

February/March
2016

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



How the Board Does It's Business

The Board of Directors has 3 meetings a year. One in the spring, usually March, though this year's Spring meeting may be in April. There is also one in November and one the morning of the annual meeting in January. Our agenda comes from past meetings, new items from Board members, and UMECRA member submitted items. There are committee reports as well.

Members can submit items for the board meetings to any board member. Board members are responsible for passing it along to the executive board and get it on the agenda for the next meeting. Members may attend the Board meetings, and if they have comments may or may not be called on during the meeting for specific topics. While I have been president I've tried hard to make time for the member attending the meeting to make a comment about a specific area of interest for attending the meeting. A time for member comment can not be guaranteed during the Board meeting, we will continue to strive for input. Contacting Board members ahead of meetings is always a great idea!

Items that get to the annual meeting are the reports from the Secretary/Treasurer, Promotions & Publicity Committee, International Competitions Fund (ICF) and any ad hoc committees that might be formed during the year. There may be resolutions from previous years. Often there are proposed rule changes and other resolutions, and sometimes there are bylaw changes. The items that are voted on at the annual meeting come from members, the board, a situation that developed over a year or two, or sometimes the AERC. Previous to the annual meeting the board discusses each item, and usually there is a vote. The items that come to the annual meeting are not necessarily Board endorsed. Often they are, but there are some where the board is split on a topic and they need member input and a vote. Sometimes the Board believes a member has a valid idea, and they want it presented to the membership at the annual meeting.

There are also times when decisions can't wait for the annual meeting and the Board uses a yahoo group for discussion and voting, and rarely a conference call. We will strive to report more on votes that happen online with the Board.

Sincerely,

Theresa Meyer



Sponsors of the UMECRA Top 10 Mileage Award

Important Notice: The spring BOD meeting will be held on March 19th at the Wintergreen Resort in WI Dells where the convention was held in January. The meeting will start at 9am.

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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.*
 - 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, not 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 11th 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 1st. 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 fourth 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

			Jan 3, 16	Jan 3, 15	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS						
	Current Assets					
		Checking/Savings				
		Convention fund	6,583.24	5,171.97	1,411.27	27.29%
		ICF Fund	7,943.07	7,730.48	212.59	2.75%
		Mayville Savings Bank	19,452.35	20,185.91	-733.56	-3.63%
		Trail checking	3,837.44	4,192.19	-354.75	-8.46%
		Total Checking/Savings	37,816.10	37,280.55	535.55	1.44%
	Total Current Assets		37,816.10	37,280.55	535.55	1.44%
TOTAL ASSETS			37,816.10	37,280.55	535.55	1.44%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY						
	Equity					
		Opening Bal Equity	16,860.34	16,860.34	0.00	0.0%
		Retained Earnings	20,190.76	20,420.21	-229.45	-1.12%
		Net Income	765.00	0.00	765.00	100.0%
	Total Equity		37,816.10	37,280.55	535.55	1.44%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY			37,816.10	37,280.55	535.55	1.44%



Doctor Wes Elford – UMECRA Hall of Fame

I have known Doctor Wes Elford since 2005 but his involvement with the sport of Endurance Riding goes a lot further back than the ten years I've known him. It is hard to pin point exactly when Doctor Wes became involved in his first endurance ride, since AERC does not track this statistic, but as a starting point let us say circa 1996 somewhere in the state of Wisconsin. Since the beginning he has been outstanding ambassador for the sport through riding, vetting, volunteering or legislating rides and committees in nearly every region within the US. He has accumulated more than 2,600 riding miles. He has vetted nearly 100 different rides. He has introduced and mentored nearly 30 different veterinarians into the sport. He has been active in multiple executive committees at the local, regional and national levels. He is an active member of a thriving vet practice in Mayville Wisconsin and trains and conditions his own endurance horses – Suzy Q and Malik. That is just part of the recorded history on Doctor Wes's involvement in the sport. Here is how he impacts others and the sport in a more personal and character fashioning way. Something we are most familiar with:

Teacher – Wes takes time to explain rules to anyone who asks no matter the level of experience, or age or talent of the rider.

Mentor – He is constantly looking for new opportunities to bring veterinarians into the sport.

Rule interpreter – He understands all the endurance disciplines and knows the rules for each. He can be counted on for sound guidance in everything from competitive trail, to endurance; from competitive driving to multiday pioneer rides; from novice to FEI level competition.

Rule enforcer – Wes is no respecter of persons meaning he treats everyone the same, with the utmost respect, equality and dignity. He always plays by the rules which emboldens the integrity of the sport to all.

Care giver – He constantly checks on every equine being completed on before, during, and after an event; often asking to see horse before departing the grounds for home.

Controlling agent – He routinely gives out helpful suggestions to the equine's owner, rider, or handler with the ultimate goal of making for a successful completion for the horse and rider.

Encourager -- Wes is always ready with a kind word of encouragement and a hearty handshake for all participants.

Experienced – As of today there are no veterinarians with more ride and vet experience than Doctor Wes within the country.

Doctor Wes has dedicated his time, effort and resources to help make this sport what it is today. That man who is a consummate professional in any environment, during any scenario, and sometimes under very stressful circumstances. Doctor Wes Elford a righteous man who takes care of his animals. –Gerald Cummings

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2016 Convention Thanks!

Thanks to DRAW for hosting the 2016 UMECRA convention! Special thanks to Katie Bachhuber, Barb Gardner and Jill Feller for all the time they put in. Thanks to the awards committee of Max Bernsdorf, Carol Wagner, Linda Jacobson, Robin Schadt and Jon Wagner for making the bases for the statues. Great Applause to Silent Auction Wranglers: Jessie Zirbel, Laurie Henschel and Lisa Docter. Also thanks to AHDR for the Friday night food and festivities. Much appreciation goes to you who attended convention and to those of you who donated or solicited donations for the Silent Auction. The 2017 Convention will be in Rochester, MN on January 27 & 28! Mark your calendars now!

UMECRA Conventions 2017 & Beyond

The planners of our next two conventions told the Board of Directors in January that roommates of less than \$100 are probably a thing of the past for our annual gathering. The board would like to pass this information on now, so that when rates are published you are not surprised. Thank you!



RIDERS CHOICE Award Winner: **CH SHAMM BASHIRE - AKA BAD ANDY**
"FOR SALE"
ENDURANCE PROSPECT
15 HAND BAY EGYPTIAN ARAB GELDING DOB 3-29-98
TRAIL BROKE - NO SHOES NECESSARY
INDEPENDENT - ASSERTIVE - TRAILERS WELL - CAUTION - WILL BITE!

2004 New horse needed. I have rules about "how to buy a horse".

Rule# 1 Interpret the ad. If the ad says "Endurance prospect" RUN - means no one else can ride it.

"Trail broke" means was ridden outside the barn once or twice.

"No shoes necessary" means my farrier won't go near him.

"Independent" means guaranteed uncatchable.

"Assertive" means he is a BOSS HOSS.

"Trailers well" means only if you have rubber padding 6 feet high inside trailer.

Rule # 2 Never take the trailer along when you go to LOOK at the horse..

So - when my gray mare was having hoof issues I needed a backup horse to ride. Someone had a 7 yr old, trail broke gelding that needed a new home.

SUNDAY afternoon I hooked up the trailer and went to SEE "Andrew." Small, scrawny, bay and handsome. Oh, oh!

Rule # 3 Always ask the seller to ride the horse.

That went OK. Had to ask the seller to remove the tie down, martingale, etc and give me operating instructions. Rode Andrew for 15 minutes.

Rule # 4 Have a set price in mind.

Made an offer. It was accepted!

Rule # 5 If I can load it - I will buy it.

Andrew walked into the trailer and I took him to his new home.

WEDNESDAY - Andrew had two days to acclimate to his new home. Time now to fit him with his own saddle & tack. I rode him for 15 minutes.

FRIDAY – Loaded horses in the trailer and hauled to the Northern Highland ride competition. Mare was lame and didn't vet through. Bright idea – ride the new gelding. Andy placed 4th. OK! Hauled 100 miles south to get shoes put on him because he now had a job.

Next step was lots of trail riding to condition the scrawny bay gelding, that did NOT look like a distance horse. Just one small problem. Every time I mounted, his back went up and his head went down. Does the term "cold backed" come to mind? My solution? He just needs more miles.

Off we go to an organized trail ride. Trail riders do not rise and ride before noon, so Andy and I went out by ourselves. We rode Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening, and planned a short ride for Sunday morning.

Well, Andy protested. He bucked! HARD! The ground was also hard. He left me lying in the gravel and ran off to eat breakfast with the trail horses while their riders slept. I found and caught him, remounted and proceeded to do a loooong ride. The black and blue rider had to take two months off. My new solution to the problem? Have someone lead him 20 feet until his back relaxed, then ride with a tight rein at the back of pack so he could be stopped. He had earned his "Bad Andy" name!

2005 New season. New tack. New attitude.

Our 1st ride of the season was at North Kettle Moraine. We rode Comp with friend Linda J. Andy was way too fast, so I let him run ahead to "burn off steam". Black hole in trail! Andy stops! I do not - Over his head I went, but I held fast to his reins, knowing full well he would leave me there in the dirt.

My finger snapped and I lost the reins. Andy galloped back toward camp for "help". I walked. Met Linda J and new friend Jennifer P leading him. They helped me remount as my finger was obviously broken. I straightened the finger and finished the ride with the help of Vet Wrap. I went to see the Dr. that Monday. Andy was fine. This was the start of our serious competitive riding.

2006 New problem.

I started noticing his left eye was cloudy. Veterinarian's diagnosis.....his allergies had attacked his eye. He received a surgical implant of medication in his eye, as well as medication applied in his eye twice a day. Did I mention that he was allergic to everything topical? Wool saddle pad, neoprene, topical aids such as Green Cool, shampoo, etc. all caused a reaction. I managed to deal with that. All was well UNTIL! I brought him in from pasture for the night. He was standing at gate on three legs with a LARGE three corner tear exposing the tendons on his left hind leg. Obviously the gray mare had taken revenge! Andy spent TWO YEARS OFF to heal and developed a huge scar.

2009 – 2012 Back on trail! New plan. New goal.

Andy becomes King! Just do it his way and all is well. We are on a winning competitive career. We have three thousand plus miles under saddle, are consistently in the Top 10 in UMECRA, and claimed two Championship jackets. He was the Champion Heavyweight Competitive Horse in GLDRA, Top eight in DRAW, and earned championships in AHR & AHDRA. That's my boy!

In 2009 we decided to take on the challenge of Shore to Shore. That year we only rode three days. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, we completed all seven days, and in 2012, riding with good friend Leslie, we won the Shore to Shore Competitive ride. What an adventure!! Life is good!

2013 New goals.

Rider is lame! Unable to ride long distances, Andy got a new job leading Novice riders down the trail. Novices Beware! Do not dare to pass! Ears back and cobra neck extended, Bad Andy set the pace, found the trail and showed them how competitive riding was done. We made many new friends and had fun doing it.

We also spent a relaxing week of trail riding in the Black Hills of South Dakota. We rode through a "hole in the rock" and managed our way down a "Man from Snowy River" trail. Over mountains, rocks, logs and water, Andy carried me without a mishap. Through cattle and past deer, always taking care of his rider, Andy was happy to be doing his job. There was no more "cold back". While still able to buck and bite, Andy and I are looking forward to another seven years!

2014

Seriously back to competition. The goal this year being to sponsor a Jr rider and ride 1000 miles, and, have fun doing it! My Jr rider completed 1030 miles. Due to this riders decisions Andy completed 795, a bit short of 1000. Enough to place 3rd in UMECRA top 10 mileage, second in UMECRA LD division, third in GLDRA, second in DRAW, first in AHDRA, first in AERC regional and third in AERC National. Lifetime miles are now 4001 and we are looking forward to many more.

2015

I promised Andy a "vacation" this year. Out major goal was to again ride the Black Hills of South Dakota. We did the trip with good friends and great adventures! Also rode UMECRA competitive, this time as a light weight rider. Andy teamed up with his mare friend, Missy and we had a fun and wonderful ride. We did manage to place in top 10 UMECRA, top eight in DRAW, 3rd in GLDRA and reserve champion purebred in AHDRA. We completed 500 miles this year with only fun in mind and are working toward 5000 lifetime miles.

Our goal for 2016 is a vacation riding in Kentucky and MORE FUN!

My favorite ride and this RIDERS CHOICE is BAD ANDY!

Max p.s. NOT for sale!



Q. What's the difference between feeding baled or pelleted hay?

A. Hay pellets can offer a convenient way to feed the forage portion of your horse's diet, and they have a number of benefits. However there are some important cons to consider. The following pros-and-cons list includes things I keep in mind when deciding if hay pellets would be a good choice for a client's barn or horse.

Pros

Due to their condensed nature, hay pellets take up less storage area than an equal weight of baled hay. This can be a real benefit if storage space is limited and you want to buy bulk quantities of feed. You might even be able to secure a lower price when buying in bulk.

Bagged hay pellets typically come with at least a minimal analysis. Bagged feeds, including hay pellets, are generally required to at least have a minimal analysis on the bag tag that states protein, fat, fiber, and ash content.

Most people have no analysis on the baled hay they are feeding, so the pellet tag offers at least some minimal nutrition information.

Pellets are often considered weed-free. Any seeds in the hay are exposed to heat, which is necessary to form and extrude the pellets. This heat renders seeds unable to germinate. If you're going trail riding for the day or overnight in a preserved wilderness area, weed-free feed is required to prevent the introduction of nonnative plant species. Additionally, manure from horses fed weed-free feed might be easier to dispose of with companies that need manure for compost.

Pellets are usually less dusty than hay. This can be a big benefit for equine respiratory health, especially for horses with conditions such as recurrent airway obstruction (or heaves). Eating pelleted hay might also help horses that have grass pollen allergies.

Easier to chew. This can be a huge benefit for horses with poor dentition that are no longer able to chew long-stem hay well. Being unable to properly chew hay causes quidding (dropping wads of partly chewed feed from his mouth) and can lead to an increased choke risk.

Easier to digest. Smaller particle size results in greater surface area for enzymes and bacteria to work on. This allows for digestion of a greater proportion of the feed, which can help horses that struggle to maintain weight. It also means less manure production, because more of the feed is utilized (an important consideration for some barns).

Fortified hay pellets. Some companies fortify their hay pellets, essentially creating a complete feed. Unlike feeding hay alone, this insures that trace mineral and vitamin needs are met and removes the need for additional micronutrient supplementation.

Cons

Reduced chewing. This is my biggest concern about switching from hay to hay pellets. Because the hay is chopped prior to pellet formation, it takes far less chewing to consume a set weight of pellets compared to the same weight of hay. Chewing is important because it causes release of saliva, and saliva contains high concentrations of calcium and sodium bicarbonate, both of which act to buffer stomach acid. Horses evolved to eat for the majority of hours in the day and as a result secrete stomach acid constantly whether they're eating or not. In their natural setting, this constant stomach acid release is countered by the almost constant release of calcium and bicarbonate in saliva. When saliva production is reduced due to reduced chewing, the horse has less buffering capacity against the stomach acid and is potentially at a greater risk of developing gastric ulcers.

Increased boredom risk. Because it takes less time to eat pellets than hay there's the chance of your horse getting bored. When they get bored, some horses develop stereotypical behaviors such as cribbing, weaving, or stall walking, which are undesirable.

Greater feed utilization. You might be surprised to see me consider this as a con, but for an easier keeper the greater digestibility of hay pellets might mean greater weight gain and a need to reduce calorie intake. If you're only feeding hay pellets then the only way to cut calories is to reduce the amount of pellets fed. This exacerbates the issues of chewing and boredom.

Choke. Some horses seem to have a greater choke risk when fed pellets. Wet these horses' pellets prior to feeding, and feed them in a wide shallow bucket or tub to prevent gorging large amounts in one mouthful.

Final Thoughts

Hay pellets also make a great base for supplements and are an easy way to introduce a controlled amount of forage in to a ration when you want to feed less than a flake. Many people find a middle ground feeding part of their horse's forage needs as hay pellets (e.g., their lunch meal). In the end whether you feed hay or hay pellets comes down to each individual horse and weighing the pros and cons against that horse's situation.



UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND
COMPETITIVE RIDE ASSOCIATION
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JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

\$10/year

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Check one: RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBERSHIP _____

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UMECRA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER(S): _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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Email: _____

Please mail completed form along with check made out to UMECRA to: Jill Feller, N9280 County Road TW, Mayville WI 53050

IF you are a junior member and have already paid for a single membership at \$25, please contact Jill Feller at: jfeller@nconnect.net and you will receive a \$15 refund. The Junior membership form does not include the annual ridebook.



REVIEWING THE PROPOSED BYLAWS

A majority of people would likely agree that the most important document for the members of any organization is its bylaws. They define the fundamental framework of the organization and establish how the organization will function day-to-day. The actual success of the organization depends on the members agreeing to its fundamental rules.

During the recent 2016 Annual Meeting the UMECRA Board of Directors (BOD) presented a large number of proposed changes to the current bylaws of the organization. These proposed changes came from the work and input of a number of different people with interest in the management of UMECRA. Some of the proposals came from individual members directly, while a large portion came about on the suggestions of Arthur Priesz (former UMECRA officer and current pro bono legal counsel), and still others came from a "bylaw committee" delegated by the BOD to review and frame the language for the proposals. All of the proposed changes were clearly brought forward with the intent of positively enhancing the viability of the current bylaws.

If you were in attendance at the meeting, or have read the minutes of the meeting, you know that some of the proposed changes referred to as "housekeeping changes" actually passed and are now a part of our bylaws. However, a much larger portion of the proposed changes were postponed until the 2017 annual meeting. After considerable debate and discussion, the consensus of the members present was to table the changes until the 2017 meeting so that members could use the time to thoroughly read and understand the proposals and their potential impact on the current version of the bylaws.

Over the course of the next ten to eleven months the members of UMECRA will need to read and interpret the tabled proposals and those members eligible to vote will need to prepare to cast their votes on these

proposals at the 2017 annual meeting. In an effort to help members work their way through this large body of information, the BOD asked the bylaw committee to break down the proposed changes into manageable pieces, provide rationale for the changes, gather input from members, and eventually develop a way to present them in an efficient and meaningful way at the 2017 annual meeting for voting to take place. Beginning with the April issue of the UMECRA newsletter, the bylaw committee will begin a series of articles highlighting the individual sections of the proposed changes. As mentioned earlier, these articles will provide the rationale for the changes being discussed and offer an opinion by the committee on how the proposed changes would impact the current bylaw language. In addition, the committee is encouraging anyone with questions, suggestions, or feedback about the process or any of the proposed changes to contact board members, bylaw committee members, or your rider representatives at any time during this review process.

The entire BOD looks forward to working through the review process with the membership and is encouraged by the possibilities of creating a set of bylaws that will continue to reflect the strength and uniqueness of UMECRA. Members can find a draft of the proposed changes on the UMECRA website. There is much to be done, but together we can persevere!

Members of the Bylaw Committee include;

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The ABCs of Icing

Icing isn't just for elite athletes, be they horse or human. "Weekend warriors," those horses that stand around all week, then are worked hard on the trail or rail on the weekend, are prime candidates for ice therapy. But too often, trainers and riders skip this important step. That's something I don't understand: Ice isn't expensive; the only cost is time.

In my barn, you'll see us icing horses every day. Not every horse gets iced every day. I generally ice one after a hard workout and after a hard show day. Here are some tips for how to do it. (Note: These tips are for routine, post-workout icing only. If your horse has suffered an injury that requires icing, consult with your veterinarian for guidelines.)

- We generally wet down a horse's legs before we ice them, to prevent "ice burn."
- You're usually safe putting cubed ice directly on your horse's wet skin. (I'll give you some tips for doing so, plus some other options.) But if you're using a rigid or flexible ice pack, put a cotton cloth or towel between it and his skin.
- We ice both front and/or hind legs for about 20 minutes to half an hour at a time. (You can over-do it. Check with your vet before icing for any longer.)
- One of the most cost-effective ways to ice legs is by cutting a pants leg off a pair of old jeans or slacks to act as an "ice sleeve." Put your horse's leg through it. Use a wrap (or duct tape) to seal the pants leg around his pastern, and then fill the pants leg with ice.
- Bags of frozen peas or corn also make good ice packs. Simply put a layer of cotton cloth between the bag and your horse's leg, and hold the pack in place with a polo wrap.
- If you like, you can invest in commercial icing products. Ice boots are available that contain pockets into which you can pour water and freeze. Such boots allow you to target specific areas on your horse's legs with ice therapy and are generally available for under \$100 per pair.
- Commercial boots that use built-in gel cells, or removable ones, that stay cold are super-convenient. You store the boots or gel cells in a plastic bag in the freezer, and then simply apply them to your horse's legs as you would a typical boot. No melting ice! Such boots are generally under \$100 per pair. Tip: If you're showing within about a half-hour or so from home, apply gel-cell boots to your horses' legs for the trailer ride home. And voila—they're iced! • If you get caught somewhere with no access to ice or commercial icing products, plain old cold water can help cool down legs. Simply use a hose to apply cold, running water to your horse's lower legs for 15 to 20 minutes.

The final word: Icing your horse's legs doesn't have to be complicated. In fact, I hope the tips I've given you here make you realize how simple (and inexpensive) it can be. Do the right thing by his legs. It'll pay off in the long run.

- See more at: <http://www.usrider.org/article/ode-icing-31799#sthash.JGbYKKAAb.dpuf>

UMECRA



PERSEVERE

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDE ASSOCIATION

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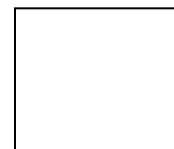
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