

# UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



## Ride Entry Fees are a Great Bargain!

I had the unfortunate duty to have to take two of my horses to the vet this fall, and also had to have the vet make a farm call a few weeks later. If I hauled into the clinic it was \$22 plus \$70 for the exam - minimum expense. The farm call was \$55 plus \$70 for the exam. So pretty quickly I had spent money equal or greater to entering a 50 mile comp or endurance ride. And the exam was not as extensive. The horse we thought had a metabolic issue wasn't trotted out for soundness, no sense wasting time for that at a busy clinic.

At distance rides the horses and mules get not one exam, but at least two. If you enter a 50 mile or more ride they get at least 3 exams. Not only do we get our horses welfare checked and judged, but we get a well-marked trail, main dish for supper, completion award and a whole bunch of fun.

Once in awhile I hear concerns that our sport is too expensive. Almost every one of us is on a budget, and we carefully check for the best deals on supplements, tack, supplies, feed and fuel for our truck. When you pull into camp I would like us to also think about what a great deal our rides really are in UMECRA. We get to have a great weekend of riding competition at a bargain price. When you write out that check to the ride manager, please say, "Thanks - I had a great time. I appreciate you putting on this ride." Because they are not doing it for the money, they are doing it for the love of our sport. See you on the trail - *Theresa Meyer*, President

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## Looking for new places to ride in your area and beyond?

Check out <http://trailmeister.com/>

Lots of information there on trails and all things trails! Search by city, state, even zip codes! You can even add trails that you know about!

**Important!!! Have you renewed your UMECRA membership for 2016? If you do not have a 2016 membership card, then you have not renewed yet. This will be your final newsletter unless you renew- hurry! Don't miss out on your points and miles- get your membership renewed today!**

## Wahoo!!! Horse/Rider history is online!

If you go to the results page every rider name and every horse name is a link to the history for that particular rider or horse. If you go to the rider numbers or the horse numbers pages (found under the "results" tab") any horse or rider you search for provides a link to the horse or rider history. If a person goes to any particular rider or horse history page all of the names are links to reference the related history.

Some caveats... Anything prior to 2015 is not 100% guaranteed accurate. I have found errors in times, scores, names of riders and horses and have tried to convert different results formats from every year into

something consistent plus apply rider and horse numbers as possible (HUGE Shout out to Deb Moe for all her help with that part of the project - it was a major undertaking!). If there are inaccuracies found people can notify me of what they find and we can go back through the history files to verify and correct as much as possible. I'll be adding more features as I have time to make things more user friendly, but for now anyway this is a good start.

Nicole – UMECRA webmaster

### **Changes for Bob Zimmerman's Photographs:**

As of March 1st, 2016 I will be uploading 2016 ride albums along with other albums to [www.flickr.com/photos/kaleidobob/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/kaleidobob/albums) and I will NOT be uploading new albums to my Picasa web site. Google has announced that Picasa Web Albums will be phased out in the near future and replaced with Google Photos. The new service will not meet my photo display needs so I am switching sites.

Any of my photos can be downloaded and used however you would like. I have selected the Creative Commons option in Flickr, which basically means there are no copyright restrictions. Once you have selected one or more pictures you want you can choose the file size to download.

I will also post the same ride albums at [www.facebook.com/kaleidobobpics](http://www.facebook.com/kaleidobobpics) before I upload to Flickr so there will be two locations for ride albums. The larger file sizes on Flickr are best for printing purposes but uploading my albums to that site can take three to four hours for an album with a lot of pictures. Facebook uploads small files and is therefore much faster.

Google has announced there will be a new place to access Picasa Web Albums data in May of 2016. I am hopeful that this means that my existing Picasa albums will remain easily accessible to all. I will provide information when I have it.

### **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

At the recent Board of Directors meeting the board approved a grant of \$500.00 from the International Competition Fund to Ainsley Suskey, daughter of Bill and Pam Suskey. Ainsley is planning on using the grant money to help cover her costs to attend the Adequan/FEI North American Junior and Young Riders Championships (NAJYRC) being held at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, Colorado this summer. The NAJYRC Championships are the premier equestrian competitions in North America for junior and young riders, age 14 - 21. Young equestrians vie for team and individual FEI medals in the three Olympic equestrian disciplines of show jumping, dressage, and

eventing, plus the FEI World Games disciplines of reining and endurance. The competition is run under rules of the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) the governing body for equestrian sport and is the only FEI competition held annually on this continent.

Ainsley qualified to compete in the NAJYRC by successfully completing two different 75 mile rides. The first was done last summer in Montana riding MKH Sidan Antonio, (owned by Roxy Welling) and the second one this Spring in Florida, riding Princess Deelites MHF, (owned by Julie Jackson-Biegert), where she finished in second place overall and was awarded Best Condition. It is Ainsley's intention to ride Princess in the 75 mile ride at the NAJYRC. UMECRA is proud to support Ainsley's future efforts and congratulates her on qualifying for such a prestigious event. All of us wish her and her horse the best of luck and know she will PERSEVERE.

### **And The UMECRA Bylaws Review Begins!!!**

As was noted in the February UMECRA Newsletter, beginning with the April issue the bylaws committee will share a series of articles highlighting the individual sections of the proposed bylaws changes that were tabled at the 2016 Annual Meeting. 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.

Our goal is to get input from the membership. Now is the time to think through these proposed changes, ask questions, and provide feedback to the bylaw committee. We realize that bylaws aren't always a lot of fun to read, but UMECRA is your organization and these Bylaws are very important to preserve "the strength and uniqueness of UMECRA." We'd like to have an open and thorough discussion about these changes well before the 2017 Annual Meeting so we can be informed and prepared to vote at that time. If you have thoughts about either the proposed change or the review process please contact bylaws committee members or any member of the Board of Directors.

Members of the Bylaw Committee include:  
Wes Elford [wselford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wselford@sbcglobal.net); Jill Feller [jfeller@nconnect.net](mailto:jfeller@nconnect.net); Nicole Mauser-Storer [n.mauserstorer@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:n.mauserstorer@huskers.unl.edu); Theresa Meyer [thmeyer753@gmail.com](mailto:thmeyer753@gmail.com); Linda Rudolphi [llrudolphi@gmail.com](mailto:llrudolphi@gmail.com); Tony Troyer [il4aerc@aol.com](mailto:il4aerc@aol.com); and Jon Wagner [jwagner288@wi.rr.com](mailto:jwagner288@wi.rr.com)  
Thanks for your help with this important task.

### **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 RRCR 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



**Endurance Clinic – March 19<sup>th</sup> – Minnesota (75 participants!)**

**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%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35094.45</b>	<b>34000.83</b>	<b>1093.62</b>	<b>3.22%</b>

	Save				
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>35094.45</b>	<b>3400.83</b>	<b>1093.62</b>	<b>3.22%</b>
LIABILITIES/EQUITY					
EQUITY	Opening Bal Equity	16860.34	1686.034	0.00	0.00%
	Retained Earnings	19695.24	2042.944	-734.20	-3.59%
	Net Income	-1461.13	-3288.95	1827.82	55.58%
	TOTAL Equity	35094.45	3400.83	1093.62	3.22%
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES/Asset</b>		<b>35094.45</b>	<b>3400.83</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 and 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 anti-ed \$500 then we would have \$1000 for awards with the other \$1000 going back to winning organization. If they only anti-ed 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:		



Mock Novice Ride! April 9<sup>th</sup> - 27 new riders!

Lots of support from UMECRA members!



Review of Proposed Changes to Bylaws

In accordance with the bylaws, notice is hereby given that the following bylaw changes will be considered at the general membership meeting to be held in January 2017.

Current Bylaw	Bylaw Changes (words inserted/added are <u>underlined</u> ; Words removed are <del>struck out</del> )	Rationale
<p>ARTICLE II PLACE AND TIME OF MEETINGS SECTION 2</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>SECTION 2. 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 Board of Directors, as provided in the Articles of Incorporation, serving until that time.</p>	<p>Although a January meeting is preferred to provide ample time for approval of the ride schedule and other items that may arise prior to the start of a new ride season, there may on occasion be times when it is necessary to delay the Annual Meeting because of unforeseen conflicts. (IE weather, scheduling conflicts and or availability of sites for the meeting).</p>

COMMENTS;

This proposal was brought forward by Board President Theresa Meyer. There has been at least one occasion in the past where the board chose to delay the meeting to early February because of cost and scheduling implications. The proposed language would simply give the board the authority to delay the meeting to February if deemed necessary or appropriate.



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<p>ARTICLE III NOTICE OF MEETINGS, QUORUMS &amp; VOTING SECTION 1 ANNUAL MEETINGS</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>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</u> <u>&lt;www.umecra.com&gt;</u></p>	<p>Identifying the days as "business" days simply clarifies that weekend days, (Saturday or Sunday), cannot be counted as a part of the notice. Current bylaw language does not specify how notice would be given making the language ambiguous in that regard. Proposed language specifically lists the means of notification and allows the use of electronic communications (email, website) to publish a report of notice to its members.</p>

COMMENTS;

This proposal was brought forward by the board and on the counsel of UMECRA's attorney. Only weekdays, (M-F), may be used to reach the total of a five day advance notice. The remaining language defines the choices available to use for giving notice; by U.S. Mail or membership email or by posting the notice on the UMECRA website. The notice could be given by using any one choice, a combination of two choices or all three.

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Review of Proposed Changes to Bylaws

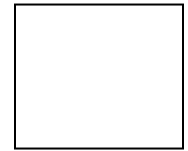
In accordance with the bylaws, notice is hereby given that the following bylaw changes will be considered at the general membership meeting to be held in January 2017.

Current Bylaw	Bylaw Changes (words inserted/added are <u>underlined</u> ; Words removed are <del>struck out</del> )	Rationale
<p>ARTICLE III NOTICE OF MEETINGS, QUORUMS &amp; VOTING SECTION 2 SPECIAL MEETINGS 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>SECTION 2. 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 <u>postmarked via U.S. Mail or sent via membership email 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> 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>The first portion of the proposed language is the same as proposed for Section 1 of this article and is intended to define the way notice may be given and identifies the days as "business" days. The second portion of the proposed changes in language explains the process and requirements of members wanting to have a Special Meeting called.</p>

COMMENTS:

Once again, this language was brought forward by the board on the counsel of UMECRA's attorney. The rationale for both Section 1 and 2 of this article are identical for the first portion of changes in these sections. Section 2 has additional proposed changes; the process and requirements of members wanting to request that a Special Meeting be held. Current language requires members to write a written request to the President, VP and the Secretary with representation from 20 or more **members**. This language does not distinguish the difference between ride members and Ride Manager members. Any total of 20 members (only riders, only RMs, or a mix of riders and RMs) can request a meeting. The proposed language would change the requirement to a representation of at least half of the sanctioned **rides** which were held in the previous year by RMs who were listed on their original sanctioning applications. Multiple day rides do not receive any additional advantage in a request, one ride equals one request. (Last year there were 38 rides held during the ride season. It would take at least 19 different rides to request a Special Meeting using this example.) The final sentence in this Section empowers the Executive Board to decide where, (which city), the meeting would be held in and requires them to do so in a timely fashion.

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Deadline for Next Newsletter:  
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