior to any meeting of the members. ***Ride managers as listed on their sanctioning form, or as amended, must have actively participated in the management of the sanctioned event. Ride managers of cancelled rides, who have paid their sanctioning fees before the ride has been cancelled and where the cancellation occurred for good cause shown, shall retain voting rights for the next Annual Meeting.***

**Under New Business** (again, new language is in ***bold italics***, and deleted text is ~~strikeout~~):

The following bylaw change proposal was approved (Tony Troyer / Maxine Bernsdorf):

ARTICLE III, SECTION 3. QUORUM FOR ANNUAL OR SPECIAL MEETINGS A quorum is determined based upon the presence in person at an Annual or Special Meeting of official voting delegates representing ***forty percent (40%)*** ~~twenty (20)~~ of the immediately preceding year/season's sanctioned endurance/competitive trail ride events as recorded by the Secretary, plus the President or Vice President, and at least one (1) Rider Representative. After a meeting is duly commenced, the absence of a quorum in the meeting room/hall at any meeting may result in adjournment from time to time at the discretion of the President or the Vice President. However, unless the meeting has been so adjourned, the delegates present at a duly called or held meeting may

continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum. The President, or in their absence, the Vice President, or in their absence any person designated from time to time by a majority of the Board of Directors, shall preside at all Annual or Special Meetings.

**And, rule change proposals were approved as shown:**

General Rules

2. Management Requirements

~~N. Ride results shall not be officially published until the ride fees are received by the Secretary/Treasurer.~~

***((Delete rule N - Ride results shall not be officially published until the ride fees are received by the Secretary/Treasurer.))***

(this was passed upon motion/second of Tony Troyer / Roberta Harms).

And,

General Rules

4. Rider Requirements

F. **All horses entered in a sanctioned event** must not be under the influence of drugs, medications or stimulants, except those allowed by AERC, and may be subject to drug analysis while entered in the ride (See AERC Rule 13 and its Appendixes for allowed and prohibited substances and treatments.) (2015)

This was approved (Wes Elford /Bill Suskey).

Regarding Endurance Rules:

Number 14. There shall also be a junior division. All junior riders whether they are AERC members or not must be accompanied by a competent adult (age ~~18~~ 21 or over) throughout the competition. Junior and sponsor must ride together at all times including entering and leaving all vet checks at the same time; the only exception being that at the finish a junior may finish within the same minute or within the one minute on either side of the sponsor's finishing minute. This was passed (Bill Suskey /Tony Troyer).

Number 14, subsection A. to read, "A junior is a rider who was under the age of 16 as of **December 1<sup>st</sup> of the ride season in which the ride is held.**" (Bill Suskey /Tony Troyer as amended by Jon Wagner.) This passed.

Under Competitive Rules:

2. Management Requirements

C. There shall also be a junior division. Riders shall not have reached the age of 18 years **as of December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Placing and completion awards should be furnished. 2 (Bill Suskey / Tony Troyer, with an amendment moved/seconded by Ruth Casserly /Tony Troyer.) Passed.

A change to Competitive Rules, 2. Management Requirements, C 2 (Bill Suskey / Tony Troyer, with an amendment moved/seconded by Ruth Casserly / Tony Troyer) was proposed to ultimately read as follows: **There shall also be a junior division. Riders shall not have reached the age of 18 years as of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Juniors generally must ride in the junior division (unless they have advised the UMECRA secretary and the UMECRA points keeper in writing of their intent to ride as seniors for that season, and before their first ride of that season). Placing and completion awards should be furnished.** This passed. An amendment (Bill Suskey / Tony Troyer) to change the word "should" in the last sentence, to "**shall**", was passed.

1. **All riders under 18 years of age** are required to wear helmets. (Bill Suskey / Nicole Mauser-Storer).

2. **Riders in the junior division** shall be accompanied by a sponsor **18 years of age or older**. (Bill Suskey / Tony Troyer.) Passed.

3. Juniors **may ride in the senior division**. Before their first ride of each season, if they are between 14 and 18 and it can be validated by the UMECRA points keeper that they have completed at least 500 miles in competitive, limited distance and/or endurance; **the rider who wishes to switch divisions** must advise the UMECRA secretary and the UMECRA points keeper in writing of their intent to ride as seniors for that season. **The rider must have a letter on file with the secretary/treasurer by which a parent/legal guardian consents to the request for unsponsored status. A copy of this letter shall also accompany the junior to each ride.** (Bill Suskey /Tony Troyer as amended by Jon Wagner). Passed.

**Under Promotion Report**, Peggy Pasillas and Barb Kurti gave brief remarks concerning clinics for new riders. Peggy puts on a clinic and mock ride separate from a ride event in early spring. Barb runs a clinic at her fall ride to help draw newcomers to the sport of distance riding.

Bill Suskey gave a verbal report on the ICF, and moved to change our ICF language to allow the use of any 3-star or 4-star ride to qualify. The changes were approved.

Theresa discussed the handout summarizing the 2017 ride year statistics, and commented on them.

Dr. Wes Elford, speaking on behalf of Connie Caudill, stated that AERC had spent \$5,000 on trail improvements in the Midwest region this year, and that there is money available for trails work. The National Championship ride will be at the Biltmore this year. The National Championship Committee is looking for a place to have the 2019 National Championship ride and AERC will support that ride with \$7,000. Dr. Elford also reported on actions of the Welfare and the Veterinary committees.

**Under Election of Officers**, Bill Suskey stated the outcome of the Rider Rep e-voting: 337 emails were sent, of which 154 voted. Rider Reps for 2018 will be Tracy Johnson, Maxine Bernsdorf, Lynda Zimmerman, and Jan Sasena.

For **President**, Theresa stated that she was not running. Jon Wagner was nominated/seconded by Bill Suskey / Linda Jacobson, and as there were no other nominees, Jon was voted in as the new President.

**MN regional rep**, Sarah Maass was nominated (Dana Gasner / Sheryl O'Brien). Sarah was not in attendance and the question of allowing her nomination to proceed was raised by Tony Troyer and other members of the assembly. Discussion ensued about whether a rule existed requiring nominees to be present, or if there are any possible exceptions to such a rule. Neither the Board of Directors nor the members of the assembly were able to confirm the actual scope of the rule during these proceedings. No alternative nominations were offered from the Minnesota delegates and thus Sarah's nomination was ultimately accepted by President Theresa Meyer and Sarah was elected to the position.

One nomination for **WI regional rep** was made (Laurie Henschel, by Linda Jacobson / Katie Bachhuber), and she was elected. Likewise, there was only one nomination for **Vet Rep** (Dr. Wes Elford, by Peggy Pasillas / Tony Troyer), and he was elected to that position.

Dr. Wes Elford presented outgoing President Theresa Meyer with a plaque in appreciation of her years of service to the organization.

It was announced that the 2019 convention will be held in Gladstone, MI, January 18-20.

New board members were reminded to meet with Bruce after the meeting, to sign Code of Conduct forms.

The **meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm** upon approved motion by Tony Troyer and second by Peggy Pasillas.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Bruce A. Birr, Sec-Treas

## UMECRA Board Meeting Minutes – 1-27-2018

The meeting was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rockford, IL, and was called to order by President Theresa Meyers at 6:01 am. Also present were board members Joslyn Seefeldt, Bonnie Mielke, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Maxine Bernsdorf, Bill Suskey, Darlene Molitor, Janette Sasena, Peggy Pasillas, Jon Wagner, Wes Elford, Lisa Germann, Bruce Birr, and Tony Troyer. There was one guest for the first part of the meeting, and that was a friend of Jessi Zirbel (do not know her name).

The Minutes from previous meetings, and already approved via online, were approved upon motion/second of Maxine / Peggy.

Bruce presented the Treasurer's report, and it was approved also (Jon / Bill).

Bruce presented info on ride insurance for 2018 – that rates were unchanged and so costs would be the same relative to dates and number of insureds. He also had contacted another insurance firm for a quote, and their quote was just slightly less than the one used currently. Upon due motion/second of Peggy / Wes respectively, the board approved staying with the company we used in 2017.

The ride schedule was reviewed and was approved (Maxine / Bonnie).

One new Trail Grant application was received (from North Kettle Moraine Horse Trails), and it was approved and granted (Tony / Peggy).

Setting of the ride season discussion resulted in a motion/second by Tony / Peggy to set the UMECRA ride season as through November 8 each year, as long as all days of the ride are completed by that date. This was approved by the board.

The board approved upon motion of Maxine and second by Lisa, to present to the membership a re-write of the proposed Junior Competitive rules to read as follows:

Under Competitive Rules, 2. Management Requirements, C 1 to read: **All riders under 18 years of age are required to wear helmets.**

... C 2 to read: **Riders in the Junior division shall be accompanied by a sponsor 18 years of age or older.**

... C 3 to read: **Juniors may ride in the senior division. Before their first ride of the season, if they are between 14 and 18 and it can be validated by the UMECRA points keeper that they have completed at least 500 miles in competitive, limited distance and/or endurance, the rider who wishes to switch divisions must advise the UMECRA secretary and the UMECRA points keeper in writing of their intent to ride as seniors for that season. The rider must have a letter on file with the Secretary-Treasurer by which a parent/legal guardian consents to the request for unsponsored status. A copy of this letter should also accompany the junior to each ride.**

Feedback on the electronic elections of Rider Rep was discussed. It was felt that it was an overwhelming success. Out of 337 voting solicitation emails going out, 5 opted out of receiving such voting emails in the future, 21 were rejected due to full mailboxes, etc., 196 were opened of which 162 visited the 'election' site, and of that 154 voted (1 cast a ballot with nothing selected). The results was a net vote number of 153, and the total out-of-pocket cost was \$30.

Jon presented a set of Standard Operating Procedures for review.

Theresa presented a draft of Definitions to be included in the Appendix to the Bylaws.

Ride attendance numbers were briefly discussed.

Under Promotion/Publicity report regarding Horse Fairs and Clinics, the board approved donating \$250 to the IL Horse Fair (Peggy / Jon). It was also noted that the raffle being held during this convention was going well, and it was hoped that the money raised would cover the cost of air fare for the speaker.

The 2019 convention was briefly discussed. Bruce stated that it will be held in Gladstone, MI, January 18-20, 2019. Further plans and details will be gained over the next few months. The board also noted that the 2020 convention is to be held in Wisconsin, and the word is out to find a location.

The report from the Awards Committee was that the 2018 committee was composed of Jan Sasena, Sherry Aune, and Jean Allen, with Maxine Bernsdorf supplying an advisory role. Awards costs for this past year (as stated in the meeting) was \$6,772.70.

It was noted that later today the elections to be held would be for President, Regional directors (MN, WI), and Veterinary rep. The winning rider rep(s) would be announced at the membership meeting this afternoon. Theresa presented to the board a nomination letter she'd recently received from a Ride Manager who expressed her intent/interest to run for a board position as the Minnesota Representative. The letter indicated that the individual would be unable to personally attend the Annual Meeting and elections due to a family situation. A discussion ensued among the BOD concerning whether or not a rule existed requiring nominees for board positions needing to be present at the Annual Meeting to be elected. The BOD was unable to ascertain if such a rule did exist and/or if there were exemptions to such a rule for extenuating circumstances. The letter was forwarded to the general assembly of the Annual Meeting.

The March board meeting was set for March 10 at a location to be determined.

Vote counters for this afternoon will be Ed & Wendy Hauser, Jean Allen, Sally Hoff, and Lisa Docter.

Upon motion and second of Tony and Lisa respectively, the board approved adjourning at 8:26 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Bruce A. Birr, Sec-Treas.

## DRAFT MINUTES – UMECRA Board Meeting Held March 10, 2018

The meeting was held at the Quality Inn & Suites in Lodi, WI, and was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 10:30 am CST. Also present were board members Nicole Mauser-Storer, Tony Troyer, Maxine Bernsdorf, Laurie Henschel, Bill Suskey, Bruce Birr, Theresa Meyer, Sarah Maass, Jan Sasensa, Peggy Pasillas, and Lynda Zimmerman. Guest Linda Jacobson was also in attendance. Attendance/roll call was taken by the Secretary-Treasurer (Bruce).

Approval of BOD minutes and the Annual Meeting from January had already been approved by the board via email and have been posted to the UMECRA website.

Under **EBOD/Auxiliary Reports**, Bruce presented a Treasurer's report, (see attachments), for the period January 1 – March 5. These were approved upon motion of Tony and second by Maxine. Bruce also gave the Secretary's report, stating that he had received information and a request from Governor Dodge Equestrians regarding an upcoming fundraiser event that they are holding on June 3. The board approved offering them a free distance ride entry for their silent auction or raffle (motion by Theresa / second by Peggy). Bruce also stated that he had received trail grant requests since the last meeting from Tara LeRoy for the Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Assoc. for \$300 – (approved by the board upon motion/second of Theresa/Tony), and from Sarah Maass for Fort Ridgely State Park for \$300 – (also approved by the board by motion/second of Theresa/Tony). Additionally, Sandra Fett had requested \$250 for the MN Horse Expo, and as per policy, Bruce was authorized to send payment for that. {NOTE: UMECRA policy is to award up to \$350 for events of this type, so that amount was sent to MNDRA. BAB}

Bruce also stated that just a few days before, he had begun to receive insurance certs, and would soon send them out. He also sought some guidance on the length of time to hold onto paper records such as membership forms and receipts. It was the consensus of the board that it was OK to discard membership forms after 4 months past the end of the calendar year for which they were received, and that keeping electronic copies of receipts for longer was OK, that paper receipts should be kept for 3 years past the year in which they were generated.

Veterinarian's report: Dr. Elford was attending the AERC convention and will provide information from that experience at either a future meeting or in a newsletter article.

Jon gave a President's report in which he presented feedback about the Annual Meeting and the necessity to understand and locate organizational rules and procedures. He will submit an article to the next newsletter regarding the election of nominee's not in attendance at the Annual Meeting. The Sanctioning Coordinator report was also given by Jon as per the information he received from Joslyn. She has finished putting the ride books together, sent them to the printer and expects to begin sending them out soon. It was also noted that there was some confusion about "advertisement" fees and questions about the future of offering CD's. Jon will follow up on collection of the advertisement fees. Nicole will make the ride book available in pdf format on our website and Jon, Joslyn, and Bruce will come up with a new membership form for the 2019 ride year.

Under **Committee Reports**, Convention reports: Feedback concerning the recent convention was very good. Nicole, Tony and their many volunteers were congratulated by the board for their work hosting the convention. The board discussed charging a late fee for dinner reservations not made by the deadline and that we allow the 'speaker fee' limit to be increased. The 2019 convention, to be held in Michigan, is being hosted by Kathy Macki/Bruce Birr. The 2020 convention is scheduled for Wisconsin and managing/hosting of it is still open.

Awards report: The new committee makeup is Jan Sasena, (Committee Chair), Sherry Aune, and Jean Allen. The committee, with input from past Committee Chair Maxine, requested that a sperate Awards Fund be created. This will allow for better tracking of funds received, available and expended. Bruce will set the fund up and continue to manage it. The initial budget will be \$6,000 for the upcoming ride season with rider fees to continue being deposited into the account. There was some limited discussion about the need for raising rider fees. No action was taken on this but it was agreed that further discussion by the BoD should take place (by email conferencing/November Bod meeting)

Membership report: Bruce reported that to date this year we had 241 paid up members; 42 family memberships, 144

single memberships, 2 Junior-only memberships, and 5 Ride Manager only memberships. A membership directory was discussed and the approval was made to let the volunteers to proceed with a directory – Bruce will get them an updated list by April 1. The board approved of sending new members a “welcome letter”. Jon will take care of this. A second invitation had been extended to two members from Jon to attend the BoD meeting so that they could follow up on a presentation they had made to the board in November of 2017 concerning ideas and incentives for member retention. Unfortunately, the board did not hear from either member regarding this.

**Old Business:** Bylaw definitions: the board agreed to forward the bylaw definitions to the 2019 Annual Meeting for approval by the general membership to include them as Appendix B in our bylaws (motion made by Tony/second, Peggy). ICF Fund; the language on the request form needs to be updated. Bill Suskey is working on this.

Electronic membership fee payments was again discussed. Bill agreed to write a newsletter article explaining the boards thoughts on this. He will forward the article to Nicole for posting on the website as well.

100-Mile Horse Program: Discussed and several thoughts/ideas were expressed. Although **no action was taken, it was agreed to discuss the topic further at the November BoD meeting.**

Scheduled board conference calls; for now, they will be done on an as needed basis.

Added item to old business; Nicole asked that the board consider further discussions be held on the sanctioning of potential rides in “out of region” areas. The board agreed this topic needs to be investigated further and will place it on future board agendas.

**New Business:** Regarding Article IV, Section 5. PRESIDENT. subsection (d): The board discussed the problems it feels this language creates for electing a qualified nominee for the office of President if she/he cannot physically be present at the meeting due to extenuating circumstances. As a bylaw, no exceptions can be made. If the language were to be eliminated, the position of President would be subject to the same rule applicable to other officers of the Board. (Nominees are required to be in attendance, however, the rule may be suspended if 2/3 rds of the attending members agree to suspension). Tony motioned, Theresa seconded, and the board approved the following wording:

(d) To be eligible to be elected, a nominee for President: ~~must be present and a Delegate to the meeting at which the election is held~~ must be:

1. A current UMECRA Ride Manager or former UMECRA Ride Manager;
2. **Who has** been a UMECRA Ride Manager during at least three (3) seasons in the past five (5) seasons, or who has been a Delegate in the preceding two (2) years. (1/25/09) This proposed bylaw change will be forwarded to the 2019 Annual meeting for the general membership to vote on.

Minimum age requirements for Alternate/Proxy delegates: This item was brought to the boards attention by an individual member. The consensus of the board is that proxies/delegates, regardless of age, are obligated to vote as directed by the Ride Manager who selected them. Additionally, the board reserves the right to confirm the appointment of voting delegates in accordance with Art. III, Section 6 of the corporation’s bylaws.

Strategic planning: Nicole presented some ideas on how to grow the organization to aid with ride prep and promotion through UMECRA branded items. A committee was formed to study this idea, with Nicole as Chair, and other members being Tony, Theresa, Laurie, and Bill, with the goal of having a first report out in June.

Announcements; the next board meeting was set for November 10 at a location to be determined.

Adjournment: took place at 3:28 pm CST upon motion of Peggy and second by Tony.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Bruce A. Birr

## **BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2018**

**LODI, WI**

**Call to Order:** 10:30 a.m. Central time

- *Attendance/roll call* President Jon Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:30 am CST. Also, present were board members Peggy Pasillis, Lynda Zimmerman, Jan Sasena, Sarah Maass, Theresa Meyer, Tony Troyer, Tracy Johnson, Dr. Wes Elford, Maxine Bernsdorf, Bruce Birr (10:32), Laurie Henschel (10:37), and Bill Suskey (10:53). Also in attendance were Linda Jacobson, Kim Fosler, Jim Andriakos, and Roberta Harms (11:11).

### **Approval of Minutes**

*March 10, 2018 BoD minutes were approved in April and posted in UMECRA Newsletter – no corrections/additions were necessary.*

### **EBOD/Auxiliary Reports**

*Treasurer's Report* Bruce presented his reports (Profit & Loss, and Balance Sheet/attached). The board approved upon motion of Dr. Wes and second by Maxine. Bruce stated that all fees had been paid but for the ride fees from one ride and insurance fees from one other. He had been in touch with the managers of both rides and expected those payments within a few days.

*Secretary's Report* Bruce stated that no new trail grant requests had been received by mail, but that Linda Jacobson had one to submit. At this time Linda presented the application for the Coon Rock Horse and Hunt Club. The board approved this request upon motion of Dr. Wes and second by Sarah.

*Presidents Report* Jon stated facts about the scholarship fund, how money is added to it, and the deadline for scholarship applications. He also stated that he had sent a letter to the RM's of AHAM thanking them for fulfilling their probationary obligations of 2018.

*Veterinarian's Report* Dr. Elford had sent information on pulse criteria and heat index to all before the meeting. A discussion took place concerning endurance ride schedules and the philosophy of holds (they should be used to control competitiveness of the rider and for the safety/welfare of the horse). Dr. Elford stated that in his opinion, the primary goal of holds during a ride was to give the horse a break – both physically and mentally. Additional discussion focused on pulse parameters – should we be using 60bpm more as per Dr. Fehr's statistics? This in turn led to additional discussion on breed and conformation types with regard to pulse and respiration recovery.

*Sanctioning Coordinator* Through Jon, Joslyn reported that not many rides had yet submitted their sanctioning requests. Jon will have Jos send out another email blast to solicit those. Jon stated that the Kettles & Bits ride was being dropped. Theresa stated that it is likely that there will be a new ride in Northwestern MN, Bill stated that since our guidelines state that MapQuest be used to determine distance between rides, and since MapQuest was struggling financially and may disappear in the near future, that we change the language to read that a web-based mapping tool is used. No formal action taken.

### **Committee Reports**

*Strategic Planning/Promotions* The committee (Tony, Theresa, Laurie, and Bill) stated their actions, and requested the ability to partner with a company that could offer UMECRA logo items for sale, with either the organization or the purchaser receiving 10%. After discussion, the board approved a motion by Theresa and second by Tony for this to proceed with the purchaser getting a 10% discount, but that items offered not be those types that are given for awards by UMECRA.

*Convention Report* Bruce stated the status of the 2019 convention in Gladstone, MI. Tracy and Kim shared the prep done so far to settle on a WI site for the 2020 convention. The board agreed to recognize Kim, Tracy and their volunteers as the convention organizers for the 2020 convention scheduled to be held in Wisconsin.

[At this point, a break was taken from 12:03-12:17 pm to distribute lunch.]

*Awards Report* Janette stated that the committee (herself, Sherry Aune, Jean Allen, and in an advisory role, Maxine) had obtained about ½ of the awards, and was continuing.

*Membership Report* Jon reported the membership figures that Bruce had given him (390 total members, of which 58 are family memberships, 8 Junior memberships, and 6 Ride Manager only memberships). He also stated that the printed member directory had cost \$658. After discussion, consensus was to publish an interim membership directory update in odd years which would correct errors in the printed directory, as well as new members who had joined since the printed directory was published. The goal will be to print a new directory every two years.

## **Old Business**

- *ICF Review and Annual Meeting Report (Bill)* Bill gave a brief report and will prepare to do the same at the Annual Meeting.
- *Bylaw Definitions – addendum to the bylaws – review and discuss motion procedure (Jon)*  
Jon discussed and reviewed motion procedure at the annual meeting to smooth and speed up things. This procedure will be motioned by Peggy and seconded by Lynda. Proposal will be posted in the UMECRA newsletter for members to review.
- *Article IV, Sec.5 Bylaw change proposal – review and discuss motion procedure (Jon)*  
This proposal will be motioned by Tony and seconded by Wes. This proposal will also be published in the newsletter for members to review prior to the Annual meeting.
- *100 Mile Horse Program* After discussion, Jon will re-write the form to make it fit the award (current form is incorrect). The Board would also like to see all awards advertised or highlighted via the newsletter early in the ride season as a reminder to members about the awards that are available and the qualifications necessary to receive a specific award.
- *Ties/Changes to General Rule 5 – C and Endurance rule 12 (move 5 – C to Comp rules w/revisions and rewrite End. Rule 12) (Theresa, Tony, Dr. Elford)* After discussion, Theresa will re-write the language regarding ties, and provide examples. Approved examples will be forwarded to the Annual meeting for membership voting.
- *Gate and Go Holds – Endurance rule 9 (Theresa)* After discussion, the board voted 7-3 to pass a motion made by Bill and second by Theresa, to strike Endurance rule 9B. {"Horses passing the P/R parameters shall remain at the check area for the time specified, but a minimum of 20 minutes".}
- *Out of Region Rides – Pros/Cons/Options* After some discussion, consensus was to continue discussion on the Yahoo group.
- *Address any concerns about the new Comp sheet (Dr. Elford)* Dr. Elford inquired about any concerns regarding the new Comp sheet – silhouettes of horses have been corrected and it was noted that a "pre-trot out" score area was needed on the sheet. Dr.

Elford stated that he would change the sheet in conjunction with Nicole. A brief discussion was held about the use of the extra boxes for manners and their use. Examples were shared that indicated the boxes have encouraged some vets to use them. There were no other concerns about the use of the sheets.

- *Address Inconsistencies in judging Comp (Dr. Elford)* The BoD discussed the inconsistencies in judging Comp rides throughout the UMECRA region such as:
  - a. *Trot methods – in hand or lunging*
  - b. *Pain, heat, filling – pick up legs or just run hand over*
  - c. *P/R race or judged Comp performance – use of all scoring areas* Discussion led to no action, though it was suggested that a Facebook page be created for veterinarians to discuss issues. Sarah has agreed to work on this. A meeting of vets at convention was also discussed and encouraged if possible. An email from Dr. Rae about some of these judging items was also shared by Bruce.

### **New Business**

- *Points Keeper and Website Coordinator Volunteers/Appointments (Jon)* Robin and Nicole have agreed to continue in these roles.
- *Wisc. /Ill. Horse Council Memberships (Jon)* After brief discussion, Maxine motioned and Peggy seconded that we join the Horse Councils of the 4 primary states – WI, IL, MN, and MI. Motion passed.
- *Jr's changing Sponsors mid-ride (Jon/Tracy)* A review of current AERC and UMECRA rules pertaining to this topic were discussed, no action taken.
- *Versatility/100 Mile horse nominations (Tracy/Jon)* After discussion, the board passed a motion made by Tony and seconded by Theresa to make the nomination period open through October 1 each year. This change will need to be noted in the awards description.
- *New members joining in Sept/Oct./full membership (Robin/Jon)* Discussion led to a motion by Laurie and second by Lynda that new memberships received in September, October, November are valid both for the current year and the following ride season. Motion passed.
- *Damage at a ride/liability (Tracy/Tony)* Item withdrawn for discussion.
- *Developing a set of Guidelines/Options for RM's in the event of trail sabotage (Lynda)* Issue was discussed, but no action taken. Ride managers should be as fair as possible in how they resolve these issues and aware of both AERC's and UMECRA's rules/guidelines covering such instances. EX: AERC 1.3.1/UMECRA 2 A-D
- *What recourse does a rider have when they disagree with Vet's decision to pull/disqualify their horse for undetermined lameness issues? (Lynda)* Brief discussion with no action taken.
- *1000 Mile Horse Program (Tracy)* Jon asked for this to be put on the Yahoo group for discussion and board consensus agreed.
- *Waiving Novice Leader Fees (Tracy)* Brief discussion with no action taken.
- *New Membership Form (Joslyn/Jon)* Bill will create a new membership form for the website, which will be more intuitive for people to use.
- *Heat Index Proposal (Dr.Elford)* Dr. Elford brought forth info and thoughts on this topic. Consensus was to continue board discussion on the topic at future board meetings and thru the boards Yahoo e-mail account.
- *LD Points Proposal (Roberta/Jon)* Roberta shared some thoughts on changing the way LD points are accrued. The board is interested in the concept and asked Roberta to provide

additional information. She has agreed to meet with the board again at the January BoD meeting.

- *2019 Elections – VP, Sec./Treas., Ill. and Mich. Regional Directors and the 2 Directors – At – Large (Jon)* Peggy will announce these positions in the remaining newsletters prior to the Annual Meeting. Jon asked if current position holders were willing to serve again, and all that were present said yes. Jon will contact Lisa for her feedback on that. He also suggested that each person send a short bio to Peggy for the newsletter.
- *Hall of Fame/Shinning Light* The board received three nominations for the Hall of Fame. Although there were no nominations for the Shining Light Award by the time of the meeting, Theresa was expecting to hear from someone soon and would pass that information on to the board if and when she received it. The board adjourned at 3:58 upon motion of Tony and second by Theresa, to move to Executive Session for discussion of the Hall of Fame nominations. The board reconvened at 4:23 p.m.

**Announcements**            There were none.

**Adjournment**            Tony moved, and all seconded adjournment at 4:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bruce A. Birr

## BoD Meeting

Gladstone, MI

January 19, 2019

**Call to Order** – the meeting was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 7:00 am. Others present at the meeting were, Bruce Birr, Peggy Pasillas, Jan Sasena, Maxine Bernsdorf, Bill Suskey, Lynda Zimmerman, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Laurie Henschel, Dr. Elford, Theresa Meyer, Lisa Germann, Tracy Johnson, Tony Troyer, Sarah Maass, Sanctioning Coordinator Joslyn Seefeldt and guest Sandra Wright.

**Approval of Minutes** – the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 BoD minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**Treas./Sec. Reports** – the organization's financial reports (P&L summary and Balance Sheet) were reviewed and approved upon motion by Dr. Elford, second by Peggy.

- **Insurance update:** costs for the 2019 ride season should be similar to last season. Bruce will forward a summary of ride insureds to Ride Managers soon for approval and then will submit said information to our insurer for a quote. The board has asked Bruce to have a discussion with our insurance carrier about increasing coverage from the current \$1 million coverage to \$3 million, and potentially changing the time of coverage. Currently our coverage runs from March to March. Is it more advantageous to have policy coverage for a calendar year or even possibly the ride season (November to November)? Bruce will attempt to have cost information, advantages/disadvantages involved, and information about the ability to make these changes available for the March BoD meeting.
- **Trail Grants/Horse Fair Requests:** no new trail grant requests had been received. A request for funds for the MN Horse Expo has been submitted by Sandra Fett on behalf of MnDRA. The BoD had previously decided to fund up to \$350 for Horse Expos/fairs as well as ½ of the daily insurance costs. Bruce noted that he had not necessarily been tracking trail grants as affecting the Trail Fund and that he would make those corrections to the appropriate accounts.
- **Internal Review/Audit:** Jon asked Tony to chair an internal peer review of the Treasurer's records between this morning's BoD meeting and the first scheduled speaker for this afternoons convention. Other members of the peer review team include: Dr. Elford, Maxine Bernsdorf, Sandra Wright and Ken Meyer.

**Presidents Report** – Jon reported that there will be three \$1,100 individual scholarships awarded this year (to be handed out at the Awards Presentation).

- **2020 Convention:** the 2020 convention will be held on the weekend of January 17-19 @ the Holiday Inn of Stevens Point, Wi. Kim Fosler will be the convention host.
- **Awards Wording Update:** to avoid confusion or any misunderstandings, the Charles Phillips Versatility Award has had the following language returned to its description on both the web-site and nomination form: *"Nominations must be submitted to the Points Keeper before the beginning of the last scheduled ride of the season"*. This language was originally adopted in 2008. A description of the Competitive Drive Top Five Award has been added to the web-

site. UMECRA has presented this award for several years, but there has not been a description of the award or its necessary qualifications listed under the Awards tab. The following description is now posted to the web-site: *“Competitive Drive Top Five – The Top Five (5) drivers, singles or pairs, shall be recognized. Drivers must successfully complete a minimum of five drives to be eligible for an award.”*

- **Comp Sheet:** The Competitive score sheet was presented with the addition of a place for “zero points” during the pre-trot out.
- **Safe Sport:** this national awareness program was briefly discussed and Peggy has agreed to chair a committee to look into the details of the program.

#### **Old Business –**

- **Membership Form:** the CD choice has been eliminated (few if any members were selecting this option) and some minor language changes have been made to the form. The BoD has agreed to continue an additional charge of \$10 for members selecting a hard copy of the ride book. The ride book will be available as a free (PDF) down load from the web-site.
- **LD Points Proposal:** discussion of this item was withdrawn from the agenda pending further information.
- **Review of Endurance Rule 9:** after a lengthy discussion, the BoD approved a motion by Tony, second from Lisa, to withdraw this rule proposal from the afternoons general membership meeting agenda and send it back to the rules committee for further study/review.
- **Review/Discuss Annual Meeting Procedures:** Jon shared that he’d like to keep the meeting informal, orderly and on time. The procedures for the motions related to the bylaw and rule changes were discussed and agreed upon. (Tony and Peggy will make motions, Lynda and Dr. Elford to second)

**Announcements** – the AERC Convention is being held March 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. The BoD members will decide via the BoD Yahoo account on when to meet for their March board meeting (March 16<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>).

**Adjournment** – motion to adjourn was made by Tony, seconded by Peggy at 8:45 am.

Respectively submitted,

/s/Bruce Birr, Sec-Treas

## UMECRA Annual Meeting

Gladstone, MI

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Call to Order** – the meeting was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 2:06 pm.

- **Meeting procedures:** Jon explained that he would like the meeting to proceed informally yet orderly to insure everyone had a chance to be heard. He asked that individuals wishing to speak, wait until they are recognized and to use the available microphones.
- **Roll Call of Rides/Quorum/Majorities:** Bruce called for Ride representation. Thirty (30) rides responded as being present with sixty-one (61) ride delegates, four (4) Rider Reps and one (1) Vet Rep for a total of sixty-six (66) voting delegates. Quorum was met with better than 40% of the rides present. Simple majority n= thirty-four (34), two-thirds majority n= forty-four (44).
- **Official vote counters:** Peggy Goberg and Ainsley Suskey were identified as the meetings official vote counters.

**Approval of 2018 Annual Mtg. Minutes** – the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Annual Meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**Sec./Treas. Reports** – Profit and Loss Comparisons (P&L) and copies of the Balance Sheet had been distributed in delegate packets for members to review. There being no additions/corrections to either the P&L statements or the Balance Sheet, they were approved by unanimous consent. (P&L and Balance Sheet are attached)

- **2019 Insurance:** costs are expected to be similar to last season. Bruce will be in contact with Ride Managers concerning insurance needs and will submit that information for appropriate quotes of cost. Bruce shared that he had been asked by the board to inquire about increasing coverage from \$1 million to \$3 million and possibly changing dates of coverage (i.e. policy period). He anticipates being able to share his findings with the BoD at the March board meeting.
- **Audit/Internal Peer Review:** The Internal Peer Review committee of Tony Troyer, (Chair), Dr. Elford, Maxine Bernsdorf, Sandra Wright and Ken Meyer reported the results of their peer review to the general assembly. The committee noted that a few receipts were missing and that Bruce would follow up by locating those receipts by the March Board of Directors meeting. The committees report was approved upon motion of Tony, second by Roberta Harms.
- **Membership Report:** the membership report (included in delegate packets) was briefly discussed and it was noted that there was an increase in total memberships of +41 new members.

**2019 Ride Schedule** – copies of the ride schedule were also included in the delegates packet.

Sanctioning Coordinator Joslyn Seefeldt recorded the few corrections noted and will make the necessary changes. The 2019 ride schedule was approved as amended by motion of Linda Mower, seconded by Tony Troyer. The updated schedule will be subsequently posted to the UMECRA web-site. It was also noted that **ride flyers are due by February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Old Business** – Nicole reported that the Promotions Committee has been working on procuring an online store featuring the UMECRA logo. Look for more information about this in the near future.

- **Comp Score Sheet:** Dr. Elford briefly described the addition of the “zero points” line to the sheet and offered to meet with anyone after the meeting to discuss any other items concerning the score sheet. The addition of the zero points line was approved by unanimous consent.
- **ICF Annual Report:** Bill Suskey gave a brief overview of the International Competitive Fund and reported its balance as: \$6806.25 as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.
- **Motion to approve the addition of Bylaw Definitions as Appendix B, page 11 to the bylaws** – Jon provided some background on the development of the proposed addition of the definitions (to help clarify terms/language used in our bylaws) and a motion to approve the addition of the definitions as Appendix B, page 11 was made by Peggy Pasillas, seconded by Lynda Zimmerman. Motion was **approved** unanimously. (Appendix B attached)
- **Motion to approve changes to Article IV, Sec. 5** – this proposed Bylaw change as brought forward by the Bylaws Committee: (words inserted/added are **underlined**; words removed are **struck out**) “~~Article IV, Sec. 5, President, sub section (d) To be eligible to be elected, a nominee for President: must be present and a delegate to the meeting at which the election is held,~~ must be; 1) A current UMECRA Ride Manager or former Ride Manager; 2) Who has been a UMECRA Ride Manager during at least three (3) seasons in the past five (5) seasons, or who has been a Delegate in the preceding two (2) years”. A motion to approve these changes was made by Tony Troyer, seconded by Dr. Elford and was concurrently **approved** by a unanimous vote (prior notice of both proposed bylaw changes had been posted in the UMECRA newsletter).

**New Business** – the Rules Committee brought forward the following rule change proposals:

- **General Rule 5 Awards - C:** to remove item **C**; “Horses that tie will receive identical placings and the next placing will be omitted. [ IE: 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, etc.]” from General Rule 5 and place it in the Competitive Rules section under Rule 2 – Management Requirements -H. **And add** the following language to this item for clarity; “Points to be awarded will be that of the placing. [IE: If two riders tie for first place in a 25-mile ride, the points awarded, 11 will be given to each first-place rider. No rider would receive second place points.]” Bruce Birr motioned to approve said changes. Motion was seconded by Dr. Elford. Motion was **approved unanimously**.
- **Endurance Rule 12 Ties:** to rewrite the current language to help clarify the rule concerning ties occurring in Endurance rides, and to distinguish it from the Competitive rule concerning ties, and without changing the current practice of the rule. The current wording of Rule 12 is: In the case of ties, the points to be awarded shall be the sum of the positions divided by the number of people who tied. (\* note: this rule is underlined to denote that it is stricter than or different from AERC rules). **Proposed changes:** Horses that tie will receive identical placings and the next placing will be omitted, (IE: 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, etc.) Points to be awarded shall be the sum of the positions divided by the number of riders who tied. (IE: if two riders tie for first place in a 50-mile event, the points awarded, 22+20=42. 42/2=21, 21 points will be awarded to each first-place rider.) Tony Troyer motioned that proposed

changes to Endurance rule 12 be approved, second by Tracy Johnson. Motion was **approved unanimously**.

- **Endurance Rule 9 – item B:** the proposed change to Endurance Rule 9 was the elimination of item B of the rule which states: “Horses passing the P/R parameters shall remain at the check area for the time specified, but a minimum of 20 minutes.” (underlined to show difference from AERC rules) The BoD, at its morning meeting, decided to withdraw this agenda item from the general meeting agenda and send it back to the Rules Committee for further review/study. There were no comments/questions from the general assembly and the proposal will return to the rules committee.
- **AERC Rule L4.1:** Jon reminded RM’s of the change to the Limited Distance rule allowing a rider to use the entire ride time to complete the ride, and have an additional 30 minutes to meet completion criteria including pulse recovery. **This rule takes effect for the 2019 ride season.**
- **New Business from the Floor: 1)** A member asked for a clarification about rules pertaining to Juniors and their Sponsors, asking specifically if it was permissible for a Sponsor to allow the Junior to change sponsors on trail because the sponsor felt they were holding the junior back by going slower than the junior. Jon indicated that this specific action is not permissible per AERC/UMECRA rules. Additional scenarios were discussed and comments/suggestions were shared and discussed. Jon summarized the discussion by stating that there are specific AERC rules governing the Junior/Sponsor relationship and that both UMECRA RM’s and members should become familiar with them to avoid any problems/issues. **2)** Lisa Doctor, UMECRA member, introduced herself and shared with the group that she is the Trails Grant Liaison for AERC. She invited members wanting information about trail grants/trail advocacy to contact her.

**Elections** – elections were held as follows:

- **Vice President:** Tony Troyer, nominated by Barb Gardner, seconded by Ruth Casserly. There were no other nominations. **Tony** was approved as **Vice President**.
- **Sec./Treas.:** Bruce Birr, nominated by Linda Hamrick, seconded by Peggy Pasillas. No other nominations were received, **Bruce** was approved as **Sec. Treas.**
- **III. Representative:** Nicole Mauser-Storer nominated by Roberta Harms, seconded by Linda Mower. There were no other nominations from the floor, **Nicole** was approved as the **III. Rep.**
- **Mi Representative:** Sandra Wright was nominated by Lisa Germann, seconded by Diane Maxey. There being no other nominations **Sandra** was approved as the **Mi. Rep.**
- **Two At-Large Representatives:** Barb Gardner was nominated by Katie Bachhuber, seconded by Roberta Harms, Peggy Pasillas nominated by Jan Sasena, seconded by Lynda Zimmerman and Bill Suskey nominated by Samantha Donath, seconded by Dr. Rae Birr. **Peggy and Bill** were elected as the two **At-Large Reps.**
- **Announcements** – 2020 Convention to be held on the weekend of January 17-19@ the Holiday Inn of Stevens Point, Wi. Kim Fosler is the Chair of the Convention Committee.

**Adjournment** – Katie Bachhuber moved to adjourn at 3:43 pm., seconded by Tracy Johnson. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Bruce Birr,

UMECRA Sec./Treas.

## UMECRA Board Meeting Minutes for March 30, 2019

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 10:20 am, CDT at the Lodi, WI Quality Inn & Suites. Other board members in attendance were Maxine Bernsdorf, Sarah Maass, Sandra Wright, Tony Troyer, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Laurie Heschel, Tracy Johnson, Lynda Zimmerman, Wes Elford, Jan Sasena, Peggy Pasillas, Bill Suskey, and Bruce Birr. Guests present were Linda Jacobson, Ruth Casserly, and Roberta Harms. Jon welcomed new board member Sandra Wright to the board.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from both the Board of Directors meeting and the Annual Meeting minutes of January 19, 2019 were approved by unanimous consent. Wes asked about the need for underlining the language on ties (Endurance rule 12) in the UMECRA rules since the rule is now the same as AERC's rule (7.1) regarding ties. Jon will confirm the status/similarities of the rules and have the underlining in the UMECRA rules removed if necessary.

**Treasurer's Reports:** The Treasurer's reports (Profit & Loss, and Balance Sheet) were approved upon motion by Maxine and second by Tony. The P&L and Balance Sheet summaries are attached to the minutes below.

- **Audit/Peer Review Follow-up:** Bruce produced receipts for three of the four missing receipts from the audit done at the Annual Meeting. It was determined that the missing receipt was for costs associated with the printing of the newsletter. Peggy and Bruce will follow-up on procuring that particular receipt to conclude the audit review.
- **Sanctioning Fees Update/Peer Review:** Bruce reported that sanctioning fees are fully up-to-date for the 2019 ride season.
- **Insurance Quotes/Other Ins. Info:** Bruce informed the BoD that the cost of insurance this year is \$4,596.00 and that the additional cost to increase the policy coverage from \$1 million per occurrence to \$3 million per occurrence, with a \$5 million aggregate would be an additional \$1,000. Jon had also had a conversation with our insurance agent and shared with the board that our agent has advised us that any changes in policy coverage (amount of coverage and/or policy period) should not occur until the current policy is nearly complete. A February to February policy period is possible but would require a policy change in mid to late January. The board discussed a number of additional questions related to changing the amount of coverage and the policy period. Jon will follow-up with another phone conversation with the insurance agent to address those questions.
- **Secretary's Report:** Three trail grant requests were received (St. Croix, Northern Kettle Moraine and Southern Kettle Moraine) requesting \$300 apiece. Both the St. Croix and Northern Kettles requests were approved on motions by Wes, seconds from Peggy. The Southern Kettles request was approved on a motion by Tony, seconded by Laurie.

### **President's Report:**

- **Correspondence:** Jon shared copies of Thank You notes he received on behalf of UMECRA from Chris and Marty Power and the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park.
- **Info/Requests from Horseman's Council of Ill and MI Horse Council:** Jon shared an e-mail he received from the President of the MHC requesting that Jon, as President of UMECRA, forward information to our members (particularly MI members) information concerning a meeting to be held regarding horse related concerns in the state of MI. Jon informed the BoD that he had forwarded the message to a large number of members concentrating on MI members.
- Tony shared the latest information regarding his work with the HCI and an amendment to the Ill House Bill 1729 concerning the welfare and the use of "the working animal" and associated regulations being proposed. Tony has asked the BoD and UMECRA in general, for future support of

the bill and to continue to monitor the work of “special interest” groups such as PETA in their efforts to control the recreational and/or working use of animals. The BoD thanked Tony for his work and has suggested that certain “talking points” and related information be provided to UMECRA members interested in supporting the bill.

**Veterinarian’s Report:** Dr. Wes reported on his experiences at the AERC Convention and shared the following information: AERC and USEF have signed an agreement for **drug testing** that will last through the 2019 ride season. It is uncertain what will happen after that. There were only 3 fatalities this past year. All of them were due to metabolic issues. It is believed that the new rules (such as having to reach parameters in 30 minutes at the end of the ride with ride parameters of 64 and less in some areas) are helping and are effective. Wes would like to remind RM’s to make sure their ride vets fill out the **Post Ride Statistical forms**. The Welfare of the Horse Committee discussed the mandatory vaccination of flu and rhino shots deciding that those **immunizations** should be done by the animal’s owner. Wes mentioned that he has seen in his own practice that horse shows are beginning to demand that a shot record be shown/provided before entering a class. Wes has written an article titled “The Challenge of the Pull” that will be published in AERC’s Endurance News. The board has asked that it also be published in a future UMECRA newsletter.

**Sanctioning Coordinator Report:**

- **Ride Schedule:** Jon reported for Jos that every thing seems to be fine with the current ride schedule. It was noted that UMECRA lost the Salomonie and Shore to Shore rides, but did pick up a new ride with the Northern Lightz Ride bringing our season total to 37 rides.
- **Ride Books:** have been published and mailed. Jon would like to see the letter to RM’s regarding Juniors/Sponsors and the signing of permission slips re-written, edited and updated for future editions of the ride book.

**Committee Reports**

- **Strategic Planning/Promotions:** Nicole reported that the UMECRA web store is up and running, there have been several purchases made and the feedback has been positive thus far.
- **Convention Committee Reports:**
  - Costs Breakdown:** The total expenses for the 2019 convention were \$5,899.10, total income equaled; \$5,421.40 for a net cost of \$477.70. The Silent Auction brought in \$1,952.00, the proceeds of which went to the Trail Fund (\$1,220.00), Convention Fund (\$488.00), and the Scholarship Fund (\$244.00).
  - Potential Speakers/Presentations for 2020:** Sarah asked the board if the committee could request a speaker fee of \$1,100.00 to pay for Becky Hart to speak at the 2020 convention (fee includes speaker fee, air fare, and lodging). The board felt this request was acceptable and approved a motion made by Maxine, second by Tony, that the convention committee (Kim Fosler, Tracy Johnson and Sarah Maass) could proceed and to request further approval only if the cost would exceed \$1,200.00.
- **Awards Committee:** The board discussed the giving of “gift certificates” as awards in replacement of the awards selected by the awards committee. A motion was made by Max, seconded by Tony and approved by the board that Jan and the awards committee should put together a workable arrangement of combining the potential use of gift certificates in a meaningful way that incorporates the principles of our awards program/philosophy. Jan will keep the board informed of the committees progress to that end.

## Old Business:

- **LD Points Proposal:** UMECRA member Roberta Harms reviewed an earlier proposal she made to the board back in November of 2018 suggesting a change in the point values UMECRA uses in their Limited Distance division. Points would be given to the top ten riders successfully completing a ride. (1<sup>st</sup> = 15 pts down to 10<sup>th</sup> place = 6pts. And 5 pts. for a completion). The concept would provide for more competition among riders placing after 6<sup>th</sup> place in the current system who all now receive 5 points for a completion. This proposal would be an alternative to weight divisions in LD, reward the influx of riders (most rides are being supported by the large number of LD entries), and discourages “race-brain” thus protecting the welfare of those equines who typically finish in those positions/placings. Tony made a motion, seconded by Max, that this item be forwarded to the Rules Committee for further review and preparation for the November BoD meeting and potential representation at the 2020 Annual meeting for members to decide the merit of the proposal. Motion approved.
- **100 Mile Horse Program:** Jon shared a copy of the nomination form he was asked to create specifically for this award/program (the old form was the same as the 1000 Horse nomination form). A few changes were suggested which Jon noted. He will make the changes and send the updated form to Nicole for posting to the web-site under the awards tab.
- **Gate and Go holds:** Discussion and comments were made, consensus was to forward this as well to the rules committee for wording, and presentation to the board in November.
  - **Out of Region rides:** Lots of discussion on this with eventually the board passing a motion made by Tony and seconded by Tracy, to potentially allow the sanctioning of ORRides with the following stipulations: a \$55 sanctioning fee would be assessed and the UMECRA entry form must be used by RM’s of an ORRide; ORRide Managers **will not** be granted any voting rights, nor any UMECRA insurance subsidy, and RM’s of any ORRide are unable to be elected to any position within UMECRA. UMECRA sanctioned ORRides **will not** be assessed any rider fees. All ORRides must adhere to all UMECRA rules, restrictions and guidelines currently used by all rides seeking sanctioning with UMECRA. The BoD approved this motion with the proposal to be forwarded to the Rules Committee for preparation for the November BoD meeting.
- **Adding a “Member Coordinator” Position to the Board:** This item was added to the agenda after the original posting of the agenda and goes back to an earlier BoD meeting where it was suggested by Theresa that a position such as a “Member Coordinator” be created to help alleviate some of the duties of the Sec./Treas. position. Board discussion of this idea led to the possibility of splitting the Sec./Treas. position vs the creation of an entirely new position. A motion was made by Tony, seconded by Wes and approved by the board to split the Sec./Treas. position. A committee was formed (Tony, Wes, Bruce and Bill) to study and propose which duties would be assigned to each position and to draft a proposal detailing any bylaw or additional changes that may be necessary to facilitate the splitting of the Sec./Treas. position. The committee has been asked to have this information for the November BoD meeting.

## New Business:

- **Safe Sport:** Peggy and others confirmed that UMECRA is not required to meet the federal requirements of this program since UMECRA does not have a recognized national youth program, but does encourage parents, and members in general, to become knowledgeable about the initiative and supports the training of individuals in the program’s goals.

- **Ride Manager Support Meetings:** A committee of Laurie, Peggy, and Sarah is to work on what education and/or meetings may be held to help train or foster ride manager interaction, to aid ride managers in putting on successful rides, and the creation of a Ride Managers Facebook page.
- **In Hand Trot Outs vs Lunging When Assessing Attitude and Fatigue:** The BoD briefly discussed the practice of lunging an equine vs in- hand trot outs and the possibility of a rule change to this effect. Wes indicated that this was a subject talked about at the AERC convention as well. The BoD elected to forward this topic to the Rules Committee for further deliberation and a potential rule proposal for the November BoD meeting.
- **Separating Attitude and Fatigue in Scoring:** This concept/idea was also forwarded to the Rules Committee for consideration.

**Announcements:**

- Condensing **Minutes:** Bill Suskey suggested the 'condensing' of more recent UMECRA minutes (2010 to 2018) and such documents into electronic format so that instead of searching through a slew of documents to find something, several years of minutes would be combined into one document for that period of years. Nicole indicated that she would take care of that soon.

- **Next BoD meeting:** scheduled for November 9, 2019 beginning at 10:00 am, at a place yet-to-be-determined.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned on approval of a motion by Tony and second by Bill, at 2:45 pm.

/s/ Bruce A. Birr

## UMECRA Board Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2019

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 10:00 am, CDT at the Christmas Mountain Village/Mulligan's Restaurant.

**Roll Call/Attendance:** Board members in attendance were Maxine Bernsdorf, Sarah Maass, Sandra Wright, Tony Troyer, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Laurie Heschel, Tracy Johnson, Lynda Zimmerman, Wes Elford, Jan Sasena, Peggy Pasillas and Theresa Meyer. Sanctioning Coordinator Joslyn Seefeldt was also in attendance. Sec./Treas. Bruce Birr arrived at 11:10. Guests present were Linda Jacobson, Roberta Harms, Janet Sarver, Kimberly Fosler, Jen Moore and Deb Moe.

**Approval of Minutes:** The March 2019 BoD minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**Treasurer's Reports:** The Treasurer's reports (Profit & Loss, and Balance Sheet) were approved upon a motion by Wes and second by Maxine following a brief discussion about the comparisons of the Balance Sheet totals from November 2018 and November 2019. Differences between the totals (\$3000.00 less in 2019) was generally attributed to loss of revenue from the cancellation of two rides and a decrease in ride entries during the 2019 ride season. The P&L and Balance Sheet summaries are attached to the minutes below.

**Fees update/review:** Bruce provided an update on the payment of ride fees. As of Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> there were four rides whose payments hadn't yet been made (3 beyond their due dates and 1 nearing its due date). Bruce indicated that he had recently received the three late payments and was recently informed that the fourth payment was made and that he should receive it soon.

**Insurance March BoD Questions:** At the March BoD meeting the board asked Jon to follow-up with our insurance company about three additional questions the board had: 1) Can UMECRA send in a ride schedule from a previous year to help or potentially speed up the quoting process? **No**, it needs to be the projected schedule for the upcoming ride season as approved at the Annual meeting. 2) Who is actually covered? The **"club" IE: UMECRA** and its **members** involved in the management of a ride. To be covered you must be a member of UMECRA, the "club". Additional Insured covers property owners\*, DNR's, state clubs (AHDR, DRAW, etc.). To be covered as an additional insured, they must be listed as such on the insurance request form. 3) Does insurance cover set-up and tear-down of a ride? **Yes, IF set-up and/or tear-down occurs during the dates listed on insurance request form.**

\*The board requested Jon to follow-up with another question regarding insurance coverage of a "property owner" who is also a UMECRA member.

**Insurance Payment Clarifications:** Jon and Bruce informed the board that they had received an inquiry from an RM regarding the payment of an "additional insured" she hadn't requested. Jon reported that after reviewing the original quote sheet provided by UMECRA to the insurance company to determine the club's insurance costs, it is likely that a number of RM's may have been inadvertently charged "additional insured" costs they did not request. A motion was made by Theresa to reimburse any RM, by check, for the amount they were over charged as determined by an audit of the original insurance requests sent to UMECRA requesting insurance coverage for the 2019 ride season. The motion was seconded by Peggy and passed by voice vote. Jon, Jos and Bruce will coordinate the auditing of the 2019 insurance request forms and inform the BoD of their results for further discussion and determination of how and when to proceed with any necessary reimbursements.

**Secretary's Report:** To date there have not been any requests for trail grants. Bruce explained the situation regarding the Upper Michigan Hay Meadow Creek Project where a trail grant that had been approved by the BoD earlier in September and was returned to UMECRA. The project held a fundraiser that eventually exceeded their goal and needs. The grant from UMECRA wasn't needed and was subsequently returned.

**Veterinarian's Report:** On behalf of a full agenda, Wes yielded his time and indicated we would be talking about vet concerns/thoughts imbedded in other areas of the agenda.

**Sanctioning Coordinator's Report:**

**Appointment of SC and Newsletter Editor:** A motion was made by Tony to approve the appointment of Jos to continue as Sanctioning Coordinator, seconded by Peggy and approved by voice vote. A similar motion was made to approve the appointment of Brenna Starch for the position of Newsletter Editor by Peggy, seconded by Lynda and also approved by voice vote.

**2020 Ride Schedule:** Copies of the 2020 tentative ride schedule were shared and discussed. Jos indicated that she had only received a few sanctioning requests thus far ahead of the Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Ride Changes/Requests and Rules and Guidelines:** Jos has received a number of requests for changes to the schedule. These include date changes, names of rides changing, adding days, and changes in management of several rides. She asked the board for some guidance relative to what constitutes a "new" ride, and if it is ok for a ride manager to give their dates to someone else? After a lengthy discussion the board agreed that all sanctioning requests/changes will continue to be decided in a fair and equitable way based on the established UMECRA Rules/Guidelines. When a concern or issue arises that the Sanctioning Coordinator is unsure of, she'll continue to bring those issues/concerns to the BoD. The BoD will review all sanctioning requests again after the November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**President's Report:** The Wisconsin Horse Council has presented a \$500.00 award to UMECRA. The money will be used to supplement our own awards this year. Jon shared a copy of a Thank You letter he sent to the Directors of the Wi. Horse Council. He also reminded the board that UMECRA's memberships to the individual state horse councils are due and that they should be forwarded to Bruce.

**Committee Reports:**

**Convention 2020 Update/Review:** Kim Fosler gave an update on the 2020 Convention in Stevens Point, Wi. to be held Jan. 17-19, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. She provided a schedule of events for the day and expects all the details of the convention to be up on the website and in the upcoming newsletters soon. Becky Hart will be speaking on Centered Riding and Dr. Maureen Fehrs will speak on Lameness Issues. A convention fee for people attending the speaker/learning sessions and not eating a meal at the banquet was discussed and led to a motion by Theresa that those individuals be charged a \$10.00 convention fee. The motion was seconded by Tony and passed on a voice vote.

**2021 Convention Info:** Theresa presented four possible sites for convention 2021 in Minnesota. LaCrescent, Red Wing and two on the east side of St. Paul. The LaCrescent venue was favored by the board and will be held on one of the last three weekends in January 2021.

**Awards Committee:** The board discussed the giving of "gift certificates" as awards in replacement of the awards selected by the awards committee for Top Ten Awards. A motion was made by Tracy, seconded by Jan, that UMECRA should offer the embroidered jackets and one other item that Robin picks that *is not* a gift card or gift certificate. Motion passed on voice vote.

### Old Business:

LD Points Proposal: The board has decided not to forward this proposal to the membership after determining that the proposal ultimately wouldn't meet the expectations contained in the proposal. Jon thanked Roberta Harms for her efforts in coming up with the initiative and thanked Deb Moe for her data/additional number crunching. The board will continue to discuss the possibilities of weight divisions in LD as a proposal.

Out of Region Rides: The board will continue to discuss/review this potential proposal via the BoD Yahoo account for now. No action was taken at this time by the board.

Gate and Go Rules Change: A motion to approve the proposed changes to Endurance Rule 9 and to forward said changes to the membership for voting at the Annual Meeting was made by Theresa, seconded by Laurie. Motion was approved by voice vote with one nay vote (Tony).

Proposed rule change: *End. Rule 9. **The "gate into a hold" type check is mandatory at all vet checks, highly recommended at all vet checks. Other checks may be used as described in The Guidelines for Control Judges and Treatment Veterinarian's at AERC Endurance Competitions. The "pulse and go" is also recommended if a hold is to be avoided. A horse is held until a set pulse parameter is met and the horse is trotted out to check for lameness.***

- A. *A rider entering a vet check must present his horse for p/r's at any time within 30 minutes.*
- B. *Horses passing the P/R parameters shall remain at the check area for the time specified, ~~but a minimum of 20 minutes.~~ **However, a rider and horse may voluntarily extend their hold time if desired. Regardless of hold length, the overall ride time remains the same.***

Sec. /Treas. Position Split: The splitting of this position was discussed and committee work will continue on how to best separate the duties of these positions. It was noted that any splitting of the Sec./Treas. position will involve bylaw changes to the language relating to the Sec./Treas. position. Nicole has volunteered to take over duties relating to membership.

In-hand Trot Outs: A brief discussion about in-hand trot outs was held with the general consensus being that the current rules are sufficient.

Attitude and Fatigue Separation: A motion to split Fatigue and Attitude into two separate 20-point scoring sections on the Comp score sheet was made by Tony and seconded by Tracy. Motion approved by voice vote with one nay vote (Peggy). Wes will present rationale at Annual Meeting. Nicole will make necessary changes to score sheet.

RM Support Meetings: Peggy, Sarah and Laurie, shared copies of a Ride Management Timeline they put together with the board/guests. Feedback and initial responses were all positive. They'd like everyone to continue to review their work and forward any suggestions/additions to them.

Safe Sport: AERC sanctioned rides are requiring someone involved with the management of an AERC ride be certified in the Safe Sport Program. This would include all UMECRA rides that hold an endurance ride. Jon recommends some type of notice be written up for a future newsletter to help ensure all RM's are aware of this requirement and how to get certified.

Clarifications of Sponging: Lynda asked for some clarification about Comp Rule 3-E regarding sponging. Following discussion by the board, a motion was made by Lynda to add the **bolded** sentence to Comp Rule 3-E: *Natural water only is allowed on the trail. **Drinking and sponging are allowed in natural water, whether puddles, creeks, lakes or that which is declared by ride management to be natural water.** Drinking water only is allowed at rest stops. A horse shall not be denied drinking water from a bucket and/or other approved source at a scheduled vet check. Horses may be*

sponged after the final vet check. Depending on ambient conditions, veterinary judges may allow sponging at all vet checks. (2018) Motion was seconded by Peggy and the motion passed by voice vote. The rule change proposal will move to the Annual Meeting for general membership approval.

### **New Business:**

**Data Integrity:** Nicole discussed with the board the need for data integrity (horse and rider numbers, complete filling of results, etc.) by ride managers when submitting ride results. Submitting ride results without accurate and/or incomplete data causes extra work and time for Robin and Nicole to record results. The BoD agreed that this concern needs to be addressed at the March board meeting.

**Rider Rep Voting:** Jon will ask Bill Suskey to set-up e-mail voting procedures again for the 2020 Rider Rep voting.

**Updating Mentor List:** A review of the current list of available mentor's indicates the list needs to be up-dated. If you know of someone willing to be a mentor to another rider, have them contact Nicole and she will add them to the list.

**20,000 Mile Rider Award:** The board was reminded about this prestigious award (last given in 2001) and after discussion a motion was made by Jan and seconded by Tony that that an individual plaque be awarded to future recipients. The resolution passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Comp Ride Times:** No official action was taken considering the determination of Comp ride times as the board feels they are spelled out in the rules. It was however, reiterated that barring unusual circumstances, the maximum riding speed shall average 5.5 to 7 miles per hour when determining ride time.

**Annual Meeting Procedures:** Board consensus was to retain the same meeting procedures used last year for this year's annual meeting.

**2020 Elections:** President, Vet Rep, Wi. and Mn. Reps, and the four Rider Rep positions are open for the 2020 elections. Lynda, Jan and Wes indicated they are not running for re-election.

**Hall of Fame/Shining Light Award:** The board moved to closed session (2:59 p.m.) to discuss the nominations for the Hall of Fame and Shining Light Awards.

**Announcements:** No one will be doing the Mn. Horse Expo in 2020.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned on approval of a motion by Wes, second Tony, at 3:17 p.m.

/s/ Bruce A. Birr (with thanks to Theresa for taking minutes up to my late arrival)

## January 2020 UMECRA Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting was held at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point, WI on Saturday, January 18, 2020, and was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 1:00 pm. He started by reviewing meeting procedures, having the Secretary-Treasurer read off a roll call of voting delegates, and appointed official vote counters. The Annual meeting quorum was met and voting majorities were established.

**Approval of Minutes** The minutes from the last annual meeting (January, 2019) were approved by unanimous consent.

### **Sec./Treas. Reports**

- **Profit & Loss/Balance Sheet Summaries:** Bruce Birr presented the Profit & Loss statement summary and the Balance Sheet summary; these were approved upon motion by Dr. Wes Elford and second by Tony Troyer. (P&L and Balance Sheet Summaries are attached)
- **Audit/Internal Review:** Tony Troyer presented the findings of the Audit/Internal Review of the Treasurer's records. Account statements, deposits and debits reviewed balanced accordingly. Procedural disbursement of Silent Auction monies needs some clarification. The BoD will discuss these issues at its March board meeting.

**Sanctioning Coordinator Report** The 2020 ride schedule was presented, corrections and additions were made, and the schedule was approved upon motion of Linda Mowrer and a second by Ruth Stewart. The amended and approved schedule will be forwarded to Sanctioning Coordinator Joslyn Seefeldt for official posting to the UMECRA web-site. Ride Managers were reminded that ride flyers need to be submitted to Joslyn by February 1 to be included in the 2020 Ride Book.

### **President's Report**

- **2021 Convention Info:** Theresa Meyer announced that next year's annual meeting and convention will be held in La Crescent, MN on January 22-24, 2021.
- **2020 Insurance Info:** Insurance costs for 2020 are similar to 2019 costs (\$45.00 per day - \$20.00 per additional insured).
- There is no benefit to RM's listing themselves as an additional insured unless they are a private landowner and any part of their ride takes place on their property.
- Additional insureds should include; private land owners, DNR's, State/County Parks and Trail Systems and Clubs i.e. MnDra, AHDra, DRAW and AHA
- BoD will pursue converting annual policy dates of insurance coverage *from* March to March *to* February to February to assist early rides needing insurance certificates well in advance of their ride.
- BoD will also investigate costs of increasing insurance coverage from \$1 million to \$3 million as more venues are requiring higher liability coverage.
- **2019 Insurance Review/Audit:** An audit of the 2019 insurance costs and needs revealed that some RM's were inadvertently listed as an additional insured resulting in an over-charge while other rides were under-charged for their insurance needs due to mis-calculations of cost. RM's who were over-charged were sent refund checks on 1/6/2019. Under-charged rides have been contacted to make arrangements for payment of fees due.

- **2019 Rider Fee Summary:** A review of the rider fees for 2019 indicated that several rides either *over-paid fees or under-paid fees*. The BoD determined at its morning board meeting to refund RM's who made over-payments, and will contact those RM's who made under-payments.
- **2019 Ride Statistics:** Ride statistics indicate that ride entries dropped from 2254 in 2018 to 1955 in 2019. A difference of -299 entries. Entries decreased in all categories in 2019. The average number of entries per ride in 2019 equaled: 55.8 as compared to 60.9 in 2018.

## Old Business

- **International Competition Fund Annual Report:** Bill Suskey reported the ICF fund balance is at \$6816.48. There was no active use of the fund during the 2019 fiscal year.
- **Data Integrity:** Jon and Nicole commented on the need for increased data integrity when reporting ride results, submitting fees and the use of both horse and rider numbers. There have been many instances of careless omissions of data that requires extra work for our Sanctioning Coordinator, Points Keeper and Membership Coordinator as well as others. The BoD will be looking at ways to improve data integrity.
- **Safe Sport:** Ride Managers were reminded of the AERC requirement that every ride needs to have at least one member of its management team Safe Sport certified. Certification can be obtained through AERC.
- **LD Wt. Divisions and Out of Region Ride Ideas/Proposals:** The BoD will continue to look at and discuss possible proposals to deal with potentially adding weight divisions in LD and the sanctioning of rides outside the "normal" region of UMECRA. Members with ideas/comments are encouraged to contact their Geographic or Rider Representatives to share their thoughts.

## New Business

- **Endurance Rule #9 Proposal:** Theresa Meyer explained, read, and motioned to approve the proposal, with Bill Suskey seconding. Discussion followed. Three separate amendments to the proposal were made but each of those amendments failed. Eventually, an amendment to the proposal made by Deb Moe and seconded by Sheryl O'Brien to remove all of sub-section "B" of the proposal passed. Endurance Rule 9 as amended: **"The 'gate into a hold' type check is highly recommended at all vet checks. Other checks may be used as described in *The Guidelines for Control Judges and Treatment Veterinarians at AERC Endurance Competitions*. The "pulse and go" is also recommended if a hold is to be avoided. A horse is held until a set pulse parameter is met and the horse is trotted out to check for lameness."**
  - o **A rider entering a vet check must present his horse for p/r's at any time within 30 minutes. (2020)**
  - o The amended motion was approved by a majority vote.
- **Competitive Rule 3-E Clarification on sponging:** Lynda Zimmerman explained, read, and moved, and Tony Troyer seconded, to approve the proposal. Discussion followed. Aaron Mowrer moved to insert the words "and ride management" to follow veterinary judges in the last sentence of the proposal, and Linda Mowrer seconded. This amendment was defeated. An amendment was moved and seconded respectively by Linda Mowrer and Alice Hubert, to delete the second sentence of the proposal ("Drinking water only is allowed at rest stops") Motion to amend passed. The group then passed, by majority vote, the resulting amended proposal, which reads as follows:

**Competitive Rule 3 – E: "Drinking and sponging are allowed in natural water, whether puddles, creeks, lakes, or that which is declared by ride management to be natural water. A horse shall not be denied drinking water**

from a bucket or other approved source at a scheduled vet check. Horses may be sponged after the final vet check. Depending on ambient conditions, veterinary judges may allow sponging at vet checks. (2020)

- **Sec./Treas. Position Split Proposal:** The UMECRA Board of Directors moves that the current position of Secretary/Treasurer be split into two separate board positions, individual Secretary and Treasurer positions. Duties already defined by the bylaws for each position will remain with the appropriate position. Implied duties and any responsibilities evolving from the growth of the organization will be assigned accordingly to the appropriate position by approval of the Board of Directors. Jon Wagner explained, read, and moved to adopt the proposal. Tony Troyer seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the proposal was approved by a majority vote. The board will immediately begin a search for individuals who may be interested in either position. If an individual is vetted by the board and accepts a position on the board, the position will be both a non-voting and an interim position for the remainder of 2020. Both positions will become two-year Board of Director positions with voting rights at the 2021 Annual meeting following the 2021 elections for the separate Secretary and Treasurers positions.
- **Attitude and Fatigue Separation:** Dr. Elford motioned to approve the separation of the Attitude and Fatigue section on the Competitive score sheet allowing a 0 - 20-point deduction for each. Motion was seconded by Lynda Zimmerman. Dr. Elford explained the rationale behind the proposal and after a few comments from the membership **the proposal was approved, starting in the 2021 ride season, by a majority vote.**

## 2020 Elections

- **Rider Representatives:** Bill Suskey presented the statistics and results on the electronic voting for Rider Reps. - 290 voting emails were sent out; 109 voters visited the voting link and 105 voters voted. The following people were elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors as Rider Representatives; **Maxine Bernsdorf, Jen Moore, Lynda Zimmerman, and Kim Fosler.**
- **President:** **Jon Wagner** was nominated for President, and he was elected by unanimous consent.
- **Mn. Representative:** **Sarah Maass** was nominated for the MN rep, and she was elected by unanimous consent.
- **Wi. Representative:** **Laurie Henschel** was the nominee for the WI rep, and she was elected by unanimous consent as well.
- **Veterinarian Representative:** Dr. Elford announced he would not seek re-election and asked the board and UMECRA members to encourage other qualified Veterinarians to consider filling the position. The BoD will actively pursue a replacement for the Veterinarian Representative and encourages all members to let the board know if they are aware of, or can recommend, any potential candidates for the position.

**Announcements:** On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of UMECRA, Jon thanked **Dr. Elford** and former **Rider Representatives Tracy Johnson and Jan Sasena** for their service to UMECRA and their time as members of the Board of Directors. Dr. Elford was further recognized by Lynda Zimmerman and received a standing ovation for his many years of service/support of UMECRA, distance riding, riders and their equines.

**Adjournment** Motion by Linda Mowrer and second by Kim Fosler to adjourn was approved at 4:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bruce A. Birr, Sec.-Treas.

## UMECRA Board Meeting Minutes – March 14, Lodi, WI Quality Inn & Suites

The meeting was called to order at 9:58 am by President Jon Wagner. Board members present were: Jon Wagner, Peggy Pasillas, Deb Moe, Bruce Birr, Lynda Zimmerman, Jen Moore, Maxine Bernsdorf, Sarah Maass, Theresa Meyer, Laurie Henschel, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Tony Troyer, Kim Fosler, and by phone Sandra Wright. Absent: At- Large Representative Bill Suskey. Guests present were: Linda Jacobson, Dr. Jennifer Lorenz, Carol Wagner, Ruth Casserly, Jan Sasena and Janet Sarver. Jon welcomed Kim and Jen to the Board as the new Rider Representatives and Deb Moe as the new Interim UMECRA Treasurer. He introduced Dr. Lorenz, DVM and explained that she was observing the board meeting because she is interested in possibly serving as the Veterinarian Representative to the Board.

### APPROVAL of MINUTES

The January 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 Annual Meeting minutes had been previously approved by the Board via group email. The morning BoD meeting minutes of 1/18/2020 still needed approval. They were approved following a motion of Tony Troyer and second by Sarah Maass.

### SEC./TREAS. REPORTS

- **PROFIT & LOSS/BALANCE SHEET SUMMARIES:** Board informational packets contained YTD Profit & Loss Reports only. Jon reported that communications were ongoing between himself and UMECRA's newly appointed Treasurer Deb Moe, and Secretary Bruce Birr and that things seemed to be transitioning smoothly and efficiently. Deb would provide a more detailed update concerning the Sec./Treas. split and transition agenda item under Old Business. Jon requested that with the transition taking place between the Secretary and Treasurers positions we forego approval of the Treasures Report (with updated P&L Reports and Balance Sheet summaries) for now and have the updated reports approved at a later date by use of the egroup account. There was no dissent so the request was approved by unanimous consent.
- **2019 SILENT AUCTION INCOME & DISTRIBUTION:** The 2019 Silent Auction raised a total \$3,322.00. The monies were distributed per board policy to: Trail Grant Fund; \$2,076.25, Convention Fund; \$830.50 and Scholarship Fund; \$415.25. A huge **THANK YOU** to the organizers of the convention and a special shout out and **thanks to Jessie Zerbel** who managed and hosted the Silent Auction.
- **INSURANCE UPDATE:** Jon presented information on moving our insurance period from March 15-March 15<sup>th</sup>, to an earlier date. Earlier coverage dates would allow for RM'S with early ride dates to receive insurance certificates a bit earlier to show proof of insurance to their respective DNR's, etc. Jon also stated that increasing insurance coverage from \$1 million to \$3 million (more venues are requiring the higher coverage amount) would cost the club about \$1,000 more annually. Discussions about this information took place, including how the increase in costs would be paid for, and led to a motion by Peggy to move the coverage period to Feb. 15 to Feb. 15 for next year, as well as increase coverage amounts as noted above. Motion was seconded by Max and the motion was approved by the Board.
- **TRAIL GRANTS/SPONSORSHIPS:** Trail grant requests received since January's BoD meeting and approved via Board egroup included: Rock River Trail and Horseman's Assoc. in Illinois and Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park in Minnesota. Each group will receive grants totaling \$300.00 apiece. Jon received a request from The Friends of Governor Dodge State Park asking for a sponsorship donation from UMECRA. Our club has supported their fund-raising efforts in the past and after some discussion the Board approved a \$100.00 sponsorship be made to them. Motion to approve the sponsorship was made by Jen and seconded by Peggy. Theresa reminded Board members and guests to promote the use of the Trail Grant Fund (fund balance @ \$5000.00)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **SCHEDULE UPDATES:** The recent request to sanction the Michigan Tin Cup Ride was denied when it failed to meet the 2/3rds majority approval of all Ride Managers. The UMECRA BoD approved sending the request to all RM's for a vote unaware that an understanding had been made between Michigan ride managers **NOT** to hold four rides consecutively. It was noted that had the Board known this beforehand, it would not have approved the initial sanctioning request which would have eliminated the forwarding of it to all RM's. Jon has ideas on how to adjust the current sanctioning guidelines and rules so that similar scenarios won't happen again in the future. He will share those thoughts and ideas with the Board via the egroup for further discussion.
- **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** Nicole reported that the current membership number is 236, comprised of 34 family memberships, 123 single memberships and 5 Junior Only memberships.
- **MEMBERSHIP BOOK:** Jon reminded the Board that it had agreed to publish membership directories every two years and that we are due for a new one in 2020. Costs were discussed and Theresa will look into getting a quote for 200 ride books from the printer she uses for the RM's and Vet's Handbook (cost to publish in 2018: \$683.56). Any publication of a membership book would not be available until mid to late June or after most paid memberships are complete.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **RIDER FEES:** After a bit of discussion, a motion was made by Kim and seconded by Laurie to not charge rides in 2019 that owed \$2.50 for rider fee shortages. This motion passed. The remaining rides (n=4) who erroneously paid too little in rider fees, will be sent a letter requesting those fees.
- **VETERINARIAN REPRESENTATIVE:** (current board position is vacant) Dr. Lorenz shared some information about herself and her thoughts about possibly working with and helping our club. Jon suggested that the board might consider recruiting a veterinarian in more of an advisory role vs. a full-time vet member status required by the bylaws until a veterinarian could be found to fill the position in the traditional method/manner. The board could discuss this concept further on the egroup if necessary.
- **SEC./TREAS. POSITION APPOINTMENT and UPDATE:** Please note: The general membership agreed to the official splitting of the Sec./Treas. position at the 2020 Annual Meeting into separate Secretary and Treasurer positions and approved having the BoD vet any candidates interested in either position. In mid-January Bruce Birr, Deb Moe and a third candidate applied for the Treasurers position and after careful consideration, the BoD offered the position of Interim UMECRA Treasurer to Deb which she accepted and Bruce agreed to continue to serve on the Board as UMECRA's Secretary. Since the Interim Treasurers position is an appointed position, Deb will have all board privileges with the exception of board voting rights. Bruce, in his elected position as Secretary will retain all board privileges including board voting rights. The position of Treasurer will accrue full voting and board privileges at the next election for Officers of the Board of Directors.  
Jon indicated that the bylaw changes needed to reflect the approved changes to the Secretary and Treasurers positions are in draft form and will be published soon for members to review prior to the 2021 Annual Meeting where they will be proposed for approval by the general membership.  
**Treasurer Update;** Deb shared that the transition of funds and the opening of new accounts was going smoothly. Associated Banks will be the club's new financial institution. Deb anticipates she'll be ready to assume full Treasurer responsibilities as soon as the fund transfers are complete.
- **1000 MILE HORSE PROGRAM:** The 1000-mile horse program was briefly reviewed and discussed. A related possible fee increase was postponed to later in the meeting when discussion would center on an overall view of finances.

- **DATA INTEGRITY:** Data integrity was again touched on for discussion, with some changes suggested to UMECRA Rule 5-A, Reporting. A motion was made by Tony and seconded by Bruce to adopt those changes, after a brief discussion, (the rules committee will work on the proper verbiage to reflect the proposed changes), the motion was approved. *PROPOSED CHANGES ITALITIZED: "UMECRA ride results, "per rider" reporting fees must be sent to the Treasurer postmarked within 14 days of the ride date. Late submissions of results and/or fees will result in a \$50 late fee. Ride Managers that submit ride results in an unacceptable format (i.e. improper file, data out of order, incorrect or incomplete or incoherent information) will have said results returned to them with an explanation of what needs to be corrected. Corrected results must be resubmitted within 14 days of return date or the ride will be assessed a \$50 late fee. Submission of ride results that require further interventions/corrections by the UMECRA Points Keeper will result in a \$50 corrections fee."*
- **LD PROPOSAL:** Jon reviewed the recent BoD egroup discussions concerning possible LD proposals. These discussions included the increasing of awards offered to LD riders through weight divisions and/or an expanded number of LD Hi Point awards (16-20) and how any additional awards could be paid for. The current awards program is operating at a deficit and adding any awards will increase the gap between award income (rider fees) and award costs. Ride entries have been declining for ten consecutive years (1,955 in 2019) while award costs continue to rise.  
The board then began a lengthy discussion revolving around how to provide additional awards in LD, reduce/minimize the awards deficit gap, and look at and review other facets of the club's income spectrum. This discussion led to the following actions being taken by the board:
  - 1) increase the membership dues in 2021 to \$45 for a family, \$35 for individual. Junior dues would remain at \$15. Motion by Peggy, seconded by Tony. **Motion passed**, will forward proposal to 2021 Annual meeting.
  - 2) a motion to raise the sanctioning fee from \$40 to \$45 was made by Nicole and seconded by Peggy. This **was approved** for forwarding to the 2021 Annual Meeting.
  - 3) increase the 1000 Mile Horse nomination fee from \$10 to \$20 in 2021, with income from these fees going directly to the awards budget. Motion made by Peggy, second by Theresa. **Motion passed** and will be forwarded as well.
  - 4) LD Proposal #1: "Select 8 / Sweet 16" motion made by Lynda, seconded by Theresa to have Hi Point Awards in Comp and Endurance drop from 10 to 8 placings in both Hwt. and Lwt divisions, LD Hi Point Awards would go to 16 w/o weight divisions. Reduce all existing Restricted Mileage categories from 6 placings to 5 and increase Res. Mileage LD to 10 places. (reduction of awards in Comp, End. and Res. Mi. would help offset costs of new awards for LD). **Motion failed**.
  - 5) LD Proposal #2: Further discussion led to a motion by Laurie, second by Kim to create an "Elite Eight" format for top awards in End., Comp., and LD with weight divisions in every category (48 total awards vs. current 50). **Motion passed**.  
(Board took a 10-minute break here.)  
After the break, Peggy asked the board to *rescind* the previous motion and explained her concerns. Sarah seconded the motion and the board voted (2/3rds majority vote required) and agreed to rescind the previous motion (LD Proposal #2).
  - 6) LD Proposal #3: Peggy proposed a motion, seconded by Sarah, to keep the current system of awarding Top Ten in Comp. Hwt. & Lwt., Endurance Hwt., and Lwt. and adding weight divisions to LD and raise the minimum mileage requirement from a point-based minimum to a miles-based minimum. **Motion failed**.
  - 7) LD Proposal #4: After further discussion a motion was made by Nicole and seconded by Tony to present the following options to the membership at the next Annual Meeting: a) use the "Elite 8" awards concept with weight divisions in all three categories (Comp., End., and LD), raise the minimum requirements to attain an award and change the requirements from a points minimum to a miles based minimum keeping rider

fees at \$2.50 or; b) Give awards to Top Ten in all three categories, including weight divisions in all three, raise minimum requirements as in option a, and raise rider fees by \$1.00 or more. **Motion passed.**

8) A discussion of what level to set minimum mileage requirements yielded the following: Nicole and Bruce moved and seconded that the Endurance Restricted Mileage category minimum requirements be set at 200 miles, maximum miles, 295. Comp and LD Res. Mi. categories minimum requirements be set at 100 miles and a maximum of 195. **Motion passed.**

9) Tony and Peggy moved and seconded respectively that Hi Point Awards for Endurance the minimum mileage requirement be set at 250 miles. **Motion passed.**

10) Peggy and Max respectively moved and seconded that the minimum mileage requirements for Hi Point Comp and LD awards be set at 150 miles. **Motion passed.**

**OUT of REGION RIDES:** Regarding the Out of Region Rides discussion and proposal, Jon suggested that we continue to fine tune that, and as it was getting late in the day, the board was good with that.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Tony presented some information/scoring parameters that AHA and other organizations use in scoring gut sounds for Comp rides/competition. This information is being forwarded to our Rules Committee to draft a scoring system for gut sounds compatible with UMECRA's needs and future consideration.
- A proposed change to the Jan Scott Family Award was explained by Peggy, the idea being to expand the family unit to include adult sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle but not to exceed two adults. A motion and second by Peggy and Jen respectively were eventually withdrawn by Peggy after further board discussion. Jon asked that if there was continued interest in potential changes to the award that they be forwarded to the November board meeting for consideration.

The remainder of the meeting was spent addressing the issues related to the Corona virus (Covid-19) and its potential effects on the ride schedule/season. It was decided that the board will monitor developments and that the board would discuss and act via the egroup account as needed. All ride managers will need to be kept informed of developments and any board decisions/discussions.

### **ADJORNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm upon approval of such motion made by Kim and seconded by Peggy.

/s/ Bruce A. Birr, Secretary

## UMECRA Board Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2020

**Call to Order:** The meeting was held virtually via ZOOM, and was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 8:05 am, CST. Also in attendance were board members Sandra Wright (MI rep and Zoom facilitator); Secretary Bruce Burr; Rider reps Jen Moore, Maxine Bernsdorf, Lynda Zimmerman, and Kim Fosler; Directors at Large Bill Suskey and Peggy Pasillas; Veterinary rep Dr. Jennifer Lorenz; Theresa Meyer (past President); Sarah Maas (MN rep); Vice-President Tony Troyer; and Laurie Henschel (WI rep, 10 am). Others in attendance were Robin Schadt (Points Keeper), Jan Sasena (Awards), Nicole Mauser-Storer (IL rep and Webmaster), and Deb Moe (Treasurer).

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the previous meeting in March had already been approved by the board via email, and there was unanimous consent to accept them as approved.

### **General Business Items:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Deb Moe presented a Profit & Loss update that was thorough and detailed. A motion by Tony with a second by Kim was approved by the board to accept the report.

There was discussion on Fees, especially for one ride which was and is routinely late with ride fees. The board approved a motion by Tony with second by Peggy for Jon to draft a letter to that ride manager stating that their ride(s) would not be re-sanctioned without them paying all of their fees in full. There was also discussion on the topic of sanctioning fees which were not received by the February 1 deadline. No action was taken as this is already addressed in our rules.

**Secretary's Report:** As there were no trail grant requests received, there was nothing to report.

**Ride Calendar / Sanctioning Updates:** Until a new Sanctioning Coordinator (S.C.) is chosen, Jon temporarily has been and is willing to continue to do the sanctioning for the 2021 ride season. The Executive Board can appoint someone to this position, but as there were two people who applied for the S.C. job, it was decided that the board would elect the S.C. After discussion and a vote, Theresa Meyer was selected to take this over.

- - - - The meeting broke or recessed for about 20 minutes

A Points Keeper also needed to be selected for the coming year, and Robin stated that she was willing and able to continue doing that, the board approved a motion by Bruce with second from Maxine for her to fill that role in 2021 and 2022.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Convention Report:** Due to the Coronavirus pandemic status, the in-person "convention" will not take place in January, 2021. The venue was able to be retained and is slated to be held January 21-22, 2022. There was discussion on possible speakers and topics.

**Awards Committee:** Awards costs and income were discussed. Due to the pandemic, it was decided to use 2020 rider fees as the basis for 2020 awards. This income was about \$2,400 this year. After discussion the board approved a motion by Tony which was seconded by Kim that awards would be limited to \$40, with the rider paying for any award costs above that. Awards chosen which were under the set amount would be made up by a gift card to one of the following: Distance Depot, Riding Warehouse, or the UMECRA Store.

### **Old Business:**

**Treasurer and Secretary Position Split:** It was decided that the ultimate language of these bylaws and rule book changes will be discussed and finalized within the board io group.

**Out of Region Rides:** Jon asked for this to be postponed to the March meeting, and the board approved a motion by Tony with second by Lynda to do so.

**Data Integrity:** After discussion, a motion made by Tony and seconded by Peggy, was rescinded. The new motion by Tony and seconded by Bill, was approved by the board. This motion was to send the language changes back to committee for finalizing, with board approval to follow in the io group. (This involves several portions of rules and bylaws involving rider fees, fee and ride results payment dates, etc.)

The resulting language approved by the board was as follows:

A. UMECRA ride results, ~~per rider reporting~~, and insurance fees must be sent to the ~~secretary~~ treasurer postmarked within 14 **15 calendar** days **of the ride** with a penalty of \$50 for non-compliance and denial of re-sanctioning the following year if the penalty is not paid. **Ride results must also be sent to the Points Keeper. Ride Managers submitting ride results in an unacceptable format (i.e. improper file, data out of order, incorrect or incomplete or incoherent information) will have results returned to them with an explanation of what needs to be corrected. Corrected results must be resubmitted within 14 calendar days of the return date. ~~or the ride will be assessed a \$50 late fee.~~ Submission of ride results that require further interventions/corrections by the UMECRA Points Keeper will result in a \$50 corrections fee.** The UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer shall report to the UMECRA Board on rides with outstanding bills 21 **calendar** days past the ride date.

B. If results, or any ride fees, ~~late fees~~, and/or insurance payments are not received within 30 **calendar** days of the ride date, sanctioning for future rides, including rides in the same year ~~may~~ **will** be forfeited, as determined by the UMECRA Board. **If fees are not received within 6 weeks of the ride date, sanctioning for future rides will be denied.** In addition, eligibility to vote as a ride representative (as ride manager and for all ride delegates) may be forfeited for board meetings and the annual membership meeting for **a** twelve month period commencing on the last day of the ride.

C. Every rider who starts will be reported according to divisions (heavyweight, lightweight and Junior).

**LD Proposals:** After discussion, it was decided that the language needed to be massaged into final wording which will then be approved by the board via the io group.

**Minimum Milage Proposal:** Jon presented his thoughts on potential changes to what was shown in the agenda, and after discussion the board approved a motion by Jon and seconded by Sarah to present the following to the membership for consideration at the annual meeting:

High Point Awards (Elite Eight or Top Ten); Endurance would have a minimum mileage requirement of 200 miles to be considered for High Point awards, with Competitive and LD being set the same (200 miles).

Restricted Milage Awards: The minimum mileage requirement for Endurance would be set at 200 miles, with the maximum remaining at 295 miles. Minimum mileage requirements for Competitive and LD would be set at 150 miles, with the maximum remaining at 195 miles.

- - - - - Another break/recess was held from 12:55 – 1:06 pm CST

**Fee Increases:** After discussion, the board approved a motion by Bruce and seconded by Theresa to increase membership fees beginning with those for the 2022 ride season to: \$45 for family and \$35 for individual, with Junior fees remaining at \$15. The board also approved a motion by Jen and seconded by Laurie that beginning in the 2022 ride season, sanctioning fees increase to \$45 (from \$40 currently). The board also approved a motion by Jen and seconded by Kim that beginning in 2021, the nomination fee for entering a horse in the 1,000 Mile Horse program be increased to \$20, with all such nomination income going into the Awards budget/fund.

**New Business:**

**Ride Entry Form:** Anyone wanting to send Nicole suggestions for improving the ride entry form should do so. She has the document in Word format and can make changes.

**Elections for 2021:** Elections to be held in January include Vice-President (2-yr term), Secretary (3-yr term, if bylaw changes are approved), Treasurer (2-yr term), and the IL and MI reps. Jon sought input from those present on their interest in (or not) continuing in those roles.

**Hall of Fame / Shining Light Awards:** Nominations were mentioned (HoF only as there were none for Shining Light), with voting to take place via email to Jon.

**Annual Meeting Plans:** A LOT of discussion went into this! The board approved a motion by Tony with second by Bruce that the annual meeting in January, 2021 be done virtually only, due to the pandemic, and was to take place on January 23, with a virtual board meeting to be held at 8 am CST on January 9. Starting time(s) for the annual meeting are to be decided on the board's io group.

Many details need to be worked out prior to the annual meeting, and these include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- clear meeting attendance information
- calendar approval methods and procedures
- presentation and voting of proposals
- elections and voting methods
- ride managers/delegates attendance

An Annual Meeting Committee was formed, with Sandra Wright as Chair, and also including Nicole, Deb, Jen, Bruce, Bill, and others as interested.

**Announcements:** There were none.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm CST upon motion of Tony and second by Kim.