

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



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Letter from the Prez....

Welcome! Hello! Good to have you on board again, or for the first time!

Thank you to all who have put on or helped with clinics, volunteered at horse expos and fairs and have reached out on Facebook, at trail heads, or in the grocery store while wearing your UMECRA jackets! You are planting seeds.

At the MnDRAI ride last year, I learned that many of our new participants in the novice ride came from clinics, or were friends or friends of friends, of distance riders. Several folks were NOT participants of the clinics Minnesota and Wisconsin held a month or so before competition season started. They were, in fact, clinic participants from the year before that. Something had kept them from competing last year, but they read the newsletters and Facebook posts, watched videos, called a mentor, and rode with the goal of one day really trying a ride. I'm thrilled at their enthusiasm for learning more about the sport, and patience for getting the timing right for them and for their horses.

If you are a new rider, depending on the park, campground and competition, you are welcome just to come and hang out. Get your horse used to camping if they have not done that, ride a marked trail, volunteer to help, bring a dish to potluck and introduce yourself as someone who wants to distance ride someday. You will suddenly have a dozen new friends.

If you attended a clinic they may have talked about heart rate monitors, special feed, and different tack choices. To get started you just truly need a few things: a horse who is 4 years or older that is broke and can stand quietly, a saddle that fits, saddle pad, bridle, reins, food for your horse, 3 or so buckets, halter, lead rope, some conditioning miles...it does not have to be 10 or 12 miles...and an open mind to learn what you and your horse can do together.

We will see you on the trail!
Theresa Meyer
UMECRA President

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Make sure your email address for UMECRA is correct. Every month, we get bounces from 20+ people whose email addresses are no longer valid. It is your responsibility to ensure your email address is correct. Not receiving email messages from UMECRAnews@gmail.com? Check your SPAM folder and mark us as "not SPAM".

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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.

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Parents of Juniors Entered in UMECRA Events - Ride Managers, Junior Sponsors, and Riders

UMECRA is currently blessed by a jump in Junior entries in its events. We are thrilled to have children and teens in ride camp and on the trail. But in today's world, that blessing does require that all of us, Ride Managers, Ride Secretaries, parents, sponsors, mentors, the Juniors themselves, and UMECRA as an organization review their responsibilities.

At each ride, Juniors need to present:

- A fully completed and fully executed Entry Form, with original signatures or original initials endorsing photocopied signatures (blue is best).
- And, in best practices, immediate and available contact cell numbers for those parent/s and/or legal guardian.
- Health insurance information (which could be simply photocopied to the back of the entry).

Ride managers, even those sponsored by DRAW and MnDRA, are accepting a huge responsibility in managing a ride. If a minor has entered wrongfully, the potential liability is multiplied for everyone concerned. Worse, the risk of a permanent injury to horse, riders, the Junior or others should not be disregarded. At one time or another, all

of us have fallen, or been dumped, been stepped on or kicked, and sometimes even by our horses...

So, we must encourage and require that the signature our wonderful Juniors present is truly that of a parent or legal guardian. Please don't put us or yourselves at risk by providing a signature that does not really belong to your parent/s or legal guardian, or sign "for them".

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Ride Schedule – Let the Planning Begin!

Dates	Ride	Location
Apr 22-23	Brighton Spring	Howell, MI
May 6-7	MnDRA1	Hinckley, MN
May 6-7	White River Spring	Hesperia, MI
May 6-7	Kettles & Bits	New Prospect, WI
May 12-14	Glacier Trails	Palmyra, WI
May 20-21	Border Battle Boogie	Cushing, WI
May 27-28	Grand Island	Rapid River, MI
Jun 2-4	AHDRA's Endure	Chanderville, IL
Jun 3-4	Maplewood West	Pelican Rapids, MN
Jun 10-11	ApDRA	Palmyra, WI
Jun 10-11	White River Summer	Hesperia, MI
Jun 17-18	SE Minnesota	Preston, MN
Jun 24-25	Grand Island North	Limestone, MI
Jun 24-25	Dead Dog Creek	Kinmundy, IL
Jul 1-2	Endless Valley	Arena, WI
Jul 15-16	Mosquito Run	Rogers, MN
Jul 22-23	AHDRA's My Backyard	Wyanet, IL
Jul 22-23	Pine Martin Run	Wetmore, MI
Jul 28-30	Bonecrusher	Palmyra, WI

Aug 5-11	Shore to Shore	L Huron to L Michigan, MI
Aug 12-13	Louise Riedel Memorial	Arkdale, WI
Aug 19-20	Rock River Charity Ride	Utica, IL
Aug 19-20	Run for the Cactus	Granite Falls, MN
Aug 26-27	Northern Highland	Conover, WI
Sep 2-4	White River Fall	Hesperia, MI
Sep 9-10	Charity Cup	Pillager, MN
Sep 9-10	Keweenaw	Marquette, MI
Sep 9-10	Lincoln Trail	Kinmundy, IL
Sep 16-17	Colorama	Greenbrush, WI
Sep 16-17	Tin Cup Springs	Luther, MI
Sep 23-24	Run for the Ridge	Fairfax, MN
Sep 23-24	Salamonie Stomp	Andrews, IN
Sep 30	Metro Park Express Ride	Milford, MI
Oct 6-8	DRAWarama	Palmyra, WI
Oct 14-15	Iron Oak	Arkdale, WI
Oct 14-15	Oak Leaf Run	Hamilton, MI
Oct 20-21	Point Chaser	Theilman, MN
Oct 28-29	AHDRA's Big River	Keithsburg, IL

Ride Managers – please check dates, ride names and locations - check for accuracy!

If you have a printed ridebook the email address for SE MN ride and Dianne Schmidt is incorrect

The correct email is: diannerusty01@gmail.com

Mileage change: SE on June 17-18 – the distance for Endurance is 50 miles, not 60 as originally planned.

Ride Managers

The Ride Manager/Vet Handbooks went in the mail on Monday, April 10. You should get them in a week or less. If you do not receive them, please let me know ASAP and I'll get another copy in the mail. You may also request another printed copy as I have a couple extra. And if you or your vet team would like an electronic copy I will provide that as well. Have an excellent ride! -Theresa Meyer

[763-753-5236](tel:763-753-5236) or thmeyer753@gmail.com

Shining Light Award Winner – Jill Feller Nominated by Boots Wagner

In 2009, my son introduced me to one of his coworkers. "You'll like her, Mom," he said. "She likes horses too." And that's how I first met Jill Feller. She came to our farm and sat with me for an afternoon of horsey conversation. She is the

reason Partner and I became part of this wonderful sport. What a saleswoman she was/is for UMECRA and the sport of distance riding. I would like you to consider Jill's dedication to UMECRA and the sport of endurance riding for the Shining Light Award. She certainly embodies the qualifications. Let me tell you how.

Jill is one of the most organized people I know. She understands what it takes to put on a successful ride, year after year. She has developed and managed many rides during her endurance career, and can often be found assisting other ride managers after competing at their events. Her knowledge of how things work makes her a valuable asset at any ride. As the Secretary/Treasurer for DRAW and UMECRA (since 2006), plus Sanctioning Coordinator for UMECRA, she has faithfully kept records and minutes, paid the bills, sent out reminders to those of us who dilly-dally around until the last minute, and produced documentation when asked. Audits have found her completely capable, honest and consistent in her work for both organizations. The treasury is in good hands.

Throughout her years of competing, Jill has gained a tremendous amount of knowledge of the sport of endurance riding. She has been very willing to share this information with new riders, conducting Novice meetings before sending riders out on trail, and she continues to give support and confidence to timid riders while on the trail. She is well versed in the rules and regulations that apply to our sport, and is constantly educating herself to new ideas in the equine world.

You know where you stand with Jill. She will share her opinion and support it, even if she is in the minority. She takes her responsibilities seriously and stands up for what she feels is right. Her sense of fairness is obvious through her thoughtful evaluation of situations and her ability to see the big picture from various angles. Her willingness to express her ideas, even when not popular, guarantees that all voices are represented. Her integrity cannot be questioned when she takes a stand and supports it with logic and factual information.

As evidenced by her performance during recent challenges presented to the Board at the annual meetings, Jill is prepared to meet the challenges. She is calm, prepared, addresses questions with complete answers, and keeps personalities out of the discussion. Her views always seem to be focused on what is good for the organization.

I believe Jill leads by example. And I believe she represents endurance riding and our organization with honor and integrity. Her years of competition and service have enabled UMECRA to grow and become the strong organization it is. Her contributions should not go unnoticed.

Riders' Choice Nomination – My Cameo Love

Reliability. Durability. Dependability. Longevity. Efficiency. These are the reasons you should vote for My Cameo Love for Riders' Choice this year. At 32, she is the oldest horse competing in UMECRA events and has been competing continuously since 1999. "To finish is to win" – and Cameo is still here at the finish line after all these years, fit to continue.

A horse that has shown its ability to overcome setbacks. Cameo found her calling as a distance horse as a teenager but she has had a lengthy career nonetheless. She started her job as a distance horse in 1999 as a 15 year old a couple of years after recovering from a colic surgery that involved removal of 8 feet of her large colon and advice from the vets at the U of MN that she'd probably never do anything particularly high-octane again. After a 3-week hospital stay, several blood transfusions, more liters of lactated Ringers than I care to remember, and an extended period of convalescence during which she got down to 675 pounds, she was good to go.

A horse that has been a consistent competitor. **Cameo has completed at least one UMECRA event every year for the last 18 years (most years full seasons).** Every time I think about retiring her, she comes up with a plan to avoid it.

- 2000: UMECRA rookie competitive top 5 in a very competitive rookie year!
- 2004: 1000 mile award
- 2002-2005: Mentors my new weanling Gold to camp, pony, and trail ride.
- 2006: Gold breaks ankle; Cameo continues to be my go-to horse.
- 2006 (age 22): Completes her first 50 endurance
- 2007: Switches to Limited Distance.
- 2008 (age 24): Shows novice Phil Jansen the ropes, scores 9 & 2 at the vet checks, and wins Reserve Champion UMECRA novice as well as her own 2000 mile award.
- 2011 (age 27): Pretty much teaches herself how to drive. Loves it.
- 2012: Starts competing in Midwest Distance Driving Association events and is MDDA Rookie of the Year
- 2012-2015: UMECRA Drive Top 5 for the last 4 years. No wrecks.
- **Versatility: Cameo was the first UMECRA equine ever to complete events in all divisions: endurance, limited distance, competitive, novice, and driving.**

Any horse, for any reasons the nominator admires and feels is a superior representative of the "Distance Horse." A good distance horse should love her job and do it with enthusiasm, and preferably without excessive drama. Cameo is always ready to try her best at whatever I ask her to do. Although she is occasionally too afraid to do something, she never just "doesn't wanna." She also has remarkable self-preservation skills and adjusts her own speed according to weather and trail conditions so she doesn't overheat or get hurt. She has NEVER been lame for more than a rare day or two the entire time I'd had her. I remember only two occasions when Cameo did not complete a ride – once another horse kicked her and another time new hoof boots chewed up her pasterns. Neither was her fault and both times she was good to go the following weekend.

Cameo's not a Ferrari. She's not super flashy or super fast. But I can pull her out of the pasture and know that she'll get the job done, efficiently and reliably, without a lot of fuss. She loads and hauls nicely, is an excellent camper, and stands quietly for the vet check. . At this point she can probably vet herself in and out without me. She doesn't need loads of electrolytes and supplements and poultices (although, lacking many of her teeth, she does now require a special diet of wet senior feed and beet pulp). She lives outside 24/7 year-round and she doesn't even wear shoes. She just continues steadily down the trail, year after year, with her ears up.

Respectfully submitted by Cameo's longtime person, Sharon Hahn

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Minnesota Distance Clinic!



Wisconsin Distance Clinic!



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Let's make sure all these new people feel welcome! Make sure you say "Hi" when you see a new rider at a ride!

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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.

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2017! Renewal forms are on the UMECRA website!

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
AHAM	MI	59	0	0	0	58	42	30	40	33	Cancel	45
AHDRA - Zumbro	MN	0	0	0	0	27	36	69	47			
AHDRA I - MBY	IL	36	0	31	46	98	49	56	69	57	42	35
AHDRA II - Endure	IL	106	171	96	122	136	144	120	116	100	107	89
AHDRA III - Big River	IL	24	27	27	0	96	100	84	110	60	64	75
APDRA	WI	84	83	68	74	105	102	73	93	81	95	86
Bonecrusher/Wildcat	WI	92	78		88	54	51		57	109	83	121
Brighton Fall	MI	0	29	60	59	48	Cancel					
Brighton Spring	MI	37	30	35	49	56	48	58	36		40	70
Brushy Creek	IA							52	61			
Charity Cup	MN	66	60	69	99	81	81	82	64	60	99	61
Chimney Butte		0	13									
Colorama	WI	71	51	56	87	88	85	76	71	115	103	Cancel
Cool Down	MI	23	22	21	18	23	19	17	17	15	9	10
Daddy's Dash		145	95									
DBDR Indy Run	IN											103
Dead Dog	IL	42	66	50	36	29	36	46	31	46	Cancel	24
Double Eagle Dance	MO							26	13			
Drawarama	WI				146	140	149	133	126	121	121	Cancel
Draw I	WI	73	65	57								
Draw IV	WI	74	92	62								
Endless Valley	WI	144	76	86	117	89	79	44	73	70	97	80
Frostbite Fiasco		34	30									
Ft Meade	SD						111			48		
Glacier	WI	56	82	80	100	98	93	122	70	81	62	78
Grand Island	MI	85	98	57	86	70	68	84	59	60	55	57
Grand Island North	MI							50	54	54	47	34
Hennepin Canal	IL		31									
Hopkins Creek	MI	86	70	68	80	62	60	51	47	40	40	
Huntersville Spring/Fling			26									
Iron Creek	ND							49				
Iron Oak	WI	46	34	31	37	62	Cancel	35	70	94	77	109
Keweenaw	MI	23	23	27	28		18	23	21	28	22	26
Kettles N Bits	WI								44	69	64	83
Legendary Run										55	36	
Lincoln	IL	78	53	83	56	36	45	41	55	48	44	33
LRM	WI	90	67	90	100	90	95	90	98	94	110	119
Maplewood	MN	50		73	77	72	73	76	54	56	60	47
Metro Park Express/Huron River	MI										45	27
MNDRA-1	MN	64	50	74	87	81	72	66	65		68	76
Mosquito	MN	69	113	91	102	97	75	94	83	112	90	91
Northern High	MI	52	60	49	81	58	57	35	45		89	54
Northern IL Challenge	IL	48										
Oak Leaf	MI					44	64	32	41	27	47	52
Oak Leaf Spring	MI	53	39									
Panther Creek	IL	35	47									
Pine Martin	MI	60	83	56	49	44	61	53	34	39	37	26
Point Chaser	MN	109	145	144	133	135	139	110	64	105	83	89
Prairie Smoke	ND					24	27	29				
Quick Draw	WI							59				
Ride for Cancer		41										
Rock River	IL	62			87	85	74	82	82	112	82	55
Run For The Ridge	MN		57	78	77	61	82	66	83	66	93	52
Border Boogie Battle	WI		109	98	115	123	116	84	60	63	64	99
Run For The Cactus	MN											60
Salamonie Sizzler	IL			57	69							
SE Min	MN	88	121	72	116	85	123	91	83	87	88	55
Shore	MI	122	167	113	153	171	134	104	82	113	65	59
Thistle	MN	0	82	96	81	76	73	91	78	51		
Tin Cup	MI	64	61	50	52	57	55	44	36	27	Cancel	41
W. River Fall/LD	MI	116	100	72	97	126	132	104	108	74	60	56
W. River Spring	MI	79	81	63	62	57	45	80	40	33	39	21
W. River Summer	MI	68	68	72	81	63	68	63	54	41	37	29
Warm-UP	MI	33	32	27	36	36	29	18	17	23	23	16
		2787	2887	2439	2983	3041	3010	2892	2651	2567	2487	2343
Number of rides		45	45	39	40	40	40	44	43	39	38	39

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: 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. *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.")

6. *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.

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

There was general agreement that things seemed to work well.

8. *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)

9. *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?

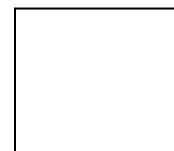
The date of November 11 was suggested, but no formal action was taken, and it will be decided at a later time.

I. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Bruce A. Birr

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