

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jon presented a set of Standard Operating Procedures for review.

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

Ride attendance numbers were briefly discussed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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