

BOD Meeting January 23, 2010

Call to order: 7:15 am by President Rick Nelson

Attending the meeting: Rick Nelson, Theresa Meyer, Angie Mikkelson, Shelly Sentyrz, Peggy Pasillas, Max Bernsdorf, Dianne Schmidt, Lynn Reichert, Sharon Hahn, Wayne Gastfield, Wes Elford, Marty Powers, Linda Mower, Peggy Brush, Dawn Haas, Joslyn Seefeldt, Jill Feller

Guests: Tony Troyer & Chris Powers

Secretary's report: Secretary report had been sent out to board members in December. Dawn made a motion made to accept minutes as sent out; seconded by Maxine; Passed

Treasurer's report: Treasurer's report was presented in with a 2009 profit and loss sheet. No questions were asked about the treasurer's. Motion made by Dawn to accept the treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Dianne: Passed ***an audit of the treasurer's records was conducted on January 22, 2010 by two board members; audit passed.***

Old Business:

- **Membership committee update: (Appendix A)**
 - Marty passed out buttons that say "Ask Me About Distance Riding" along with a communication piece about the "Ask Me About Distance Riding Campaign". The buttons and letter will be provided to ride managers to use at their rides so non distance riders are enticed to ask questions and get involved with the sport. One question presented was: are the rides the best place for riders to be wearing the buttons? Aren't most equestrians at the ride there for the sport anyway? Should we be advertising elsewhere? Other suggestions that were provided by board members were: have the state organization's buy signs for their respective rides that say "Ask Me About Distance Riding". This brought up the question of should the state organizations have to pay to advertise for UMECRA? Motion was then made by Peggy to provide the membership committee a budget of \$500 to use to purchase items for promoting UMECRA: seconded by Maxine: Passed.
 - Mentors program: want to revitalize the mentor program. The committee will be presenting at the annual meeting this afternoon and announce this revitalization and asking from volunteers.
 - The committee would like to change the name Newbie to New Rider as there has been some remarks stating that Newbie is a bit degrading. There will be a link put on the UMECRA website page where all Novice rides will be listed out separately making it easier for these riders to see what rides are available to them.
 - A suggestion from the committee is to have UMECRA pay for one ride entry for a Novice with a drawing at a clinic. RM's will send certificate to Jill for reimbursement.
 - Each state in the Midwest has some sort of publication in which UMECRA can put an article along with contact information for riders to get more information. In many cases, these advertisements can be at no cost if there is an article about the sport and a link to the website however if an ad would be run, there would be a charge. The state directors will be looking for publications that can be used and get this information to the membership committee. If any UMECRA member has a publication name and contact

information that can be used for this purpose, he/she should contact Marty Powers from the membership committee. Any member wishing to write an article for UMECRA should also contact Marty.

- Also on the UMECRA website will be a FAQ page for the new riders. Any submissions for questions are welcome- contact Angie Mikkelson with these submissions.
- **Sanctioning guideline updates: (Appendix B)**
 - No new ride should be allowed to be sanctioned if it falls within 300 miles of an established ride. Wes feels that this distance should be longer; maybe 500 miles. 300 miles had been past practice; we currently have many rides that are based on the 300-mile distance. If passed, this guideline will eliminate a ride manager from saying NO to a new ride and then the ride is dead in the water. A discussion was held as to what the distance should be; longer and then how long or stay at 300 miles. This issue will be presented at the annual meeting with three choices: leave the guideline as it currently is written, change the guideline to 301 miles or change the guideline to 501 miles. These choices will be presented at the annual meeting for a vote. Passed to go to general meeting with these three choices.
 - The guideline stays that any change to a ride distance or location needs to be presented to the sanctioning coordinator by 60 days before the ride start date. A discussion was held about emergency situations; most ride changes are because of an emergency situation such as lost of trail from logging, flooding or other unavoidable situations. The guideline was changed to add verbiage about emergency situation. Passed with the emergency verbiage in it.
 - Should the \$10 extra charge for new rides stay as is or be eliminated? A ride pays \$40/year for sanctioning; a new ride pays \$50 for the first year and \$40/year thereafter. It was decided that the \$10 extra charge will remain. The first year of a ride, the ride manager needs to be supplied with more paperwork than in subsequent years. The extra \$10 assists with the costs of this extra paperwork. Passed
 - A discussion was held in regards to eliminating the 100-mile ride 800 mile distances apart rule. Should the 800 mile distance be eliminated? Would it hurt an established 100-mile ride? After much discussion a motion was made by Marty to leave the 800-mile rule in place: seconded by Marty: Passed
 - The AERC guidelines section is being moved from the rules section to guidelines as they are AERC and UMECRA really cannot change them. These rules are in the UMECRA ride manager book as a convenience to them. Motion made by Linda; seconded by Peggy Brush to move AERC items from rules section to guidelines section of the book; PASSED
 - The ride manager book also contains verbiage of how a ride manager should report the ride results to AERC. Since this is not controlled by UMECRA, it was decided to remove this portion from the UMECRA ride manager's book.
- **Bylaw changes (Appendix C):**
 - Motion was made to change the by-laws and the use of the ICF funds. Motion made by Theresa, seconded by Marty. Motion is to allow a UMECRA ride manager to use some of these ICF funds to put on a FEI ride in the Midwest. Passed- this proposal will go to the general meeting.
- **General rule changes (There were none to be discussed)**
- **ICF committee:** In accordance with the UMECRA by-laws the ICF committee will be appointed by the President. In the past few years, there has been no activity with the ICF committee nor the ICF funds. The committee needs to be reestablished and the funds discussed. Motion was made by Sharon, seconded by Theresa that the next president of UMECRA, that is being elected

in the afternoon meeting create a proposal to present to the BOD at the spring meeting in regards to direction for the establishment of a new ICF committee. Passed.

- **Insurance:** Jill presented the cost for the 2010 insurance costs. The cost will remain the same as last year: \$45/day for the ride date and \$20 for each additional insured. UMECRA will continue to pay ½ the cost of the \$45/day, but the rides will be responsible for all costs associated with the additional insured. A list of all rides with insurance coverage will be in the next newsletter as several rides did not return their insurance request forms by the deadline and were not on the application when it was sent in to the insurance company. Any ride not listed as having insurance but would like to purchase insurance can still do so.

New Business:

- **100-mile horse program**
 - A UMECRA rider wanted the 100-mile program guidelines changed to reflect it as a standalone horse program and not a horse/rider program. Can this be switched to horse only and not horse/rider team? Currently, if a UMECRA rider nominates his/her horse for this program, the recognition is only given to the horse if the rider who nominated the horse rode the horse for the 100-mile ride. If a different rider completes a 100-mile ride with the nominated horse, the miles for the horse are not recognized for this program. Motion made by Dianne; seconded by Peggy that this is a horse program and not a horse/rider program and the horse should be awarded the recognition if a different rider completes a 100-mile ride on the horse. Passed- will be taken to the annual meeting in the afternoon for approval.
- **Increase membership costs for 2011 for members receiving hard copy NL & RB**
- Jill presented a spreadsheet to show what the costs are for printing and sending out the newsletter, ride book and membership directory hard copy. A single membership cost is \$25 but the costs for that member to receive all hard copy communications for 2009 was \$27.23. Should UMECRA increase the membership costs for 2011 for members wishing to receive hard copy newsletters and ride books? No action was taken, but this subject will be presented at the annual meeting for discussion purposes only and to bring awareness to the members.
- **Rider's Choice award**
 - A new sponsor needed for this award as the sponsor who originated the award has informed Rick that they are no longer going to sponsor the award. A new sponsor for the 2010 award has been found but need a new one is needed going forward. The award normally costs about \$50.00/year. Motion made by Dianne, seconded by Dawn that UMECRA will sponsor this award. PASSED
- **Silent auction**
 - In the past the silent auction was used to support the ICF fund and was set up and managed by the Chairperson of the ICF fund. Rick was informed by this person that they would no longer be managing the silent auction. Who will manage this event in the future? A discussion followed about the silent auction; when should it be done, who should do it, how should the funds be allocated. A motion was made by Peggy B., seconded by Linda that the silent auction be held on a yearly basis; Passed.
 - To manage the silent auction a new volunteer should be requested each year. For the 2011 convention, Peggy Brush has volunteered to manage the auction.
 - How will the funds be used? Sharon: why can't the person running the auction decide what they want the funds for? This could create some controversy with the funds. A motion was made by Dianne, seconded by Wayne that the funds are used in the

following way: 50% for trails, 25% for convention fund, 25% for scholarship fund. After discussion a friendly amendment was accepted to go with the following: the 25% for the scholarship should be split to 12.5% for scholarship and 12.5% for ICF fund. Motion passed.

- **Illinois & MN Horse Fairs**

- Linda Mower is requesting that UMECRA sponsor a booth at the Illinois Horse Fair. She and Ruth Stewart will man the booth. They are requesting \$200 for the booth. Motion made by Dawn and seconded by Theresa to pay \$200 for booth. PASSED
- Dianne requested \$250 for a booth at the MN horse fair. Motion made by Dianne seconded by Peggy B. that UMECRA pay \$250 for the MN Horse Fair booth: PASSED

- A discussion was held to hold the Saturday morning BOD meeting at the convention to Friday night so the board can enjoy the speakers. Some members may not be able to make it to the convention until late night on Friday, depending on the convention location. No change was made to the Saturday morning meeting at this time.

- **Convention prices**

- A discussion was held as to the cost of the convention fee prices. They are starting to get high and are a concern for members, especially those with families. How can the prices be lowered and kept lower? With the change in the silent auction funds; some of the funds may be used to assist in deferring the convention costs.

- A **trail grant request** was submitted by Chris Power. Chris is requesting \$200 for trail used for the Endure for the Cure ride. AERC has already provided several thousand dollars for this project. Motion made by Maxine, seconded by Sharon to grant the request. PASSED.

- **Ride Calendar-** The ride calendar was presented by Shelly. Oak Leaf run requested the July 24 & 25th date that is currently occupied by Wildcat and Salomonie Sizzler rides. Although the distance to the Wildcat ride is adequate, the distance to Salomonie Sizzler is less than 200 miles. The request was denied. Motion made by Jill, seconded by Wayne to accept the ride schedule as presented minus the Oak Leaf Run ride. PASSED. The board agreed that is the Oak Leaf Run ride would move the previous weekend in July which is an open weekend, the ride would be approved for sanctioning. *Since this meeting, the Oak Leaf Run ride has been moved to the previous weekend in July.*

- **Rider's Representatives:** The ballots were counted on Friday night by three board members. The following UMECRA members will serve as a rider representative for the next two years:

- Maxine Bernsdorf: Julie Jackson: Marge Dixon: Bonnie Mielke

- Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Jill Feller

UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer

Appendix A

To: UMECRA Delegates

From: Membership Committee: Pam Cotton, Julie Jackson, Angie Mikkelson, Linda Mower, Marty Power

Date: January 23, 2010

The membership committee suggests the following actions be taken to increase new members and retain existing members in UMECRA

Put into action an *Ask Me About Distance Riding* campaign next year.

- Have buttons made up that say “Ask Me About Distance Riding.”
- Give each ride manager several buttons to have “mentors” wear at rides so novices and new members know who to go to to ask questions.
- Put information about the “Ask Me” buttons on the novice page on the website.
- Have signs made up to put around ride camp that say something like:
OUR HELPFUL VOLUNTEERS ARE WEARING THESE BUTTONS (insert button). FEEL FREE TO ASK THEM A QUESTION. SOME WILL BE AROUND CAMP AND EVEN SOME ON THE TRAIL. THESE PEOPLE HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP YOU IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. PLEASE UTILIZE THEIR SERVICE ☺

How should we pay for and distribute these signs to ride managers?

Revitalize the “mentors” program.

Change the name for the link on the UMECRA website from “newbie” to “novice.”

List all rides with novice clinics and novice rides clearly on the novice page on the website page. (It says they are listed but I don’t see them.)

Have UMECRA pay the cost of one novice ride to be given away at a drawing at each Novice Clinic.

Have a *Frequently Asked Questions* page added to the UMECRA website and add a link to it from the Novice page.

Appendix B

BOLD items have been added from guidelines or for clarification.

SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS

1. UMECRA RULES **PASSED A & B**

A. General Duties of the Sanctioning Coordinator

The UMECRA Sanctioning Coordinator shall act as the primary contact for all correspondence regarding ride sanctioning.

Sanctioning and scheduling of rides shall be conducted in a fair and equitable manner.

Replies between the Sanctioning Coordinator, Board, and membership regarding Sanctioning issues shall occur within seven (7) days of the initial correspondence.

The duties of the Sanctioning Coordinator shall include: facilitation of sanctioning correspondence between The Board, ride managers, and the membership, organization and communication of the ride schedule, and publication of the annual Ride Book.

Ride Sanctioning

B. **(was D)** The current year's ride schedule will be the precedent for the succeeding year, using Memorial Day and Labor Day as the scheduling anchors.

Generally, rides will be given the same weekend as the past year. If these dates do not work, it is ~~up to~~ the ride manager's responsibility to notify the Sanctioning Coordinator immediately.

C. Ride manager(s) must be AERC members. Ride veterinarians must also be AERC members (a special non-voting AERC membership for veterinarians is available.) TO

GUIDELINES

D. For rides previously on the schedule, In November of each year, the Sanctioning Coordinator shall contact ride managers with the following: 1) the proposed ride schedule for the next ride season, 2) ride insurance forms, 3) request for number of printed ride forms needed for ride 4) confirmation of ride manager contact information, 5) sanctioning fee information, and 6) a timeline for creation of the upcoming year Ride Book. **PASSED**

- D

E. **(was B)** 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.

(Was C) The names of official delegates to the annual meeting must be submitted in writing to the UMECRA Secretary prior to the meeting (cut-off date to be announced).

F. **(Was E)** Once the schedule is finalized at the annual meeting, no new rides may be scheduled except with Board approval. **Any Rides seeking approval by Board vote must meet one of the following criteria:**

- 1) Be proposed for ~~an~~ an open date
- 2) **Be 501 miles or more from an already scheduled ride (as measured using Mapquest.com)**
- 3) **If less than 501 miles from an already scheduled ride (as measured using Mapquest.com), have written approval of those ride manager(s)**

(Was A.) Rides are to be sanctioned by approval of the Board at least 90 days before the date of the ride or at the annual meeting. RETURN TO GUIDELINES

(Was part of E) Changes to a scheduled ride must be submitted to the Sanctioning Coordinator for Board approval ~~made~~ 60 days in advance **of the ride start date or**

to the Executive Board for their approval as early as possible in emergency situations.

Sanctioning votes by the Board can be taken via email. Members without email will be contacted by the UMECRA President. PASSED AS AMENDED – F

G. **(was F)** New rides will be given priority in order of application. The \$10 surcharge for new rides will be in effect

H. **(was G)** The Board will attempt to limit the number of rides to three per weekend. ~~No ride may be scheduled or rescheduled for any reason on the same date as another ride without the approval of the originally scheduled ride/rides.~~

Two or more rides held on a regular schedule in alternate years shall be considered a single ride for purposes of determining scheduling precedence and delegate voting. The Board and the Sanctioning Coordinator must be informed in writing that their rides will rotate. The Sanctioning Coordinator will then inform the Board of this agreement.

PASSED H

H. No more than one 100-mile one-day ride will be scheduled on any one weekend closer than 800 miles apart. Preference will be given to the existing 100-miler. (discuss-remove?)

I. Rider points will only be given for mileage which the rider applied for, or for which notice of a mileage change has been made **at least** 60 days in advance.

J. Reject rides or other fun rides shall not be considered point-eligible rides.

K. If a UMECRA sanctioned ride offers novice classes, all fees and rules shall be observed. Novices are only eligible for year-end awards in the competitive novice division or other awards where the criteria specifically states that novice rides shall count. Novice mileage shall count for chevrons and horse mileage, but shall not be considered in determining eligibility for Restricted Mileage awards.

L. Fees

Yearly fees per ride are \$40, with a surcharge of \$10 for a first-year. **These fees cover the cost of** ~~This includes~~ **printed** ride supplies and **include** a prorate share of printing and mailing of the ride book.

If a ride organization or manager sponsors more than one event per year, the \$40 fee applies to each ride.

There is also a fee of ~~\$1.50~~ **\$2.50** per starting rider. **PASSED L**

M. Ride Cancellations

1. In the event of a forced cancellation, the ride manager shall report the cancellation to the UMECRA President, Sanctioning Coordinator and Secretary as soon as possible.

The Sanctioning Coordinator or Secretary shall notify the UMECRA Board, Newsletter Editor and the UMECRA Website Editor in writing as soon as possible.

PASSED

2. Ride managers of canceled rides shall retain voting rights for one year. PASSED

3. (was M) Ride managers who cancel their ride two years in a row will give up their ride date and forfeit their ride's voting eligibility for the second year.

2. AERC (ENDURANCE and LD ONLY) TO GUIDELINES

A. Ride managers are responsible to apply for AERC sanctioning. in AERC. Sanctioning requests should be sent to the regional sanctioning director a minimum of 120 days before the ride for approval, and the approved application must reach AERC 90 days prior to the ride. Current sanctioning fees and forms can be found on the AERC website at www.aerc.org.

There is also a surcharge for each non-AERC member entering a ride. (This includes limited distance riders **that are sanctioned by AERC.)**

B. Endurance rides must be at least 50 miles per day, but not more than 150 miles. Special event rides (Pioneer and multi-day rides) are series of rides on consecutive days -- a minimum of three days and at least 155 miles. Special Qualification rides are rides with entry qualifications other than those contained in AERC rule #3. Special event and special qualification rides shall require approval of the AERC Board of Directors for sanctioning for the first two years. These rides must contact the AERC office with their request. The online sanction form may be used, plus the ride manager must inform the AERC office that this is a Special Event or Special Qualification Ride request. Limited distance rides (at least 25 miles, but not more than 35) may also be offered but must be held in conjunction with an AERC endurance ride, if AERC sanctioning is sought.

3. REPORTING

A. UMECRA ride results, per rider reporting fees, and insurance fees must be sent to the Secretary postmarked within 14 days of the completion of the ride, with a penalty of \$50 for non-compliance and denial of re-sanctioning the following year if the penalty is not paid.

PASSED 3.A & 3.B,

B. Every rider who starts will be reported according to divisions (heavyweight, lightweight and junior). Riders who have signed up as AERC featherweights, lightweights or middleweights must be assigned to either UMECRA lightweight or heavyweight divisions. DO NOT list UMECRA weight divisions on AERC report forms. The AERC weight division must be determined at the time of entry.

C. (was B) AERC results will ~~will~~ shall be sent directly to AERC headquarters on forms provided by AERC. TO GUIDELINES

D. Both sets of results must be accompanied by the respective ~~sanctioning fees as specified.~~

Appendix C

PASSED 1/23/10

ARTICLE III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. The property and business of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors. Only Delegates may be elected as Officers or as Directors, with the following exceptions: the Board position of Veterinarian Representative will be composed of an endurance or competitive ride veterinarian, and President (see, Article III, Section 5, below.) Authorized alternate voting delegates shall not be eligible for election for the purpose of this section. (1/25/09)

The Board shall not be less than three in number and not more than sixteen. The Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, immediate Past President, two members elected at large, or more as may be determined by majority of the Board of Directors up to a maximum of six, a Veterinarian Representative and four geographic board membership and **four rider representatives.** (1/23/10) The Veterinarian Representative will be elected to a two year term commencing at the January 2008 convention. Each state, or foreign country which maintains a minimum of 25 UMECRA memberships (individuals to count as one and families to count as two) and which hosts a minimum of five sanctioned rides in the preceding season, shall be eligible to have an official delegate from that state or foreign country nominated and elected by the official delegates to the general meeting to a two-year term as geographic board member. If more than four states or foreign countries qualify, the number of rides shall be the first qualifier for determination of which four geographic areas are eligible, followed by the number of memberships within that state or country. If still tied, the state or foreign country with the largest number of rides over the history of UMECRA shall be given priority.

One, two, or three directors at large will be elected each year for two-year terms, to stagger their service, or until their successor shall have been elected at the annual meeting by majority vote of the attending delegates at the convention. Commencing at the 1997 convention, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota will initially qualify for geographic board members. Commencing at the 1997 convention, Illinois, Michigan's geographic board members will be elected at the convention, together with one at-large board member. The geographic board positions will be filled for 1997 by current Directors at Large, Monna Radtke and Dianne Kuhn. Their geographic positions will come up for election at the 1998 convention, together with the second at-large board position. The geographic board members will be nominated by delegates from their respective states and elected by the voting delegates at large at the general meeting.

In even numbered years four rider representatives will be elected by the membership for two-year terms. They will have voting rights and any other privileges pertaining to Board membership. (1/26/02) (1-20-07)

DID NOT PASS 1/23/10 (this passed at the BOD meeting, but not at the annual meeting)

ARTICLE VIII

Standing Committees

Section 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. An Executive Committee of the Board will be made up of its President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.

Section 2. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FUND COMMITTEE.

A. A permanent committee is established to fully administer, maintain, guide and keep an international competition fund for fund-raising to assist in **supporting UMECRA ride managers that host a ride event sanctioned by FEI and** UMECRA members who may be selected to participate in international endurance or competitive ride events sanctioned by the FEI.

B. Committee members: The committee shall be made up of five persons as follows: a current UMECRA officer and four members at large to include a chairperson and three others. Preference shall also be given to appointing UMECRA members who are acting as Chef d'Equipe for time zone teams, generally the East or Central teams. The committee will be appointed by the UMECRA president.

C. Committee responsibilities:

1. To prepare guidelines for administration and dispersal of the fund, to be approved by the Board;
2. To prepare plans for fund-raising, to be approved by the Board;
3. To implement Board approved guidelines and plans; and
4. To furnish an annual report to the Board and membership at the general meeting, to include; financial report, fundraising report, activity/use report.

Section 3. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE. The Grievance committee shall be comprised of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may adjudicate any infraction of such rules and take such action as it deems necessary in relation to that infraction.

Section 4. AUDIT COMMITTEE. The President may, upon the affirmative action of the Board of Directors, designate two or more persons from the membership of the corporation to constitute an auditing committee, which, to the extent determined by the President, shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the auditing of the accounts of the corporation and shall have full access to all books of the corporation in the possession of any of the officers of the corporation. The Secretary/Treasurer shall submit her/his accounts to the auditing committee and any time at their request.

**General Meeting
January 23, 2010
Olympia Resort
Oconomowoc, WI**

Meeting was called to order by President Rick Nelson.

Roll call of delegates was taken. There were 74 delegates, 2 rider reps and 1 vet rep for a total of 77 votes.

Secretary report: the minutes were from January of 2009 convention and were published in the newsletter in February 2009 Motion made by Peggy Brush, seconded by Dawn Hass to approve minutes as published: PASSED

Treasurer report: The treasurer's report was presented in the form of a balance sheet. Motion made by Dawn Haas, seconded by Ruth Steward to accept report as presented: PASSED. Rick discussed the financial audit that occurred on the previous night: he reported to the general UMECRA voting delegates that no discrepancies had been found with the audit.

Business:

- **Eliminate the corridor for the convention**
 - A motion was brought forward from the fall BOD meeting that the convention corridor (Rockford IL to Wisconsin Dells) be eliminated. The convention location should be decided by a bid being presented to by the potential convention manager two years in advance of the convention. The convention would be awarded by merit. The site must be in one of the Midwest states.
 - Site must be within one of the Midwest states
 - The motion was made by Dianne Schmidt and seconded by Sharon Hahn: Eliminate the corridor and the convention would be decided by merit two years in advance. A discussion followed:
 - If two or three people offer to host- what happens? The decision would be decided by asking one person to move the conventions to a different year: a compromise would be sought.
 - This change would not eliminate having the convention in the corridor, but opens it up to more options.
 - Merit needs to be defined- would accessibility be merit- adequate facilities?
 - Why are we revisiting this? This was discussed before and the corridor was formed to allow UMECRA member who live in the far reaches of the Midwest states an easier access. Motion FAILED
- **Changes to sanctioning guidelines (A appendix)**
 - Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Tony Troyer to have a 7 day rule for responding to sanctioning requests (see appendix). What happens if it doesn't happen within 7 days? The sanctioning coordinator would be held accountable and BOD would also be held accountable; if there is a continued problem the UMECRA members would have reason to replace board members. The reason for the rule is to get answers and actions completed in a timelier manner. PASSED
 - The guidelines for sanctioning are that Memorial Day and Labor Day are the anchors to the season. Most rides will remain on the same weekends as the previous year. Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Lynn Reichert: PASSED
 - Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Sharon Hahn and rule D in the appendix in regards to the sanctioning coordinator contacting ride manager in November about the next ride season: PASSED

- Made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Wayne Gastfield that the ride mileage for the upcoming year must be presented to the sanctioning coordinator at least 7 days prior to the annual meeting: PASSED
- Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Wayne Gastfield that once the ride schedule is finalized at the annual meeting no new rides may be scheduled except with BOD approval; move this to 501 miles apart (if a ride is 501 miles apart from an established ride, no BOD approval is needed. Discussion was held: Roberta Harms requested that the mileage be 301 miles. Elinore Tonsor explained that she has lost riders yearly to a ride sanctioned 400 miles apart from Wildcat. Second part of this rule is that the Executive board will vote on whether a change is approved or not when a ride needs to make some changes. Discussion was held that more than the Executive board should make this decision; in the case of an emergency, the entire BOD may be hard to contact so the Executive board group would be needed. A friendly amendment was made to: Changes to a scheduled ride must be submitted to the sanctioning coordinator for BOD approve 60 or more days in advance of the ride date or to the Executive Board in an emergency situation. The friendly amendment was accepted by Theresa & Wayne; PASSED.
- Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Sharon Hahn to limit rides to three/weekend. Elinore Tonsor: friendly amendment: would like to see two rides per weekend vs. three; friendly amendment was not accepted. PASSED as three/weekend.
- Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Wayne Gastfield that rider points will only be given for mileage which the ride applied for: PASSED
- Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Peggy Brush that a first year ride pays an additional \$10 fee for sanctioning the ride. A discussion was held as to the proposed wording. A friendly amendment was proposed by Jill Feller, seconded by Mary Mott; the additional \$10 fee is to be used to assist in covering the costs of printed materials and the cost of the ride book. PASSED
- Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Peggy Pasillas that a ride manager who cancels their ride two years in a row gives up the ride date and voting privileges' for the second year: PASSED
- Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Lynn Reichert to move the AERC section of the verbiage into the guideline section and out of the rules section: PASSED.
- Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Dianne Schmidt that ride managers submit the ride results and fees to the UMECRA secretary/treasurer within 14 days of the completion of the ride. A friendly amendment was made by Jill Feller, seconded by Peggy Brush to allow a 30 day window. The friendly amendment was rejected. Another friendly amendment to this section was submitted by Katie Fettig, seconded by Peggy Brush: part "C" of this rule is repetitive of "A" and "C" should be eliminated: this friendly amendment was accepted. PASSED.
- **Bylaw changes (Appendix B):**
 - Motion made by Marty Powers, seconded by Maxine Bernsdorf to add the four rider representatives to the Article III, section 1 of the by-laws: PASSED.
 - Motion made by Marty Powers, seconded by Jill Feller to move all the standing committee verbiage to one area of the bylaws: PASSED.
 - Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Sharon Hahn to add the verbiage that UMECRA ride managers that host a ride event sanctioned by FEI to the use of the ICF funds section. Elinore Tonsor discussed the fact that this rule will allow UMECRA to assist a ride to benefit more UMECRA members but this could affect all other rides in UMECRA. A further discussion was held on if this fund should assist UMECRA ride managers or not. DEFEATED with a 62% vote (2/3 is needed to change a by-law).
- **General rule changes (Appendix C)**

- **Measuring the trail:** Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Barry Saylor that all trails should be accurately measured. Discussion followed as to the accuracy of a GPS. Will we be able to use the DNR marking? Motion PASSED.
- **Riders at the start of a ride:** Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Linda Mower that all riders must be entered and vetted in at the start of the ride. PASSED
- **Endurance rules:**
 - Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Lynn Reichert about the setting of the judging parameters. Discussion was that we passed a rule years ago that 60 is the minimum pulse that can do used. AERC changed their rule that there is no minimum pulse. 37/30- PASSED
 - Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Lynn Reichert that a rider entering a vet check ~~may~~ must present their horse within 30 minutes. PASSED.
 - Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Peggy Pasillas to change ~~must~~ to may in weighing a heavyweight rider. PASSED
- **LD Rules:**
 - Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Wayne Gastfield in regards to setting of the parameters. PASSED.
- **Competitive Rules:**
 - Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Lynn Reichert that novices are only eligible for year-end awards in the competitive novice division, etc.: PASSED.
- **Rider requirements:**
 - Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Peggy Brush about a change in wording describing a rest break. Three choices for this change were presented to the voting members. PASSED: keep the current rule as it is written with no changes; the ride manager will need to interpret rule accordingly.
 - Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Sharon Hahn in regards to the use of easyboots and any penalties for using them. A discussion was held about the new boots and the fact that many of these boots come over the top of the hoof and could provide protection to the coronet band or with the use of the epic boots, could also provide protection to the lower part of the front leg from a horse over reaching. Easyboots themselves are considered shoes and not protection and are therefore allowable but some of the new style boots have gators that protect the bulb of hoof and back of leg. A friendly amendment was offered by Sarah Maas, seconded by Jill Feller that any material at or above the coronet band will result in a two point per day deduction. PASSED
 - Motion made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Sharon Hahn to clarify a driving rule in regards to a horse hitched to a vehicle without a bridle. The rule needs to be changed because of an accident at a ride during the 2009 ride season. PASSED.
- **Rider fees:**
 - At the December BOD meeting it was approved to raise rider fees to \$2.50 from \$1.50/rider with the extra money being used for year-end awards. PASSED
- **ICF Committee:** brought forward from the morning BOD meeting; the new president will propose guidelines and reorganized the ICF committee. This proposal will be presented at the spring BOD meeting.
- **Other topics**

- **100-mile horse program:** this was brought forward from the morning BOD meeting. A request was made by a UMECRA member to change the criteria of this award to a horse mileage program. The BOD passed this proposal in the morning meeting. PASSED.
- **Membership costs for 2011:** the cost for sending hard copy newsletters, ride book and membership directory was discussed. A single membership is \$25; this same member who would receive all hard copy communications would cost UMECRA \$27.23 for these communications. For members not receiving the newsletter electronically due to dial-up internet- could a link be sent to these members that would take them directly to the UMECRA website to get the newsletter? This would avoid the download times, but would also eliminate the added cost of printing the newsletter. No action was taken at this time on this matter.
- **Silent auction money:** Motion made by Dianne Schmidt, seconded by Wayne at the morning meeting to use the silent auction funds in the following way: 50% for trails, 25% convention; 12.5% scholarship and 12.5% for ICF fund beginning with the 2011 silent auction. PASSED. 50/17
- Ride insurance: same cost as last year. \$45/day and \$20/each additional insured. UMECRA will pay ½ the cost of the \$45/day but the additional insured costs will remain the responsibility of the ride.
- **Ride schedule for 2010:**
 - Several changes were made the schedule as it was presented. Once presented the ride schedule was approved with the changes.
- **Membership committee report:** (Appendix D) Ask me about Distance riding campaign. Buttons to give out at rides; communication piece to place around camp. Revitalize mentor program. Change name of “newbie” page to “New Rider” – FAQ on new rider page. New shirt campaign will continue as well. Keep the letter campaign going to non members. (See morning meeting minutes for more details).
- **Elections**
 - **President-** Nominations: Rick Nelson Motion by Linda Mower; seconded by Sharon Hahn. Tony Troyer- Motion made by Wes Elford, seconded by Katie Bachhuber
WINNER: Rick Nelson
 - **Vet representative:** Nomination: **Wes Elford** Motion made by Katie Bachhuber, seconded by Barb Gardner. Dean Peterson and Robert Beecher both turned down the nomination.
 - **MN Director:** Nomination: **Dianne Schmidt** Motion made by Elizabeth Laurie, seconded by Darlene Molitor.
 - **WI Director:** Nomination: **Joslyn Seefeldt.** Motion made by Peggy Brush, seconded by Bill Suskey. Dawn Haas was nominated but declined.
 - **Rider Reps** announced: Julie Jackson, Maxine Bernsdorf, Marge Dixon, Bonnie Mielke
- Motion to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully submitted:
Jill Feller
 UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer

Appendix A

BOLD items have been added from guidelines or for clarification.

SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS

1. UMECRA RULES **PASSED A & B**

A. General Duties of the Sanctioning Coordinator

The UMECRA Sanctioning Coordinator shall act as the primary contact for all correspondence regarding ride sanctioning.

Sanctioning and scheduling of rides shall be conducted in a fair and equitable manner.

Replies between the Sanctioning Coordinator, Board, and membership regarding Sanctioning issues shall occur within seven (7) days of the initial correspondence.

The duties of the Sanctioning Coordinator shall include: facilitation of sanctioning correspondence between The Board, ride managers, and the membership, organization and communication of the ride schedule, and publication of the annual Ride Book.

Ride Sanctioning

B. **(was D)** The current year's ride schedule will be the precedent for the succeeding year, using Memorial Day and Labor Day as the scheduling anchors.

Generally, rides will be given the same weekend as the past year. If these dates do not work, it is up to the ride manager's responsibility to notify the Sanctioning Coordinator immediately.

C. Ride manager(s) must be AERC members. Ride veterinarians must also be AERC members (a special non-voting AERC membership for veterinarians is available.) TO GUIDELINES

D. For rides previously on the schedule, In November of each year, the Sanctioning Coordinator shall contact ride managers with the following: 1) the proposed ride schedule for the next ride season, 2) ride insurance forms, 3) request for number of printed ride forms needed for ride 4) confirmation of ride manager contact information, 5) sanctioning fee information, and 6) a timeline for creation of the upcoming year Ride Book. **PASSED - D**

E. **(was B)** 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.

(Was C) The names of official delegates to the annual meeting must be submitted in writing to the UMECRA Secretary prior to the meeting (cut-off date to be announced).

F. **(Was E)** Once the schedule is finalized at the annual meeting, no new rides may be scheduled except with Board approval. **Any Rides seeking approval by Board vote must meet one of the following criteria:**

- 1) Be proposed for ~~an~~ an open date
- 2) **Be 501 miles or more from an already scheduled ride (as measured using Mapquest.com)**
- 3) **If less than 501 miles from an already scheduled ride (as measured using Mapquest.com), have written approval of those ride manager(s)**

(Was A.) Rides are to be sanctioned by approval of the Board at least 90 days before the date of the ride or at the annual meeting. RETURN TO GUIDELINES

(Was part of E) Changes to a scheduled ride must be submitted to the Sanctioning Coordinator for Board approval ~~made~~ 60 days in advance **of the ride start date or**

to the Executive Board for their approval as early as possible in emergency situations.

Sanctioning votes by the Board can be taken via email. Members without email will be contacted by the UMECRA President. PASSED AS AMENDED –

G. **(was F)** New rides will be given priority in order of application. The \$10 surcharge for new rides will be in effect

H. **(was G)** The Board will attempt to limit the number of rides to three per weekend. ~~No ride may be scheduled or rescheduled for any reason on the same date as another ride without the approval of the originally scheduled ride/rides.~~

Two or more rides held on a regular schedule in alternate years shall be considered a single ride for purposes of determining scheduling precedence and delegate voting. The Board and the Sanctioning Coordinator must be informed in writing that their rides will rotate. The Sanctioning Coordinator will then inform the Board of this agreement. PASSED H

H. No more than one 100-mile one-day ride will be scheduled on any one weekend closer than 800 miles apart. Preference will be given to the existing 100-miler.(discuss-remove?)

I. Rider points will only be given for mileage which the ride applied for, or for which notice of a mileage change has been made **at least** 60 days in advance.

J. Reject rides or other fun rides shall not be considered point-eligible rides.

K. If a UMECRA sanctioned ride offers novice classes, all fees and rules shall be observed. Novices are only eligible for year-end awards in the competitive novice division or other awards where the criteria specifically states that novice rides shall count. Novice mileage shall count for chevrons and horse mileage, but shall not be considered in determining eligibility for Restricted Mileage awards.

L. Fees

Yearly fees per ride are \$40, with a surcharge of \$10 for a first-year. **These fees cover the cost of** ~~This includes~~ **printed** ride supplies and **include** a prorated share of printing and mailing of the ride book.

If a ride organization or manager sponsors more than one event per year, the \$40 fee applies to each ride.

There is also a fee of ~~\$1.50~~ **\$2.50** per starting rider. **PASSED L**

M. Ride Cancellations

1. In the event of a forced cancellation, the ride manager shall report the cancellation to the UMECRA President, Sanctioning Coordinator and Secretary as soon as possible.

The Sanctioning Coordinator or Secretary shall notify the UMECRA Board, Newsletter Editor and the UMECRA Website Editor in writing as soon as possible.

PASSED

2. Ride managers of canceled rides shall retain voting rights for one year. **PASSED**

3. (was M) Ride managers who cancel their ride two years in a row will give up their ride date and forfeit their ride's voting eligibility for the second year.

2. AERC (ENDURANCE and LD ONLY) TO GUIDELINES

A. Ride managers are responsible to apply for **AERC** sanctioning. ~~in AERC.~~ Sanctioning requests should be sent to the regional sanctioning director a minimum of 120 days before the ride for approval, and the approved application must reach AERC 90 days prior to the ride. Current sanctioning fees and forms can be found on the AERC website at www.aerc.org.

There is also a surcharge for each non-AERC member entering a ride. (This includes limited distance riders **that are sanctioned by AERC.**)

B. Endurance rides must be at least 50 miles per day, but not more than 150 miles. Special event rides (Pioneer and multi-day rides) are series of rides on consecutive days -- a minimum of three days and at least 155 miles. Special Qualification rides are rides with entry qualifications other than those contained in AERC rule #3. Special event and special qualification rides shall require approval of the AERC Board of Directors for sanctioning for the first two years. These rides must contact the AERC office with their request. The online sanction form may be used, plus the ride manager must inform the AERC office that this is a Special Event or Special Qualification Ride request. Limited distance rides (at least 25 miles, but not more than 35) may also be offered but must be held in conjunction with an AERC endurance ride, if AERC sanctioning is sought.

3. REPORTING

A. UMECRA ride results, per rider reporting fees, and insurance fees must be sent to the **Secretary** postmarked within 14 days **of the completion of the ride**, with a penalty of \$50 for non-compliance and denial of re-sanctioning the following year if the penalty is not paid. **PASSED 3.A & 3.B,**

B. Every rider who starts will be reported according to divisions (heavyweight, lightweight and junior). **Riders who have signed up as AERC featherweights, lightweights or middleweights must be assigned to either UMECRA lightweight or heavyweight divisions. DO NOT list UMECRA weight divisions on AERC report forms. The AERC weight division must be determined at the time of entry.**

C. (was B) ~~AERC results will~~ **shall** be sent directly to AERC headquarters on forms provided by AERC. **TO GUIDELINES**

D. ~~Both sets of results must be accompanied by the respective sanctioning fees as specified.~~

Appendix B

PASSED 1/23/10

ARTICLE III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. The property and business of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors. Only Delegates may be elected as Officers or as Directors, with the following exceptions: the Board position of Veterinarian Representative will be composed of an endurance or competitive ride veterinarian, and President (see, Article III, Section 5, below.) Authorized alternate voting delegates shall not be eligible for election for the purpose of this section. (1/25/09)

The Board shall not be less than three in number and not more than sixteen. The Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, immediate Past President, two members elected at large, or more as may be determined by majority of the Board of Directors up to a maximum of six, a Veterinarian Representative and four geographic board membership and **four rider representatives. (1/23/10)** The Veterinarian Representative will be elected to a two year term commencing at the January 2008 convention. Each state, or foreign country which maintains a minimum of 25 UMECRA memberships (individuals to count as one and families to count as two) and which hosts a minimum of five sanctioned rides in the preceding season, shall be eligible to have an official delegate from that state or foreign country nominated and elected by the official delegates to the general meeting to a two-year term as geographic board member. If more than four states or foreign countries qualify, the number of rides shall be the first qualifier for determination of which four geographic areas are eligible, followed by the number of memberships within that state or country. If still tied, the state or foreign country with the largest number of rides over the history of UMECRA shall be given priority.

One, two, or three directors at large will be elected each year for two-year terms, to stagger their service, or until their successor shall have been elected at the annual meeting by majority vote of the attending delegates at the convention. Commencing at the 1997 convention, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota will initially qualify for geographic board members. Commencing at the 1997 convention, Illinois, Michigan's geographic board members will be elected at the convention, together with one at-large board member. The geographic board positions will be filled for 1997 by current Directors at Large, Monna Radtke and Dianne Kuhn. Their geographic positions will come up for election at the 1998 convention, together with the second at-large board position. The geographic board members will be nominated by delegates from their respective states and elected by the voting delegates at large at the general meeting.

In even numbered years four rider representatives will be elected by the membership for two-year terms. They will have voting rights and any other privileges pertaining to Board membership. (1/26/02) (1-20-07)

DID NOT PASS 1/23/10

ARTICLE VIII *Standing Committees*

Section 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. An Executive Committee of the Board will be made up of its President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.

Section 2. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FUND COMMITTEE.

A. A permanent committee is established to fully administer, maintain, guide and keep an international competition fund for fund-raising to assist in **supporting UMECRA ride managers that host a ride event sanctioned by FEI and** UMECRA members who may be selected to participate in international endurance or competitive ride events sanctioned by the FEI.

B. Committee members: The committee shall be made up of five persons as follows: a current UMECRA officer and four members at large to include a chairperson and three others. Preference shall also be given to appointing UMECRA members who are acting as Chef d'Equipe for time zone teams, generally the East or Central teams. The committee will be appointed by the UMECRA president.

C. Committee responsibilities:

1. To prepare guidelines for administration and dispersal of the fund, to be approved by the Board;
2. To prepare plans for fund-raising, to be approved by the Board;
3. To implement Board approved guidelines and plans; and
4. To furnish an annual report to the Board and membership at the general meeting, to include; financial report, fundraising report, activity/use report.

Section 3. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE. The Grievance committee shall be comprised of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may adjudicate any infraction of such rules and take such action as it deems necessary in relation to that infraction.

Section 4. AUDIT COMMITTEE. The President may, upon the affirmative action of the Board of Directors, designate two or more persons from the membership of the corporation to constitute an auditing committee, which, to the extent determined by the President, shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the auditing of the accounts of the corporation and shall have full access to all books of the corporation in the possession of any of the officers of the corporation. The Secretary/Treasurer shall submit her/his accounts to the auditing committee and any time at their request.

Appendix C

UMECRA Rule Change Proposals – **PASSED 2.A and 4.J**

GENERAL RULES – (Apply to both endurance and competitive rides)

2. Management Requirements

A. The ride MUST BE an accurately measured distance **by GPS or odometer.**

4. Rider Requirements

J. All riders and mounts must be physically present, accounted for, **entered and vetted in** at the start of the ride.

ENDURANCE RULES

~~The normal criterion for advancement shall be a pulse of 68 to be met at all regularly scheduled vet checks within 30 minutes. Respiration shall be taken and recorded but shall not normally be used as a criterion for advancement; however the setting of veterinary parameters including but not limited to pulse and respiration shall be determined by the head veterinarian. Since the ambient conditions are of prime concern in the setting of parameters, these parameters should not be finalized more than 24 hours prior to ride start.~~

PASSED 7, 8.A and 13

7. The setting of judging parameters, including but not limited to pulse and respiration, shall be determined by the head control judge. Since the ambient conditions are of prime concern in the setting of parameters, these parameters should not be finalized more than 24 hours prior to ride start. Respiration should be evaluated on its own merit.

8. The “gate into a hold” type check is mandatory at all vet checks.

A. A rider entering a vet check **may must** present his horse for p/rs at any time within 30 minutes

B. Horses passing the P/R parameters shall remain at the check area for the time specified, but a minimum of 20 minutes.

13. There shall be weight divisions as follows: Lightweight - 179 pounds and under; heavyweight - 180 pounds and over WITH TACK. All heavyweight riders must **may** be weighed with tack prior to the ride.

LIMITED DISTANCE RULES

~~14. The normal criterion for advancement shall be a pulse of 68 bpm to be met at all regularly scheduled vet checks within 30 minutes. However, the setting of veterinary parameters, including but not limited to pulse and respiration, shall be determined by the head veterinarian. The minimum pulse rate criteria shall be 60 bpm. Respiration should be evaluated on its own merit. Ambient temperature and humidity effects need to be recognized and their effects considered.~~

PASSED LD 14

14. The setting of judging parameters, including but not limited to pulse and respiration, shall be determined by the head control judge. Since the ambient conditions are of prime concern in the setting of parameters, these parameters should not be finalized more than 24 hours prior to ride start. Respiration should be evaluated on its own merit. The maximum pulse criteria for completion is 60 beats per minute.

COMPETITIVE RULES **PASSED 1.A**

1. Eligibility

A. Novice divisions may be offered. ~~Novices are not eligible for year-end awards, but mileage shall count.~~ *Novices are only eligible for year-end awards in the competitive novice division or other awards where the criteria specifically states that novice rides shall count. Novice mileage shall count for chevrons and horse mileage, but shall not be considered in determining eligibility for Restricted Mileage awards.*

3. Rider Requirements - **DID NOT PASS 3.A**

A. During the competition all riders are required to care for their own mounts except having a horse held during a rest~~room~~ break ~~or vet stop~~. *The handler may do nothing more than hold the horse.* Other assistance in the care and grooming of mounts is prohibited unless the ride committee determines that assistance is needed. *At the discretion of the veterinary staff or the ride management, the trot out may have a handler other than the rider.*

OR

A. During the competition all riders are required to care for their own mounts except having a horse held during a ~~rest~~ *rider's* rest~~room~~ break. *The handler may do nothing more than hold the horse.* Other assistance in the care and grooming of mounts is prohibited unless the ride committee determines that assistance is needed. *At the discretion of the veterinary staff or the ride management, the trot out may have a handler other than the rider.*

PASSED 3.B AS AMENDED

B. If boots, bandages, or wraps are used, the horse shall be penalized two points per leg per day. *Boots designed to protect the sole of the hoof are permitted, and shall not be penalized. Any material at or above the coronary band will result in a 2 point per leg per day deduction.*

COMPETITIVE DRIVING RULES **PASSED 2.A**

2. Rules for Drivers

A. ~~Removal of the bridle while a horse or pony is attached to a carriage is cause for instant elimination and the driver will be excused from the grounds.~~ *No equine shall be hitched to a vehicle without a bridle and reins. Violators will be subject to immediate elimination and excluded from further driving at the event.*

Appendix D

To: UMECRA Delegates

From: Membership Committee: Pam Cotton, Julie Jackson, Angie Mikkelson, Linda Mower, Marty Power

Date: January 23, 2010

The membership committee suggests the following actions be taken to increase new members and retain existing members in UMECRA

Put into action an *Ask Me About Distance Riding* campaign next year.

Have buttons made up that say "Ask Me About Distance Riding."

Give each ride manager several buttons to have "mentors" wear at rides so novices and new members know who to go to to ask questions.

Put information about the "Ask Me" buttons on the novice page on the website.

Have signs made up to put around ride camp that say something like:

OUR HELPFUL VOLUNTEERS ARE WEARING THESE BUTTONS (insert button). FEEL FREE TO ASK THEM A QUESTION. SOME WILL BE AROUND CAMP AND EVEN SOME ON THE TRAIL. THESE PEOPLE HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP YOU IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. PLEASE UTILIZE THEIR SERVICE ☺

How should we pay for and distribute these signs to ride managers?

Revitalize the "mentors" program.

Change the name for the link on the UMECRA website from "newbie" to "novice."

List all rides with novice clinics and novice rides clearly on the novice page on the website page. (It says they are listed but I don't see them.)

Have UMECRA pay the cost of one novice ride to be given away at a drawing at each Novice Clinic.

Have a *Frequently Asked Questions* page added to the UMECRA website and add a link to it from the Novice page.



**BOD Meeting
March 13, 2010
Ho Chunk, Wisconsin Dells**

Present: Linda Mower, Bonnie Mielke, Marty Powers, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Marge Dixon, Peggy Pasillas, Peggy Brush, Jill Feller, Rick Nelson, Theresa Meyer, Lynn Reichert, Wayne Gastfield, Shelly Sentyrz, Joslyn Seefeldt, Wes Elford, Dianne Schmidt, Maxine Bernsdorf.

Guests: Aaron Mower, Linda Jacobson

Call to order by President Rick Nelson.

Welcome made to new board members; introductions were done for all board members.

Secretary's report: Motion was made by Marge Dixon to accept the secretary's report as was printed in the newsletter in February; 2nd by Peggy Brush: motion passed.

Treasurer's report was presented in the form of a balance sheet and the profit and loss state from January 1- March 9th. Motion made by Peggy Brush; seconded by Wayne Gastfield to accept report as presented: motion passed.

Old Business:

- **ICF Committee:** Peggy will be chair person for the new committee; other committee members will be Rick Nelson, Julie Roe, Tony Troyer and Lynn Reichert. The silent auction would be facilitated by this committee. More information on the committee will be presented in the upcoming newsletters.
- **UMECRA Membership cards/numbers:** In December the BOD had voted to provide UMECRA numbers and membership cards to all members beginning in 2010. A discussion was held in regards to the need for these numbers; if needed for record keeping purposes, the extra work to print the cards out will be done, but if there is no need for the numbers and cards, the extra work is not needed. Shelly brought forward that last year, Angie was trying to work with the "Rough Riders" software and the members numbers would have been needed; however, Angie has since quit using the software due to difficulties in the design of it therefore the member numbers are not

needed. Motion was made by Wayne Gastfield and seconded by Marty Powers to *not* provide membership numbers and cards to UMECRA members. Motion passed.

- **NC ride update:** Jill and Peggy B. updated the board on where the NC ride is. The application has been sent in to AERC, but has not yet been accepted. The AERC BOD will be meeting in early April and a decision will be made at that time. Jill and Peggy asked for volunteers for some of the committees for the ride: Marge Dixon volunteered to chair the awards committee. Jill and Peggy also asked UMECRA for a loan of \$500 to start a checking account for the ride to keep all expenses separate and organized. A discussion was held about if UMECRA is **supporting** the NC ride or sponsoring the ride. The December BOD meeting minutes state: *Motion was made by Peggy, seconded by Marty to have UMECRA step up and help DRAW with organizing the NC ride in 2011 and then split the finances (losses or gains). Any money gained from this ride will be put into the trail fund. Motion passed.* This statement is incorrect; UMECRA will only be **supporting** the NC ride; UMECRA will not be a **sponsor** of the ride. Motion was made by Marty Powers, seconded by Dianne Schmidt to 'loan' \$500 to the NC ride managers; the loan is contingent on having the 2011 NC ride awarded to the Midwest. Motion passed.
- **Membership committee:** Marty updated the board on the committee's activities and she also had more buttons of "Ask Me About Distance Riding" available for board members. Angie is getting signs made for RM's- she will send those to the first RM in each state to be passed to other rides. How will the certificates for Novice ride work? Jill has created a certificate to use and will send it to Joslyn Seefeldt and Shelly Sentyrz to put on the RM page on the website in PDF form for RM's to access. Linda Mower gave an update from the Illinois Horse Fair booth; it was very successful. Linda Rudolphi constructed a large Midwest map with all 2010 rides located on it; the map will be sent to the MN Horse Fair to use. The membership committee will also be posting a Frequently Asked Question list on the UMECRA website.

New Business:

- **Conventions:**
 - **2010 update:** all the bills are paid for the convention and there was not a financial loss.
 - **2011 update:** Dianne Schmidt will be the convention manager. The convention will be at the Marriott in downtown Rochester, MN with \$109/room. There will be a silent auction held during the weekend. Dianne is looking at new entertainment for Saturday night and the speaker. Ideas Dianne presented included an Elvis impersonator and conducting CPR classes on Saturday. The dates for the convention are January 14, 15 & 16, 2011.
 - **2012 update:** This convention is being planned as a 3 day convention; it is the 40th anniversary of UMECRA. Convention managers are Tony Troyer & Rick Nelson. The convention will be in Rockford, IL on January 19-22, 2012. There is a sponsor who will be assisting with the extra costs of the third day of the

convention. On Friday a social event will be held to reminisce with past UMECRA members. Anyone having addresses of past UMECRA members should send that information to either Rick Nelson or Dianne Schmidt. Room rates for this convention are \$89/each.

- **2013 proposal:** Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc on January 18-20, 2013. A discussion was held on having the convention more to the west part of the state: is it better attended? Motion was made by Joslyn Seefeldt; seconded by Wes Elford to accept the proposal for the 2013 convention. Motion passed.
- **2015:** Wayne put in a bid for the convention in Clair, MI. Rooms \$95/each at the Dorthy Hotel. The cost of meal has not yet been determined. Dianne discussed hosting the 2015 convention in Fargo, ND that year (this is the year the convention would be out of the corridor). After a discussion, it was decided that both bids should be presented to the BOD for consideration at the fall 2010 BOD meeting. A communication will be put into the newsletter asking for members to submit bids for 2014 or 2015 if they are interested in hosting a convention.
- **Ride results in electronic format:** Shelly explained (in Angie's absence) the issue with the points. If all the RM's use the correct Excel spreadsheet, Angie can just merge the document into the point's database. If a different spreadsheet is used, then Angie has to cut and paste all of the information into the database. The correct Excel spreadsheet was sent out to all RM's with the mailing that Shelly sent out. The spreadsheet is also available on the Ride Manager's page on the UMECRA website. Ride managers should **only** use that spreadsheet for submitting ride results. Any manager not able to submit an electronic copy of their ride results should contact Shelly Sentyrz for assistance. *Note: some RMs are getting a rider to complete the points electronically in exchange for a free or reduced ride entry at their ride.*
- **Membership costs for 2011:** The hard copy costs of the newsletter and the ride book were discussed. A motion was made by Peggy Brush, seconded by Theresa Meyer to increase the membership fees by \$10 for the 2011 season. A friendly amendment was discussed: All membership fees will be raised \$10 with a discount of \$10 being given for subscribing to the newsletter and ride book electronically. The friendly amendment was accepted: Motion passed. For 2011 the membership fees are \$45/family, \$35/single; members who **choose** to receive an electronic newsletter and the ride book electronically will be able to take advantage of a \$10 discount: thus the memberships would be \$35/family, \$25/single. The increase will be in effect in 2011; the new membership form will be available by fall.
- **Junior membership:** Linda Mower made a motion, seconded by Lynn Reichert to have a junior membership for \$25. Motion failed.
- **Awards budget:** the budget for 2010 awards is \$3044 from 2009 ride entries. This leaves the awards committee \$23 for the lesser awards and \$43 for top ten awards. Jackets cost about \$60 with the embroidery. The awards committee does not feel they can purchase nice awards for the money in the budget. Max asked the BOD for an additional \$600 for the awards. Motion made by Peggy Brush; seconded by Joslyn; motion passed.

- **Membership directory:** Should the membership directory be printed out yearly or bi-yearly? Should it be hard copy or electronic? After discussing the pros and cons of these issues, the BOD felt that a yearly membership directory will be printed in June and sent out to all members. The format and size of the directory will stay similar to what it has been in past year.
- **Ride book in 2011:** members will be encouraged to get the ride book electronically or pay the higher membership fees.
- **Newsletter link or PDF:** Members are encouraged to get the newsletter electronically. Joslyn is working with Bill Suskey on a program that can reduce the size of the PDF file making it more compatible to members with dial up Internet.
- **Trail grant request:** Dianne Schmidt requested a trail grant of \$250 for the Forestville State Park for trail maintenance. These are the trails that the SE MN ride uses. Motion made by Maxine, seconded by Wes to approve the trail grant. Motion passed.
- **Fall meeting date and place:** The fall BOD meeting will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2010 at Ho Chunk Casino at 11:30 am. Wes Elford offered his home for the meeting, but being that it is another 90 minutes from Wisconsin Dells, the location is not feasible for the meeting.
- **Versatility Award:** In the ride book, there is a nomination form to nominate for the Versatility award. This award was named after a past UMECRA member, Charles Phillips and is sponsored by the MI Distance Riding Association (GLDRA). On the form, there is no mention of whom the award is named after or who is sponsoring it. A MI member is concerned that members will forget the name associated with the award because of this oversight. In the ride book, all of the awards are listed along with who is sponsoring the awards and who the award is named after. A discussion was held about what the best way would be to keep members aware of these awards and the significance of the members whose names appear on the awards. Shelly Sentyrz volunteered to put together some 'book mark' like documentation that will be attached to the various awards in future years, along with presenting this information on the banquet tables at the annual convention.
- **Advertising:** Shelly has sent the ride schedule to about 50 publications who will publish it at no cost to UMECRA.
- **Hall of Fame award:** a nomination was given for the Hall of Fame award. Due to the nature of this award being a surprise, the submitted name will not be provided in the minutes. An article will be placed in the newsletter for other nominations. All nominations should be sent in to Theresa Meyer by October 1st to be considered for the award. Past members how have won this award include: Louise Reidel, Grace Ramsey, Dr. Robert Beecher, Bob Mielke, Wayne Gastfield, JoAnn Gernadt and Rick Nelson.
- Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller

UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**BOD Meeting
November 13, 2010
Ho Chunk, Wisconsin Dells
Agenda**

Attendees: Wayne Gastfield, Maxine Bernsdorf, Linda Mower, Jill Feller, Rick Nelson, Shelly Sentyrz, Marty Powers, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Marge Dixon, Bonnie Mielke, Dianne Schmidt, Lynn Reichert, Peggy Pasillas, Angie Mikkelson, Joslyn Seefeldt, Theresa Meyer

Guests: Linda Jacobson, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Sarah Mower, Barry Saylor, Jeanne Crispin

Meeting called to order by President Rick Nelson

Secretary report: Wayne made motion to accept report from March meeting, Bonnie seconded; motion passed.

Treasurer report: Report was presented by way of balance sheet and P&L. Linda Mower made motion; seconded by Wayne to accept reports as presented; motion passed.

Business:

- **Convention update** – Dianne Schmidt
 - Dianne presented a report on where rides, members and ride managers are located. Dianne made a motion that WI Dells be the midpoint of the corridor. The corridor would go east and west every other year from the midpoint. Would we also want to discuss going south and north? Dianne made a motion to make WI Dells the midpoint for the conventions with every other year going east or west. There was no seconded for the motion.
 - A discussion was held on why people attend or don't attend the convention. Should a questionnaire to discuss ideas. We should do a survey with Survey Monkey. Shelly will work on the survey with Dianne.
 - Dianne passed out information about the 2011 convention. The speaker will be \$350 and be a sports med physician to hold a discussion on knees. AHDR will be sponsoring the Friday night entertainment. Dianne is asking UMECRA to pay for the speaker and the casino night \$500. The cost of the meal will be between

\$25-\$30/person. There will be a tack swap also at the convention. The convention information is posted on the UMECRA website.

- Dianne is asking for \$500 for casino costs and \$350 for the speaker; Wayne made motion, Julie seconded. \$100 has been paid for the casino which leaves \$750 to come from the convention fund; leaving the convention fund in \$368.57. Passed.
- Illinois Expo
 - Tony asked for \$100 to sponsor a booth at the IL Expo. Tony and Joanne Gernant would work the booth. Dianne made motion, Wayne seconded to approve the \$100; Motion passed.
- Rider concerns- Maxine Bernsdorf
 - Max has four letters from riders:
 - **Tentative ride schedule** should be published within 24 hours after it is approved by the BOD. A discussion was held on the liability of doing this; the schedule can be posted with a disclaimer as "TENTATIVE". Motion made by Maxine seconded by Linda M to post the tentative schedule, with a disclaimer that the schedule is tentative schedule after the BOD meeting. The schedule will be posted on the website, but not within a 24-hour period of time.
 - **Novice rides** should require a vet check in the middle so the ride is similar to a competitive ride. Suggestion is to do a 6-mile loop, come back to camp for a vet check, do another 6 mile loop. Bonnie suggested that the rides should be holding a clinic before the ride. Some of the vets suggested that no novice riders should be able to participate in the ride unless they have participated in a clinic. A clinic (even a short one) should be held before the ride. Opinions voiced were that not all ride managers have the time or help to host a novice clinic on each day of a ride. Some novice rides are run smoothly while others are not run well at all.
 - Marge Dixon expressed her concern about her first novice ride- it was bad and no information was available to her.
 - Julie made a motion to put a committee together to look at Novice rides and how we can improve them. Theresa Meyers seconded the motion. Joslyn will chair the committee, Marty, Julie, Nicole and Bonnie will be part of the committee. Motion passed.
 - Lynn Reichert shared her novice ride experience as a ride manager. She asked some competitive riders who rode on Saturday to stay on Sunday and assisted the novice riders. There was an experienced rider with the small groups and it worked well. The experienced riders met the novice group when they came in and assisted them through the vet check.

- Theresa Meyers asked if any RM's have the novice riders call or email ahead. Some riders will call/email ahead some will not. It might help if the RM knew in advanced how many riders will come.
- Barry Saylor commented that he limited his Novice to a 10 mile ride. He stated that he has seen horses that did not look like they would make a longer ride.
- **Limited Distance**
 - **Restricted mileage is requested.** Discussion was held on restricted mileage: Theresa: if we expand the LD division, our budget is still the same for awards. Angie: 264 entries in LD that were UMECRA members and 21 accumulated over 190 miles; 243 would qualify for restricted mileage awards. Some people can only make it to so many rides and would like the restricted mileage. Comments: why would we give an award for doing *basically nothing*? This is not an organization in which we 'sign up and get an award'. Limited Distance under 195 miles is like doing nothing.
 - Motion made by Joslyn to offer Restricted Mileage for LD – same mileage as competitive (195 miles), seconded by Linda M. Motion passed. 8 passed; 3 opposed. **GOES TO GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY.**
 - **Weight divisions for LD are requested.** Max made a motion to have weight divisions in LD; light weight, heavy weight with weights the same as endurance. Joslyn seconded the motion. Discussion: this would make the RM do more work as submitting the points to AERC and UMECRA would now be different. Also, if UMECRA would follow AERC rules, we would now need to write new rules for LD weight division. Angie: 264 LD, 247 Comp riders 125 endurance riders; we have more LD riders than all other groups and they are the least recognized. Motion failed with a vote of 4/7.
- Ride Manager concerns- Rick Nelson
 - Karen Bahrman: Pine Marten RM does not feel that DRAWARMA should be allowed to continue as a multiday rid. She is protesting the presence of DRAWARAMA on the same weekend as Pine Marten. What is the mileage between the rides? 276 miles; the rule is 300 miles distance. Theresa: DRAW was on one weekend in fall and then moved due to the anchor weekends Memorial Day and Labor Day. The tentative schedule out a few years shows that both rides will conflict for a few more years. If DRAW moves one weekend, this protest will be a non-issue.
 - Sanctioning coordinator will contact both ride managers to discuss the issue. Shelly will explore the options of these rides and get back to the board within the next week.

- Donation to Southern Kettle Moraine Horseman's Park- Bonnie Mielke
 - Bonnie belongs to the Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Associate and since UMECRA has several rides there, Bonnie would like UMECRA to donate to this fund. \$400,000 is being donated by the state but they need more money. Motion made by Bonnie to give \$250 to this organization, seconded by Dianne; motion passed 16/1.
- Charging non UMECRA members more on ride entries- Bonnie Mielke
 - Bonnie said that she rides at rides outside of the area and at many rides there is an additional fee if you are not members. Bonnie made a motion to charge a \$5.00 fee per entry for non UMECRA members (novice riders are excluded) at rides; Marge seconded the motion. Motion vote was tied; broken by vote from President; motion failed.
- Attendance at fall & spring meetings:
 - Do we want to reimburse members of the BOD to drive to the spring and fall meetings? The mileage could be set at any rate that the board would want to set it at. Discussion was held as to the reason why people are on the board. Rick mentioned that he is on the board because he enjoys it. Angie voiced her opinion that a backup plan should be in place such as video or teleconferencing.
 - Would GO-TO-Meeting work? Everyone can go online or just use audio to call in for those who cannot make the meeting. No action was taken on this subject.

- **Rule changes**

- Theresa walked through the proposed changes:

SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS

5. REPORTING

A. UMECRA ride results, "per rider" reporting fees, and insurance fees must be sent to the secretary postmarked within 14 days, with a penalty of \$50 for non-compliance and denial of re-sanctioning the following year if the penalty is not paid. **If results, ride fees, and/or insurance payments are not received with 60 days of the ride date, loss of sanctioning for future rides, including rides in the same year will be forfeited.**

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

- Theresa made a motion, seconded by Joslyn to accept the above change. There were two rides this past season in which the ride fees were not paid within a 60-day period. Riders were upset and wanted to know if the next ride by that ride manager would be sanctioned. Theresa feels that we have some responsibility to our riders to make sure there are results posted in a timely measure. Dianne- we should charge the \$50 and just pull the sanctioning for the following year and not pull the current year sanctioning.
 - Angie: by not posting the points, we are punishing the riders and not the ride manager. What if we posted the points and then pull them later? This could cause problems with riders if they were counting on those

points and planning they year-end rides to allow them to place in the top ten.

- Lynn Reichert: my concern the riders pay for the ride so they should not be punished.
- Barry Saylor: would it be possible for have the points posted under a subheading so they are not counted in? This is a points keeper issue more than the Webmaster issue; it would involve a lot of extra work and would not solve the problem.
- Marge: why are these ride managers ride mangers if they do not want do the work involved with running a ride? *This topic will be postponed until January; Theresa will rewrite the proposed rule and put it out on the BOD group email to review before the convention meeting.*

- Motion made by Theresa that ride results, rider fees and ride insurance fees must be sent to sec/treasurer within 30 days (current rule is 14 days). Motion seconded by Marty.

- Bonnie: we should keep the timeline short so it is not forgotten.
- Theresa: in the past, the people who were doing awards had concerns with the last ride of the season. Is that still a concern? Yes it is.
- Motion failed.

- Motion made by Marty, seconded by Julie to move the 14 days to 21 days. Motion failed.

- Motion made by Theresa, seconded by Jill:
 - **J. Ride Managers must respond by November 30th as to the date(s) of their ride for the following year. If possible, the ride manager should respond by the time of the Fall Board of Directors meeting so that an initial ride calendar can be presented at that meeting. If no response has been received by the fall meeting, the Sanctioning Coordinator must make at least two attempts to contact the ride manager for the information. If no reply has been received by November 30th from the ride manager, then the board can choose to take the ride off of the calendar and may replace it with another ride**

Motion approved. GOES TO GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY.

- COMPETITIVE RULES

2. Management Requirements

H. There must be a minimum of one rest stop during each 25 miles or increments over 15 miles thereof. (For example a ride must be 40 miles or over in order to require two rest stops.) Horses may not travel more than 20 miles without a scheduled vet stop **if the ride is between 25 and 34 miles. A one day ride of 35 miles or more may have one loop that is a maximum of 25 miles.** All vet stops must be a minimum of 40 minutes long.

- Motion made by Theresa, seconded by Dianne. Discussion: Marty has a concern going 25 miles without water. Motion failed: 4/6

- LCD projector discussion
 - With the cost of renting these LCD projectors (\$250 for the convention) UMECRA should look into purchasing one. Joslyn made a motion to purchase an LCD projector, bulbs and case at a cap of \$700. Linda seconded the motion; motion passed. Jill will look into purchasing the equipment.
- Outstanding Service award- Rick Nelson
 - This award has been sponsored by AHDRA in the past; they also want to pick the recipient of the award. Rick told the AHDRA president that UMECRA would need to select the award since it is a UMECRA award. Rick said that when he was president of AHDRA, he nominated Art Pretz for the first award but it was UMECRA who approved the nomination. There is no determination in the past how this was done. Maxine said that since she has been doing awards, AHDRA has picked the recipient for this award. Motion passed 6/4- AHDRA picks the recipient.
- 2011 Ride schedule- moving of ride dates, new rides, etc.
 - Shelly passed out the tentative 2011 schedule with some changes.
 - Marty moved to accept tentative schedule, Joslyn seconded. Approved.
- Rider's Choice award- who will be in charge of this?
 - Theresa has only one nomination – would someone like to do this? Sarah Mower will coordinate this event. She will contact the NL editor with her contact information.
- Membership committee- updates:
 - Contacted the membership committee on how to improve membership. The committee wants to send a letter to novice riders to join UMECRA. For 2011, a form will be created with Marty's address to send form directly to her after each ride. Marty will contact the 2010 ride managers for the names and addresses of the novice riders.
 - Membership form- what about a discounted first year membership? \$10 off Marty made a motion and Joslyn seconded the motion: Novice riders will receive a coupon to receive \$10 off on a UMECRA membership for 2011 in their ride packets when they register for a ride. Motion passed. Marty will print the coupons.
- ICF committee- updates? Peggy Garner was not at the meeting to provide updates.
 - The silent auction at the convention will be managed by Peggy Pasillas
- Scholarship fund- Jill Feller
 - \$3070 is available for scholarships for the next year.
- Insurance- Jill Feller
 - Have not been informed of any changes for the next ride season but will provide more information at the convention meeting.
- Hall of Fame nominees: there was one nomination for Hall of Fame this year. The nomination was accepted
- Trail fund requested by Tony \$250 for trail work at Mathissen St. Park; Motion made by Wayne, seconded Julie. Motion passed.

- Appointment of: pointskeeper, webmaster, sanctioning coordinator and newsletter editor
 - Change the bylaws to match that in odd years all appointments will be replaced. Theresa will need to update the bylaws to reflect the change.
 - Introductions:
 - Jeanne Crispin was introduced as the tentative Sanctioning Coordinator. Appointed as SC.
 - Nicole Mauser-Storer is interested in the webmaster position. Appointed as webmaster.
 - Angie Mikkelson and Robyn Schandt both expressed an interest in pointskeeper. Robyn will be the new pointskeeper. A big thank you to Angie for her past experience.
 - Peggy Pasillas will remain as NL editor.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:
Jill Feller
Secretary/treasurer



**Morning BOD Meeting
January 15, 2011
6:00 am
Rochester, MN**

Call meeting to order at 6:00 am by President Rick Nelson.

Present at the meeting: Nicole Mauser-Storer, Dianne Schmidt, Lynn Reichert, Max Bernsdorf, Robin Schadt, Julie Biegert- Jackson, Linda Mower, Bonnie Mielke, Jeanne Crispin, Theresa Meyer, Wayne Gastfield, Shelly Sentyrz, Peggy Garner, Marty Power, Wes Elford, Peggy Pasillas, Rick Nelson, Jill Feller.

Guests present: Elinore Tonsor, Tony Troyer, Mona Radtke, Dr. Robert Beecher and Chris Power

Secretary's report: correction needed on the Novice division section of the November BOD meeting.

- Membership form- what about a discounted first year membership? \$10 off Marty made a motion and Joslyn seconded the motion: Novice riders will receive a coupon to receive \$10 off on a UMECRA membership for 2011 in their ride packets when they register for a ride. Motion passed. Marty will print the coupons. *Correction: this should read: Riders, who rode Novice in 2010, will receive a coupon to receive \$10 off on a 2011 UMECRA membership. Novice riders in 2011 will not receive this coupon in their packets.*

Marty Power made motion to accept the minutes with the above correction, Maxine Bernsdorf seconded motion; motion passed.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was presented in the form of a balance sheet dated 12/31/10 and 1/8/11. Wayne Gastfield made a motion, Peggy Garner seconded to accept treasurers report as presented: motion passed.

Old Business:

A. Brought forward from Fall BOD meeting:

- A. UMECRA ride results, "per rider" reporting fees, and insurance fees must be sent to the secretary postmarked within 14 days, with a penalty of \$50 for non-compliance and denial of re-sanctioning the following year if the penalty is not paid. If results, ride fees, and/or insurance payments are not received with 60 days of the ride date, loss of sanctioning for future rides, including rides in the same year will be forfeited.



This proposal was discussed in the November meeting and was tabled until January. Theresa made some changes and represented the proposal. After some discussion, some more changes were made. Wes Elford made motion; Linda Mowrer seconded; motion passed to take following proposal to the General meeting.

5. REPORTING

A. UMECRA ride results, “per rider” reporting fees, and insurance fees must be sent to the secretary postmarked within 14 days, with a penalty of \$50 for non-compliance and denial of re-sanctioning the following year if the penalty is not paid. The UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer shall report to the UMECRA Board on rides with outstanding bills 21 days past the ride date. If results, ride fees, and/or insurance payments are not received within 30 days of the ride date, sanctioning for future rides, including rides in the same year may be forfeited, as determined by the UMECRA Board.

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

B. Bylaws

ARTICLE III (By-law changes need a 2/3 vote to be approved)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 7. SECRETARY/TREASURER. The Secretary/Treasurer shall attend all sessions of the Board of Directors and of all meetings of the members and record all votes and the minutes of all proceedings in a book kept for that purpose; and shall perform like duties for the standing committees when required. S/he shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or President, under whose supervision s/he shall be. S/he shall keep in safe custody the seal of the corporation, if any, and when authorized by the Board, affix the same to any instrument requiring it. S/he shall have the custody of the corporate funds and securities and shall keep full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the corporation and shall deposit all monies, and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the corporation, in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. S/he shall disburse the funds of the corporation as



may be ordered by the Board, taking the proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render to the President and Directors, at the regular meetings of the board, or whenever they may require it, an account of all her/his transactions as Secretary/Treasurer and of the financial condition of the corporation. S/he shall give the corporation a bond if required by a majority of the Board of Directors, in such amount as they may determine, and with one or more sureties satisfactory to the Board, for the faithful performance of the duties of her/his office, and for the restoration to the corporation in case of her/his death, resignation, retirement or removal from office, of all books, papers, vouchers, money and other property, of whatever kind in her/his possession or under her/his control belonging to the corporation. Costs of such a bond shall be borne by the corporation. Due to its requirements and nature the position of Secretary-Treasurer may be filled by either a current Delegate or a current UMECRA Member with a minimum of three (3) years as a UMECRA Ride Manager .

Motion made by Wes Elford to accept this change: seconded by Marty Power; motion passed- will be presented at General meeting.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

Section 5. OTHER POSITIONS An Executive Committee of the Board will nominate (a) proposed volunteer Newsletter Editor(s) for a two-year term, commencing in 1997. The Executive Committee will also nominate a proposed volunteer Sanctioning Director and a separate Points-Keeper for a two-year term commencing in 2004. The executive committee will appoint a volunteer webmaster for a two year term commencing January 2006. Commencing in 2012, the Sanctioning Coordinator and the Newsletter editor will be appointed to a two year term, these appointments will be made on even numbered years. Commencing in 2013 the Points Keeper and the Webmaster will be appointed to a two year term made in odd numbered years. The above shall be subject to an approval vote by a majority of the Board. The Newsletter Editor(s), Points-Keeper, Sanctioning Director and Webmaster shall be invited to attend all Board or committee meetings. Duties of these positions are as follow, but are not limited to:



Motion was made by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Julie Biegert-Jackson to accept this bylaw change; motion passed. Motion will be presented at annual meeting.

C. UMECRA & AERC- rules and changes

- A rider wrote the UMECRA rules committee expressing concern about the **inconsistency of rules being followed between states**. There is a rule that UMECRA has that addresses this. The RM would need to get BOD approval to change the rules. The rule change must be approved by the BOD and then posted by the ride secretary at the ride. Rule change must be posted at least 12-hours before the ride to all riders to see.

- ***Point of information from the rules committee:***

GENERAL RULES – (Apply to both endurance and competitive rides)

Management Requirements

H. A ride committee may make variations to rules if changes are approved by the UMECRA Board of Directors. Any deviation from UMECRA Rules shall be advertised in an approved manner and posted at the ride secretary's area.

And from AERC – their change wording.....

AERC - 6.2.1 The minimum criteria for the post-finish-line control check are as follows. The head control judge of any ride may adopt more stringent criteria, including the final pulse rate criteria, as part of the setting of the judging parameters under Rule 2.1.6.1.

Additionally, the ride manager may reduce the maximum time to meet the final pulse rate criterion to not less than 30 minutes after an equine crosses the finish line. The ride manager shall preliminarily indicate the maximum time to meet the final pulse rate criterion on the AERC ride sanction application. The ride manager may after consultation with the head control judge subsequently change the maximum time to meet the final pulse rate criterion from the time indicated on the ride sanction application.

The AERC encourages each ride manager to set the maximum time to meet the final pulse rate criterion, whether 30 minutes or an hour or some time in between, which the ride manager and head control judge believe to best suit the particular circumstances of the ride and protect the equines entered.

Notice of any change in the maximum time to meet the final pulse rate



criterion and notice of any other more stringent criteria for the post-finish line control check must be provided to competitors by written notice posted in a conspicuous location at the ride camp at least 12 hours prior to the start of the ride and shall also be presented by the ride manager or head control judge at any pre-ride briefing or meeting.

- **6.2.1.1- AERC**- 60 minutes for post ride check. Riders may present their horse meeting criteria within the hour at their choosing. The inconsistency of this rule was communicated to AERC; AERC contacted the vet committee and Wes had to make some calls to investigate this issue. The RM needs to be sure that the vets at the ride follow the rules. A RM needs to approach the vet to discuss issues if the vet is not following the rules.
 - At a ride, a rider was prevented from presenting for completion because he/she was going to present for BC- the vet said he/she could not present until he/she was ready to present for BC. This is a violation of the AERC rule.
 - ***This is a point of education- no changes are needed.***
 - AERC allows you to change the 60-minute final vet check- this must be posted also. AERC would like to know if you are using the 30-minute rule.
 - Competitive rides- in MI- there are no cards being used. The timer keeps track of time in and out.
- **Rulebook clarifications** (there are presented to remind RM's they exist and are to be followed)

Competitive Rule

4. Veterinary requirements – judging competitive horses

B.2.b) There will be a minimum of two pulse and respiration readings scored during the day's ride, except for novice rides and competitive drives of 15 miles or less which may have one.

Addition to novice rules – point of clarification.

- 2) Novice rides must use the “window system” as follows: A novice rider may come in from 5 minutes before or up to 5 minutes after the exact scheduled time without losing points. One point per minute is lost for coming in before or after these limits, up to 55 minutes (a total of 55 points) without being disqualified.

Addition to competitive drive rules – point of clarification – general drive rules.

Competitive drives must use the “window system “ as follows: A driver may come in from 5 minutes before or up to 5 minutes after the exact scheduled time



without losing points. One point per minute is lost for coming in before or after these limits, up to 55 minutes (a total of 55 points) without being disqualified.
Notice to members – riders & ride managers

New Business:

A. Insurance update: Jill has submitted the 2011 insurance application and information to our insurance company. There has been no price communicated at this time however UMECRA does not anticipate any cost increases. Jill Feller made a motion, Dianne Schmidt seconded motion to keep the insurance costs for UMECRA rides the same as in past years. UMECRA will pay ½ of the cost of each ride day's insurance and the rides are responsible for paying 100% of all additional insured costs. Motion passed.

B. ICF committee update

The new ICF committee was established in Spring of 2010 with Peggy Garner as the chair person. Tony Troyer presented some guidelines for the new committee. These guidelines include qualifications of riders and criteria to receive funds. The following guidelines were presented:

ICF Guide Lines

- Guidelines will help to prevent favoritism when funds are asked for.
- Furnish a report to the BOD each year: with fund raising activity, money spent, etc.
- Must be a UMECRA member in good standing. What does good standing mean? Means- paid membership- will need to have ridden in UMECRA for the past 18-months.
- Must have a Pass Port on the horse.
- Request for funds are for 3* and 4* rides only.
(3* rides are 100 mile rides and 4* rides are International rides...i.e. Pam American Games, World Games etc.)
- A Plan of Competition must be sent to the committee by Feb 1 of the year that funds are requested. Will there be a form sent to the requester with these questions?
- Plan must include what your intent is (which level or games) & your horse's current qualifications.
- Years riding in UMECRA and number of rides that you have attended in the past 18 months. Could this be a ride manager instead of a rider?
- There will be a min balance of \$1,500 in this account at all times.



- The Max pay out for any year will be \$2,500, with only \$500 granted to any one rider within that calendar year.
- For years in which more than 5 request are made from the ICF there will be a lottery held on a predetermined date at March BOD meeting. There will be 7 names drawn. The first 5 will be granted funds and the 6 & 7th names will be alternates. Could this create problems and/or hard feelings?
- If not qualified for 3* or 4* rides at the time of your request funds will not be granted until after said FEI qualifications are completed.
- If rider fails to be qualified within reasonable allotted time, the next rider chosen in the lottery will be granted the request.
- If the funds balance falls below the allocated amount of \$500 per request the amount of the money will be evenly divided to maintain the balance of the minimum of \$1,500. (example If the ICF has only a balance of \$1,875 in the account each of the five request would be allotted \$75) *[this is if I did my math correctly]*
- Those requesting fund will have to ride a min of one ride and a maximum of 5 rides to receive the full \$500
(Payout's Per ride : 1 ride = \$100, 2 rides = \$200, 3 rides = \$300, 4 rides = \$400, and 5 rides = \$500 max per rider member)
[this will require those that are outside the UMECRA area from only riding one ride and getting fully funded as in the past.. i.e. a rider member from TX or MO and only would ride one ride within UMECRA they can still receive funds, but not on the same level as one that is active within UMECRA rides.]
- All the names of those that requested funds will be in a report to the BOD with the 5 names (plus 2 alternate names) that have won in the lottery. The BOD must approve and the checks will be mailed out from Sec/Treas.

The FUND RAISING:

The auction will only bring in around \$125 for every \$1,000. This isn't much money... What I would like to do is sell 50/50 tickets on Fri & Sat nights of the convention. Maybe this could be one of the things our UMECRA FEI riders could help us out in doing? We could also get a basket of "stuff" and auction it off at the convention Sat evening...this could be a silent or a up front auction and covered or kept uncovered. Another auction item that would be good is a saddle bag auction...put items in a saddle bag (they get the saddle bags and its contents) no one can see what is inside the saddle bags...This has grown into a big fund raiser for a club down here; they put a bunch of cash and other small items in it like gift cert's.

- Discussion was held on what 'member in good standing', how lottery process will work and other general discussions. UMECRA does have a current member asking for funds from the ICF fund. How should this request be handled?



- These guidelines are a BOD decision. Marty Power: this makes good sense but needs some word changes. Guidelines will be cleaned up and sent out to the BOD for final approval. Once approved, the guidelines will be posted on the Website along with an application.
- Make the qualifications so a minimum of 5 UMECRA rides are needed.
- Peggy Garner made a motion to approve the conceptual idea of these guideline; Maxine Bernsdorf seconded the motion: motion passed.
- How will fund raising be handled?
- ICF committee needs to be revamped: Peggy Garner will be leaving us on the board as Past President and head of ICF committee. Need to form a committee to work together to get this finished.
 - Tony Troyer was appointed committee chair, Wes Elford, Julie Biegert-Jackson, and Lynn Reichert will remain on the committee. Tony will contact Julie Roe to see if she wants to stay on the committee also.

C. 2011 Ride Schedule:

- Shelly Sentyrz (Sanctioning Coordinator- SC) presented some changes to the 2011 ride schedule. Because of the way the calendar falls two rides fall on the same date that would normally fall on a different day.
 - MNDRA 1- want the first weekend in May: White River and Glacier Trails both fall this weekend also. Wayne has always had the first full weekend in May which is usually *not* Mother's Day; in 2011 the first weekend in May is Mother's Day. ***See Appendix A for more changes for 2011.***
 - The current sanctioning guidelines state that if a ride is 500+ miles away from another ride on the same weekend, the SC does not need to contact the RM of the established ride.
 - DRAWARAMA and Pine Marten- are too close but they were both on the same weekend before the updated guidelines were established.
 - Elinore presented some history for this situation as she was the SC at the time DRAWARMA was approved. DRAW had borrowed weekend from Mona; DRAW asked for the weekend for one year and since then they have said it was their weekend. The original ride opposite Pine Marten was at Prairie du Chien and the distance between rides was greater but when the ride moved to DRAW and the southern Kettles, the ride mileage moved closer.



- Dead Dog Creek is moving because the trail is no longer open to Linda in May.
- B. Shelly's idea to fix the ride schedule and prevent the doubling up of rides in future years: if we used the holidays, Memorial Day and Labor Day we will continue this issue. If we only use ONE of the holidays there will be years when weekends when a ride should be held that will not exist. (May of 2011 is a perfect example of this. Normally both White River Spring and MNDRA I fall on the first weekend in May; this year the first weekend in May is April 30 and May 1st which is not a full weekend in May. Both rides will move to the first weekend in May which is Mother's Day weekend and Glacier Trails). I propose we approve the schedule as is written for 2011, and then we take the calendar and apply the new rules with the oldest ride taking precedence for each weekend. If there are two or more rides on a weekend that are too close under the new rules; only the oldest existing ride would keep that weekend and other rides need to change dates or get permission from the existing RM to continue. Elinore stated that when she was SC she stated the calendar was out for 5-years- why didn't the RM's call each other in advance when they knew the May 2011 weekend would be an issue? MNDRA I, White River Spring and Glacier Trails RM's all had the opportunity to see this issue and discuss it before this meeting; none of the RM's called any of the others. Both MNDRA I and White River Spring RM's are fine with the three rides on this weekend in 2011: Glacier Trails RM is not.
- Shelly would like to take this proposal to the RM at the annual meeting. The motion: The ride calendar for 2011 should remain as it is scheduled and then the SC and the BOD will go through the ride calendar before the spring 2011 BOD meeting and apply the new rules of 500 miles for each weekend. The oldest ride will be grandfathered into that weekend and the other rides will be requested to move unless the existing RM gives permission for the other ride to exist. Wes Elford made a motion, Marty Power seconded. Motion passed.
 - Dianne Schmidt made a motion to accept the 2011 ride schedule as presented, seconded by Theresa Meyer; motion passed.

D. Shelly results are compiled from the survey

- 86 people replied to the survey
- Conclusions included:



- more time to visit with people
- meet newer people and not have so many cliques
- value of speakers
 - horse and people health are the most interesting
- more efficient meetings- avoid arguing and disagreements

E. Eagle Library

- The Eagle Library is putting on a community showcase and have approached Bonnie Mielke is she would like a booth to disseminate information on distance riding. The event is scheduled for March 26th. Bonnie is unable to man the booth but Dawn Haas has volunteered to work in it. Bonnie is requesting \$30 to pay for the reservation of the booth for this event. Motion made by Maxine Bernsdorf, seconded in by Peggy Garner to pay for the booth; motion passed.

F. MNDRA

- Dianne Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Theresa Meyer to give \$250 for MNDRA to host a booth at the MN Horse Expo; motion passed.

G. Past- President position

- Peggy Gardner is leaving as Past President due to her move out of the area. Linda Mower will move into the Past-President position and a new IL Director will be elected at the meeting today.

H. IL Horse Fair

- Motion was made by Marty Power, seconded by Peggy Garner to pay \$250 for a demonstration at the IL Horse fair; motion passed. Mowers normally do the presentation but are unable to do it this year. Tony Troyer will be running the booth in 2011.

I. Novice Division and Membership Committee updates

- Update on Novice committee
 - Marty Power had asked for Novice rider information from 2010 rides. She has not gotten a good response.
 - Theresa Meyer communicated that she spoke to Art (UMECRA's legal counsel) about novice riders. His suggestion is to hold a clinic in each state in the spring and advertise it well. During the clinic the Novice rules and a thorough overview of distance riding should be explained. Wisconsin holds an annual clinic; DRAW and ApDRA alternate years



holding the clinic. Some of the other states do not hold an annual clinic.

- There will be handouts to all of the RM's to assist with the Novice riders; these handouts will be given in the ride manger's packets. These handouts were developed by the Novice and Membership committees.
- Update on Mentor program
 - This program is not used as well as it could be. Most riders may not know this is an option. Marty will put signup sheets out on each table during the annual meeting to see if more riders will sign up.
- UMECRA discount for Novice riders; If this is well received for the 2010 Novice riders, it may be expanded into future years.
- **CHANGES for NOVICE**
 - Discussion: Some riders pull in to camp and unload a horse that may not have any conditioning done and they may ride too fast for the horse's condition. A chart of ride times was presented by Theresa Meyer to be used for Novice rides. This chart of time would put the maximum speed of the Novice ride at 5.5 mph. Theresa made a motion to accept these times and have them added into the Novice rules; seconded by Peggy Garner. A discussion followed saying that riding too slow during a Novice ride could give a false sense of the sport to new riders. Max Bernsdorf state: I have taken out many Novice rides; you usually go the speed of your slowest rider. You need to be aware of the riders and take care of issues if they develop. UMECRA/Novice rides should follow the Competitive rules already established by UMECRA. Motion failed.
- Novice rides maximum at the end of the ride will be up to 55 minutes late before getting disqualified. The 25 minute disqualification rule developed by accident since the ride is ½ of a normal ride. Since the Novice rides follow the competitive rules the 55 minute rule needs to be followed. ***This is not a rule change but a clarification. This will be posted in both the Novice and the Driving rules.***



- Marty Power copied off the condensed Novice rules to be included in the RM's ride packets.

J. Convention Corridor

- Dianne gave a presentation at the fall meeting about the geographic area of UMECRA. The midpoint is WI Dells but if we include the Dakotas in the ride area, the midpoint moves to Lacrosse, WI. We wanted more information on this as he missed the fall meeting and the presentation. Dr. Beecher commented that we should consider holding the convention in July at a ride site; we would probably have a large attendance. No action was taken on this subject.

K. Rider letter

- Maxine Bernsdorf presented a letter from rider would like more awards for the LD riders. Since there is no weight division in LD, the rider would like to see some mileage awards given out for the next five riders under the award winner. A discussion followed. If you go down to riders under the top –ten, some of the miles are pretty insignificant to give awards to. No motion was give to this topic; no action was taken.

Motion made by Wayne Gastfield, seconded by Peggy Garner to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller

UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



Proposed Changes for 2011 UMECRA Ride Schedule 01/09/2011

Note: Several rides have dropped/added distances. See individual ride listings for changes.

Note: Several Ride Managers have expressed concern that their venues might be flooded this spring/summer. The Sanctioning Coordinator and Webmaster will work closely with Ride Managers to communicate site changes to membership.

- 1) MnDRA I has moved for one year to the first full weekend of May to avoid falling on the MN Horse Expo weekend. White River Spring is the first full weekend of May, this year May 7-8.
- 2) Iron Oak will be a Saturday-only ride this year, as Sunday is Easter.
- 3) AHDRA I – My Backyard – has moved to May 14-15 this year. It will find a more permanent home beginning next year, when it adopts the last weekend of April (YTBD).
- 4) Prairie Smoke and Dead Dog Creek have moved to the last week of June (25-26).
- 5) AHDRA I.5 - Zumbro Bottoms – has moved to the third week of July (23-24).
- 6) The Fort Mead Remount Pioneer ride in Sturgis, SD has been added the last weekend of July (29-31).
- 7) Oak Leaf Run has moved to the third week of October and changed to a 3-day ride (21-23).

Comments from Ride Managers regarding proposed schedule changes:

- Mona Radtke objects to MnDRA I and White River Spring being held May 7-8, as Glacier Trails is historically this date – Mother's Day weekend – and is likely the second oldest ride on the schedule.
- Dennis Byard has requested Dead Dog Creek not be moved to the last week of June, the date of his Hopkins Creek ride.
- Kerry Greear requested her Fort Mead Remount Pioneer ride be newly sanctioned by UMECRA.
- Karen Bahrman has requested the DRAWarama ride be disallowed from the first weekend of October, the date of her Pine Marten Run ride.



**Agenda items for Annual Meeting
January 15, 2011
Rochester, MN**

Meeting called to order by President Rick Nelson.

Roll call taken by Jill Feller by each ride. There are 74 votes total for the meeting; 70 delegates, 3 rider reps, 1 vet representative.

Secretary's report: minutes were on website for review and in newsletters. Jill communicated the change in the minutes from the fall BOD meeting (See the BOD morning minutes for this change). Peggy Pasillas made motion to accept the minutes, Tony Troyer seconded the motion; motion passed.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report was provided as a Balance sheet dated 12/31/10 and 1/8/11 and a Profit & Loss Summary report. Jill Feller told the attending members that if anyone wanted the detail P&L report to contact her and she will send it out to him/her. The detailed report is a too large of a report to provide hard copies at this meeting. Tony Troyer made a motion to accept the report as given, seconded by Holly Egerer; motion passed.

- *Note: A financial audit was conducted on January 14th by Rick Nelson, Wayne Gastfield and Linda Mower. The audit concluded that all finances are in order with UMECRA treasurer.*

Agenda items:

- Items brought forward from fall and morning BOD meetings:
 - Under General Rules: Management Requirements:
 - Ride Managers must respond by November 30th as to the date(s) of their ride for the following year. If possible, the ride manager should respond by the time of the Fall Board of Directors meeting so that an initial ride calendar can be presented at that meeting. If no response has been received by the fall meeting, the Sanctioning Coordinator must make at least two attempts to contact the ride manager for the information. If no reply has been received by November 30th from the ride manager, then the board can choose to take the ride off of the calendar and may replace it with another ride.



- Motion made on the above addition to the General Rules by Theresa Meyer, seconded by Barry Saylor. Discussion was held:
 - Should we put a \$50 fine on RM's that do not reply by November 30 with their sanctioning requests? There was no friendly amendment requested on this topic.
 - A friendly amendment was requested by Katie Bachhuber. Her request was to change the last line of the proposed rule to say: *If no reply has been received by November 30th, the board **will** take the ride off of the calendar and allow another ride to take that date.* The friendly amendment was accepted by Theresa Meyer but denied by Barry Saylor. Rule passed as it was presented by 65/9 vote.
- Ride reporting rule.
 - 5. REPORTING
 - A. UMECRA ride results, "per rider" reporting fees, and insurance fees must be sent to the secretary postmarked within 14 days, with a penalty of \$50 for non-compliance and denial of re-sanctioning the following year if the penalty is not paid. The UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer shall report to the UMECRA Board on rides with outstanding bills 21 days past the ride date. If results, ride fees, and/or insurance payments are not received within 30 days of the ride date, sanctioning for future rides, including rides in the same year may be forfeited, as determined by the UMECRA Board. *In addition eligibility to vote as a ride representative (as ride manager and for all ride delegates) may be forfeited for board meetings and the annual membership meeting for the twelve month period commencing on the last day of the ride. **The italicized part of this change was the friendly amendment described below.***
 - Theresa Meyer motioned to approve the above change without the italicized portion; Tony Troyer seconded the motion. Discussion followed.



- Ride managers were given a communication in spring that said the ride results need to be sent in electronically and not all RM's can or will do this. There was an additional letter sent to RM's stating that hard copy results can be submitted.
- A delegate suggested that both dates in the proposal should be the same day either 21 or 30 days. The 21 days is just a head's up so the board is aware of an issue while the 30 days is more of a final date when action is taken.
- Chris Power suggested an amendment added to the above proposal; ***in addition, eligibility to vote as a ride representative (as RM and for all ride delegates) may be forfeited for board meetings and the annual membership meeting for the twelve month period commencing on the last day of the ride.***
- Theresa and Tony both approved the amendment.
 - The amendment passed by a vote of 37/27
 - The proposed change passed by a vote of 63/1
- **By-law changes:**
 - Change to Secretary/treasurer position (see the morning BOD minutes for the wording of this by-law change). Theresa Meyer made the motion, seconded by Tony Troyer. Reason for change to the bylaw is that the position requires someone who is qualified; not everyone can do it. The position can be time consuming and if we have a qualified person who is not a RM for a year, he/she would then not be qualified to keep the position. This may not be in the best interest of the organization.
 - We did vote on this issue two-years ago and it did not pass. The current Secretary/Treasurer has been a RM every year since she has been in the position. Art Priesz, our attorney who consults with UMECRA, has reviewed the wording of this bylaw change.
 - One delegate mentioned that there is some confusion as to if UMECRA is a RM organization or a riders organization.
 - This topic has been discussed before; we need to go back on track with the current discussion and topic; a discussion of RM or rider organization can be conducted at a later time if it is needed.
 - Tony Troyer called the question; Tim Casserly seconded; vote was taken.
 - Vote was 54/17; since this is a by-law change, 50 votes (2/3 of 74 votes) is needed to make a change. Motion passed.



- After Louise was no longer in her position with UMECRA, the multiple jobs she did were split up. To prevent the positions of Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Sanctioning Coordinator and Pointskeeper from all being appointed in the same year, Theresa proposed a motion, seconded by Linda Mower to change this to the following: the SC, NL editor will be appointed in 2012; in 2013 the Webmaster and Pointskeeper will be appointed for a two year term.
 - Motion passed with 68 votes.
- **Other changes:**
 - Restricted mileage award for Limited Distance (brought forward from fall BOD meeting)
 - Motion made by Joslyn Seefeldt to offer Restricted Mileage for LD with the same mileage as competitive (195 miles), seconded by Linda M. Motion passed. 8 passed; 3 opposed.
 - LD is here to stay and the LD riders are a large group with the least amount of awards; a short discussion followed.
 - The qualifications for the LD restricted mileage would be the same as the Competitive rules.
 - Motion passed.
- **Rules clarifications (see the morning BOD minutes for these rules in more detail)**
 - Brought forward from the morning meeting for clarification. The shorter rides in Novice and Driving- need to clarify that these rides only need one check. This is just a clarification of rule.
 - 55 minute rule for competitive. This is a current rule; nothing is changing. Point of clarification only. Novice and drivers have the full 55 minutes past the ride finish time before being disqualified.
 - Some riders say that 'some rides do not follow the rules'. We have a rule that states: ***A ride committee may make variations to rules if changes are approved by the UMECRA BOD. Any deviation from UMECRA rules shall be advertised and approved manner and posted at the ride secretary's table.*** UMECRA already has this rule.
 - **AERC rule 6.2.1 rule:** states that RM's must post the change within a 12-hour period of the ride so all riders are aware of the change.
- **Sanctioning changes**
 - Calendar issues
 - Two ways of putting rides on a calendar- a specific weekend each year or it is on a holiday. There are different rules that have been



in effect during the past years. Some rides are too close based on our current rules. The proposal would be to accept the ride schedule as is presented in 2011 and then re-evaluate the schedule based on the current rules. The oldest rides would have precedence for the weekend if two rides don't meet the current rules and the RM's would need to discuss moving a ride date.

- The other option would be to deal with this each year the way it has been done. No motion or action was made on this subject.
- **2011 Ride Calendar**
 - Discussion of changes for 2011
 - See Appendix A in the morning BOD meeting minutes on these changes
 - Ride Managers comments
 - Mona would like it in writing that MNDRA 1 would be a one-year change only to Mother's Day weekend. Theresa Meyer, RM of MNDRA I, said that as long as she is the RM of that ride, she has no plans to move to Mother's Day weekend; however, since she cannot get into the park until May 1st and the first full weekend in May is Mothers' Day weekend in the future, this same situation will surface. (MNDRA I cannot be held on April 30 and May 1st weekend because the park does not open until May 1st. MNDRA I will need to move to Mother's Day weekend in 2011, but back to the first weekend in May in 2012).
 - Dennis Byard does not want Dead Dog Creek on same weekend, but it is over 500 miles away so it meets our criteria. Linda Mower stated that she has only had two MI rider ever at her ride.
 - Tony Troyer made a motion to accept the 2011 ride schedule; seconded by Barry Saylor; motion approved 67/1.
- **Other items**
 - AERC North America Team Challenge- Dr Wes gave an update on the AERC International committee. North American Team Challenge is a FEI ride of high caliber. It is in Sept 23 in CA. There are some paperwork items that need to be done if you are planning on going. You will need to record batch numbers of spring vaccinations and record any swirls on your horse along with other items.
 - There will be four teams from each zone and 4-6 horses/team. You can also ride without being on a team. There is no financial backing from USEF due to the large amount of horses anticipated.



- More information on this ride will be posted in the NL and/or on the UMECRA website for those that are interested and are planning to attend and compete.
- **Insurance update for 2011 rides**
 - Anticipated to be the same as last year (see minutes from morning meeting). *Since the annual meeting, the insurance costs for 2011 have been received; there is no increase in costs. Ride insurance is \$45/day (UMECRA will pay ½ of this cost for each ride with the insurance) and additional insured will remain at \$20/day. The additional insured costs will be paid 100% by the rides.*
- **Committee updates:**
 - **Membership –**
 - Marty Power would like to thank the committee that assisted in the membership. We are not continuing the “Ask Me About Distance Riding” campaign in 2011. The new rider’s handbook that was created by Angie Mikkelson is a great help to new riders. It is expensive to print so new members are sent the link to download it if they want a hard copy.
 - **Mentorship program-**
 - The committee has asked for members to be mentors but have not gotten enough people to help with this initiative. There is a signup sheet on each table at the meeting for members to sign up if interested in being a mentor.
 - **Novice**
 - There is a letter in every RM packet and 10 copies of information for Novice riders. If you are giving the Novice riders information, continue to do so, this information is in addition to not in place of what you are already providing.
 - **ICF update**
 - Tony Troyer provided the update (see the morning meeting minutes)
- **Introduction of assigned positions**
 - Newsletter Editor- Peggy Pasillas
 - Pointskeeper- Robin Schadt
 - Sanctioning Coordinator- Jeanne Crispin
 - Webmaster- Nicole Mauser- Storer
 - Past-president: Peggy Gardner is moving to CA. Linda Mower will replace her as Past President on the board.
- **Elections (winners are highlighted)**
 - Vice President: nominated: Theresa Meyer/ Mo Miller: **Theresa Meyer won**
 - Secretary/Treasurer: **Jill Feller**; no other members were nominated
 - Director at Large (2): **Marty Power/ Lynn Reichert/** Barry Saylor
 - IL Director: **Tony Troyer/** Mo Miller- respectfully declined



- MI Director: **Wayne Gastfield**: no other members were nominated
- **2012 Convention:**
 - The convention will be a three-day convention celebrating 40 years of UMECRA. The dates are January 20-22, 2012 at Rockford, IL. Rick Nelson and Tony Troyer are the managers along with many volunteers. More volunteers are needed for this event. If you have some time to assist in compiling data on UMECRA, please contact: Rick Nelson, Tony Troyer or Dianne Schmidt. There is information on the convention included in the meeting packets on each table.
- **Survey Update (see morning meeting minutes for more info)**
 - Shelly Sentyrz gave a quick overview of the results from the UMECRA survey. The survey is still open for members to take. There is an electronic version or a hard copy available. Shelly will continue to tabulate the results and them posted on the UMECRA website for members to see.

- Motion made by Tony Troyer, seconded by Tim Casserly to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**Morning BOD Meeting
March 26, 2011
La Crosse, WI**

Meeting called to order by President Rick Nelson at 10:00 AM.

Present: Rick Nelson, Theresa Meyers, Tony Troyer, Wes Elford, Joslyn Seefeldt, Dianne Schmidt, Maxine Bernsdorf, Wayne Gastfield, Jill Feller, Marty Power, Julie Jackson, Nicole Mauer-Storer

Guests: Nicole Herrmann and her husband, Karen Bahrman, Sue Herrick

Minutes: The minutes from the two meetings held at the January convention were previously sent to the BOD members to read. Motion made by Tony to approve minutes; seconded by Maxine; approved.

Treasurer report: The report was presented as a balance sheet and a P&L from 1/1/11 until 3/20/11; there was also a 2011 convention financial report.

Theresa noted that this is the first year we did not charge a convention fee; however there was a small convention fee that was rolled into the cost of the meal. Attendees not purchasing the banquet meal paid a \$20 convention fee. Dianne noted the UMECRA used to pay for the speaker years ago and the convention did not have to worry about that cost. Dianne feels that the cost of the speaker should be paid for by UMECRA and not the convention. Tony noted that the 2012 convention in Rockford will be charging a convention fee. Motion made by Theresa to accept the treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Joslyn; approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Pine Martin vs. DRAWARAMA**
 - Karen Bahrman, ride manager of Pine Martin, presented her reasoning as to why she would like to have the DRAWARMA ride moved to a different weekend; at the present time, both rides are on the same weekend. Karen would like to see UMECRA apply the 500 mile rule (the rides would need to be at least 500 miles apart). The 300 miles is a guideline and there is no ceiling to that. "The hallmark of fairness is consistency; applying the 300 mile debate will just put this debate down to next year". *Note: The sanctioning guidelines state that if rides fall on the same weekend, the rides need to be a minimum of 300 miles apart; this guideline is to be used **before** the ride schedule is approved at the annual meeting in January. Once the ride schedule is approved, if a new ride is seeking*



sanctioning on the same weekend as a ride that has been approved, the distance between rides needs to be a minimum of 500 miles.

- Joslyn Seefeldt, President of DRAW: - Pine Martin is not the only ride that is not 500 mile limit. If we apply this rule to Pine Martin and DRAWARAMA we need to apply it to all ride weekends. DRAWARAMA has been here since 2008 and there has never been a protest so why is there one now?
- Dianne Schmidt: Was DRAWARAMA always in Southern Kettle? Yes, but when this weekend had the Mt Quest ride in Prairie du Chien before DRAWARAMA got the weekend that ride was also less than 500 miles from Pine Martin. Joslyn stated that Barb Gardner, ride manager of DRAWARMA, called Karen and asked for a multiday ride and Karen agreed; there was no mention that this multiday ride would be for one year only. Karen said she never received a call from Barb; she said she never received a call from anyone in regards to making DRAWARMA a four-day ride. She did receive an email from Jill in 2008 asking for a year to move DRAW IV (which was a two-day ride in mid October) to a different weekend because of a National Championship ride that was being held in Indiana in the middle of October when DRAW IV was normally held.
- Tony Troyer: How much of the decrease in attendance of Karen's ride is due to an economic impact? There have been increased gas prices and more impact such as loss of income during the past few years. Do you know how many WI riders quit coming to Pine Martin? *No answer was provided.*
- Joslyn: There was a 22% drop in attendance at rides throughout UMECRA in the past two years; Pine Martin was not the only ride losing riders. Historically, Pine Martin has had better attendance on Sat & Sun than DRAWARAMA has.
- Dianne: I think we should get rid of the 500 mile rule.
- Nicole Herrmann: DRAWARAMA is not a new ride; it was originally called DRAW IV but changed the name when it went to a four-day event.
- Theresa Meyer: The 500 mile rule is only in affect with rides coming onto the schedule after the January meeting and the ride schedule was approved. Rides requesting to be on the schedule before the January meeting need to meet the 300 mile guideline.
- Marty Power: I will reiterate what was just said; *the guideline is under Rule 2E 2- no new ride will be scheduled after schedule is approved without BOD approval and must be 501 miles away.* The problem is that we do not know when this rule went into effect; rule and bylaw changes should be dated when they are changed.
- Joslyn: I agree with Marty- sometimes we make rules and don't date the updates so we do not know when they went into effect.
- Rick Nelson: I need to appoint a committee or we will always have this problem.



- Julie Jackson-Biegert: I respectfully disagree that we need a committee. The rule is in place so we need to look at this and see if there is a violation of the rule.
- Rick: We will not change the 2011 schedule as it was voted on and approved at the annual meeting in January.
- Marty: I agree with Rick 2011 is a done deal and we need to look at the schedule for 2012.
- Joslyn: If we take this scrubbing to the annual meeting we would have an uproar from ride managers. *Note: The idea of 'scrubbing' the calendar and applying the 500 mile distance was presented at the 2011 annual meeting. There was no second to the proposal and the motion was never carried forward.* DRAW has tried to compromise with Pine Martin by moving the ride location beginning in 2012 to Spring Green, WI; this would increase the distance between the rides to over 300 miles. We cannot move the date at the Palmyra location due to youth hunting that begins in early October.
- Karen: I'm at a loss as to why this is an issue. We have two rides that are in conflict right now. The scrubbed schedule for less than 300 miles: there are only two rides in contrast. AHAM will move to comply with the 300 mile guideline: AHAM is in conflict with Endure for the Cure ride in Illinois. DRAW is willing to move their ride outside of the 300 mile rule – will that suffice?
- Theresa: when Elinore wrote the sanctioning guidelines down they were guidelines, not hard and fast rules. Some of our rides fall on holidays so every once in a while a ride will end up closer to 300 miles during these times as rides have to double up in certain years. In 2011, MNDRA I, White River Spring and Glacier Trails rides are all the first weekend in May; normally, MNDRA I and White River Spring ride would be a week earlier but the first full weekend in May in 2011 is Mother's Day weekend and for this year, all three rides fall together. If the 300 mile was a hard and fast rule and not a guideline; at least one of these three rides (all established rides) would need to cancel for this year. What happens is that these ride managers agree to co-exist for these years. We are fortunate as riders in the Midwest to have a lot of rides to attend and choose from, but as a ride manager, it hurts our rides because riders have all of these choices. Are we going to keep up the health of the organization by having too many rides?
- Tony: To clarify what I heard. DRAW will have a new ride site for 2012 to comply with the 300 mile rule but will keep with same date?
- Joslyn: Multi day rides will be our saving in the future; many riders will travel further with their horses to these rides. Some other rides will not make money and economics will take care of the rides.
- Motion made by Wes to grant DRAW the same dates in 2012 as long as they are outside of the 300 miles; seconded by Tony. Joslyn would like a friendly



amendment to include all rides on the schedule that are 300 miles or less. After some discussion this motion was withdrawn and the following motion was made.

- Julie made the motion: The 2011 ride schedule will exist as it is right now as approved at the annual meeting; in 2012 *and beyond* all rides on the schedule on the same weekend will need to be outside of 300 miles sanctioning guideline.
Friendly amendment: should say 2012 *and beyond*. Tony seconded the motion; motion passed 7/1.
- Rick: by DRAW moving the ride site, the problem will not exist after 2011.
- Marty: What is the protocol for moving the other ride in July? AHAM and Endure for the Cure are less than 300 miles apart; who will contact AHAM about moving their ride? As Karen stated earlier in the meeting, the ride manager of AHAM has already agreed to move his ride to a different weekend that would be 300 or more miles from an existing ride.
- **Driver's rule change**
 - A new rule is being requested from MDDA; two carts have used this sort of harness in the past year and there were no incidents. This quick release will work on light carts; what defines 'light'? The inspector at ride who is inspecting the carts before they compete would have to make that determination (what is light?). What about a groom with this rig- will that still be considered a light cart? Is it safe- the drivers that are using this rig know what is safe for their horse; if their horse is not used to this rigging, it should not be used? A driver inspects all of the carts before going out onto the trail; it is the driver going out last who inspects all the carts and riggings. This rule needs to be enforced by the safety inspector and ride managers. Would the average ride manager even know what to look for to identify this sort of rigging? Should ride managers be able to tell drivers they can't use this rigging? If we don't tell people what kind of saddle to use, we should not tell drivers' what equipment to use.
 - Breeching or a brake is required unless using a racing type harness employing "quick hitch" couplers, which attach the shafts of the cart directly to the saddle pad of the harness. This type of racing harness may only be used with a light weight two-wheeled cart. The driver must affirm to ride management via the Safety Check that the horse is accustomed to the harness and cart configuration on hills and rough terrain. Motion made by Tony; seconded by Joslyn to accept this rule as is written; motion passed- will go to the January meeting to be voted on.
- **Award's budget 2011**
 - Maxine gave handouts in regards to what we spend on awards. The budget to spend for 2011 awards will be \$7150 and a cushion of \$552.50 for Hi Point awards (this budget is based off of a formula on the number of riders who rode UMECRA sanctioned rides in 2010). Dianne stated that she would still embroidery the jacket for \$65 for the awards.



- Should we set a specific fund aside for awards? If we want to track this better, it might be easier to track and then the money is available without question. Could we put a portion from every ride that pays the riders fees into a separate account? We would then have the money already in the awards fund each year.
 - Motion made by Theresa to accept the awards budget as was presented by Maxine and to start a separate awards fund; Wayne seconded; motion passed. Jill will start a fund with ride entries sent in throughout 2011; this will prevent a large amount of 'general funds' money from being moved into an account.
- **ICF guidelines:**
 - ⊖ These were not discussed at this meeting as Tony will rewrite them and send out these guidelines through the BOD group email and they will be presented at the fall meeting.
- **Membership committee**
 - The coupons for \$10 discount on a 2011 UMECRA membership were sent out to the novice riders from 2010 with an expiration date of March 1st. Marty made a motion to extend the coupon to Novice riders throughout 2011 ride season; seconded by Tony; motion passed.
 - Mentors sign ups were on the tables at the annual meeting; we ended up with a lot of mentors. We are now putting bios on the website for the mentors. All mentors are requested to submit a bio to be published on the website. Marty has been asked to serve on as the liaison between AERC and Midwest with mentor program as AERC is just beginning a mentor program.
 - Novice committee: The RM packets that were given out at the annual convention had Novice information to hand out at the rides.
 - Tony received a letter from some Novice riders who took four hours to do the Novice ride at Big River. They had previously done NATRC and wanted to lead their own group at Tony's ride. They felt the UMECRA rules were going too fast and we were pushing the Novice riders. As RM's we need to know who our customers are and try to work with them we need to make an extra effort to work with the novices. Tony allowed these riders to have a completion award. Julie: with the Novice guidelines we are asking for 6 mph; 4 mph is not distance riding so ride managers also have to be careful that they are still promoting distance riding and not trail riding.
 - Marty: We need to be polite, accommodating but our rules are not riding 4 mph; we are not NATRC and we are not changing our rules.
 - Theresa pointed out that she needs to be stricter since she is the first ride of the season and if she is too lenient, some Novice riders could be points when they shouldn't and then other riders throughout the year may not be placed correctly.



- **Protocol for changes in rules and bylaws**

- Marty: When we get to the annual meeting it feels very rushed to have to consider all the rule and/or bylaw changes and it seems like some of them are very rushed and voted on without a lot of consideration. Marty proposed the following:
 - All suggestions for rule and/or bylaw changes needed to be submitted to the rules committee for consideration before the fall meeting.
 - These changes will be voted on at the fall BOD meeting.
 - These changes will then be posted on the website, published in the December newsletter and sent to the list serve groups (umecra-group email and any other groups)
 - All members would have these changes by the end of December
 - Members can write amendments to the changes; these amendments would need to be accompanied with an explanation as to why the amendment is being requested.
 - Any amendments will need to be posted two weeks prior to annual meeting for review by all members. These amendments will be posted on the website for review and sent out on the list serve groups.
 - All members would have the information they need to make an educated decision on before the annual meeting.
 - *Note: if there is an emergency situation where a rule and/or bylaw needs to be changed at the last minute, these guidelines may not be possible.*
 - Motion made by Marty on the above steps: seconded by Wayne to follow these steps. Motion passed.
 - Theresa: I have tried very hard to get a schedule like this to work. Sometimes we get these changes at the last minute due to it being the end of the ride season.
 - Wayne: all bylaw changes for GLDRA follow a schedule similar to this and it works.
 - Julie: people start voting on items at the annual meeting just to get out of the meeting. Are items being voted on without a lot of thought?
 - Some of the amendments don't come until the Saturday morning before the annual meeting and we can't publish them before hand. Should these amendments then wait until the next year to be voted on? Do all of our members really understand the rules?
 - If we publish the changes ahead of time; members would not hear the reasoning behind the change. These published communications could be skewed depending on how they were written.



- Wes: could we set a date when all bylaw and changes have to be submitted by a certain time so they can be discussed at the fall BOD meeting?
- **Annual convention location**
 - Dianne presented an idea to change the convention location. She presented maps of each state to show where the furthest member to the east and west live and also where the ride manager live.
 - Dianne made the motion that the Wisconsin Dells be stated as the midpoint of the corridor for the Annual Meeting and; if the meeting is not held in the Dells, it be held on the East side of the mid-point one year and on the West side the next. Motion made by Dianne; seconded by Maxine. Failed
 - Dianne presented some information on the location of RM's and members locations throughout the Midwest. Members are spread out throughout the various states. WI Dells would be the midpoint between the farthest east and west RM.
 - Tony: We get more MI RM's when the convention is held between Rockford and WI Dells.
 - Wes: We have conventions through 2014 planned- should this be brought up at fall meeting since it cannot go into play until after 2014?
 - We did the survey and we need to listen to that information. We should not ignore the results. We should look at better educational speakers to attract more attendance. Should we have a better speaker fund to use to attract more attendees?
 - Wes: We should be able to get some speakers at no cost; we have been successful at that in the past. It might cost us some travel and meal costs, but we do not have to pay them to speak.
 - Marty: Jan Worthington was excellent as a speaker at AERC; we should get her to speak at our convention; she got a standing ovation.
 - Where are the upcoming convention:
 - 2012- Rockford
 - 2013-Oconomowoc
 - 2014- open
 - 2015- MI January 16, 17 & 18 Clair MI Hotel Doherty
 - **UMECRA Website**
 - Nicole gave a presentation on the updated website: it looks great!
 - Some discussion was held on the following:
 - Put logo in upper left corner (Standard website design)?
 - Put links in and scattered info throughout the site
 - The logo really stands out more than the UMECAR name. Should it be shrunk down and the name of our organization added to it?



- Nicole will experiment a bit more with some of these ideas

- **Arabian Horse club**
 - Julie presented a sponsorship for \$35 for the Quad City Arab Horse Club for 2011 show. For the \$35, UMECRA would get an ad on all of the show bills along with a mention over the loud speaker. It is very cheap advertising and these young riders are our next members! Motion made by Maxine; seconded by Wayne to take this ad out; motion passed.

- **Marty**
 - Robin Schadt, the new points keeper who was unable to attend the meeting had a suggestion. She wants to get information to riders as fast as possible so she would like to post the ride results as 'unofficial' and if ride fees are not paid, these results would then be removed from the website at a later date. This could cause issues as members may not remember it is an unofficial results. Some UMECRA riders have information posted for rides at MNDRA or other sites and this causes an unfair advantage to these riders who are riding for points and year-end awards.
 - This topic was discussed at the January meeting and there was a rule change made therefore ride results cannot be posted until all rider fees and insurance costs are paid in full.

- **2012 Convention**
 - January 19- 22, 2012 Thursday night start
 - Room rate- \$89/room
 - Not charging for banquet rooms
 - \$20 for table for trade show
 - Charge for electricity with table is \$65
 - Speaker- Dr. Meg Sleeper who is a Veterinarian Cardiologist and a top rider in AERC.
 - Friday night there is a band: Nutsie Turtle Band
 - Saturday night there is a DJ for entertainment.
 - During dinner there will be a violinist who will play a song for tips
 - What fund-raising will be done?
 - Dr. Olivia Rudolphi and Doug Biegert are working on a video of UMECRA to sell. Stephanie Huss is looking at national sponsors to help fund the convention. Donations of \$1500 to advertise one year on the website, in the convention brochure, a booth at the banquet.
 - Should we offer different levels of sponsorship? \$500, \$1000 and \$1500



- Everyone gets on the convention brochure
 - We could reach out to some of the other local feed groups. If anyone has any ideas for sponsor, get that the name and contact information to Stephanie and she will call them and discuss a sponsorship.
- We should allow sponsors to have some freebies in convention bags
 - Could someone sponsor the bags and have their logo printed on it?
 - Samples of products could be put into the bag.
- **Fall BOD meeting**
 - November 12 at the Clock Tower Inn in Rockford, ILL at 10:00 am

Motion to adjourn

Respectfully submitted:
Jill Feller



**Morning BOD Meeting
November 12, 2011
Rockford, IL**

Meeting called to order: VP Theresa Meyer in the absence of President Rick Nelson (he was late).

Present: Julie Jackson-Biegert, Joslyn Seefeldt, Wayne Gastfield, Max Bernsdorf, Jeanne Crispin, Robin Schadt, Marty Powers, Theresa Meyer, Lynn Reichert, Peggy Pasillas, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Tony Troyer, Linda Mower, Wes Elford, Jill Feller, Rick Nelson, Bonnie Mielke, Marge Dixon

Guests: Sara Mower, Sue Herrick, Jen Allen

Secretary's report: minutes were on website for review and in newsletters. Motion made by Tony Troyer, seconded by Maxine Bernsdorf to accept minutes; passed.

Treasurer's report: Balance sheet, and P&L statement was provided to attendees. Wayne Gastfield made motion, seconded by Lynn Reichert to accept reports as presented; passed.

Agenda items:

- **Ride schedule update 2012**
 - Jeanne Crispin passed out the proposed schedule with changes for 2012. There is a proposal from a member to change the distance between rides to a longer distance than is currently used; if approved, the new proposal would go into effect for the 2013 ride schedule.
 - AHDRA 1 wants the last weekend in June in 2012 and Endless Valley wants the weekend closest to July 4 each year. After discussion, it was decided that for 2012, AHDRA 1 will get the last weekend in June and Endless Valley gets first weekend in July. If AHDRA I would be approved for the last weekend in June on a permanent basis, it will fall on the same weekend as Dead Dog at some point in the future. Jen Allen communicated that AHDRA I is a 'floating' ride that will change when the weekends change. The RM of AHDRA I understands that the ride date will change when the calendar changes.
 - There is a request for a new ride from MI called Grand Island North and they would like to put the ride on July 7 & 8 against Endless Valley. The first request for the ride was for July 21 & 22. The next request was that AHAM (which was scheduled for July 7 & 8) would switch dates to July 21 & 22 if that would work better for the Grand Island North ride. The discussion that followed included: Do we want to sanction more rides when we have such a complicated full schedule? If people want to put on a ride they must feel that they can make money at it.



Riders have more choices; UMECRA is a ride manager organization but if the rides can co-exist, we should allow them to. Let the consumers make the choice on which rides to attend. Any new ride will have an effect on existing rides so what can RM's do to get the riders? Bonnie commented that rides need to do something to bring in riders- a good meal, good awards, etc.

- Are the rides consumer driven instead of organized by the BOD? Yes, that has been the theory of the past years and continues to be. If a new ride meets all of the criteria set forth in the sanctioning guidelines, how can it be denied?
- Due to the opposing rides in July, would it be better to give Grand Island North the weekend of July 21 & 22 and keep AHAM July 7 & 8? After looking at the distances of the existing rides in July, the BOD approved Grand Island North for July 21 & 22 and AHAM will remain on July 7 & 8.
- There is the new rule that was passed in January for getting rides sanctioned by November 30th so there may be more changes on the ride schedule in January if there are open dates.
- Motion was made by Julie and seconded by Max to accept the current schedule as presented and discussed pending proper sanctioning forms being received. Passed.
- Jeanne will contact the RMs that have not yet sanctioned and remind them to get the paperwork in before November 30th.
- **Sanctioning Coordinator position**
 - There is no one who wants to take this position over at this time and Jeanne's assignment ends this year. Should this position be eliminated and absorbed by the BOD? The most time consuming part of the position is the ride book which takes about 40-50 hours to put together and it needs to be done in 2-3 week period of time. The information on the front cover needs to be changed besides collecting the ride flyers. After some discussion, Jeanne Crispin has decided to continue to do this position for the next two-years. Our regular printer will be asked to assist in putting the ride book together.
- **Rules issues- not following the rules**
 - A rider approached AERC to protest a MN ride. Connie Caudill, president of AERC, contacted UMECRA to see if the issue could be solved at our level. The issue was that the rider was not allowed to 'trot for completion' at the end of an endurance ride if he was going to show for BC. The vet told the rider when he presented for BC, he would get his completion; it was one exam. This is in violation of the AERC rules.
 - Wes received an email from the AERC rules committee chair about this situation also. She wanted to call the veterinarian involved and discuss the rule.
 - Wes also brought up the MI rides that do not use the competitive cards for the riders at stops. If rides don't want to use the ride cards, should we change the rule? If the rule is there, we need to follow it. The rule could be changed to say



that the use of the cards are optional if a different, effective tracking system is used to record rider times and P/R's.

- There is a rule that says that the RM cannot question the vets decision; however, that rule is in regards to the horse's health and not procedural as is the case in the ride about to be protested. The question was not about the horse's health, but it was a matter of following the rule that the rider can present for completion and the return to present for BC; it is two different exams.
- Since Wes is the Veterinarian Representative of UMECRA, he will talk to the veterinarian of the ride. Vets need to understand the rules and sign the form saying they do; this is a requirement each year before they agree to be head vet of the ride.
- The protest was not officially filed at this point. Last year, the same veterinarian was talked to about some other issues. Wes will have another talk the veterinarian and if needed, Dr. Mero from AERC will call the veterinarian and discuss the rule.
- There were some issues with this same veterinarian with pulling completions if the pulse goes up at the one-hour exam.
- There are two different things here: one is the completion and one is the BC standing. BC says 'you have to complete the ride in order to be considered for BC'. If the completion exam is not done first, how is the rider eligible to stand for BC?
- Should Wes send a letter to the veterinarian that he needs to sign stating he will follow the rules?
- Should the BOD take action against the RM who allowed this to happen? One of the problems is that some RM's don't read the rules or understand them. It is easy to let little things slip away because there are a few differences between AERC and UMECRA and a RM can think they are following both AERC and UMECRA when they are not; they do not realize there are some differences in certain areas.
- Should we have a rules meeting at the convention to discuss rules? If there are rules that are causing issues, we need to address the rule or the actions of not following them. RM's should be there to discuss these issues so we know what we need to do with the rules.
- At this point, it appears to be only one veterinarian who is not following the AERC rules and that needs to be addressed before AERC steps in.
- MI rides don't use the cards because they have a different system; should the rule be changed to make the cards optional? They do track the times on a chart and fill in the information on the ride sheets later.
- Tony explained how he had a similar issue at one of his rides and he was proactive with the correction once it was brought to his attention. The RM needs to be held accountable and the rules have to be consistent.



- Could the NL put in a section each month with a discussion on a rule and how it should be interpreted? This could be a great forum to get riders and RM's to better understand the intent of the rule and also to see if the rule needs to be adjusted for better understanding.
- Wes made a motion; seconded by Joslyn that *UMECRA writes a letter to all of the RM's that they need to follow the rules as stated in AERC and UMECRA and their vet staff also needs to follow the rules.* Friendly amendment by Julie: include an example of BC scoring and state that RM's that allow rules to not be followed will risk loss of sanctioning. Wes does not allow the friendly amendment. A second friendly amendment was suggested by Julie: consequence of not following the rule is listed in the letter. Wes accepts this amendment. The motion with the friendly amendment passed.
- Wes stated that the action of sending the letter to RM's will be reported to AERC as follow up action. Wes will also talk to the veterinarian in question.
- Even if the rules are read, there is still interpretation with them. How do we make sure that the interpretations are the same?
- Should we have a rules symposium or clinic on how to determine rules at the annual convention?
- Will there be any consequences if the rules are not followed after the person has been notified of not following the rules? There is a protest process in place right now that can be used. However, if the BOD is approached with a problem, the BOD needs to remedy the situation before a protest is received.
- **Members names listed on website – update**
 - Is it working to put the member's names and the date their membership is received on the website? We need something in place so members know they have paid their membership. It is the rider's responsibility to look at the website. There is no receipt for paying the membership in UMECRA. Robin highlighted the names with the points posting on the website; however that did not work well in the printed newsletter as the color did not come through well. There is still approximately 45% of the membership that receive hard copy newsletters. If the highlights are in yellow, they will not show up in the printed newsletter. How many people will watch the website? Joslyn made a motion, seconded by Wes to create membership cards and send them out to members. Robin and Marty, from the membership committee will work on sending out the membership cards.
- **Rider reps names that have nominated or been nominated**
 - Bonnie Mielke
 - Max Bernsdorf
 - Elizabeth Laurie
 - Ayla Spry (junior rider)
 - Lynda Zimmermann



- Robin Schadt
- Pamela Fullerton
- Are juniors eligible for rider's rep? Is there an age limit? Years ago we had a discussion about who can sponsor a junior and it was voted to be age 21 therefore a rider rep should be at least 21. Sara: I agree with the fact that people need to be at least 21 years old. Members aren't very open to coming up to talk to a junior so it would not be a good person as a rider rep. No formal action was taken on this subject at this time.
- The December newsletter will need to be mailed out with the voting ballots. Family memberships receive 2 ballots, single memberships receive 1. Linda made a motion, seconded by Joslyn to send out the December NL as usual and send the voting ballots out separately. Passed.
- **Voting by email**
 - Theresa handed out a document explaining the rules of voting in MN. Jos: I would like to see all votes as roll call votes and published for members to see.
 - Art's over all impression of this issue is that no matter what issue there is, historically UMECRA has followed Robert's Rules of Order. If a Roll Call vote is asked for, then we do a roll call vote; otherwise we can continue with the way we have been.
 - If the results are published, will riders come up to those voting and ask questions, or will they 'shun' those who don't vote the way they felt they wanted the vote to go without any discussion? A full explanation would need to be published with the voting results so the issue is explained in full. Would this be a deterrent to voters?
 - Motion made by Julie, seconded by Marty to continue to use email voting for BOD issues. Passed.
 - Under what circumstances should we use a roll call vote? We can continue to do what we do now. Motion made by Theresa, seconded by Marty that the BOD web group and the BOD meetings will operate under Roberts Rules: Motion failed 7/6. The vote was by roll-call. The roll call roster is attached.
- **Convention update**
 - The convention in January will be Thursday-Sunday morning. Rooms are \$89 and the reservation window closes on Dec. 20. By contract, UMECRA is liable for 103 rooms for the weekend; UMECRA will have to pay for the amount under 103 rooms. The committee is working on the events for the weekend. Friday- registration at 2:00; AHDRA awards with snacks and a band called Nuttsie Turtle band and will play until 11 pm. The committee is willing to take any donations from other organizations such as DRAW, MNDRA, GLDRA, etc. Saturday morning will be the BOD meeting, trade show will start; speaker will start at 9 am (Dr. Meg Sleeper) at a cost of approximately \$500. BOD meeting will start at 7:00 with breakfast before. Annual meeting from 1-4 pm. Meal price is still being



negotiated but costs are up from last time. There will be a DJ on Saturday night. There will be a silent auction this year: Peggy P. will run the silent auction along with Jen Allen, Marge Dixon, and Stephanie Huss. Should we put a couple of packages together for a raffle to assist in paying for the convention? No decision was made on this topic.

- Robin suggested a 'split the pot' may be a good option and earn a lot of money. Could do a 50/50 each night with all proceeds going to the convention fund.
- Bonnie is encouraging everyone to come on Friday to meet the UMECRA pioneers people. She suggested it might be fun to put a panel together to ask questions to and maybe a group lunch or dinner where everyone can eat/seat together. Would like to encourage people who rode in the 70's to bring some of the old awards to show.
- Will be a convention fee of at least \$5.00 to assist with the costs of the convention.
- Wes Elford made a motion, seconded by Joslyn to transfer \$500 from general into the convention fund. Passed.
- Do we want to limit the amount a convention can use out of the convention fund? *Table this discussion until spring meeting.*
- **Awards committee update**
 - Everything is on track for the awards and the budget is figured out. Lynn and Max are working on all the awards. Robin is working on finalizing the points and placings and the top ten awards. ABC has paid for the Top Ten awards.
- **Hall of Fame nomination**
 - The requirements for Hall of Fame were read. What is the purpose of this award? The requirements are that they must have contributed to UMECRA.
 - Motion by Linda Mower to accept the nomination; seconded by Joslyn; passed.
- **Update on Scholarship fund**
 - Jill read the memo from the scholarship fund and what is available to award in January to qualified UMECRA members: there is \$3600 to award.
- **Bylaws and Rules- GO TO GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY**
 - Proposal from Gene Dake with changes to sanctioning rules in increase the distance between rides; the proposal would require the current rides to abide by the new distances and there would be many rides affected. Wayne said that this proposal was never brought up at the GLDRA meeting for discussion last week. There was no motion; no action was taken.
 - Driver's rule: Current rule: *The driver must carry a whip in hand at all times while in the cart, but not during the pre and post drive veterinary exams.* Proposed change: *The driver must have a whip within reach at all times while in the cart, but not during the pre and post drive veterinary exams.* Tony made the motion, seconded by Wes; passed.



- UMECRA general rule in regards to discrepancies in point standings was discussed. Theresa will work on this proposal more and will send it via email for approval.
- Endurance Rules and weight divisions. Both endurance and competitive rules in regards to weighing heavy weight riders are not consistent. To correct this problem Theresa made the motion, seconded by Marty to replace both rules with the following: *There shall be weight divisions for endurance and competitive; lightweight- 179 pounds and under; heavyweight- 180 pounds and over WITH TACK. All heavyweight riders may be weighed with tack prior to the ride.* Passed.
- Competitive Novice Division rule was discussed: Should the novice riders be able to place in the Top Five for more than 3 years? Should there be an advanced novice division? This division would be for people who physically are unable to ride more miles but still like the competition. What would be the issue to split up the division as they are due paying members and support the rides? Wes suggested that we not make a motion at this time and that we study this some more and talk to the riders who this will affect and come to January meeting with it.
- **Saddle Up Magazine**
 - This magazine sent an email to several BOD members asking if UMECRA would like to advertise in their publication. The publication goes to over 11,000 members in OH and MI; no motion was made; no action taken.
- **Trail request**
 - Theresa made a motion, seconded by Wayne for \$250 request for Zumbro's Bottom for putting electricity into the shelter; passed.
- **Rules symposium at convention- could you do it over lunch?**
 - The NL would be a great way to publish the rules and get participation.
 - We will host a syposium at the convention and see what happens.
- LD weight divisions- table until January meeting
- Committee updates- table until January meeting
- ICF guidelines (brought forward from spring meeting)- table until January
- Others
 - Michael Liang- winter fun ride- table until January meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



Voting Roster			
NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Joslyn Seefeldt	x		
Julie Jackson-Biegert	x		
Wayne Gastfield		x	
Maxine Bernsdorf		x	
Marty Powers	x		
Tony Troyer	x		
Linda Mower		x	
Marge Dixon		x	
Wes Elford		x	
Bonnie Mielke		x	
Jill Feller		x	
Rick Nelson			x



**BOD Meeting
January 21, 2012
Rockford, IL**

- **Called to order by President.**
- **Attendees:** Bonnie Mielke, Diane Schmidt, Max Bernsdorf, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Joslyn Seefeldt, Wayne Gastfield, Theresa Meyer, Rick Nelson, Jill Feller, Robin Schadt, Marty Power, Wes Elford, Linda Mower, Peggy Pasillas, Tony Troyer
- **Secretary's report approved:** Motion by Wes to accept as printed, seconded by Marty. Motion passed.
- **Treasurer's report:** Report was presented with a Balance sheet and P&L report for 2011. There was a clarification on the amount of money spent for the computer account. \$641 was spent to purchase a LCD projector for UMECRA. Motion by Rick to accept as printed, seconded; Wayne, Passed.
- **Dr Beecher's proposal-** Dr. Beecher presented his proposal for a realignment of UMECRA. Some of the main points of the realignment are that each UMECRA member would get a vote and each ride would get votes. This proposal would make UMECRA a rider's organization instead of a ride manager's organization. A recommendation was made to send the proposal to a "Blue Ribbon Committee" and spend a year researching the different aspects of the proposal and present it to members at the 2013 convention. The proposal involves the creation of a 'regional' UMECRA and get away from the states and the small organizations such as DRAW, MNDRA, GLDRA, AHDRA, etc.
 - Julie: I think we should be very specific about taking this to the membership. We need to be very clear before we talk to the general meeting.
 - Marty: There should be several committees to look into this proposal but one 'main' committee over the top to pull it all together.
 - Tony: We are looking at the pros and cons of the feasibility of making changes to UMECRA.
 - Dr. Beecher: I see rides losing riders and some are losing money. This proposal could make UMECRA stronger.
 - Theresa: Can I get some clarification- if UMECRA becomes a riders organization, would the smaller organizations be eliminated?
 - Beecher: it would depend on the committee to make this decision.
 - Joslyn: I don't see any advantages for DRAW: Dr Beecher- there is NO advantage for the smaller organizations. Awards would become regional and not be a state organization.
 - Marty: There would need to be representatives from each organization for input on the committees. The small details would be looked at later but it is too early to answer some of these questions.



- Julie: We should take this one step at a time. Moving to a rider's organization would get more people to attend the conventions.
- Dianne: The MNDRA bylaws say members need to be a UMECRA member so this proposal would increase the UMECRA membership as some other organizations do not make members be UMECRA members.
- Robin: What we are discussing is procedure- do we have to have the membership vote on forming a committee? A discussion now with the general membership would get by-in.
- Wes: I have tried to get UMECRA to move to a rider organization for years; I like that part of this proposal. I don't think we should ask for a vote from the general membership at this time.
- Joslyn: Joslyn made a motion to form a committee with a representative from each organization to look at a restructure of UMECRA; Wes seconded. When is the committee being formed? There are 7 organizations; there should be people outside of the BOD to be on the committee. President and VP will appoint a core committee and then seek other outside of the BOD. Passed.
- Committee: Marty, Joslyn, Robin, Elizabeth Laurie, Wayne, Bruce Birr, Tony Troyer, Barb Gardner (volunteered). ApDRA and AHDRA need to appoint someone. The committee will appoint a chairperson.
- **By law/rule changes:**
 - **Novice division- PROPOSAL:** *The Novice division must be a one horse/rider team. To enter this division for year-end awards and individual placings, the rider must not have completed more than 90 total miles in a regular distance ride; competitive, limited distance, or endurance. Only one 25 or 30 mile competitive ride may count per year toward year-end awards. Rides longer than 30 miles will NOT count toward awards; whether endurance, LD or competitive, but they will count toward the 90 total miles.*
 - Bonnie: This would allow a rider to compete in a 50-mile ride; the proposal should be changed and the 90 should be 45 to eliminate a 50 mile ride.
 - **PROPOSAL:** *A rider placing Top Five novice for three years is not eligible for further Novice Awards. Horse/rider teams not meeting these criteria may enter novice rides for mileage only.*
 - Wes feels that this statement will force some people who cannot ride more than 12 or 15 miles out of the sport. These people would need a new division to move into that would not be Novice.
 - Bonnie: if someone cannot move up, why can't they just ride for mileage and fun; UMECRA should not create a new division. We would end up with professional novices.



- Joslyn: We have to think of our own business philosophy; if we don't support this group, these members would be pushed out to CTR or some other sport.
- Theresa: Tony worked two years on launching the Novice program; it may take as long as make changes. We would have to host another division at each ride.
- Dianne: Would there be a liability if we have a person who isn't physically able to ride longer than a novice ride?
- Linda: I don't think we should consistently give awards to novice year after year when long-term riders who don't get to many rides don't get awards.
- Julie: I think this division could be good for older riders who no longer want to ride the longer rides.
- Bonnie: How many actual novice riders switch into regular, longer rides. The numbers are low and getting lower. Why should we support these riders if they do not move up?
- Marty: These riders do support the ride and pay their fees. We could get some sponsorships for the awards. What is the question: do we not want this division or can we not afford the awards?
- Joslyn: I'm more concerned with the older riders who don't want to ride the longer rides; we will lose these members.
- Should we do some more research into this? Jen Allen gave Theresa some names in November to talk to about keeping members in this division. One of the riders supported the new division while the others did not. Could we put all of these riders' names into a hat and have a drawing at the convention for the novice 'mileage only' people.
- Dianne: We should track how many novices are repeating year after year. Dianne only has had 2 riders return the following year.
- Motion made by Julie to accept the new rule with a slight wording change; Tony seconded the motion: Passed- this will be taken to the general meeting this afternoon.
- Peggy: Suggestion to rule: *Horse/rider teams who are not eligible for top 5 award can ride for mileage only.*
- Bonnie: New suggestion: **Horse/rider teams who are not eligible for placing in the Novice division can ride for mileage only.**
- Ride managers now have to ask Novice division if they are riding for mileage only. This rule could cause some novice riders to switch to mileage only in mid-year.
- **Other:** *Thirty days after the mailing of the UMECRA newsletter ride results printed therein become official. Errors must be reported to the pointskeeper, ride*



manager and UMECRA secretary within the 30 days. Riders are responsible for checking ride results and points standings. If errors are found after 30 days, the UMECRA executive board, ride manager and pointskeeper must be petitioned in writing by the rider and informed of the error. The secretary will inform the board of the petition. Correct placings and points would be awarded unless intentionally delay of error notification is suspected. This will be considered fraud, and may result in no change in ride results or points awarded. All ride results and points are final 30 days after the publication of the November newsletter.

- Dianne: The 30 days in November could cause issues with the awards committee.
 - Robin: This past year, any errors would be on the last ride as everyone did a great job this year as getting points in and riders checking points.
 - Peggy: I did not know I needed to get the November issue out quicker; I send it out to the printer and he may not get it out immediately.
 - Dianne: I feel we need to 'soften' the "this is a rule" mentality.
 - ***If we have a rule, we need to enforce it otherwise we should not have it.***
 - Theresa: In looking at other clubs and enforcing rules, I found nothing similar to this rule so I can assume they have nothing in place. Louise's final point standing always had scribbling on them so this is not a new thing in our organization.
 - Marty made a motion to accept this rule; Julie seconded: PASSED- move to general meeting
- **Update on 2012 insurance costs**
 - Theresa: The MN DNR is requesting a \$1.5M policy; however with the combination of AERC and UMECRA insurance, this is no longer an issue. Jill made a motion to keep the UMECRA insurance costs the same for 2012 rides. UMECRA will pay for ½ the cost of the daily insurance and the rides will pay for all the additional insured costs. Motion was seconded by Dianne. Passed.
 - **Rider Rep – should there be a minimum age limit to be a Rider Rep**
 - **Theresa:** Table until March meeting
 - **ICF committee update:** Tony did not have an update but there will be info presented at that March meeting. Rick: as a group, we need to think about the funds in ICF and if we don't use it, we should consider re-appropriating the funds. We do not have any information about ICF on the website; that could contribute to the lack of use of the funds. There was a discussion last year with a rider requesting that fund but it was not approved. Bring any ideas about ICF to the March meeting.
 - **Winter ride- Michael Liang** Michael would like to put on a winter ride. Julie suggested if we do that sort of item it should be more of a fun ride. If Michael organizes the ride- would UMECRA sponsor it? Since it is a fun ride and there is no sanctioning involved, the BOD does not need to take any action.



- **Committee reports:**
 - **Membership-** Marty presented a report on membership numbers. Should we compile a list of past members and send out a ride book?
 - A motion was made by Linda to compare the 2010 members to the 2011 members and send a “we miss you” letter along with the 2012 ridebook cover and a membership form. Motion was seconded by Julie: Passed. The membership committee will oversee this project.
- **Ride schedule:**
 - The 2012 ride schedule was approved at the November BOD meeting; however a new ride in ND has requested to sanction with UMECRA on October 6 & 7. The ride is over 500 miles from DRAWARAMA which is on the same weekend. Marty made a motion to accept the new ride; Jill seconded. Passed.
- **By Laws:**
 - No changes with bylaws at this time.
- **Other:**
 - MNDRA will be voting in March on their bylaws. It is very possible, that MNDRA will vote that members will not be required to join UMECRA. The most number of UMECRA members reside in MN; however if the MNDRA bylaws change, those numbers may change.
 - If the majority of members continue to reside in MN, should the corridor for the convention move further west in WI to the LaCrosse area?
 - There is no one hosting the 2014 convention at this time. Dianne volunteered to host it in Rochester, MN. It was pointed out that Rochester is outside the corridor and the convention cannot be put there in 2014. Marty made a motion to ‘waive’ the current corridor rule and to allow Dianne to host the convention in Rochester in 2014. Julie seconded motion: Passed
- Bonnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Linda; Passed

Respectfully submitted
Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**Annual Meeting
January 21, 2012
Rockford, IL**

- Meeting called to order at 1:15 pm by President.
- Roll call of voting delegates: 72 delegates; includes 5 rider reps and vet rep.
- Bob Egerer motioned that the minutes from the secretary's report from 2011 convention be accepted; motion seconded by Linda Mower: Passed.
- Treasurer's report was presented with a 2011 balance sheet and P&L: Barry Saylor made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; Wes Elford seconded the motion. Passed.

New Business:

- **Ride schedule for 2012**
 - The ride schedule had been printed on the UMECRA website. There was one addition; the Iron Creek Run ride in North Dakota on Oct 6 & 7. The ride schedule was reviewed by all attendees. Theresa Meyer made a motion to approve the schedule; motion seconded by Tony Troyer. Passed.
- **Insurance costs for 2012**
 - The ride insurance costs will remain the same as in the past years. Motion made by Jill Feller to keep the ride insurance costs the same as in 2011 with UMECRA paying ½ of the event costs while rides will continue to pay the additional insured costs; motion seconded by Barry Saylor. Passed.
- **Scholarship fund**
 - There are three scholarship awards for this year. There was \$3600 in the fund therefore three recipients were each awarded \$1200. The award winners were: Jessica and Sarah Rudstrum and Tanya Meyer.
- **Bylaws and Rules**
 - **Driver's rule:** Current rule: *The driver must carry a whip in hand at all times while in the cart, but not during the pre and post drive veterinary exams.* Proposed change: *The driver must have a whip within reach at all times while in the cart, but not during the pre and post drive veterinary exams.* Tony made motion to accept this rule, seconded by Theresa. Passed.
 - **Breaching or brake on light weight cart.** *Breeching or a brake is required unless using a racing type harness employing "quick hitch" couplers, which attach the shafts of the cart directly to the saddle pad of the harness. This type of racing harness may only be used with a light weight two-wheeled cart. The driver must affirm to ride management via the Safety Check that the horse is accustomed to the harness and cart configuration on hills and rough terrain.* Motion made by Tony and seconded by Theresa to accept this rule. Tony presented some photos of the brake system so a



ride manager would know what it is. Bob Egerer asked if the photos could be sent to the ride managers; Tony agreed to make them available. Passed.

- **Endurance Rules and weight divisions.** The rule about weighing a heavy weight rider is inconsistent between endurance and competitive rules. To correct this problem the following rule is being offered: *There shall be weight divisions for endurance and competitive; lightweight- 179 pounds and under; heavyweight- 180 pounds and over WITH TACK. All heavyweight riders may be weighed with tack prior to the ride.* Motion made by Theresa Meyer and seconded by Tony Troyer to accept this rule as presented. Elinore Tonsor is not sure the wording is clear. A suggestion was made to change the wording to: ***Any rider competing as a heavyweight may be required to prove their weight.*** Theresa accepts the amendment; Tony approved amendment. Passed.
- **Other items brought forward from the morning BOD meeting.**
 - **Novice division- PROPOSAL:** *The Novice division must be a one horse/rider team. To enter this division for year-end awards and individual placings, the rider must not have completed more than 90 total miles in a regular distance ride; competitive, limited distance, or endurance. Only one 25 or 30 mile competitive ride may count per year toward year-end awards. Rides longer than 30 miles will NOT count toward awards; whether endurance, LD or competitive, but they will count toward the 90 total miles.*
 - **PROPOSAL:** *A rider placing Top Five novice for three years is not eligible for further Novice Awards. Horse/rider teams not meeting these criteria may enter novice rides for mileage only.*
 - The above proposal was presented together and approved together at the morning BOD meeting.
 - Theresa Meyer made a motion; seconded by Julie Jackson-Biegert to accept these rules.
 - Lori Windows would like to make a friendly amendment to split the two and vote on each one separately. Friendly amendment was approved by both Theresa and Julie.
 - Is the 90 miles in a lifetime or season? The intent was to call for lifetime miles. Theresa made an adjustment to the proposal and added lifetime to the statement.
 - A rider could compete on different horses over and over- yes, the way this is written, that could happen.
 - Mona Radtke: as a RM- do I need to ask the riders now if they are eligible at rides? Maybe we should stop offering novice rides. Right now, there is no limitation in the Novice division.
 - If a RM does not want to offer a Novice ride, then they should not offer them, but don't punish the entire region who want to offer Novice rides.



- Tony clarified why the Novice division was originated. When started, the UMECRA membership went up.
- Robin: RM's can give awards out if they choose to do so, but this rule is really about the year-end awards. The pointskeeper will figure out the year-end awards it will not fall on the RM.
- Nancy: I love the Novice division; I ride a horse who is now injured so I am riding a young horse and will be remaining in Novice for one or two years. This change of rules is questioning if the division should remain, but just the continuing of receiving year-end awards against those riders who truly are novices.
- ⊖ The revised rule is: *A rider placing Top Five novice for three years is not eligible for further Novice Awards and may enter Novice rides for mileage only. ~~Horse/A rider teams A rider not meeting this criteria may enter novice rides for mileage only.~~* Motion passed with only 10 negative votes.
- **Reporting of errors:**
- *Thirty days after the mailing of the UMECRA newsletter ride results printed therein become official. Errors must be reported to the pointskeeper, ride manager and UMECRA secretary within the 30 days. Riders are responsible for checking ride results and points standings. If errors are found after 30 days, the UMECRA executive board, ride manager and pointskeeper must be petitioned in writing by the rider and informed of the error. The secretary will inform the board of the petition. Correct placings and points would be awarded unless intentionally delay of error notification is suspected. This will be considered fraud, and may result in no change in ride results or points awarded. All ride results and points are final 30 days after the publication of the November newsletter.* Motion made by Theresa Meyer to accept wording of the new rule; seconded by Marty Power. Passed.
- **Convention report for upcoming years:**
 - 2013- Oconomowoc, WI at Olympia Resort January 18-20, 2013
 - 2014- Rochester, MN- date to be determined. This would put the convention outside the corridor. The convention can only be held outside the corridor every 4 years; it was in MN in 2011 and will in MI in 2015. Joslyn Seefeldt made a motion; seconded by Tony Troy to table approving the 2014 convention being held in MN and allow time for another proposal. Passed. ANY UMECRA member who would like to host the 2014 convention within the corridor should contact a member of the BOD before the spring BOD meeting with their proposal. If no other proposals are brought forward for consideration, the 2014 convention may be approved to be held in Rochester, MN.
 - 2015- Clare, MI at Hotel Doherty January 16-18, 2015
- **Rider reps announcement- votes counted from ballots:**
 - Elizabeth Laurie
 - Maxine Bernsdorf



- Bonnie Mielke
- Robin Schadt
- **Dr. Beecher's proposal:**
 - A committee was formed this morning to investigate the feasibility of this proposal. The members on the committee include: Marty Power, Joslyn Seefeldt, Robin Schadt, Elizabeth Laurie, Wayne Gastfield, Bruce Birr, Tony Troyer, Barb Gardner, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Dianne Schmidt.
 - Other volunteers: Cathy Cook, Barb Kurti, Holly Kemmis, Elinore Tonsor, Pamela Fullerton, Barry Saylor.
- **Committee reports:**
 - Update on membership committee was presented along with the idea that was approved in the morning BOD meeting (see BOD minutes).
 - Why are there members who are in the smaller organizations and not in UMECRA? Carmen Stueck volunteered to lead the Facebook 'charge'.
 - Mentor sign up lists are on the tables; please sign up!
- Rider Choice ballots will be on the registration table- box will be available for ballots.
- **Election of officers:**
 - President: Rick Nelson, **Theresa Meyer (won)**
 - VP: **Linda Mower (won)**, Tony Troyer (declined), Elinore Tonsor (declined), Julie Biegert (declined), Barb Kurti, Dianne Schmidt
 - Vet Rep: **Olivia Rudolphi**, Dean Peterson, Wes Elford (declined)
 - WI Regional Director: **Joslyn Seefeldt**
 - MN Regional Director: **Dianne Schmidt**
- Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Feller
Secretary/Treasurer

Blue Ribbon Committee Report

to

UMECRA Board of Directors

Final Report

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Dr Beecher's Letter

Forty years ago, UMECRA was founded as an organization of distance riding events. The rides at this time were the only tangible events that could bring substance to an organization.

The purpose of this group of rides was first to provide rules consistently from event to event. Up to that time each ride was its own little empire. The second thing was to maintain records. Third - to develop an annual award system. Thus was born Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Rides Association (UMECRA). The system worked well and of course the annual meeting and awards presentation was started. The rest, as they say, is history.

Currently, we are at a crossroads in maintaining viability in this sport. The numbers at some rides have fallen drastically. Many rides are subsidized by the manager and/or their volunteers. The rides have changed their format to having many events in a weekend. They attempt to get by with often times not the best trails, not the best camping, not the best management, etc. All-in-all, this organization, although it's not dying, it is struggling.

Strength in numbers may be of some help if we change our formats and recognize person membership. We, hypothetically, go from this organization of fifty rides to fifty rides and 300 members. If we do this we should require all the auxiliary organizations' members to join UMECRA en masse.

The details of this could be worked out. Now I know this is a pause-and-gulp moment. Many of the auxiliary groups (AHDRA, APDRA, etc) are very viable organizations. Many are closely associated with breed organizations. Most of them represent the duplication of what UMECRA does.

I think this could all be done with one organization. I would suggest that a regional system be developed for UMECRA; i.e. Minnesota and Iowa-one region; Michigan and Wisconsin-second region; Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio-third region. The breed awards could still come from the parent groups through UMECRA. At this time we know of several groups that are duplicating efforts in record keeping, etc. They all require a membership fee and they all require someone to do the work. I know these represent a lot of personal input and effort.

This could all be done by a parent organization. In today's world of spreadsheets, computers, etc. one entry per rider could take care of all the record keeping. One membership fee could cover what now requires several memberships. To me, the advantages certainly outweigh the disadvantages. Financially, it would be cheaper for the riders and should result in a stronger UMECRA. A system of regional awards could be formatted.

This would require some time, dedication, intelligence, forgiveness, cooperation, and diplomacy. It will be a push-me pull-me at first. Think positive, and the negatives will disappear. If a positive vote should occur, I suggest the board should establish a blue ribbon committee to address the details or possibly several committees; i.e. one for records, one for finances, one for awards. Obviously, this epistle could go on ad nauseum. Enough said for starters.

Happy trails.
R.A. Beecher, DVM

Agenda February 16, 2012

“Blue Ribbon Committee”

Roll call

Changes to agenda/approval of agenda

Elect chairperson

Elect secretary

Clarification of issues

Voting

Regional/breed organizations

Establish committees

Survey of ride managers

Survey of members

Survey of regional organizations

Survey of breed organizations

Other committees ?

Next steps/Next meeting

To facilitate fairness and efficiency, meeting protocol will loosely follow *Robert's Rules in Plain English* by Doris P. Zimmerman (1997, (because that's what I have available for reference).

Basically, that means

- for action to be taken there should be a motion, a second, followed by discussion, and a vote
- a majority vote passes a motion
- there must be a 2/3rd vote for someone to “call the question,” stop discussion and force a vote
- to assure that all agenda items are addressed, I reserve the right to limit the length of time for discussion (e.g., only five more minutes to discuss this topic, or only three more comments on this topic). If there is objection to limiting debate, it will need to be agreed upon by a 2/3rds majority.

Blue Ribbon Committee Meeting Minutes February 16, 2012

Conference Call
February 16, 2012
7:00 PM, CST

Attendance: Barb Kurki, Barry Saylor, Bruce Birr, Cathy Cook, Elinore Tonsor, Gene Dake, Holly Kemmis, Joslyn Seefeldt, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Lori Windows, Lynn Riechert, Marty Power, Peggy Pasillas, Robin Schadt, R. A. Beecher.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM, CST.
2. Barry Saylor moved, Dr. Beecher seconded the nomination of Marty Power as Chair of this committee. There being no other nominations, Marty accepted the position as chair of the committee.
3. Dr. Beecher moved, Gene Dake seconded Elinore Tonsor as Secretary of the Blue Ribbon Committee. There being no other nominations, Elinore accepted the position as secretary of the committee.
4. Marty explained the issues at hand:
 - a. Voting rights within UMECRA.
 - b. The position of regional and breed organizations within UMECRA.

Discussion ensued regarding these issues, and the possibility of related issues becoming a significant part of this committee's discussions and suggested actions.

5. Marty suggested that sub-committees be formed to collect input from regional/breed organizations, ride managers, and riders. (Please note that it was agreed that for the purpose of clarity, the term "members" would be replaced with "riders" and "ride managers.")
 - a. Peggy Passilas agreed to work as the survey coordinator, and suggested that "Survey Monkey" would be used. Peggy agreed to have those without e-mail have access to a hard copy of the survey by contacting her and she would mail one out to them.
 - b. The sub-committees are as follow:
 - i. Ride Managers – Elinore Tonsor, Barry Saylor, Wayne Gastfield, Barb Kurti, Diane Schmidt.
 - ii. Riders – Holly Kemmis, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Robin Schadt, Cathy Cook.
 - iii. Regional Organizations – Gene Dake, Lynn Reichert, Joslyn Seefeldt, Bruce Birr, Tony Troyer.
 - iv. Breed Organizations – Dawn Haas, Lori Windows, R.A. Beecher

Marty will contact those unable to attend this phone conference to see which sub committee they would prefer to assist.

Significant discussion ensued regarding who was to be surveyed and what questions the survey would include. Some of the questions put forth were:

“Do we need to change the voting structure of UMECRA?”

“Should we investigate the regional organizations becoming subsidiaries of UMECRA?”

“Should we investigate the breed organizations becoming subsidiaries of UMECRA?”

The question that was agreed upon is as follows: Would you be interested in seeing UMECRA become a ride managers and riders organization?

Holly moved, Peggy seconded that the survey be completed in a multiple step process with the first stage centering on voting. Motion Carried.

Julie moved, Bruce seconded that the survey be sent to all UMECRA members as well as members of regional/breed organizations including non-UMECRA members. Motion carried.

Peggy Pasillas explained the process of the survey, and it was agreed among the committee membership that demographic would be included in the survey.

Members of the this committee, as well as the membership of the sub-committees will be listed in the newsletter, with members urged to express their opinions to these committee members as well as being urged to take the survey.

Discussion continued centered on the regional organizations and their role in this action.

Marty declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM, CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Elinore Tonsor
Blue Ribbon Committee Secretary

An Addendum to the Minutes Reads:

The committee voted 13 yes to 5 no to conduct a 5 question survey of UMECRA members and regional organization members who are not currently members of UMECRA.

Agenda February 23, 2012

Agenda BRC 2/23/12

This special BRC meeting was called solely to allow for a vote on which version to use of the Member Survey.

An email from Peggy to committee members stated:

All - as requested - 2 versions of the survey. The first version is questions 1-3, the 2nd version is questions 1-5. I believe the introduction can remain the same.

Introduction: At the UMECRA Banquet in January, a blue ribbon committee was formed to look into some possible changes to the organization. In order to understand what UMECRA member and members of related organizations opinions are, there will be several short surveys taken to gather your thoughts on the various subjects. The first issue we would like to get your opinion on is regarding voting rights.

The By-Laws state in Article II Section 7 Delegates. Each manager of a endurance/competitive trail ride shall submit the names of its official voting delegates or its authorized alternate voting delegate(s) to be recorded by the corporate secretary prior to any meeting of members.... Only voting delegates may vote on business presented at a meeting. Article VII Section 4. Voting Procedures at Meetings of the Corporation, b "Each Ride membership shall be entitled to appoint a single voting delegate for each ride-day of their ride/event." In addition, there are four Rider Representatives who have voting privileges.

Please respond to the following short survey regarding UMECRA member voting practices. Your responses will remain anonymous.

1. 1. Indicate what organizations you are currently a member in (select all that apply):

UMECRA

DRAW

GLDRA

MNDRA

MDDA

AHA

AHDRA

AERC

2. 2. Are you a ride manager for a UMECRA sanctioned ride?

Yes

No

3. 3. Do you believe UMECRA should amend its bylaws to allow all members to be voting members, rather than the current format where only ride managers and rider reps have voting rights?

Yes

No

4. 4. If you are currently a member of UMECRA, but not a Ride Manager, would you increase your participation in UMECRA if you had voting privileges?

Yes

No

5. 5. If you are not currently a member of UMECRA, would you be more likely to join if you had voting privileges?

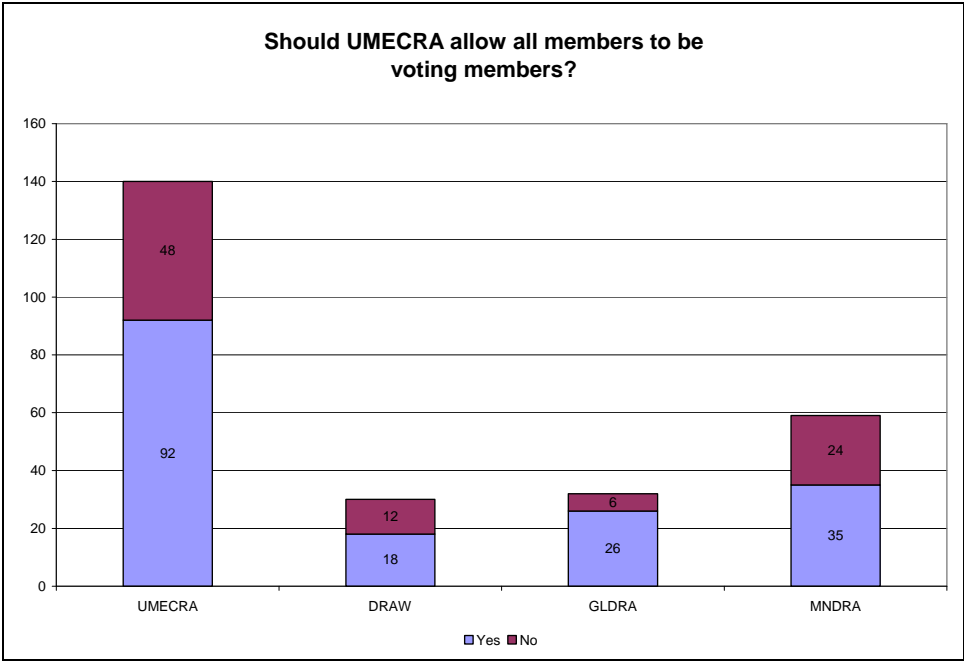
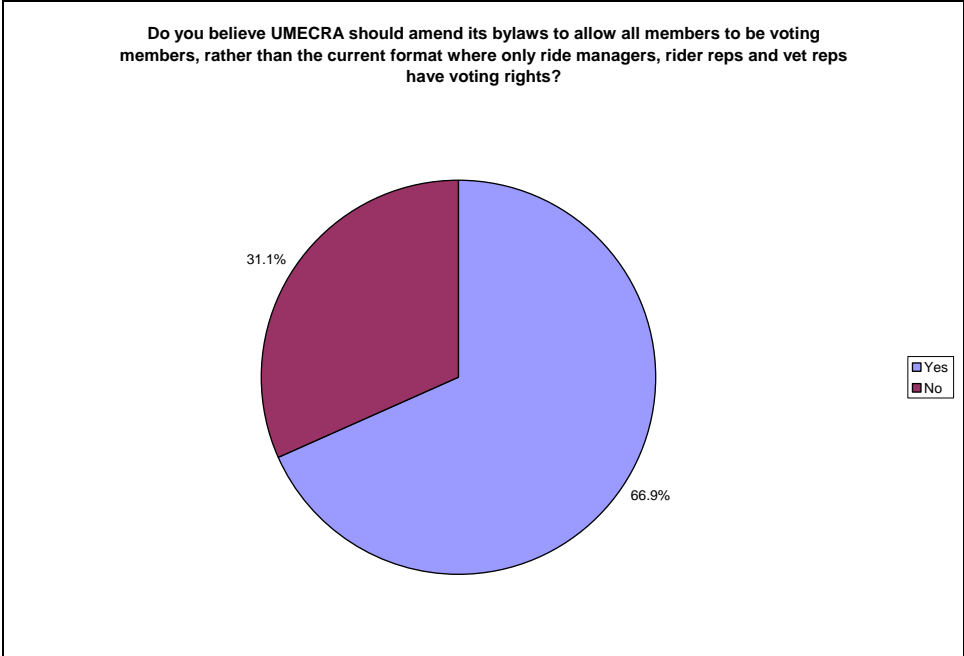
Yes

No

Members Present: Barb Kurti, Barry Saylor, Bruce Birr, Cathy Cook, Dianne Schmidt, Elinore Tonsor, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Marty Power, Peggy Pasillas, Wayne Gastfield.

The final vote (both by email and call-in) was 13 yes and 5 no to conduct the five question survey.

Partial¹ Results from March 2012 UMECRA Member Survey



¹ Full results published in the UMECRA April 2012 Newsletter.
Blue Ribbon Committee Report: 4 Dec 2012

Agenda April 17, 2012

**Agenda
BRC
April 17, 2012
7:00 CDT**

Call to order

Roll call

Approval of agenda

Approval of minutes

Old Business

Discuss survey results

New Business

Update of Board meeting

Next steps:

 Survey of ride managers

 Survey of regional organizations

 Survey of breed organizations

 Other surveys?

Concerns of committee protocol

Blue Ribbon Committee Meeting Minutes April 17, 2012

BRC Meeting Minutes
Conference call on 4/17/12
7:00 pm CST

Attendance: Barb Gardner, Barb Kurti, Dianne Schmidt, Elinore Tonsor, Gene Dake, Holly Kemmis, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Marty Power, Peggy Pasillas, Tony Troyer, Wayne Gastfield

The meeting was called to order by Marty Power at 7:00 pm.

We agreed to proceed with additional surveys and that each sub-committee would be responsible for gathering information about the advantages and disadvantages of restructuring UMECRA for riders, ride managers, regional organization and breed organizations.

Peggy Pasillas volunteered to send out your surveys using Survey Monkey. Subcommittees are to get the questions they want asked and a list of the people they want to survey.

We gave ourselves a month to get this done and agreed we want all information back by May 25th so we can schedule our next BRC meeting for the last week in May.

BRC Sub Committees (*designates committee chair)

- Riders

Holly Kemmis, holly.kemmis@kohler.com
*Julie Jackson-Biegert, jujacks@fuse.net
Robin Schadt, robinschadt@ad.com
Cathy Cook, cookdc@avci.net

- Ride Managers

*Elinore Tonsor, helinorelonsor@earthlink.net
Barry Saylor, bsaylor1947@gmail.com
Wayne Gastfield, no email address
Barb Kurti, silverheartsfarm@yahoo.com
Dianne Schmidt, schmidtdianne@yahoo.com

- Regional Organizations

Gene Dake, dedake@dishmail.net
Lynn Reichert, lynnreichert@msn.com
Joslyn Seefeldt, joslynsfiberfarm@aol.com
Bruce Birr, bbirr@centurytel.net
Barb Gardner, barb@doublebarallc.com
*Tony Troyer, il4aerc@aol.com

- Breed Organizations (No chair person designated)

Dawn Haas, jjehaas@centurytel.net
Lori Windows, kickbuttshaman@cs.com
R.A. Beecher, docbeech@netins.net

The following people agreed to serve as a liaison with the Breed and Regional Organizations:

- AHDRA – Lori Windows
- ApDRA – Dawn Haas
- DRAW – Jos Seefeldt
- GLDRA – Gene Dake
- MDDA – Tony Troyer
- MnDRA – Lynn Reichert

Respectfully submitted
Marty Power

Agenda August 21, 2012

BRC Agenda
8/21/12
8:00 CST

Call to order

Roll call

Approval of the agenda

Approval of the minutes (4/17/12)

Old Business

 Sub committee reports

New Business

 How to move forward

Blue Ribbon Committee Meeting Minutes August 21, 2012

Blue Ribbon Committee
Minutes
August, 21, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm CST by Marty Power.

The role call was taken and the following members were present: Bruce Birr, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Lori Windows, Tony Troyer, Marty Power.

The agenda was approved with no additions.

The minutes from the last meeting (4/17/12) were not submitted for approval. It was determined that the email Marty Power sent to the BRC committee following the April 17th meeting on 4/19/12 would be used in lieu of formal minutes. These were approved as read.

Old Business:

Lori reported that AHDRA, because it is a breed organization drawing membership from across the country, would not be appropriate to be subsumed under UMECRA. It was assumed this would also be true for ApDRA. We discussed the advantages/disadvantages of regional organization merging with UMECRA. Bruce said that he thinks that members of GLDRA feel that the number of rides in their area, quality of awards, etc., was enough for their members to not have to join another organization. It was decided that (given the information the committee has at present) the regional organizations do not see merging with UMECRA as in their best interest.

New Business:

We discussed strategies for moving forward.

Marty will ask Peggy to send out a notice to the email list and have Julie put on Facebook the questions/issues we want members to discuss/provide input. We will focus discussion on #1 in the September newsletter and #2 in the October newsletter.

1. What are the advantages and disadvantage of changing UMECRA from a ride manager organization (where only ride managers, rider reps, and vet reps have voting rights) to a one member/one vote organization?
2. How can UMECRA and the regional organizations (GLDRA, MNDRA, DRAW) better work together to support each other and improve distance riding in the Midwest?

Marty will (with help from Tony and Theresa) write a brief piece for the September newsletter about the procedure that needs to be followed to bring the one member/one vote up for a vote at the 2013 annual meeting.

Bruce offered to look at the current Bylaws to determine how much work would need to be done if the one member/one vote passes at the 2013 annual meeting. Is it possible/practical to have a draft of the new bylaws ready to be voted on at that time?

Tony Troyer motioned and Lori Windows seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Power

Newsletter Write-ups

February/March & April A Blue Ribbon Committee...

The “Blue Ribbon Committee” (BRC) has been busy, but we need your help. Over the next few months we will be sending out a series of short surveys. Please take the time to respond.

- What is your vision for UMECRA?
- We want to hear your ideas about how to move UMECRA forward.

The following sub-committees were established:

- Riders – Holly Kemmis, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Robin Schadt, Cathy Cook
- Ride Managers – Elinore Tonsor, Barry Saylor, Wayne Gastfield, Barb Kurti, Dianne Schmidt
- Regional Organizations – Gene Dake, Lynn Reichert, Joslyn Seefeldt, Bruce Birr, Barb Gardner
- Breed Organizations – Dawn Haas, Lori Windows, R.A. Beecher

The following people agreed to serve as a liaison with the Breed and Regional Organizations:

- AHDRA – Lori Windows
- ApDRA – Dawn Haas
- DRAW – Jos Seefeldt
- GLDRA – Gene Dake
- MDDA – Tony Troyer
- MnDRA – Lynn Reichert

Send your comments and concerns to any or all of the above people.

And, a BIG THANK YOU to the BRC for your outstanding work thus far!

Marty Power

September

The Blue Ribbon Committee...

is finishing up it's work, but need your help before making a recommendation to the UMECRA Board of Directors.

Please send your thoughts and comments to the newsletter editor, Peggy Pasillas at UMECRAnews@gmail.com by 10/1/12 to be included in the October newsletter so we can have an open discussion of the membership about these important decisions facing UMECRA.

We will have space in October newsletters to comment on the following questions.

What are the advantages and disadvantage of changing UMECRA from a ride manager organization (where only ride managers, rider reps, and vet reps have voting rights) to a one member/one vote organization?

How can UMECRA and the regional organizations (GLDRA, MNDRA, DRAW) better work together to support each other and improve distance riding in the Midwest?

We will also be discussing these questions on FaceBook, so join the conversation there as well.

Based on all of the information we have gathered from the survey and other member input, the next step will be for the BRC to make a recommendation

to the UMECRA Board of Directors at the November Board meeting. The Board will then decide what (if anything) to present to the membership for a vote at the annual meeting.

Thanks for your attention and contribution to the conversation

Incomplete List of the Membership/Voting Structure

The following is an incomplete list of the membership/voting structure of various distance riding associations.

SEDRA

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all and shall be of the following types: Single Membership \$30.00

– Is open to individuals eighteen (18) years of age or over. **This is a voting membership.**

Junior Individual Membership - \$10.00 Open to individuals under eighteen (18) years of age as of July 1st and to remain as junior members for the fiscal year. This is a voting membership, with **voting being limited to those junior members fourteen (14) years of age** as of July 1st.... Each **family membership shall be entitled to a maximum of two (2) votes.**

OAATS

ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIPS, VOTING RIGHTS AND DUES

Section 3 Only Adult Full Members of OAATS (as defined in Article VI, Section 2a) will be allowed to vote in any election or on any issue.

Section 2 Types of membership:

OAATS shall have four (6) types of memberships. The BOD shall determine the classifications and privileges, other than voting rights, of those memberships.

(a) Individual Affiliate **voting membership**: a person who is a current AHA member through OAATS. May **vote**, hold office, and/or be a delegate through this club. (b) Individual Associate **Non-Voting membership**: a person who is not a current affiliate AHA member through this club. (c) Youth Affiliate is a **Non-Voting membership**

DRAW

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 5: You must be a member in good standing to hold an office, be nominated for office, or **vote** at a D.R.A.W. meeting.

NATRC

ARTICLE X MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person interested in the purposes and objectives of this organization may be eligible for membership, and upon proper application and payment of the required dues may be accepted in membership.

Section 4. **No member shall be entitled to vote unless he is a paid-up member in good standing** at the time when such voting takes place.

UMECRA

Article VII MEMBERSHIP

Section 4. VOTING PROCEDURES AT MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATION. Delegates shall be chosen by each ride as follows:

a. The members of the Board of Directors, Officers, Veterinary Representative and Rider

Representatives of the corporation shall serve and be accredited as voting delegates of the corporation. However, Advisory Positions on the Board may not serve as voting delegates unless otherwise qualified herein.

b. Each Ride membership 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. However, the ride must have at least one sanctioned event or division on a day for it to qualify as a ride day for purposes of assigning voting delegates. Additionally, the Board shall reserve the right to confirm appointment of voting delegate(s) to the spirit of this Section, in order to avoid splitting of days at the same ride location time and place in an effort to increase appointment of voting delegates.

c. Although one person may serve in a combination of the above positions, s/he may exercise only one vote as a delegate. Said delegates shall elect the officers and directors of the corporation and shall, by majority vote of the delegates present at any such meeting, approve rule changes proposed by the Board of Directors or decide whether to permanently adopt interim rules previously made by the Board of Directors, together with such other powers as may be authorized under these By-Laws.

Note from Connie Caudill on AERC Voting

From: Connie Caudill [conniecaudill@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 29, 2012 11:42 AM
To: Marty & Chris Power
Subject: Re: question about voting in AERC

Hi Marty,

I can answer only by what I have experienced.

The members vote for the directors whom then represent them.

The members can attend the Board meetings but unless they are recognized by the chairman, they can't join in the discussion and don't vote in the board meetings. We have in the past sent out things for the membership to vote on but I think it only had to do with bylaw changes.

The committee chairs are appointed by the president and approved by the Board. The committee chairs bring most of the ideas to the Board for a vote.

I am not sure if there are any other things the members vote on. I think if a member can get enough signatures (like 5%), they can bring something up for a vote from the entire membership.

The Board votes most everything but should discuss with the members as much as possible before making a decision on things.

For a rule change, AERC has a policy that we will run the change in 2 Endurance News before making a final decision about changing it.

For policies we don't even publish them in the Endurance News but we do have a Policies and Procedures manual.

Personally I don't think a club like UMECRA would want to use AERC as an example. I know in our little endurance organization it is a lot different. The Daniel Boone Distance riders do not have a Bod or committees. We have officers that are voted in by the members. We meet once a year and that is where the club makes all our decisions. If someone doesn't like one of our rules, they have to wait until our annual meeting to try and get it changed. All members feel a part of the club and know their voice is heard if they attend the meeting. If they don't attend they can send word on how they feel. Our club is really small, only about 60 members so it is easy to work with.

I would think a club the size of UMECRA would want something in between.

Good luck,

Connie

From: Marty & Chris Power <power@speednet.com>
To: conniecaudill@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, September 29, 2012 7:42 AM
Subject: question about voting in AERC

Connie,

I am chairperson of a UMECRA committee looking at changing our bylaws to allow the membership voting privileges rather than the current rule where ride managers and four rider representatives make the decisions for the organization. I'm looking at the membership/voting structure for other organization and copied below from the AERC Bylaws.

6.06. A “Voting Member” shall be each Active Regular Adult Member and each Adult Lifetime Member, unless otherwise restricted by provisions of these Bylaws or Rules. A Voting Member is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the Members. Youth Members, Affiliate Members, all Special Memberships other than Adult Lifetime and any Inactive Members shall not be entitled to vote on Conference matters.

6.07. A quorum at any meeting of Members shall consist of 20% of the Voting Members of the Conference.

6.08. The Members present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business until adjournment notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough Members to leave less than a quorum, if such action taken, other than adjournment, is approved by at least a majority of Members required to constitute a quorum.

I'm interested in how decisions are made by AERC; which decisions (if any) are made by the Board and which are voted on by the membership at large.

Thanks for your help.

Marty Power
AERC # M33 298

Comments from FaceBook

(unedited)

In response to the question:

What are the advantages and disadvantage of changing UMECRA from a ride manager organization (where only ride managers, rider reps, and vet reps have voting rights) to a one member/one vote organization?

[Janet Hedding Sarver](#) I think it would give riders a vested interest in the organization and inject some energy into the discussions. That might help riders connect better with the annual meeting too.

[Roberta Harms](#) I agree that change comes to all groups. I am not against members having a vote at the meetings, however at the big meeting members who are NOT ride managers vote as proxy managers. There are some rides that go without a voice, so let managers know you will be there. So being a manager only voting group is only a concept now anyways! IMO

[Linda L. Fassett Rudolphi](#) That is a good point [Roberta Harms](#) - a proxy voter usually is just filling in a vote and not necessarily thinking about the subject as an individual.

[Tony Troyer](#) I would look at this as a way to get down to the real ponit of the pro and cons of how UMECRA is doing business in times that have changed. Change can be good and it can be really bad. The BRC is just wanting to explore outside the box to see if there is something we can do in all area's of UMECRA.

[Joslyn Seefeldt](#) There are several sides to this issue (ain't that always the way!). As a rider, I can see where it would be great to have more of a voice in how UMECRA operates. As a ride manager, not sure I would be in favor of having riders make decisions that could potentially affect how I manage my ride. Not trying to open a can of worms but, until you've been in the trenches as a ride manager, I don't think most riders realize all the stuff that goes on behind the scenes while managing a ride. Don't get me wrong - I am not trying to put ride managers and riders on opposite side of the fence - rather, I am a bit worried that riders could inadvertently pass some rule/regulation that could turn off ride managers from continuing to manage. And, I think we can all agree that is something no one wants to see happen.

[Joan Stokdyk](#) I could see having some items being open to all members and see other items being decided on just by the ride managers and rider rep. The hard part might be deciding what should be open to all and what should not be open to all.

[Laura Husser](#) in my tenure i have performed EVERY job required to put on a rde at least once except DVM(i can't get an honorary degree) and manager(i'm averse to self toture). i do not know what motivates these precious few to accept the task, but if loosing the vote causes even one manager to cash in his/er dance card, i am opposed. how do the managers feel about this?

[Tony Troyer](#) My thought was just to have all members the right to vote for the Elected Officers at convention only! This way if you want to have a "say" in UMECRA you can vote for all the officers that "you" think will do the job well and it would take the voting of RM's that puts on numerous rides / stacking the deck since you should be voting how the RM wants you to vote as if it was the RM personally casting the vote. [Roberta Harms](#) does this spell it out well enough?

[Tony Troyer](#) This way the Rider reps would get voted on at convention also... We have had years that only 25 to 30 votes get mailed back into the BoD for Reps, why not give those that care enough about coming to convention the right to elect them in?

[Christina Hyke](#) Okay, I realize I haven't been to many rides lately... but maybe that makes me a little less biased? My big thought reading this is "if it ain't broke don't fix it" Why the change? What brought this to the forefront? UMECRA seems to be pretty smoothly operating... so keep it the way it is.

[Jennifer Allen](#) The main concern is that riders are not getting a say in the bureaucracy of the organization, I think. But as a being an assist RM, I have seen a lot of things - and experienced more than I would have thought - that a Rider never does. Hence the "unwillingness" of RM's to support this kind of move. There is a lot of work that goes into managing a ride - before, during and after. Sometimes you end the weekend wondering how you ever do it, and WHY you ever do it!

How do you enact such a change if the managers already have the voting power? Dissolve the organization for five weeks so you can create a whole new system? Because it might take that - and longer - to draft, revise, and vote in a new system.

Don't forget the rider reps! Yes, they are elected at convention by a majority of ride managers from the state, but when was the last time you told your rider rep about a problem or concern you had? It's what they're there for! Consider telling a ride manager (when there isn't anything going on, or at another ride since there is not much down-time during the manager's ride) about your concern. Ask them if they would present something to the board, etc. Use your managers like delegates. Sure - they may still vote however they want, but at least they will have your idea in the back of their head, and maybe it will give them a new view point.

[Christina Hyke](#) The gravity of consequences that could go wrong in a distance group if governed by votes has to be considered. Seriously had not thought of this before, as I thought most organizations operate on member voting, but in the case of distance riding. Not in the short term, but in the long term, if you had a flood of newbies into the sport, hypothetically they could vote to change the whole face of the organization, and the rides... and with that the heart of the sport and the protections that all of you more seasoned riders already know need to stay in place. Maybe a poor example, though what if people started wanting to race for prize money? We all know what dire consequences this could have for the sport. I imagine that some motivated individual could generate a new org that had that goal, but if the idea of only RM's managing the org has worked thus far, I would say to keep it as such. Again, personal issues have kept me from competing the way I would like to, though I still love distance riding, and UMECRA, and would like like to see it stay strong & hearts;

[Linda L. Fassett Rudolphi](#) Just to be the devil's advocate - what insures riders that RM won't do all the above concerns? Don't we as riders trust the RM have the best intentions for the organization - why wouldn't the same be true regarding RM trusting the members of UMECRA to have the best intentions for the organization?

[Christina Hyke](#) Linda, I think because a RM is someone who is typically somewhat of a veteran of the sport, and knows better. And is in the company of veterans of the sport, who know better. It is more likely that the sport could boom with an influx of new people, who don't know better and put themselves above the future of the sport & wellbeing of the horses. It occurs to me that such a strenuous sport, where a horse will typically be working hard for longer hours than any other horse sport I can think of, could call for a more stringent and unique voting structure.

[Christina Hyke](#) Yes, Tony, I know full well you all put on more rides/miles in a year than I have in my whole life, and therefore the more experienced ones should run the org.

[Tony Troyer](#) [Christina Hyke](#)...That was not to bash you ...I really mean it when I said, we need to hear from everyone. This is OUR UMECRA, all of us regardless of 50,000 miles or 500 miles need to have a say in where UMECRA could or should go from here.

[Diane Witkop Schermerhorn](#) I havent been a member long and i dont have a lot of miles. I didnt know umecra was a rm org when i joined and am still surprised at the rm voting rights only concept. I am pretty neutral about it as i dont know why it was set up this way. Maybe some more experienced members can explain the reasoning behind it. I do not know who the rider reps are, i did vote based on their bios, but i do not know them and would be hesitant to bring issues to a person i do not at all know. I am in favor of adding a lot more reps, maybe double the number. I would maube stand a chance of knowing and using one.

[Carmen Evans Steuck](#) I know that riders don't have voting rights. As I recall from the UMECRA conventions I've been to, riders are allowed/encouraged to attend the meetings and JOIN IN THE DISCUSSIONS before the votes are cast. We (riders) may not have an actual vote, but we aren't shut out of the discussions. If you have a concern and aren't comfortable discussing it "in public" or not able to attend the meeting, call/e-mail/talk to your rider reps or any ride manager to discuss your opinion/issue to get the idea into someone's head who DOES have a vote. I'm not for or against allowing rider votes at this point, but I think the majority of riders don't use the resources that are already available to them to get their voice heard.

[Nicole Mauser-Storer](#) I've been thinking since I read this thread and I have a crazy idea. Feel free to shoot holes as I'm sure there are plenty. What if UMECRA gives voting rights to those members who substantially contribute to a ride as well as the ride managers? In my mind that accomplishes a couple of things. Those people who want to vote would have to step up and volunteer to secretary, mark trail, run P/R checks or something and thus get some much needed help at some of the rides. It also rewards those people who take the time to help by giving them a say in the operations and helps reduce some of the concerns that people who may not fully understand what it takes to run a ride may inadvertently vote for a change that is hard to implement. I know many of the people I see volunteering are folks who have been involved for a

long time, but don't manage their own ride for one reason or another. I would guess that the ride manager would send a list of volunteers to the Board and those people would be given something at registration that identified them as a "voter". Might be a good intermediary step before giving full voting rights to every member and a test to see how it goes?

[Karen Tellef](#) If anyone likes Nicole's idea, I'd also include people who lead Novice rides as a worthy volunteer and potentially a way of getting more people to consider doing that.

[Nicole Mauser-Storer](#) I left off the vets as well. I don't see any reason why our dedicated vets shouldn't have a vote.

[Roxi Welling](#) I might be missing something but with UMECRA being a ride manager organization with the possibility of placing before the board the decision to change to a one member one vote organization won't it be difficult to get this passed if the majority of the members want this since it will be voted on by the people that will lose their voting power? Hope that reads like what I'm trying to say. Meaning the ride managers are who will pass this change. If this is true then why would it be conceivable?

[Julie Jackson-Biegert](#) There are a lot of good comments here - I think the idea of taking baby steps and adding more rider reps may be a good way to move forward. Part of the reason for this proposal is to get more involvement from the riders. Although I like the idea of including volunteers, I think that still leaves a big hole - I think we need their perspective in a bigger way. Touching on [Nicole Mauser-Storer](#)'s suggestion, maybe we have "support staff" rep voting rights? Just a thought.

Comment from Newsletter and E-mails

(unedited)

Hi Jos,

For reasons too numerous to type out, I am opposed to riders having a vote. How about anyone who EVER managed a ride having a vote (and is still a member in good standing). That might increase the voting number by a few but they would still know the trials and tribulations of putting on a ride.

Katie

Katherine Bachhuber

kbach@nconnect.net

I have been a UMECRA member for numerous years although living in Ohio. I think in addition to the organizations mentioned, you need to work with surrounding organizations to more fully let our riders have choices closer to home and to step toward a national organization. If this doesn't happen CTR riding could fall away. We need to operate closer to AERC which is a growing organization. One Ohio ride that use to be CTR and endurance has switched to endurance only. This year they sent out 98 riders. A far cry from the 5 CTR riders that went out at a later in the season ride at the same location. The Ohio Indiana organization is OAATS that I would suggest. I don't know what is west of UMECRA.

As a new member to the organization, I don't feel that I have a right to vote on anything. I think that once you allow everyone to have a say in things, the focus of the organization will change from "what is best for the group" to a "what is best for me" type of attitude. I do not think this should be changed.

I have been a member of UMECRA, AHDRA, and GLDRA for many years. Making UMECRA an organization that affords members a voice would go a long way toward improving relations between the groups. When trying to determine the cause of member dissatisfaction and the difficulty of recruiting new UMECRA members, think Boston Tea Party. When I talk to potential members and current members at rides, I always hear the same complaint: riders have no voice in UMECRA.

The pros for changing to a one member/one vote sytem are: increased membership and member retention. I can't think of a single reason to continue with the current system. This question reminds me of every issue of Endurance News where members are encouraged to submit ideas for increasing AERC membership. Each time, I send in the suggestion that AERC should begin to view LD rides as "real" rides. There is no downside to doing that and a dozen reasons to change the current method of tracking and recognizing LD riders and horses in AERC. But, nothing every changes - the board is stuck in a rut. Don't let that happen to UMECRA.

Another point of contention is the seemingly arbitrary method of approving new ride dates and locations. There has been a lot of animosity over ride locations being moved and changed. I'm not sure what the solution to the problem is, but perhaps a committee approach with a member from each state would be more objective.

Last - I have enjoyed being a UMECRA member and hope to continue on. Thanks to all of you who are taking time to examine these issues.

As a new member, I see the advantage of each member having a vote would increase the participation of what happens within the organization, would result in a higher interest as decisions are made by each of us. I was surprised that a select few of the members made decisions for all of us. I understand this was established under a different set of rules however times do change and in order to grow, keep interest of paying members- decisions should be made by a majority vote from each member.

Every UMECRA rider/member should have a vote as to what happens in UMECRA, rules regulations changes.

It's difficult enough to get decisions made with the ride managers making the decisions. I don't believe it will help the organization make the hard decisions if all riders vote. I would recommend staying with the current organizational structure.

First of all, I want to thank the Blue Ribbon Committee for taking the time and energy to bring topics to the table in an effort to make a great organization even better. I also appreciate the transparent approach of posting to Facebook for members to read and/or voice opinions and thoughts. Our UMECRA members proved to be professional with their comments and concerns. I also want to preface this in saying I think the UMECRA ride managers have been instrumental in making UMECRA the successful organization it is today, my comments in no way are meant to imply otherwise.

I have been a member of UMECRA for a LONG time; a past ride manager, have spoken to 4-H and saddle clubs about UMECRA, have mentored novice riders, etc, etc. I understand the original policy limiting the voting members of UMECRA to the ride managers. At that time, the ride managers were a majority of the riders and members of UMECRA. The early ride managers were not only the pioneers of the sport, but were also instrumental in developing the rules and an organization within a small section of the Midwest. Protecting their endeavors to ensure its' growth was good business in the beginning.

In an effort to transfer that original policy of only ride managers voting into today's scenario, I thought I would offer some numbers:

From 2008 to 2012 UMECRA has averaged 398 members a year.

In 2012 there were 45 rides on the schedule.

Of the 45 rides, only 35 individuals are ride managers – that equals 8.79% of the average yearly membership.

According to the UMECRA Bylaws:

Officers (3), Past president (1), Rider Reps (4), Directors at large (2), Regional Reps (4), Vet Rep (1) and Ride Managers (35 people in 2012) are allowed to vote (a total of 50 individuals).

Proxies are purposely left out of this as they typically vote as per the direction of the ride manager.

Fifty individual's means only 12.5% of the total membership is allowed to vote and/or hold office.

At this time the board, officers, and reps are responsible for setting the agenda at the annual meeting to be voted on by delegates (15 individuals).

Voting can only be conducted on the set agenda at the annual meeting.

Fast forward to 2012, I think it is safe to say many of the riders today are avid students of the sport, travel out of the district to experience other organizations, and thus a much more informed membership overall.

In addition, the geographic area UMECRA now encompasses brings a new dynamic to the fundamentals of the organization.

On the other hand, the ride managers have a legitimate concern that rules could be written that are detrimental to a ride or favor limited individuals if the membership votes.

There has to be solution somewhere in the middle of this situation to bring more ideas and involvement in the future of UMECRA and for the organization to remain current and competitive. I personally think the members of the UMECRA organization are capable of making good decisions and by allowing the entire membership to be involved, everyone becomes vested in the future of the UMECRA organization.

I would like to offer the following as a possible solution:

Ride managers would be added to the list of individuals who can set the agenda for the annual meeting.
(From 15 to 50 people per the 2012 numbers)

With ride manager input on the agenda it allows managers to review and/or introduce new rules or policies that would be workable for all UMECRA rides.

Open the vote at the annual meeting to all current members who have been a member one year previous to the year of the vote to avoid last minute stacking of votes. For example, a new member in 2011 could not vote until the 2013 annual meeting.

Respectfully,

Linda Rudolphi

Summary of GLDRA Member Responses
UMECRA BRC REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE
April 18, 2012
(unedited)

Following are relevant and pertinent excerpts from responses to the inquiry I made to GLDRA membership regarding the above:

- I'm for umecra members having voting rights, but against any mandatory joining rule.
- Seems like they are focusing on the money. Maybe they should focus on what UMECRA can do for the rider.
- ...part of their problem they caused themselves. I am thinking of how a UMECRA ride sneaked in on Karen B's ride and now that ride has no desire to give Karen first dibs.
- I would be quite annoyed if I had to pay a fee to ride a comp ride because I was not a member of UMECRA.
- whatever happens, each state needs to have some kind of equal say in whatever rules are developed.
- Well, all I can say is that the reason I belong to state, regional and national organizations is that I enjoy having a larger pool of competitors, i.e., its more meaningful to me to receive a year end award from AERC than from UMECRA and from UMECRA than GLDRA because it represents a bigger accomplishment. So, I see absolutely no point in dividing UMECRA into regions almost small as the auxiliary organizations (especially with a MI/WI region separated by a Lake Michigan!).
- I don't agree that our rides are generally characterized by lousy trails and poor management
- I don't see what eliminating auxiliary organizations does to fix their problem
- I would hate to see UMECRA start making ride managers collect non-member fees as I don't think such fees incentivize membership - they just discourage new people from trying the sport at all. UMECRA just needs to tighten their belt - they could give more modest awards and offer upgrades for a contribution from the recipient, for example.
- 1)a) I am not aware of any GLDRA rides that benefit our group so this should not be an issue. b) GLDRA is an organization that tracks points and mileage and offers year end awards. I do not believe it would serve any purpose, nor benefit Michigan riders (at all) to dissolve GLDRA and only be part of UMECRA. UMECRA has ignored Michigan riders for a very long time, I cannot see this changing from this proposal. I believe this answers both why and why not for me. 2)a) Dual membership is an option that would probably work. However this just makes it more expensive for the riders who currently do not belong to UMECRA but ride GLDRA rides. This is in effect like taxing the poor, might just do more harm than good.
- Gene, my initial response to this is that it sounds like it will only be beneficial to UMECRA. I certainly do not think it would do anybody any good to charge non-UMECRA members a fee at rides. A lot of people just start out in one group, like GLDRA, when they first start out, like I did. Then after I got my feet wet, and knew a little more what I was doing, I joined UMECRA.
- I disagree with UMECRA'S policy allowing rides in different location on the same weekend.

- There's been many times that I thought about dropping my UMECRA membership. I am still angry with UMECRA with how they handled my daughter riding as a junior under UMECRA's published rules as the age guidelines UMECRA established were different than AERC's. Under AERC, your miles and placings count no matter where you ride.
- I know alot of rides are struggling, but look at the economy and the price of fuel. Consolidating GLDRA, AHDRA, etc. won't change that.
- I'd rather see GLDRA explore other avenues as opposed to consolidating with UMECRA.
- ...my inital reaction is that it's a ploy to keep UMECRA afloat.
- I hate to say it but UMECRA members other than MI umecra members are snobs! Now maybe this will change but I met UMECRA members in the 70s and I haven 't seen much change and this is the 2010s! That does not mean that there aren't some nice folks, there are and maybe since some of the snobier ones are getting older and aren't around as much, there will be nicer folks.
- I have no desire to join UMECRA.
- I am a lifetime member of GLDRA, if this consolidation goes forward, how will this affect lifetime members?
- Gene, if members are going to be allowed a vote, I would not vote in favor of consolidation.
- As far as dwindling membership and ride attendance, I'd look for ways to make distance riding more inclusive to different segments of the horse owning population.
- don't like UMECRA rules, specifically the no water rule.
- We could sanction our own CTR rides and use the rules as they exist or make whatever changes to them we deem fit. UMECRA does not allow sponging at vet checks for CTR rides and penalizes for boots - both significant ways to TAKE CARE OF OUR HORSES. We would be able to make our own rules regarding sponging and boots, for example!
- Most of us only ride in Michigan. I'm not sure about handing over complete control of our rides & schedule to an organization that has tried to screw over such a prevalent ride as Pine Martin. Makes we wonder if White River or Shore to Shore might be the next target. What about dissolving umecra and letting AERC handle regional awards as they do now?
- my preference right now would be that we leave things as they are.
- I believe UMECRA has knowingly and willingly put themselves in the unfavorable financial position they are in and for a LOT of reasons; not the least of which pertains to holding fast to remaining a "ride managers' organization". Their concern never has been (nor do they intend it to be) one to make their membership happy.
- just because one CHOOSES to be a member of more than one organization, does not necessarily mean it is more expensive to do so. Ultimately, the key here is CHOICE, and there is nothing to say eliminating one or more of those choices would cost less.
- their argument to reduce duplication of records, etc. is terribly weak and the amount of work involved is infinitesimal - and I mean absolutely NO disrespect to our fine people maintaining all our records! - compared to what we would be sacrificing by allowing UMECRA to control our membership, rides, awards, etc.
- my opinion is that GLDRA is a financially healthy and "happy" organization, which is surviving quite well on its own and under the control of its own membership and with its own awards. There is absolutely and categorically NO benefit to GLDRA and/or its

members being "assimilated" into UMECRA, whereby GLDRA members have even less control of their membership fees.

- There is also nothing to prevent GLDRA from being a sanctioning body for its own competitive rides; and we simply do not NEED UMECRA - it's just another CHOICE for people.
- they've made their own mess and I don't think it would benefit Michigan riders to help bail out any of the other associations in our region. I feel for them, but maybe they need to look to GLDRA as an example and take a long hard look at the way they've been doing things. We all get together and have rational discussions and TALK to each other, the UMECRA meetings I have been to are totally disorganized and wander off and on Roberts Rules of Order.

Response from AHDRA

AHDRA is a national organization. We have many members across the nation, and we would LOOSE membership if we required members also join an organization (UMECRA) that did not sanction rides in their area. As it is, AHDRA is benefiting UMECRA. Case in point. We had a gal from South Dakota show up at AHDRA I last weekend. She joined AHDRA and planned her vacation around attending three AHDRA rides in order to try to win our Triple Crown Award. She has no reason to join UMECRA. AHDRA is officially against any rule that would make UMECRA membership mandatory for AHDRA members.

Thematic Analysis

from FaceBook, Newsletter & E-mails, Sub-committee Reports

Thematic analysis of pros:

- Improve relations between organizations
- Change “seemingly arbitrary” method of determining ride schedule
- Increase membership and member retention
- Increase interest and participation
- Increase the percentage of people making decisions for the organization
- Increase the pool of people available to hold office
- Give riders a vested interest in the organization
- Each state should have equal say in establishing rules

Thematic analysis of cons:

- Voting will be based on individual self-interest rather than on what’s best for the organization
- Opening up voting to members will make decision-making harder
- Riders do not understand the intricacies of managing a ride and could make decisions detrimental to ride managers resulting in fewer rides
- UMECRA is working fine, no need for change
- Newbies in the sport making poor decisions
- UMECRA **should not** change a non-member fee or have a mandatory joining rule
- A non-member fee would discourage new people from trying the sport

Thematic analysis of recommendations/suggestions (in no particular order):

- Add ride managers to the list of individuals who can set the agenda for the annual meeting.
- Open the vote at the annual meeting to all current members who have been a member one year previous to the year of the vote.
- Open vote to anyone in good standing who has ever managed a ride.
- Have some decisions made by everyone and other decisions made by just ride managers.
- Have everyone at the convention vote for the elected offices including rider reps.
- Add a lot more rider representatives.
- Add more regional directors and directors-at-large.
- Allow voting rights for members who volunteer/contribute to a ride and all veterinarians.
- Do not allow more than one or two rides on a weekend.
- Charge non UMECRA members a non member fee of \$5.00 to encourage them to join UMECRA (as AERC does).
- Allow “Other Positions” appointed by the Board (Newsletter Editor, Points-Keeper, Sanctioning Coordinator, & Webmaster) to be voting members on the Board of Directors.
- Work closer with nearby organizations such as OAATS.
- **Feedback from Breed organizations indicated that due to their National focus, it would not be in their best interest to be subsumed under UMECRA.**
- **Feedback from Regional organization indicated they their membership did not see merging with UMECRA as in their best interest.**

Riders' Sub-Committee Proposal

Based on rider feedback we believe increasing the involvement of riders will be beneficial to the UMECRA organization by

- 1) Bringing a different and important perspective to discussions
- 2) Increasing rider knowledge of how UMECRA works and how important membership is
- 3) Increasing the overall involvement of members
- 4) Expanding the base from which to draw UMECRA volunteers and leaders

In support of this, the Rider's Sub-Committee from the Blue Ribbon Committee unanimously proposes the following amendment to our by-laws (Article VII - Membership). We ask that this be brought to a vote at the November BoD Meeting.

Respectfully,

Julie Jackson-Biegert
Cathy Cook
Holly Kemmis
Robin Schadt

Article VII

Section 3. a) Rider Delegates

Up to 10 Rider Delegates per state may be voted in to represent riders for general voting purposes at the annual convention. All UMECRA members would be allowed to vote on the selection of these Delegates. Each state will be allowed at least one Delegate but the total number of Delegates per state is not to exceed more than 10% of the state membership. No state will have more than 10 Delegates.

Rider Delegates must have been members for a minimum of one year and must have **completed** a minimum of four UMECRA rides in the previous season, to be comprised of any combination of CTR of 25 miles or more, Limited Distance or Endurance Rides.

Members who meet this criteria and wish to become Rider Delegates may nominate themselves or be nominated by [November 30](#) - a short biography should be submitted to the newsletter editor will be printed in the newsletter prior to the January Annual meeting.

Voting will be done by mail- in ballot and results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Delegates will hold a two year term provided they continue to meet Delegate Eligibility Criteria.

UMECRA Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2012

DeForest, WI

Present: Theresa Meyer, Rick Nelson, Wayne Ringham, Tony Troyer, Lynn Reichert, Joslyn Seefeldt, Marty Powers, Maxine Bernsdorf, Bonnie Mielke, Peggy Pasillas; Olivia Rudolphi, Nicole Mauser

Absent: Elizabeth Laurie, Jill Feller, Linda Mower

Guests: Sue Herrick and Linda Jacobson

<p>Adding a ride on June 23 & 24th in Iowa at Brushy Creek State Forest- Roxie Welling, Ride Manager Date of request: About March 7th. How request was sent to BOD: the request for the ride was forwarded to all the BOD members for consideration on March 8th. Vote: the vote was 8-5-1 to accept the new ride. Outcome: Roxy was notified, March 16.</p>	<p>From Board of Directors Yahoo Group</p>
<p>The meeting was called to order at 11:59 am by President, Theresa Meyer. The January 21, 2012 Secretary's Report was approved as printed. Motion by Rick to accept and seconded by Wayne. The January 21, 2012 Annual Meeting Report was approved as printed. Motion by Rick to accept and seconded by Maxine.</p>	<p>Past Meeting Minutes</p>
<p>The 2012 Convention Report was amended by Tony Troyer. An AHA donation of \$700 was added to the report bringing the cost of the convention down to \$6.28.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p>
<p>Jeanne Crispin reported that the Ridebook CDs have been mailed to members. Some of the Ride Manager and Vet rule books were passed out at the meeting. Lynn Reichert asked that the MnDRA contact person information be updated in the Ridebook as well as on the website. The points chart in the front of the ride book has an error – probably has been wrong for many, many years. If you look at the points for the 30-mile rides- 5th place should be 8.4 points, 6th place should be 7.2 points.</p>	<p>Ridebook Update</p>
<p>Joslyn Seefeldt presented a recommendation that the 2014 Annual Meeting be held in Madison, WI. This recommendation was accepted.</p> <p>Highlights</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convention location is within the corridor; 1/2 mile from Interstate 39/90/94 on east side of Madison. 2. The rooms are \$89, single or double. 3. They are not charging us for the use of any of our meeting rooms. 4. Central location near meeting rooms for vendors 5. Price of meal between 30 and 35 dollars (part of the convention fee can bring price down since we don't have to pay for meeting rooms.) 6. Pet friendly - for \$25 non refundable deposit people can bring dogs,cats,gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, etc. NO PET HORSES OR MULES! 7. Indoor pool, arcade/game room, fitness center. 8. Kids under 12 eat at breakfast buffet free. 9. Free Wi-Fi. 	<p>2014 Annual Meeting</p>
<p>Marty Power made a motion to discontinue the Annual Meeting Corridor because it seems to have run its course for usefulness and Dianne Schmidt seconded. Motion carried. This will be brought for a vote at the January 2013 general meeting.</p>	<p>Annual Meeting Corridor discontinued</p>

<p>Tony Troyer, Lynn Reichert, Wes Elford, and Julie Jackson Biegert form the ICF Committee. Tony reported that the current ICF Fund is at \$7,481.34. They are making the following proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UMECRA Board will decide who the money is awarded to. • The fund will never go below \$1500 • Applicants must have completed 500 miles in UMECRA • Must be a 3 or 4 star event. • Could be limited amount given depending on number of applicants. <p>The Board voted to bring a bylaw change forward to the November Board meeting to make ICF funds available to ride managers putting on a FEI event.</p> <p>Dr. Olivia Rudolphi volunteered to write up criterion for qualifying for FEI competition for inclusion in our <i>Newsletter</i>.</p>	<p>ICF Fund Now Available to Ride Managers in UMECRA Managing a FEI Ride</p>
<p>Marty and Joslyn reported that they have not sent out “we miss you” membership letters. Letters will be sent to members not renewing their 2011 membership. Theresa suggested we send a form letter to the different breed organizations for use in their publications. Marty will write up the information and Peggy will find addresses for the different groups.</p>	<p>Membership Committee</p>
<p>Maxine reported that she has only had favorable input from members regarding the proposed “Short Competitive Ride Division”. Maxine will sponsor awards for this Division for the first year that it is offered. This proposal will go to the meeting in November.</p>	<p>Short Competitive Rides</p>
<p>Marty Power Reported: The “Blue Ribbon Committee” (BRC) has been busy. It was decided to send out a series of short surveys rather than one extensive survey. The first survey on the voting structure of UMECRA has been completed and the results have been tabulated.</p> <p>Over the next few months we will be sending out other short surveys. The following sub-committees were established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riders – Holly Kemmis, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Robin Schadt, Cathy Cook • Ride Managers – Elinore Tonsor, Barry Saylor, Wayne Gastfield, Barb Kurti, Dianne Schmidt • Regional Organizations – Gene Dake, Lynn Reichert, Joslyn Seefeldt, Bruce Birr, Barb Gardner, Tony Troyer • Breed Organizations – Dawn Haas, Lori Windows, R.A. Beecher <p>The following people agreed to serve as a liaison with the Breed and Regional Organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHDRA – Lori Windows • ApDRA – Dawn Haas • DRAW – Jos Seefeldt • GLDRA – Gene Dake • MDDA – Tony Troyer • MnDRA – Lynn Reichert 	<p>BRC Committee *Slide Presentation Attached</p>

Peggy Pasillas reported that 51% of those receiving surveys responded to the survey. When reading thru the slides, one has to remember that these percentages represent only 51% of the TOTAL polled. Those polled included non-members of UMECRA.	
Preloading Horses was discussed. The consensus was that this should not be allowed; however, there will be no ruling at this time.	New Business: Preloading Horses
Dianne made the motion to send a UMECRA Board Member to new rides and rides with new managers to act as a Steward. Bonnie seconded, motion carried.	UMECRA Board Member to attend new rides and rides with new managers as a Steward
The following grants were awarded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNDRA awarded \$250 plus liability insurance cost for MN Horse Expo booth. Expo held April 27-29. Lynn made the motion for the fund, Wayne seconded • Northern Kettle Campground awarded \$250 for updating campground. Rick made the motion, Maxine seconded. • Bonnie requested \$250 for mile markers at the Southern Kettle Moraine Trail. Motion seconded by Rick. • Tony Troyer requested \$250 for sponsorship of the AHA National Distance Ride, seconded by Rick. Money to be taken out of the General Fund. 	\$250 Grants Awarded
Wayne made the motion to adjourn meeting at 3pm, seconded by Rick.	Meeting adjourned 3pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Schmidt
Acting Secretary

Keywords:

Corridor, Short Competitive Rides, Stewards at New Ride & Rides with new ride managers



Minutes for Fall Meeting
November 10, 2012
Deforest, WI

Present: Wayne Gastfield, Tony Troyer, Jill Feller, Peggy Pasillas, Lynn Reichert, Marty Power, Linda Mower, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Dr. Olivia Rudolphi, Maxine Bernsdorf, Theresa Meyer, Joslyn Seefeldt, Bonnie Mielke

Guests: Sue Hamrick, Aaron Mower, Bill Suskey, Linda Jacobson

Meeting called to order by Theresa at 11:00 am

Secretary report: The minutes from the spring 2012 meeting were presented; a change was needed: Wayne Ringham should be Wayne Gastfield. Motion by Tony Troyer, seconded by Wayne Gastfield to accept the minutes with this change; passed

Treasurer's report was presented by balance sheet and P&L summary. Motion made by Wayne Gastfield, seconded by Tony Troyer; passed.

	<u>Oct 27, 12</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Convention fund	1,703.75
ICF Fund	7,481.34
Mayville Savings Bank	22,390.94
Trail checking	<u>3,266.67</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>34,842.70</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>34,842.70</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>34,842.70</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	16,860.34
Retained Earnings	10,689.22
Net Income	<u>7,293.14</u>
Total Equity	<u>34,842.70</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>34,842.70</u></u>



Jill discussed some recent issues with the UMECRA computer. The computer has the XP operating system and there is a compatibility issue with XP and QuickBooks 2012 program. XP is no longer supported by Microsoft and if we keep the current computer, the QB program will not be able to be updated as it will not be able to operate with the XP system. The BOD gave Jill permission to look into the cost of new computer; she will report back to the BOD via email with some options and to seek approval for the purchase.

Agenda items:

- **Follow up on protests**
 - The Board received a protest from a rider regarding a dispute over treatment by Ride Management at the Glacier Trails Ride on May 15, 2012. The Board authorized the Vice President and the parties involved, as well as witnesses were given an opportunity to present their direct knowledge of the facts as well as to provide rebuttal. The Board considered the matter in full on November 10, 2012, and ruled in favor of the Rider. The Ride Management has been provided a letter of reprimand and reminded regarding their responsibility to host an event that is pleasant and enjoyable for all participants.
 - On July 30, 2012, the Board also received a protest regarding the late cancellation of the Wildcat Ride. The Board considered this matter in whole, again, on November 10, 2012. The Board again has ruled in favor of the protest, and has established a suitable protocol for supervising the event's preparation and organization until further notice.
 - Motion made by Marty to have rules committee establish protocol to handle future protests; Dr. Olivia seconded; passed.
- **2013 tentative ride schedule**
 - The tentative ride schedule as presented; a few minor changes were made to the rides on each day. There are several rides that had no yet sent in their sanctioning forms; the due date is November 30th. The tentative ride schedule will be posted on the website.
- **Ride insurance 2013 update**
 - Insurance costs will be available at January meeting.
- **Bylaw and rule changes-**
 - **Edit under Competitive Drive – drivers: MUST BE PRESENTED AT GENERAL MEETING for Final approval**
 - I. All drivers ~~Multiples (pairs, tandems and teams)~~ will have 15 minutes to present their horses to the veterinarian for pulse and respiration at the vet checks ~~at end of the drive. (Single horses will have ten minutes to present their horse to the veterinarian.)~~
 - Motion made by Tony; seconded by Bonnie to accept this change; passed



- Add under UMECRA general rules **MUST BE PRESENTED AT GENERAL MEETING for Final approval**
 - 4. Rider Requirements
 - K. Stallions must be double tied (two halters & two lead ropes) to trailer, hitching post, or high tie when not being ridden or handled. Stallions must be marked with a yellow ribbon on the bridle or forelock and tail.
 - Motion made by Tony; seconded by Linda Mower; passed
 - L. Juniors riders are not allowed to compete on stallions in any division.
 - After a short discussion; this topic was tabled until the January BOD meeting.
 - Add under UMECRA general rules **MUST BE PRESENTED AT GENERAL MEETING for Final approval**
 - 4. Management Requirements
 - J. All Rides offering limited distance and endurance events must be AERC sanctioned.
 - Joslyn motioned; seconded by Wayne; passed
 - K. All sanctioning must be listed on the ride flyer. If not AERC sanctioned, it must be clearly stated on the ride flyer.
 - Marty moved; seconded by Joslyn; passed
 - Add under - **MUST BE PRESENTED AT GENERAL MEETING for Final approval**
 - COMPETITIVE RULES
 - 2. Management Requirements
 - H. There must be a minimum of one rest stop during each 25 miles or increments over 15 miles thereof. (For example a ride must be 40 miles or over in order to require two rest stops.) Horses may not travel more than 20 miles without a scheduled vet stop if the ride is between 25 and 34 miles. A one day ride of 35 miles or more may have one loop that is a maximum of 25 miles. All vet stops must be a minimum of 40 minutes long.
 - Motion made by Lynn; seconded by Tony; passed
 - Sanctioning Requirements: **MUST BE PRESENTED AT GENERAL MEETING for Final approval**
 - 2. UMECRA Rules
 - F. Once the schedule is finalized at the annual meeting, no new rides may be scheduled except with Board **and ride manager approval via electronic ballot with a majority of 2/3rds of the managers responding. (One vote per ride)** Rides seeking approval by Board vote must meet one of the following criteria:



- Be proposed for an open date
- 2) Be 501 miles or more from an already scheduled ride (as measured using Mapquest.com)
- 3) If less than 501 miles from an already scheduled ride (as measured using Mapquest.com), have written approval of those ride manager(s)
 - Motion by Linda Mower; seconded by Bonnie; passed
- **ARTICLE VIII MUST BE PRESENTED AT GENERAL MEETING for Final approval**
 - Standing Committees (1/23/10)
 - Section 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. An Executive Committee of the Board will be made up of its President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.
 - Section 2. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FUND COMMITTEE.
 - A. A permanent committee is established to fully administer, maintain, guide and keep an international competition fund for fund-raising to assist in supporting UMECRA members or ride managers who ~~may be selected to participate in~~ compete in or host international endurance ~~or competitive ride~~ events sanctioned by the FEI.
 - B. Committee members: The committee shall be made up of five persons as follows: a current UMECRA officer and four members at large to include a chairperson and three others. Preference shall also be given to appointing UMECRA members who are acting as Chef d'Equipe for time zone teams, generally the East or Central teams. The committee will be appointed by the UMECRA president.
 - C. Committee responsibilities:
 1. To prepare guidelines for administration and dispersal of the fund, to be approved by the Board;
 2. To prepare plans for fund-raising, to be approved by the Board;
 3. To implement Board approved guidelines and plans; and
 4. To furnish an annual report to the Board and membership at the general meeting, to include; financial report, fundraising report, activity/use report.
 - **GENERAL RULES** (*Suggestion from the Blue Ribbon Committee*) **MUST BE PRESENTED AT GENERAL MEETING for Final approval**
 - 4. Rider Requirements
 - K. Non-UMECRA members will be charged a \$5 non-member fee per ride entry to be paid to UMECRA.
((Current K moves to L))



- Marty motioned; Bonnie seconded; passed
- **ARTICLE V** (*Suggestion from the Blue Ribbon Committee*) **MUST BE PRESENTED AT GENERAL MEETING for Final approval**

OFFICERS

Section 1. ELECTION. When a quorum of the delegates is present at the annual meeting, a simple majority of all UMECRA members from the previous year who are present at the convention are allowed to vote on the board of directors. ~~shall elect a president, a vice president, and a secretary/treasurer, all of whom shall be members of the Board.~~ Commencing at the January 2008 convention the President will be elected to a two year term. Commencing at the January 2007 convention the Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer will be elected to a two year term. Said officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. (1-20-07)

- Marty motioned; Dr. Olivia seconded; passed
- **Add division: DISCUSSION ONLY- NO ACTION TAKEN AT THIS TIME**
 - **SHORT COMPETITIVE DIVISION**

To provide a division for those who choose not to ride or cannot ride 25 miles or more.

1. A UMECRA Short Competitive Ride cannot be longer than 15 miles. The ride must be part of the UMECRA sanctioning process. All fees apply.
2. Short Competitive rides must use the "window system" as follows: A short competitive rider may come in from 5 minutes before or up to 5 minutes after the exact scheduled time without losing points. One point per minute is lost for coming in before or after these limits, up to 55 minutes (a total of 55 points) without being disqualified.
3. The Short Competitive division must be a one horse/rider team.
4. Horse and rider combination is not eligible to place in any other UMECRA category.
5. Horse/rider team will use the same rules as competitive rides and including UMECRA general rules.
6. Short Competitive rides will have only one division. Juniors and seniors, no matter what weight division are one division for the purpose of awards and scoring for UMECRA.
7. Scoring for UMECRA awards will use the current system for High Point Awards. Awards will be given to Top 5 only.
8. Short Competitive riders must accumulate a minimum of 40 miles and at least 3 ride for Year End Top 5 Awards
9. If a UMECRA sanctioned ride offers short competitive classes, all fees and rules shall be observed. Short Competitive rides are only eligible for year-end awards in the short competitive division or other awards where the criteria specifically states that short competitive rides shall count. Short Competitive mileage shall count for chevrons and horse mileage, but shall not be considered in determining eligibility for Restricted Mileage awards.

- DISCUSSION NOTES:



- Objective: riders who cannot or choose not to ride 25 mile events.
 - If a rider is capable of riding 25 miles should they be allowed to ride in short comp division? Who determines if a rider is capable?
 - Riders may be more open to this division than RM's. Will this bring back some of our past riders?
 - Should we offer the short comp for three years like we did with Novice and then re-evaluate this division?
- **DISCUSSION on BLIND HORSES:**
 - Had several incidents where a horse could not start a ride because the horse is blind. Tony contacted Connie Caudill from AERC about a rule addressing this. Dr. Olivia gave her input on the subject based on the AERC vet committee. If someone knows the rider and horse they may be allowed to compete but if the horse/rider isn't known; they may not be able to compete. The horse/rider at Big River ride had successfully competed at two other rides earlier in the year without issues. Motion by Wayne; seconded by Linda to table until January meeting.
 - **Year-end awards:**
 - 3010 entries in 2012 x \$2.50@ = 7525; \$200 donation from ABC; \$350 donation from Purina; \$460 from mileage program; \$1101.53 remaining from 2011 year end award budget = total budget of \$9636.53 for year-end awards for 2012.
 - **PAYPAL:**
 - A discussion was held to set UMECRA up to have the ability to use PayPal for members to pay for memberships, rider fees, insurance costs and sanctioning fees. Jill presented a spreadsheet with the costs involved with using PayPal. A brief discussion resulted with some alternative ideas that Jill will look into.
 - **APPOINTMENTS:**
 - Appointment of Pointskeeper (Robin Schadt) and Webmaster (Nicole Mauser-Storer) for two-year terms.
 - **Membership Committee:**
 - Novice rides continue to be a problem. Clinics should be in each region to encourage more involvement. Wisconsin hosts a clinic each year but not all states do. UMECRA insurance can be obtained for these clinics if needed.
 - **AHA National Distance Rides:**
 - Next year, the final ride of the UMECRA season will be the AHA National Championship;
 - All rides on every day will be open rides (anyone on any breed can ride).
 - Tony would like UMECRA Sponsorship toward AHA ride
 - Tony will bring more information to the January meeting in order for the BOD to make a decision on sponsorship.



- **Convention(s) update:**
 - The 2013 convention will be held in Oconomowoc on January 18- 20th. All the convention information is on the website and will be included in the next two NL's.

- **UMECRA Scholarship:**
 - There is \$2950 available for scholarships this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**BOD MEETING
January 19, 2013
Oconomowoc, WI
Annual Convention**

Present: Lynn Reichert, Elizabeth Laurie, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Olivia Rudolphi, Maxine Bernsdorf, Bonnie Mielke, Peggy Pasillas, Jill Feller, Theresa Meyer, Linda Mowrer, Tony Troyer, Jeanne Crispin, Wayne Gastfield, Joslyn Seefeldt, Dianne Schmidt, Marty Power

Guests: Wes Elford, Barb Kurti, Chris Power

Agenda items:

- Secretary minutes from November; Tony motioned, Maxine seconded; Approved
- Treasurer report for 2012; Tony motioned to approve, Linda seconded; Approved

1. Bylaws/Rules CHANGES

- Add under UMECRA general rules

4. Rider Requirements

L. Juniors riders are not allowed to compete on stallions in any division. Tony motioned to bring this discussion off the table; seconded by Wayne.

REVISED: Stallions must be ridden by a rider 18 years of age or older. Juniors in competitive must not ride stallions; Approved and will be sent to the annual meeting.

- Blind horse discussion
 - General Rule:
 - 3. Veterinarian Requirements
 - Horse blind in both eyes are not allowed to participate. Tony motioned, Olivia seconded; Failed 5/6
 - A discussion followed on this subject.
 - Wes read the AERC veterinarian statement regarding blind horses.
 - Marty moved: Dianne seconded to put a rule in the UMECRA RM/Vet Handbook that states:
 - A final decision allowed unsighted or a partially sighted equine to compete will be decided on a case by case basis by the control judge at each event. Riders of vision impaired equine should contact the ride manager prior to entry for approval.
 - Approved and goes to the annual meeting

- By-Law Changes (both moved to March meeting)
 - ** Board eligibility must be 18 years old and a member for 2 years.
 - This was moved to March meeting until guidance from Art is received.
 - ARTICLE V: OFFICERS
 - Section 1. ELECTION. When a quorum of the delegates is present at the annual meeting, a simple majority of **all UMECRA members from the previous year who are present at the convention are allowed to vote on the board of directors.** shall elect a president, a vice president, and a secretary/treasurer, all of whom shall be members of the Board. Commencing at the January 2008 convention the President will be elected to a two year term. Commencing at the January 2007 convention the Vice President and



Secretary/Treasurer will be elected to a two year term. Said officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. (1-20-07)

- Tony motioned; Joslyn seconded to remove this from the agenda; Approved. This issue will be revisited and worded for the March meeting.

- Add division: **SHORT COMPETITIVE DIVISION**

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3. The Short Competitive division must be a one horse/rider team.
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5. Horse/rider team will use the same rules as competitive rides and including UMECRA general rules.
6. Short Competitive rides will have only one division. Juniors and seniors, no matter what weight division are one division for the purpose of awards and scoring for UMECRA.
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9. If a UMECRA sanctioned ride offers short competitive classes, all fees and rules shall be observed. Short Competitive rides are only eligible for year-end awards in the short competitive division or other awards where the criteria specifically states that short competitive rides shall count. Short Competitive mileage shall count for chevrons and horse mileage, but shall not be considered in determining eligibility for Restricted Mileage awards.

- Maxine moved to bring this topic off the table; Tony seconded.
 - Can an accomplished rider ride Short Comp for mileage only? There is nothing saying that any rider on any ride can't ride for mileage only.
 - How will this be an advantage to the organization? Will this bring in new members? Will the vets at a ride be able to handle more horses at a ride?
 - After discussion: vote was taken; Failed to pass; no further action taken.
 - Motion made by Bonnie; seconded by Dianne: to rescind Novice rule that was approved in 2012. Failed to pass; no further action taken.
 - *The revised rule is: A rider placing Top Five novice for three years is not eligible for further Novice Awards and may enter Novice rides for mileage only. ~~Horse/A rider teams A rider not meeting this criteria may enter novice rides for mileage only.~~*

- G. If ride management, ride veterinarians, or a rider feels that any personnel have been abused or harassed by a member, ride veterinarian, volunteer or non-member rider, they have the right to notify the Board within 3 days of the close of a ride, who will respond in the following order:
 - Upon review, the Board will ask for comment from the alleged offending person and other people who might have witnessed the event; then if deemed warranted, the Board will privately warn that member, ride veterinarian, volunteer, or non-member rider part of the warning being that if the offense continues, the member person will may be publicly warned. *If not satisfied, a formal protest can be filed within 7 days. If the conduct continues the Board can take whatever further action it deems, such as but not limited to: loss of membership,*



probation of ride(s), or loss of sanctioning. Tony motioned; seconded by Maxine; Jill motioned; Maxine seconded to table this to March.

- Rider counseling for over-ridden horses
 - Pulled for metabolic twice within a year; you cannot enter another ride the following year- FEI rules.
 - Is this something that should be tackled by AERC?
 - Does UMECRA have a welfare rule? If not, we should have one.
 - Maxine suggestion was that Olivia leads a vet team to make a statement to be presented in March.
- Trail fund requests (from trail fund)
 - Holly Egerer- request for donation for electricity in shelter at Zumbro's Bottom camp. Joslyn motioned and Linda Mowrer seconded; Approved to send \$250 for this request.
- Promotion requests (from general fund)
 - MN request for funding for MN Expo; Linda Mowrer motioned and Wayne Gastfield seconded; Approve to send \$250 for this request.
 - IL Horse Fair request for funding for booth: Maxine Bernsdorf motioned and Lynn Reichert seconded ; Approved to send \$250 for this request.
- AHA Championship ride will be held the last weekend in October: Tony would like UMECRA to donate \$400 toward a sponsorship for the ride. Tony motioned; Joslyn seconded. Dianne requested the amount to be \$250; denied. Approved for \$400 donation.
- Insurance update/costs paid by rides
 - Tony motioned; Linda seconded to keep insurance as it has been with UMECRA paying ½ of the daily \$45/day costs and rides paying all costs for additional insured (i.e. a 2 day ride with one additional insured would be \$45 x 2 + \$20; UMECRA would pay \$45 and the ride would pay \$45 + 20). Approved
 - Jill will find out about using the UMECRA insurance for clinics.
 - **ANSWER FROM INSURANCE COMPANY:** *UMECRA insurance can be used for a ride clinic as long as UMECRA is the sponsoring organization of the clinic as the insurance is in the name of UMECRA.*
- Spring meeting date
 - March 9 location TBD
- Ride calendar was reviewed again
 - UMECRA's ride season needs to be defined as what our ride year is. A ride is on the calendar for the first week in November. Is our ride season Dec-Nov or Jan-Dec?
 - Tony motioned; Linda seconded to approve 2013 ride calendar. Approved and will go to annual meeting.
- Self-nominating process for elections
 - Move this discussion to the March meeting.
- Membership committee report was presented by Marty and will be presented at the annual meeting.
- Blue Ribbon Committee update
 - Marty presented a document that will be discussed at the annual meeting.
- Wayne motioned that there should be a 1 minute limit per motion at the annual meeting and only one chance to speak; seconded by Bonnie. Tony amended it to 2 minutes. Wayne accepted amendment; Bonnie did not. Failed. .
- Joslyn motioned; Elizabeth seconded that each person gets 1 minute to speak, but have multiple opportunities to discuss. Approved: Wayne will make this announcement at the beginning of the annual meeting and Wayne will be the time keeper.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**Annual Meeting
January 19, 2013
Oconomowoc, WI
Annual Convention**

Agenda items:

- Meeting called to order by President Theresa Meyer
- Roll call of delegates: 82 votes (78 delegates, 3 rider reps, 1 vet rep)
- Treasurer report for 2012- presented as Balance Sheet
 - Tony Troyer moved, Linda Mower seconded to accept as presented: **Passed**
- Secretary's report from annual meeting 2012 was presented.
 - Linda Mowrer moved, Wayne Gastfield seconded: **Passed**
- Approval of insurance costs proposal was presented.
 - UMECRA will pay ½ of daily \$45/day costs plus \$20 for each additional insured.
 - This was passed in the morning BOD meeting and does not need any further action.
- Approval of 2013 ride schedule
 - Jeanne Crispin presented some changes from the schedule that was handed out at the meeting.
 - Jeanne reminded everyone to send their ride flyers to her as soon as possible; PDF format is preferred.
 - Wayne moved, Joslyn Seefeldt seconded to approve the ride schedule with the additional changes.
Passed.
- Meeting Rules:
 - Wayne moved, Bonnie seconded: For each topic, each person gets 1 minute on the topic; they can have more than one time to voice their point. **Passed.**
- Rules CHANGES – brought forward from November and morning BOD meeting
 - **Edit under Competitive Drive – drivers:**
 - ~~I. All drivers Multiples (pairs, tandems and teams) will have 15 minutes to present their horses to the veterinarian for pulse and respiration at the vet checks at end of the drive. (Single horses will have ten minutes to present their horse to the veterinarian.)~~
 - Motion made by Tony Troyer; seconded by Linda Mowrer; **Passed**
 - **Add under UMECRA general rules**
 - Stallions shall not be ridden by a rider 18 years of age or older. Juniors in competitive must not ride stallions; Tony Troyer moved; Olivia Rudolphi seconded. Approved.
 - 4. Rider Requirements
 - K. Stallions must be double tied (two halters & two lead ropes tied to two distinct tie points) to trailer, hitching post, or high tie when not being ridden or handled. Stallions must be marked with a yellow ribbon on the bridle or forelock and tail at all times.
 - Motion made by Tony Troyer, seconded by Barry Saylor.
 - Elizabeth Laurie proposed an amendment; seconded by Elinore Tonsor to add "and 2 sources"
 - Motion made by Olivia Rudolphi; seconded by Tony Troyer to the above rule with the two sources added; **Passed**
 - **Add under UMECRA general rules**
 - 4. Management Requirements



- J. All Rides offering limited distance and endurance events must be AERC sanctioned.
 - Joslyn Seefeldt motioned; seconded by Wayne Gastfield; **Passed**

○ **Add under**

COMPETITIVE RULES

2. Management Requirements

- H. There must be a minimum of one rest stop during each 25 miles or increments over 15 miles thereof. (For example a ride must be 40 miles or over in order to require two rest stops.) Horses may not travel more than 20 miles without a scheduled vet stop **if the ride is between 25 and 34 miles. A one day ride of 35 miles or more may have one loop that is a maximum of 25 miles.** All vet stops must be a minimum of 40 minutes long.

- Motion made by Olivia Rudolphi; seconded by Tony Troyer; **Failed to pass**

• **Sanctioning Requirements:**

2. UMECRA Rules

- F. Once the schedule is finalized at the annual meeting, no new rides may be scheduled except with Board **and ride manager approval via electronic ballot with a majority of 2/3rds of the managers responding within ten (10) calendar days. (One vote per ride)**

Rides seeking approval by Board vote must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be proposed for an open date
- Be 501 miles or more from an already scheduled ride (as measured using Mapquest.com)
- If less than 501 miles from an already scheduled ride (as measured using Mapquest.com), have written approval of those ride manager(s)
 - Motion by Olivia Rudolphi, seconded by Wayne Gastfield; **Passed**
 - Amendment added "in ten days"

• 4. Rider Requirements (from the Blue Ribbon Committee)

- K. Non-UMECRA members will be charged a \$5 non-member fee per ride entry to be paid to UMECRA.

((Current K moves to L))

- Olivia Rudolphi motioned; Tony Troyer seconded; **Failed to pass**

• 3. Veterinarian Requirements

- A final decision allowed unsighted or a partially sighted equine to compete will be decided on a case by case basis by the control judge at each event. Riders of vision impaired equine should contact the ride manager prior to entry for approval.

- Olivia Rudolphi moved, Dianne Schmidt seconded; **Passed**
- Bonnie Mielke motioned to call the question; Lynn Reichert seconded; **Passed**

• BY LAWS CHANGES

○ **ARTICLE VIII**

- Standing Committees (1/23/10)

- Section 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. An Executive Committee of the Board will be made up of its President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.
- Section 2. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FUND COMMITTEE.



- A. A permanent committee is established to fully administer, maintain, guide and keep an international competition fund for fund-raising to assist in supporting UMECRA members who may be selected to participate in **compete in** or **ride** managers who **host** ~~may be selected to participate in~~ international endurance or competitive ride events sanctioned by the FEI.
- B. Committee members: The committee shall be made up of five persons as follows: a current UMECRA officer and four members at large to include a chairperson and three others. Preference shall also be given to appointing UMECRA members who are acting as Chef d'Equipe for time zone teams, generally the East or Central teams. The committee will be appointed by the UMECRA president.
 - C. Committee responsibilities:
 1. To prepare guidelines for administration and dispersal of the fund, to be approved by the Board;
 2. To prepare plans for fund-raising, to be approved by the Board;
 3. To implement Board approved guidelines and plans; and
 4. To furnish an annual report to the Board and membership at the general meeting, to include; financial report, fundraising report, activity/use report.
 - Olivia Rudolphi motioned; Tony Troyer seconded; **Passed**
- Update from the Blue Ribbon Committee
 - Marty Power and Julie Jackson Biegert gave a summary of the committee. The full report is available to all members on the UMECRA website.
 - Discussion focused on getting more rider involvement throughout the organization. An idea was presented to have 'state' representation based on the number of UMECRA members in each state. No further action was taken at this time regarding this topic.
- Election of officers:
 - Vice President; Nominated Linda Mowrer (declined) Becke Gram, Barb Kurti, **Tony Troyer**
 - Secretary/Treasurer; **Jill Feller**
 - IL Regional Director; **Sarah Mowrer**
 - MI Regional Director; **Wayne Gastfield**
 - (2) Director at Large;
 - **Barb Kurti**, Bill Suskey, Darlene Molitor
 - **Bill Suskey**, Darlene Molitor
- Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Jill Feller motioned; Linda Mowrer seconded.

Respectfully Submitted
Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer

The Rider subcommittee proposal and membership committee report that was available at the meeting follows.



Rider Vote Proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to increase participation of all members of UMECRA, to broaden the knowledge base required to run the organization and to bring forward the input, ideas and skills of more UMECRA members. We have tried to develop a proposal that would create increased representation of riders (and geographic locations) without increasing the size of the BoD.

Here is the basic proposal:

- Create the role of Rider Delegate (not to be confused with Rider Representative).
- Each State would be allowed to elect one rider delegate for every ten UMECRA members, up to a maximum of ten. If there are less than ten members in a given State, no delegate would be allowed.
- Delegates would be voted in by state members via mail in ballot.
- Delegates would have to meet the following criteria:
Rider Delegates must have been members for a minimum of one year and must have completed a minimum of four UMECRA rides in the previous season, to be comprised of any combination of CTR of 25 miles or more, Limited Distance or Endurance Rides.
- Rider Delegates will have voting privileges at the Annual meeting only.
- Given the 2012 membership numbers, this is what the number of “votes” would look like in comparison to Ride Manager votes:

	Number of UMECRA Members	Potential Number of Ride Delegates	# of UMECRA Ride Days/Ride Manager Votes
Wisconsin	106	10	23
Minnesota	100	10	20
Illinois	72	7	13
Michigan	52	5	32
Iowa	10	1	2
Indiana	6	0	0
Missouri	4	0	1
North Dakota	4	0	4
Ohio	1	0	0
South Dakota	0	0	0
Total	355	33	95

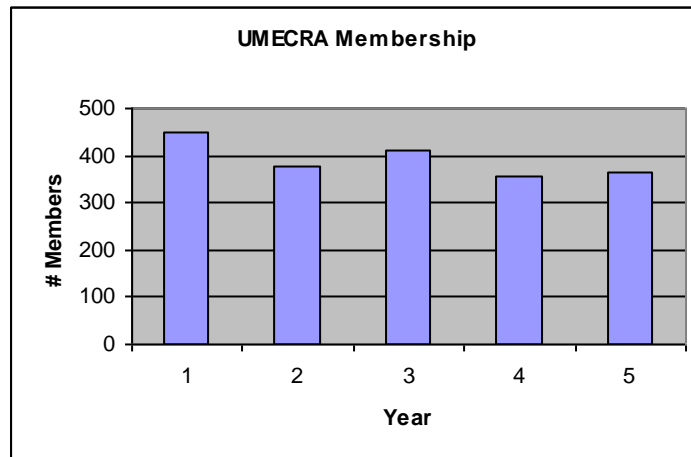


Membership & Novice Committee Report

January 19, 2013

Submitted by: Pam Cotton, Julie Jackson, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Bonnie Mielke, Angie Mikkelson, Linda Mower, Marty Power, Joslyn Seefeldt

Membership by Year	#	
2008	449	
2009	378	
2010	409	
2011	355	
2012	366	



Membership by State				
	2012	% membership	# Ride Days	% Ride Days
IA	10	3%	2	2%
IL	77	21%	13	14%
IN	4	1%		0%
MI	52	14%	31	33%
MN	113	31%	20	21%
MO	5	1%	1	1%
ND	4	1%	4	4%
OH	0	0%		0%
WI	101	28%	23	24%
Total	366	100%	94	100%

In 2012 we:



- Continued to update and improve the **New Riders** page on the website by increasing the number of mentors listed on the website and adding “Getting to know...” to many of the mentor’s listed.
- Developed both a short and a long article on distance riding to be available for printing in newsletters and on websites.
- Offered the first the Mentor’s Award sponsored by AHDRA.

Looking ahead:

- Increase the number of Novice Clinics. Have novice clinics in various parts of the region. Encourage each regional organization to sponsor a novice clinic. Have UMECRA provide both financial and peoplepower for organizations offering novice clinics.
- Provide insurance coverage for both organizations and individuals who offer a novice clinic.
- Improve the number and quality of novice rides offered at rides.

Possible Marketing Potential for UMECRA Membership Growth

A couple of observations regarding UMECRA:

1. It is surprising how few members UMECRA has in some states, like Iowa, for example.
2. It’s been noted that years ago there used to be a lot more rides in different areas that now no longer exist, such as in Iowa and Central and Southern Illinois. Also, years ago there used to be so many juniors competing that it was difficult for a junior to place in the top ten!
3. There may be at least some interest by ride managers and riders in nearby states, such as Indiana and Missouri, to have rides sanctioned by UMECRA.
4. Some individuals have joined UMECRA simply because there was a ride in their area that didn’t require them to travel long distances at considerable expense simply to “try out” the sport.
5. For an organization to thrive, it must at least sustain, if not grow, its membership numbers.

Analyses:

Although some states have data on the number of horses, horse owners or riders, not all Midwest states do. The best available data found was the American Horse Council’s estimate that 2.2% of U.S. households own horses. Using that piece of information and applying it against available census data on the number of households in a state provides an estimated number of households that own horses as the maximum potential number of UMECRA membership households.

Now this isn’t exact, since the UMECRA membership numbers weren’t converted into household memberships, but to get a rough estimate of UMECRA’s penetration rate into the potential market for membership the number of UMECRA members was divided into the estimated number of potential households that own horses.



From that calculation, Minnesota was found to have the highest penetration rate. Every other state's penetration rate was then divided into the Minnesota penetration rate to arrive at a potential growth factor if each state could achieve the same penetration rate enjoyed by Minnesota. Using that potential growth factor, the estimated potential increased number of UMECRA memberships that could result if Minnesota's penetration rate could be achieved by each of the other states was calculated.

Then, the correlation between the number of ride days in a state and the number of UMECRA memberships was calculated and found to be fairly strong (.773). As correlation doesn't reveal causality, this relationship could be because states with more ride days recruit more UMECRA members, or the states with more UMECRA members have more potential ride managers and end up hosting more ride days.

Regardless, it seems there is considerable potential for UMECRA to sustain and even grow its membership numbers if it cares to embark on a planned marketing strategy targeted at specific states and areas within a state.

Such a strategy could include several possible actions, such as the hosting of novice clinics in strategic locations, applying incentives for someone to host a UMECRA ride in strategic locations to attract both old and new riders as UMECRA members, and approaching existing ride managers in certain states with incentives to sanction their ride with UMECRA.



	Number of UMECRA Members	2010 Census # of Households	AHC: 2.2% of Households Own Horses	UMECRA Penetration Rate	Potential Growth Factor to = MN	Potential UMECRA Membership Increase	# of UMECRA Ride Days
Wisconsin	106	150,000	3,300	3.21%	1.0		23
Minnesota	100	135,000	2,970	3.37%	1.0		20
Illinois	72	302,000	6,644	1.08%	3.1	152	13
Michigan	52	229,000	5,038	1.03%	3.3	118	32
Iowa	10	98,000	2,156	0.46%	7.3	63	2
Indiana	6	187,000	4,114	0.15%	23.1	133	0
Missouri	4	174,000	3,828	0.10%	32.2	125	1
North Dakota	4	25,000	550	0.73%	4.6	15	4
Ohio	1	306,000	6,732	0.01%	226.7	226	0
South Dakota	0	34,000	748	0.00%	#DIV/0!	25	0
Total	355					855	95
Correlation w/ # UMECRA Ride Days(w/o OH & SD)	0.773	0.347	0.347	0.656	-0.655		1.000



**Meeting minutes for BOD Spring Meeting
March 9, 2013**

Attendance: Jill Feller, Bill Suskey, Maxine Bernsdorf, Joslyn Seefeldt, Wayne Gastfield, Barb Kurti, Theresa Meyer, Tony Troyer, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Peggy Pasillas, Dianne Schmidt, Sarah Mowrer, Bonnie Mielke

Guests: Jon Wagner, Linda Jacobson, Jan Sasena, Linda Mowrer

Called to order by President Theresa Meyer at 11:37 am.

Minutes for January meeting presented Tony motioned; Max seconded to approve morning BOD meeting minutes; passed. Tony motioned, seconded by Wayne to approve annual meeting minutes; passed.

Treasurer's report: Wayne motioned, Joslyn seconded to accept report as presented below; passed.

	<u>Mar 2, 13</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Convention fund	3,666.83
ICF Fund	7,884.76
Mayville Savings Bank	12,622.50
Trail checking	<u>4,597.69</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>28,771.78</u>
Total Current Assets	28,771.78

Old Business:

- **Blue Ribbon Committee**
 - Riders voting for officers only vs. having geographic delegates' topic. The subcommittee's opinion is that they would rather support the geographic delegate's option and not have all riders vote. There was no more discussion on this topic.
 - A discussion was held on a proposed by-law change that would introduce state delegates.
 - What is the difference between these representatives and a rider representative? These would be designated from each state vs. from the general membership body that the rider's representatives come from.
 - Joslyn motioned to not move forward with the by-law change; seconded by Wayne; passed. No further discussion.
 - Voting privileges of appointed positions (sanctioning coordinator, newsletter editor, points keeper, Webmaster).
 - If those positions get voting rights, then they should be being elected and not appointed. We need to have the best people in these positions and being elected we may lose that. The members attending the meeting in these positions choose



the positions because they want to do the job and enjoy the work; having voting privileges is not why they have volunteered for the position. There was no action taken and no further discussion.

- **Abused/over ridden horses issue**
 - Dr. Olivia was working on this issue and was unable to make the meeting. This discussion is tabled until the November meeting.
- **Ride Behavior rule**
 - Tony motioned, Jill seconded to bring motion off of table; passed.
 - This is an informal complaint process; it provides a way to approach the board with a minor complaint and not a formal grievance.
 - There should be fee attached to this so there is meaning put behind it just like the protest process.
 - After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the proposal will be re-written and presented again at the fall meeting.
- **Bylaw – age/experience limit**

ARTICLE III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. The property and business of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors. Only Delegates may be elected as Officers or as Directors, with the following exceptions: the Board position of Veterinarian Representative will be composed of an endurance or competitive ride veterinarian, President (see, Article III, Section 5, below), and Secretary/Treasurer (see, Article III, Section 7, below). Authorized alternate voting delegates shall not be eligible for election for the purpose of this section. (1/25/09)

The Board shall not be less than three in number and not more than sixteen. The Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, immediate Past President, two members elected at large, or more as may be determined by majority of the Board of Directors up to a maximum of six, a Veterinarian Representative and four geographic board members and four rider representatives. (1/23/10). The Veterinarian Representative will be elected to a two year term commencing at the January 2008 convention. Each state, or foreign country which maintains a minimum of 25 UMECRA memberships (individuals to count as one and families to count as two) and which hosts a minimum of five sanctioned rides in the preceding season, shall be eligible to have an official delegate from that state or foreign country nominated and elected by the official delegates to the general meeting to a two-year term as geographic board member. If more than four states or foreign countries qualify, the number of rides shall be the first qualifier for determination of which four geographic areas are eligible, followed by the number of memberships within that state or country. If still tied, the state or foreign country with the largest number of rides over the history of UMECRA shall be given priority.

One, two, or three directors at large will be elected each year for two-year terms, to stagger their service, or until their successor shall have been elected at the annual meeting by majority vote of



the attending delegates at the convention. Commencing at the 1997 convention, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota will initially qualify for geographic board members. Commencing at the 1997 convention, Illinois, Michigan's geographic board members will be elected at the convention, together with one at-large board member. The geographic board positions will be filled for 1997 by current Directors at Large, Monna Radtke and Dianne Kuhn. Their geographic positions will come up for election at the 1998 convention, together with the second at-large board position. The geographic board members will be nominated by delegates from their respective states and elected by the voting delegates at large at the general meeting. **To be eligible for election to the board of directors, members must be at least 18 years old and be a UMECRA member for the previous 2 years.**

- Tony motioned, Wayne seconded to accept the underlined addition to this by-law; passed. This by-law change will be presented at the annual meeting in January 2014.
- **Convention fee**
 - Should the convention fee be limited? We do have written guidelines on the convention which will assist the convention manager with some decisions.
 - Convention fees should be limited to no more than \$7.00; if more than \$7.00 is needed to pay for additional expenses of the convention, the convention manager needs to contact the BOD to get approval. Tony motioned, Joslyn seconded; if convention fee of more than \$7.00 is needed, the BOD needs to approve the increase.
- **Paypal type payment update.**
 - There is a fee that would need to be passed on to riders; this fee is up to 4% of costs. For example: if a RM is paying \$100 in rider fees, the Paypal fee is \$4.00. Peggy will send out a survey monkey questionnaire asking if there is an interest in credit card payments for memberships and rider fees. The Paypal costs will be passed on to the user using the service. For membership fees, it will be a flat fee of \$2-\$2.50/membership but for rider fees and insurance costs, the added fee will be a percentage of the total. If there is an interest with RM's and members, a UMECRA Paypal account will be created for future use.

New Business:

- **Family membership definition**
 - The UMECRA family definition has been put on the membership form to help clarify what is a family membership.
- **Donation Form**
 - A form has been created for all future donation requests regarding trail grants or grants to sponsor a UMECRA booth at one of the state expos or horse fairs. This form can be downloaded from the website or obtained from Jill Feller. Members need to complete the form and send it to the president or secretary/treasurer to present at the next BOD meeting.
- **Voting process-self nominated forms**
 - Should we request that members who would like to run for a position on the BOD nominate themselves in writing before the annual convention? The nomination forms would then be



published for members to read before the meeting and can make a more informed decision.

- This topic will be discussed at the annual meeting in January.

- **Sanction form update**

- The sanction form has been updated so **all** forms are listed and ride managers can now request the forms that are available electronically. The forms still be available electronically on the website ride manager page.

- **Promotion committee**

- We need to reorganize the committee as some of the members have left. Nicole and Barb would like to be on the committee but don't want to be chair. Theresa and Tony will contact some members to ask if they would be interested in being part of this committee.
- Each state should have input into how to get new members and how to promote UMECRA; AERC is doing some research on getting new members that we may be able to play off of.
- Ride clinics should be held in each state to raise awareness and generate new members. Wisconsin holds a clinic every March; the clinic is run by DRAW or ApDRA and they are very well attended.
 - Dianne motioned; Joslyn seconded to offer a free first-time UMECRA membership to ride clinic attendees (not to include Expos or Horse Fairs);
 - Jill will create a new membership form to use; it will be tracked on the membership spreadsheet over the years.

- **New member committee**

- Joslyn, Pam Cotton, Lynn Reichert, Linda Mowrer are all remaining members on this committee. Some other members will be contacted to see if they would be interested.

- **Ride year defined**

- What is the UMECRA ride year? Wayne motioned, Sarah seconded that the UMECRA ride season begins on the first Monday in November; passed.

- **Trail grant request from SKMTRA:**

- Bonnie motioned; Joslyn seconded to donate \$250 for the Southern Kettle Moraine to provide some inclement weather protection in the shelter and some new wheel barrows; passed.

- **State trailer licensing requirements:**

- A small discussion was held on each state requirement to be in compliance with the DOT regulations on pulling trailers. Each state is different and within a state it can be confusing with different answers. Members can find information by visiting the DOT site in each state.

- Bonnie motioned, Dianne seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Jill Feller

UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**Agenda items for BOD Fall Meeting
November 16, 2013**

Attendance: Jill Feller, Wayne Gastfield, Barb Kurti, Max Bernsdorf, Robin Schadt, Bonnie Mielke, Sarah Mowrer, Nicole Mauer-Storer, Tony Troyer, Bill Suskey, Theresa Meyer, Peggy Pasillas, Elizabeth Laurie, Olivia Rudolphi, Joslyn Seefeldt

Guests: Linda Jacobson, Jon Wagner, Deb Searle, Katie Bachhuber, Linda Mowrer, Jan Sasena

Call to order at 11:04 am by President Theresa Meyer.

Minutes for March meeting presented: Motion made by Tony Troyer; seconded by Wayne Gastfield to accept minutes are printed in NL. Passed.

Treasurer's report presented: Motion made by Tony Troyer; seconded by Maxine Bernsdorf to accept report as presented. Passed.

	<u>Nov 9, 2013</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Convention	
fund	3,916.83
ICF Fund	7,884.76
Mayville	
Savings Bank	21,709.36
Trail checking	<u>4,597.69</u>
Total	
Checking/Savings	<u>38,108.64</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>38,108.64</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>38,108.64</u></u>

Old Business:

- Abused/over-ridden horses issue- update by Dr. Olivia (from spring meeting).
 - What is the statement that UMECRA wants to move forward with? Dr. Olivia has researched a lot of different ride organization's horse health statements. UMECRA does have a statement in our rules; do we need more than this?
 - Sample statements will be posted for the general membership to review and make suggestions to. This topic will again be discussed at the January annual meeting.
- Vet Committee: Ride managers should send Dr. Olivia their ride vet contact information. Dr. Olivia would like to reach out to the ride vets and form a ride vet committee.
- Pay-pal use for rider fees and memberships- survey discussed at spring meeting was not sent out to see if there was any interest; there is no new update on this subject. Do we want to continue with this or not?
 - Peggy will send out a survey seeing if there is an interest.
- Self-nominating forms for elections.
 - Jill will send out sample forms to the email group and a decision can be made at the January meeting.
- Promotion committee-: A report was sent out to the BOD via email with information regarding UMECRA membership over the years. Some ideas that were discussed were the use of social media and using the Midwest Horse Councils (UMECRA is a member of each of the Midwest Horse Councils).
 - Social media would be a good source to be promoting our sport. You-Tube could be used to post some videos such as 'how to set up camp', 'how to vet in', etc.
 - Who would be responsible for posting items and reviewing the posts?
 - Committee: Elizabeth Laurie, Bill Suskey, Barb Kurti, Nicole Mauer-Storer, Joslyn Seefeldt
 - Theresa will update the UMECRA brochure and send it out to BOD members. The brochure could be put into the RM packets and available to non-UMECRA members at rides. On the back of the brochure, there will be a location where a UMECRA member can write their contact information before giving the brochure to a potential new member.
- New member committee- update
 - No new activity to report.

Rules: (go to General meeting)

- Revisit the stallion rule
 - If a stallion is confined to a pipe corral- do they still need to be tied?
 - If a stallion is high-tied- how do you follow the rule? (**Proposed change to current rule in bold**)



- *Stallions must be double tied (two halters & two lead ropes tied to two distinct tie points) to trailer, hitching post, or high tie when not being ridden or handled. **They may be tied with a single halter and lead rope if also enclosed in a charged electric fence or in a secure pen provided by campground.** Stallions must be marked with a yellow ribbon on the bridle or forelock and tail at all times. **Alternative containment options may be approved by Ride Management.***
 - Motion made by Elizabeth Laurie and seconded by Tony Troyer to accept rule change. Passed.
- Can a ride say “no studs”?
 - UMECRA will allow ride manager to put this on the ride flyers.
 - AERC does allow No Studs at rides but it must be announced at sanctioning.
 - Rider requirement rule: **(Proposed addition rule in bold)**
 - There is no consequence listed in the rule book for a rider who breaks a requirement rule.
 - To add to page 13 of the rule book: **(H) The penalty for failing to follow the above requirements; completion only, miles only or disqualification.** Motion made by Elizabeth Laurie and seconded by Tony Troyer. Passed.
- Protest rule:
 - Rule currently states “will be discussed at next BOD meeting”. Should this be changed? If points/placings are changed due to the protest outcome, it is too late for rider to make up points and it could affect year-end awards. Should a protest be solved within 30 days?
 - Jill and Robin will work on a protocol for protests. The protest rule will be revisited in January.
- Re-evaluate the ‘Boot’ rule for competitive rides; some of the new hoof boots go above the coronet band and results in point deductions. **(Proposed change to current rule in bold)**
 - *If boots, bandages or wraps are used, the horse shall be penalized two points per leg per day. Boots designed to protect the sole of the hoof **and their permanent attachments**, are permitted and shall not be penalized. **The judges may request to observe the area covered by the attached strap, keeper or gaiter at any time. If boots are not declared, see (H).***
 - Motion made by: Wayne Gastfield; seconded by Tony Troyer. Passed.
- Rule changes suggested by UMECRA members. **(Proposed change to current rule in bold)**
 - The age for juniors should be changed to 16 in competitive to match AERC; no action taken by BOD.
 - **Change the UMECRA Lightweight to 185 lbs.; this weight will match the AERC featherlight and lightweight categories.** Motion made Elizabeth Laurie and seconded by Sarah Mowrer to accept this change. Passed.
 - Move UMECRA ride season to match the AERC ride season. The UMECRA ride year was determined at the March 9, 2013 meeting. After a discussion no further action was taken by the BOD.
 - Change the convention date to the middle to end of February to accommodate the new ride season. Since the ride season will not be changed, there was no action taken on this subject.

New Business:

- Sanctioning coordinator (SC) position:
 - After a discussion, Jill Feller has been appointed to take on the SC duties with Jan Sasena assisting.
- Newsletter Editor:
 - Peggy Pasillas was appointed to this position
- Rider representative nominees:
 - Dec NL will be a hard copy as voting ballots will be included. Single memberships receive one ballot and family memberships receive two ballots. There are six UMECRA members who are seeking the Rider Representative seats on the BOD.
- Update on upcoming conventions 2014 & 2015:
 - 2014: Katie Bachhuber gave an update on the upcoming convention. Reservation information is on the UMECRA website.
 - 2015: Wayne has a speaker scheduled from Michigan State.
 - 2016: no location or manager as of yet
- Update on 2014 sanctioning:
 - There are several outstanding rides that have not sanctioned for 2014 yet; those RM's will be sent a reminder email or hard copy of forms.
- ICF fund:
 - The ICF rule was changed at annual meeting in 2013 to allow money to RM's to host FEI ride. What is the procedure to request money? Who decides if money is given to RM for FEI ride? How much money is provided for FEI ride?
 - The following guidelines have been established for the ICF fund: **(Proposed guidelines in bold)**
 - **Rides requesting funds to host an FEI ride will need to be a UMECRA sanctioned ride for at least the past 2 years.**
 - **Adult Riders: must have at least 500 lifetime ride miles in UMECRA and a minimum of 200 UMECRA ride miles/year. Requested funds can only be used for 3 or 4 star FEI rides.**
 - **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.**



- **The UMECRA BOD will approve requests for ICF grant money.**
- **The maximum amount of grant money to be removed from the ICF fund within one UMECRA fiscal year is \$1500.**
- **The ICF fund will carry a minimum balance of \$500.**
- Motion made by Tony Troyer and seconded by Wayne Gastfield. Passed.
- Ride members book:
 - After a discussion, it was decided to continue to print the UMECRA ride member's directory each year. The directory will be sent out earlier in the year in future years. A PDF file of the directory could be made available to members who would like to download it onto their phones.
- Fun rides:
 - There were a few rides who hosted a fun ride; these rides were run with LD rules. If a Novice rider would ride one of these rides, he/she would not receive any novice points. Should these rides be allowed?
 - A discussion was held regarding this topic. The consensus was that these rides should not be held in conjunction with a UMECRA ride if the ride is covered under UMECRA insurance.
 - **(Proposed rule in bold)**
 - **Any UMECRA sanctioned ride with ride miles less than 25 miles, must follow the established UMECRA Novice rules.**
 - Motion made by Tony Troyer and seconded by Wayne Gastfield. Passed
- Scholarship award money allotment:
 - \$3000 is available for scholarships for this year.
- Trail grant requests:
 - 4 requests were submitted and approved.
 - National Forest Service in MI- c/o Karen Bahrman to replace trail and mile markers.
 - SKMTRA- Southern Kettle Moraine trails- c/o Bonnie Mielke to update trail maps on trails.
 - Forestville State Park- c/o Dianne Schmidt to purchase lime for existing and new trails.
 - TBD (will be paid to contractor doing stump removal)- c/o Barb Kurti to be used for stump removal on trails used at Oak Leaf Run ride
- Organization of a vet committee:
 - Approval given to Dr. Olivia to start a vet forum. Ride managers are encouraged to send their vet's contact information to Dr. Olivia.
- Vet report on AERC rule changes:
 - The drug used for Cushing's disease is now allowable in competition horses.
 - Dr. Olivia has the protocol for ride drug testing of 'what to expect, etc.'. If any ride manager would like this information, they should contact Dr. Olivia.
 - Dr. Olivia reminded us that AERC has money available for necropsies and she encourages people to have these done as we can learn a lot and the information may help others in the future. If a horse dies a few days after attending an event, the owner should still contact AERC about a necropsy.
- Awards:
 - Convention- update on this year's award. A big thank you to our Awards committee.
 - Dr. Beecher Shining Light Award: there were two nominations that were submitted by November 1st for this award.
 - Hall of Fame award: the award will be presented at the convention.
- Motion made by Wayne Gastfield to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Jill Feller.

Respectfully submitted
Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**Morning BOD Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2014**

Call to order by President Theresa Meyer

Present: Theresa Meyer, Tony Troyer, Jill Feller, Sarah Mowrer, Wayne Gastfield, Dianne Schmidt, Joslyn Seefeldt, Barb Kurti, Bill Suskey, Olivia Rudolphi, Maxine Bernsdorf, Bonnie Mielke, Robin Schadt, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Jon Wagner, Wes Elford, Linda Mowrer

Minutes from fall BOD meeting: Tony Troyer motioned to accept minutes; seconded by Wayne Gastfield; passed.

Old Business:

- Abused/over-ridden horses issue- update by Dr. Olivia (from spring meeting).
 - What is the statement that UMECRA wants to move forward with? Dr. Olivia has researched a lot of different ride organization's horse health statements. UMECRA does have a statement in our rules; do we need more than this?
 - Sample statements will be posted for the general membership to review and make suggestions to. This topic will again be discussed at the January annual meeting.
 - After discussion no further action was taken as our rules already address this issue.
- Barry Saylor: AERC will not allow a competitive ride to be held on the day off between the Championship rides and Barry had determined volunteer recruitment would be difficult; therefore Barry has withdrawn his request to host the AERC National Championship ride; no further discussion.
- HRM in competitive rides
 - Tony presented a chart that would be used to convert HRM numbers to fit into the competitive ride score sheet. The use of HRM would be an option for RM' and not required to be used.
 - UMECRA General Rules 3. Veterinary Requirements (**proposed**):
 - A rider may ask for one recheck on a P/R. **Pulse rechecks must be done with a stethoscope.** P/Rs shall be taken as a unit and a recheck shall be requesting immediately after BOTH have been taken and announced. The recheck must be taken immediately and the rider must accept the second score, whether higher or lower. **In the case of a documented arrhythmia a stethoscope must be used for all vet checks. Heart rate monitors (HRM) will be allowed as long as they are used for all riders and in the same manner. Individual rider HRM must be turned off as they interfere with the hand held.** Tony motioned to add this above verbiage to the competitive rules; Joslyn seconded. Passed 7/4
- Lameness on competitive horses (**proposed**):
 - Dr. Wes presented this change; he does not want lame horse (grade 3) to have to continue trotting out and in circles; he would like to have them stop and receive only miles.
 - Competitive – Veterinary Requirements- 6.Completion Criteria
 - Horses that are grade **3 or 4** lame will not receive placing or completion points but will receive mileage. Grade 5 horses will be disqualified. Dianne Schmidt motioned to accept the change; Tony Troyer seconded; passed.
- Fun ride rule from Nov meeting
 - The motion that was made at the November meeting regarding rides of less than 15 miles was rescinded based on the fact that AERC does allow for *Introductory rides*. After a discussion the following rule was created:
 - **Any UMECRA sanctioned ride with ride miles of 15 miles or less must follow the established UMECRA Novice rules or the AERC Introductory rules. AERC Introductory rides are not eligible for UMECRA points and miles.** Tony Troyer motioned; Sara Mowrer seconded; passed.



- Pay-pal use for rider fees and memberships- survey discussed at spring meeting was not sent out to see if there was any interest; there is no new update on this subject.
 - Peggy sent out a survey; results were that there was not a lot of interest in this process.
- Self-nominating forms for elections.
 - Form was sent out to BOD members via email to review. The form was accepted and will be used beginning with 2015 elections. Nominations from the floor will still be accepted.
- 2014 ride schedule has a few minor changes since Nov meeting. Jill made motion to accept ride schedule; seconded by Joslyn; passed.
- Promotions Committee: an update was given with multiple handouts that are attached to these minutes.
- Membership Committee; no action has been done by this committee since it is so closely tied to the promotions committee. Theresa will ask for more members for this committee at the annual meeting.
- Protest process; this is being tabled until the spring meeting.
- Mileage reimbursement for spring and fall BOD meetings
 - Dianne motions, seconded by Tony to UMECRA will reimbursement BOD members, both elected and appointed, who drive to the spring and fall meetings at a rate of \$.25/mile.
 - Jill will create a reimbursement form to be used.
- Insurance: the insurance bill for 2014 has been paid. The cost for each day remains at \$45/day and additional insured will continue to be \$20 each. Jill motions that UMECRA pays ½ of the daily insurance costs for all UMECRA rides requesting UMECRA insurance and each ride pays 100% of their additional insured costs; seconded by Dianne Schmidt; passed.
- Convention; update
 - 2015- Wayne reported that the convention plans are on track.
 - 2016 convention proposal; DRAW will host the 2016 convention somewhere in or near Wisconsin Dells
- Trail grant requests; there were none to be discussed
- Other
 - Dr. Olivia would like to see UMECRA provide money for a necropsy to an owner who has a horse that dies as a result of a ride. AERC provides the owner with \$500 however, that does not cover all the costs of the procedure. After a discussion, no action was taken on this request.
 - Coffee and rolls should be provided at the morning BOD meetings at the conventions. Dianne motioned; Bonnie seconded; passed.
 - Jill motioned to give MN and IL \$250 for a booth at their state horse fair; Dianne seconded; passed.
- Spring meeting date is March 15 with the location to be decided.
- Rider Rep voting ballot count was conducted after the close of the meeting.
- Jill motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Tony.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



UMECRA Promotions

Level 1

1. Hashtags via Facebook and/or Twitter. Helps promote the sport a bit more if people are using #enduranceriding, #UMECRA, etc

How do I use hashtags?

Hashtags turn topics and phrases into clickable links in your posts on your personal Timeline or Page. This helps people find posts about topics they're interested in. To make a hashtag, write # (the number sign) along with a topic or phrase (written as one word) and add it to your post.

For example:

I walked up so many hills today! #SanFrancisco

When you click a hashtag, you'll see a feed of posts that include that hashtag. You'll also see some related hashtags at the top. You can search for a hashtag using the search bar at the top of any page.

2. Details on each ride to be available via Facebook and website – helps both current and new riders know what to expect. Jos was going to find the content to be published.
3. Additional links on UMECRA website. Include links to Karen Chaton's show on Horses in the Morning, include links to known endurance bloggers to help both new and experienced members keep up to date on current topics
 - a. If there is any interest – maybe start a UMECRA blog? Can be run by a handful of people on the board to share news of interest to UMECRA and/or the endurance community. Blog posts don't have to be super frequent or lengthy – just valuable to the people who would be interested in endurance
4. Ensure membership in each state's Horsemens Council and run an ad in the program at each Horse Fair as applicable or create a press release/article to run once a year as promotions. Consider participating in each Horse Fair as it makes sense (do we have multiple copies of UMECRA banners that can be used?) estimated \$300 - \$400 per year for memberships



5. Create an ad that can be used for breed organizations, clubs etc with just minor changes in wording or pictures. Will want a rep for each state to determine what organizations to promote with. May require an advertising budget per state with final say on spending that can be determined by individual committees, and not every piece voted on by entire board.
6. Develop a process to make sure that all non-members receive a follow up phone call, email or letter that asks about their experience and offers to put them in touch with someone in their area if desired. Promote "To Finish is to Win"
 - a. I'm happy to help with the IL rides and create that "personal touch". Will want additional members to help with other states

Level 2

1. Utilize links to videos being compiled by Dr Garlinghouse OR create UMECRA versions of similar topics.
 - a. Compile a list of desired topics and send video snippets from various UMECRA rides to compile the 5 – 10 minute videos. People would have a list of sub topics to cover and could sent videos via drop box or other type of mechanism to the video editor
 - b. Topics could be: Camping with your horse, vetting in for a COMP ride, vetting in for an Endurance ride, what happens at a vet hold, endurance ride strategy (ie Top 10 vs turtle), electrolytes, tack, anything else we think would help new or curious riders
2. Plan clinics at select areas in UMECRA – plan to host X number per year – use http://www.aerc.org/Endurance_Clinics.aspx from AERC as a guide
3. Find ways to engage youth. Clinics for 4-H groups etc. This link was on the AERC home page for youth programs - <https://www.usef.org/highschool/>

Level 3

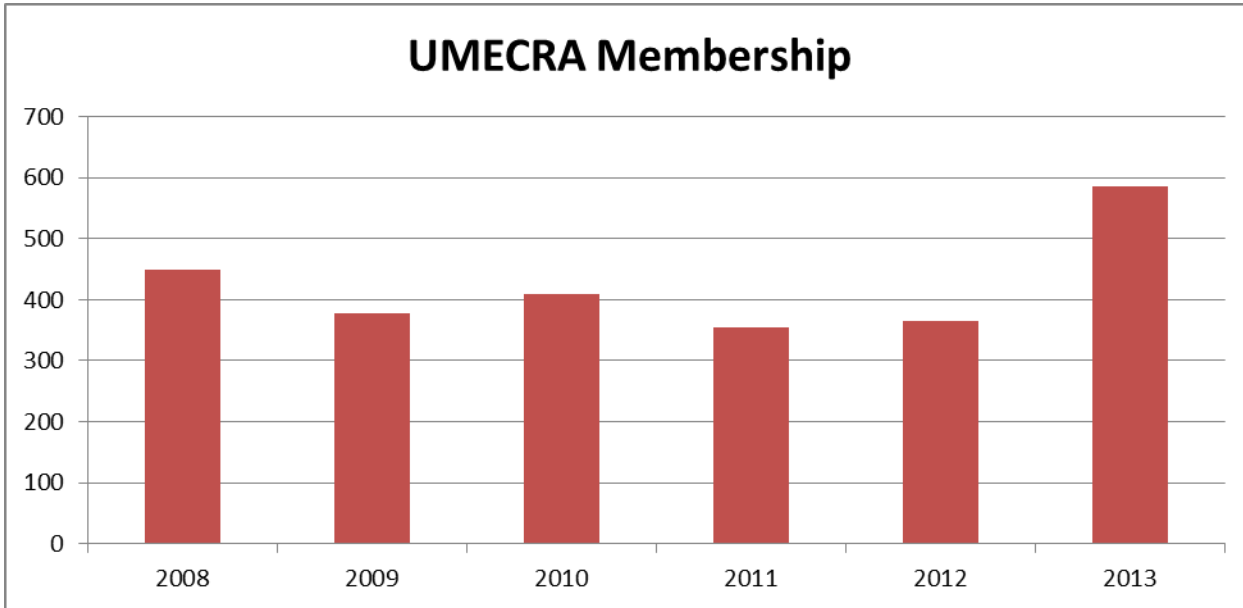
1. Creatively find ways to get new rides UMECRA sanctioned that are in some of the outer territories. It's hard to recruit members from North Dakota if there aren't any UMECRA rides anywhere close to them.



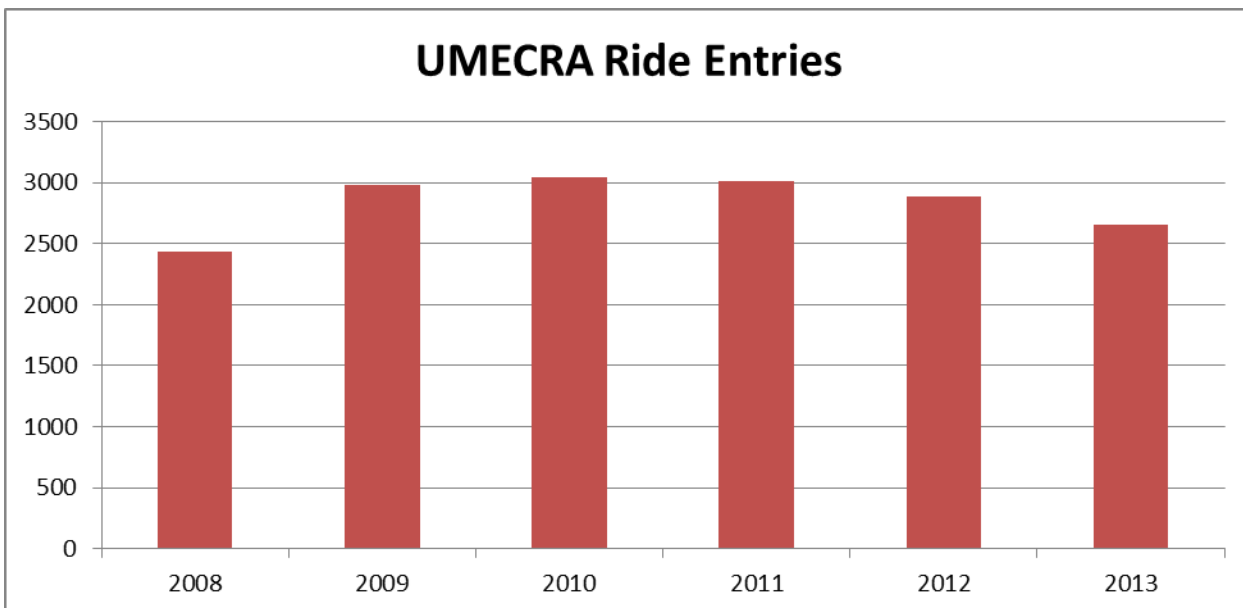
UMECRA – Market/Promotions Plan

Current industry/market situation

Membership = 585

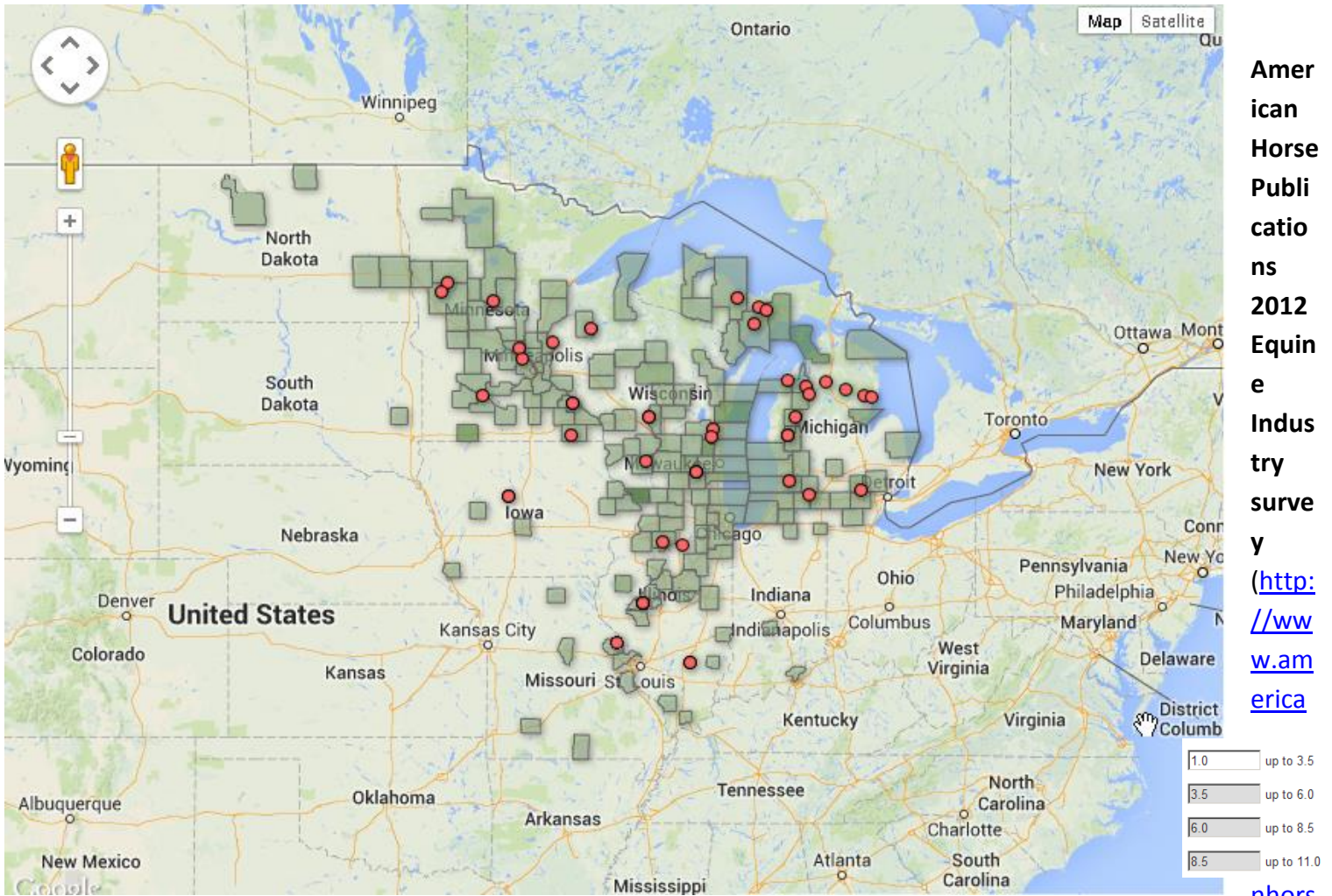


Total Ride Entries 2013 = 2651





Locations of 2013 UMECRA Members and 2013 Sanctioned Rides



<http://www.americanhorsepublishers.org/resources/#Survey2012>) has a great deal of information on the overall industry and some key pieces include:

- Pleasure riders make up 50% of the respondents and 35% of people responded that they ride competitively.
- Competitors report that they attend an average of 5.4 events per year. However, the younger age groups are reporting that they expect to compete more in 2013 than in prior years.
- Endurance touches only about 5% of respondents with large potential for further growth



Goals

- Increase membership 10% by 2015 to 643
- Increase ride entries by 10% by 2015 to 2916

Actions

- Promote UMECRA with Horse Councils and Breed Organizations throughout UMECRA Territory
- Reach out to competitors in other disciplines and encourage them to try endurance
- Host rides in additional areas to encourage growth
- Maintain and build Mentor Program
- Encourage youth participation in endurance

Plan

Reaching potential new members/riders

Endurance ranks near the bottom of activities reported in the survey. In order to grow the sport we need to recruit members from other categories and maintain the members we already have.

Some of the most likely candidates where endurance may have appeal are:

- Pleasure/Trail Riders – Some may look for a faster pace ride or a trail ride with a purpose
- Breed Shows – many popular breeds have distance programs or time/mileage programs
- Breeders - some may be looking to market their stallions or breeding programs
- Combined Training (Three Day Eventing) – these horses have the stamina, may look for something without the dressage or jumping aspect as training and conditioning
- Driving – if this is a primary activity they may be looking for an additional challenge

Riders who are unfamiliar with endurance may be intimidated by the distances involved, training required, the idea of camping with their horse, travel distance to a ride, the fact that they don't know anyone, or because they aren't familiar with the rules and procedures.

How do we A) reach people and B) ease their apprehension

- Bring a friend. Most counties in UMECRA territory have less than 3 members
 - Incentive to anyone who brings a new rider to an event – could be financial or something like a chevron at year end for each new rider they bring.



- Leave behind pieces at local equestrian trails – flyers, schedules, information about what endurance is with information on finding a mentor – trail rider newsletters are a good place for articles too – TrailMeister - <http://www.trailmeister.com/> is a good example
- Links, ads, sponsorships and information at local breed shows and state fairs
- Be active members in each states horsemen’s council with articles in the newsletters and on the list of upcoming events
 - Participate in state horse fairs with a booth/educational seminar/demonstration
- Youth are reporting that they own more horses and plan to compete in more events – get engaged with any youth programs and promote the sport of endurance
 - American Youth Horse Council http://www.ayhc.com/Home_Page.php
 - Presentations at 4-H groups, FFA groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts etc
 - Advertisements with Arabian Horse Youth, Quarter Horse Youth, USEF Youth <http://www.usef.org/documents/Youth/RequirementsFAQsExampleLog.pdf>
 - Consider working with colleges <http://www.usef.org/IFrames/intercollegiate/Default.aspx>
- Enhance offerings on UMECRA website
 - YouTube channel – video “how-to’s” – how to vet in, how to set up ride camp, ride strategy, how to dress, how to take a pulse, etc
 - Blog – link to existing endurance bloggers – see if any UMECRA members will maintain a blog of their adventures – or a shared UMECRA Ride Manger blog
 - Link to Horse Radio Network and promote Karen Chaton’s endurance radio show
- Utilizing <http://timetoride.com/> as it promotes local equestrian events and encourages people to get involved who aren’t currently involved
- Offer an opportunity to ride an endurance horse – maybe a raffle or award at a horse fair or a pony club/4-H group where they can show up and ride an already conditioned endurance horse – with supervision of the owner. Puts miles on a ready to go horse and gets someone their first taste of riding
- Look for regional horse publications Central IL has two (from the horses mouth and the Hackamore) who will run press releases for free and nominal charges for other ads.
- Reach out to areas where membership is currently lower via promoting rides, hosting rides and other general awareness pieces

Other ways to reach equestrians would be other outdoor types of events. Ads and articles in outdoor magazines, promoting events with hunting dog events (field trials), hiker magazines, trail running and others. Someone in each region would need to find possible publications and research opportunities.



Maintaining Members

Survey respondents in our area attend an average of 5 competitions per year. Analysis of UMECRA ride results from the last 6 years shows that a majority of people attend only one year's worth of rides, but the longer a person stays a member the more rides they attend.

- Actively promote the mentor program.
- As RMs and riders make sure to recognize and encourage new people
- Offer good information on website/You Tube for training, ride strategies etc
- Promote "To Finish is to Win", mileage goals, etc as many people riding for the first time may not have the "perfect" endurance horse but are bringing the horse they have
- Highlight people competing on non-Arabian breeds so endurance appears more accessible to the average person

American Horse Publications 2012 Equine Industry Survey

Average number of competitions in 2012 by Zip Code Region, Income, and Age									
Zip Code Region									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5.57	5.69	5.32	5.71	5.24	4.87	6.23	7.58	8.51	7.12
Income Category									
< \$50,000	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$124,999	\$125,000 - \$149,999	\$150,000 +				
4.59	5.15	5.39	5.65	6.37	6.51				
Age Category									
18 - 24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+				
8.32	6.96	5.88	5.19	3.81	3.4				

UMECRA Rides Attended		
	Number of People	Average # of Rides
One year only	1219	1.5
Two Years	290	2.4
Three Years	165	3.2
Four Years	100	4.7
Five Years	69	4.9
Six Years	164	9.2
Total	2007	2.7



Resources

Breed Organizations Mileage Programs

- http://www.aerc.org/breed_awards.aspx
- http://distanceriding.org/index.php?option=com_weblinks&catid=41&Itemid=83

Horsemen's Council Links

- IA - <http://iowahorsecouncil.org/>
- IL - <http://hci.wildapricot.org/>
- IN - <http://www.indianahorsecouncil.org/index.html>
- MI - <http://michiganhorsecouncil.com/home.htm>
- MN - <http://www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.com/>
- MO - <http://www.mo-equine.org/index.html>
- ND - unknown
- OH - <http://www.ohiohorsemeniscouncil.com/>
- SD - <http://www.sdhorsefair.com/>
- WI - <http://wisconsinhorsecouncil.org/>

Sample list of Local Breed Organizations

- IL Appaloosa Horse - <http://illinoisappaloosaassn.homestead.com/HomePage.html>
- IL Paint Horse - <http://www.illinoispainthorse.com/>
- IL Saddlebred - <http://www.iaspha.com/>
- IL Walking Horse - <http://iwha.webs.com/>
- IL Morgan Horse - <http://www.mvmhc.org/>
- IL Buckskin Association - <http://www.freewebs.com/illinoisbuckskin/>
- IL Foxtrotters - <http://www.illinoisfoxtrotters.com/>
- IL Palomino Horse - <http://www.illinoispalomino.com/>
- IL Arabian Horse - <http://www.aha11.com/>
- IL Pinto Horse - <http://www.illinoispinto.com/>
- IL Quarter Horse - <http://www.ilqha.com/>
- Land of Lincoln Quarter Horse - <http://www.ilqha.com/>
- IL Paso Fino - <http://www.ozarkempirepfha.org/>
- IL Draft Horse & Mule (is there a better mule association?) - <http://www.idhma.com/>
- IL Thoroughbred - <http://itbof.net/>
- IL Spotted Saddle Horse - <http://www.sshai.com/>

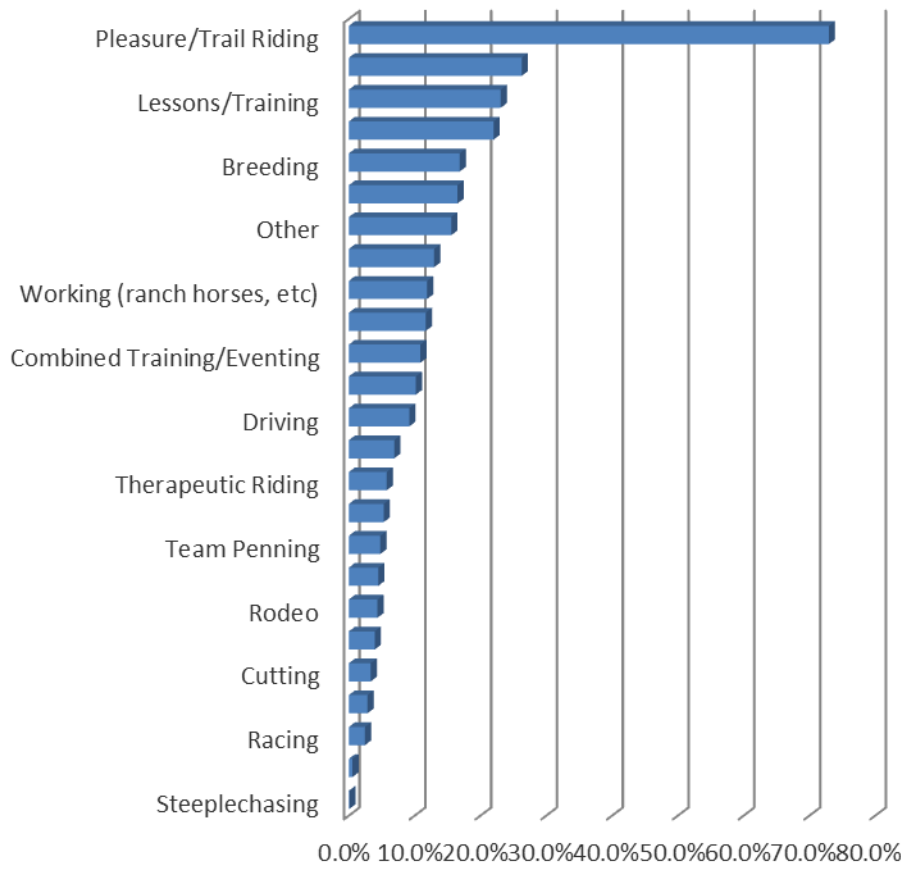


American Horse Publications 2012 Equine Industry Survey Charts

Zip Code Region	Zip Codes Included	States Included
0	00000-09999	CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, RI, VT
1	10000-19999	DE, NY, PA
2	20000-29999	District of Columbia (DC), MD, NC, SC, VA, WV
3	30000-39999	AL, FL, GA, MS, TN
4	40000-49999	IN, KY, MI, OH
5	50000-59999	IA, MN, MT, ND, SD, WI
6	60000-69999	IL, KS, MO, NE
7	70000-79999	AR, LA, OK, TX
8	80000-89999	AZ, CO, ID, NM, NV, UT, WY
9	90000-99999	AK, CA, HI, OR, WA



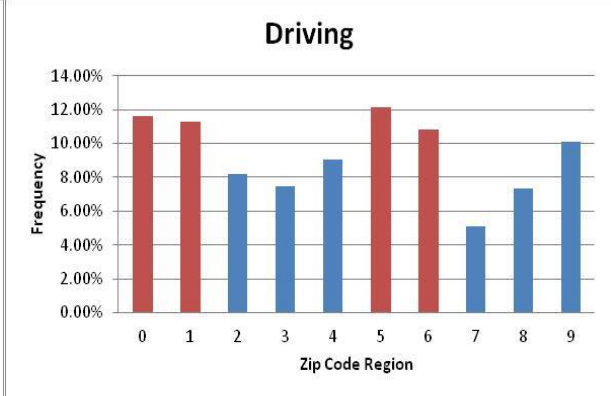
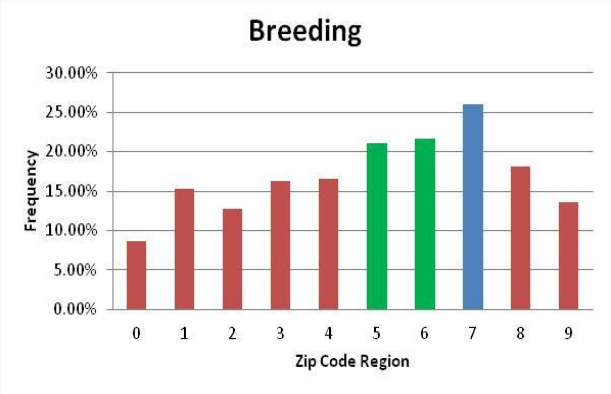
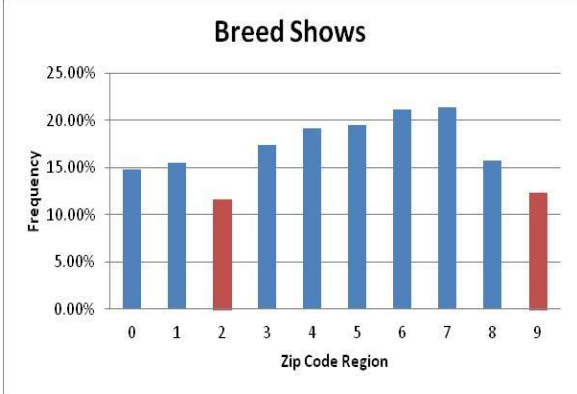
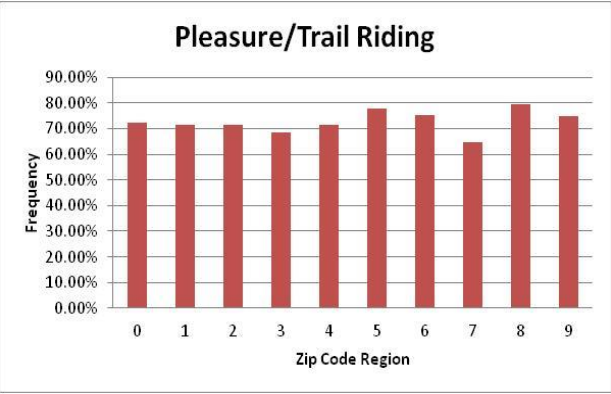
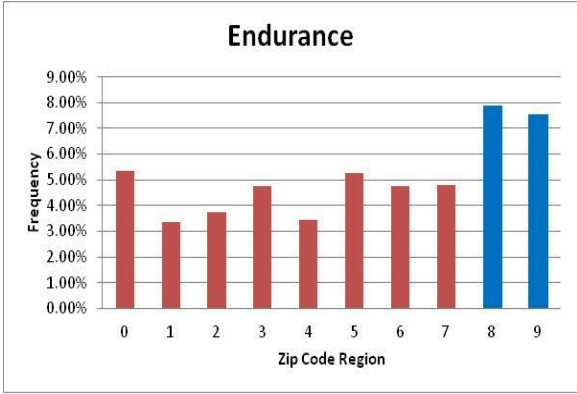
How do you use your horses?



Use of Horses, From Most Frequent to Least Frequent, by Zip Code Region

Zip Code Region									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pleasure/Trail	Pleasure/Trail	Pleasure/Trail	Pleasure/Trail	Pleasure/Trail	Pleasure/Trail	Pleasure/Trail	Pleasure/Trail	Pleasure/Trail	Pleasure/Trail
Dressage	Dressage	Dressage	Dressage	Dressage	Lessons/Training	Lessons/Training	Breeding	Natural	Dressage
Lessons/Training	Lessons/Training	Lessons/Training	Natural	Lessons/Training	Natural	Natural	Working	Working	Lessons/Training
Natural	Hunters	Natural	Lessons/Training	Natural	Breeding	Dressage	Natural	Lessons/Training	Natural
Hunters	Natural	Hunters	Breed Shows	Breed Shows	Natural	Breeding	Breed Shows	Breeding	Breeding
Jumpers	Breed Shows	CT/E	Breeding	Breeding	Breed Shows	Breed Shows	Dressage	Dressage	Working
CT/E	Breeding	Jumpers	Hunters	Hunters	Barrel racing	Barrel racing	Lessons/Training	Breed Shows	Breed Shows
Breed Shows	Jumpers	Breeding	Jumpers	CT/E	Working	Working	Barrel racing	Barrel racing	Jumpers
Driving	CT/E	Breed Shows	Barrel racing	Jumpers	Driving	Driving	Rodeo	Reining	Driving
Breeding	Driving	Foxhunting	CT/E	Driving	Jumpers	Hunters	Roping	Hunters	Hunters
Foxhunting	Foxhunting	Driving	Working	Barrel racing	Hunters	CT/E	Reining	Endurance	CT/E
Endurance	Barrel racing	Barrel racing	Driving	Therapeutic	CT/E	Jumpers	Jumpers	Roping	Barrel racing
Therapeutic	Therapeutic	Working	Therapeutic	Reining	Reining	Reining	Hunters	Jumpers	Reining
Barrel racing	Reining	Therapeutic	Working	Working	Rodeo	Roping	Cutting	CT/E	Endurance
Team Penning	Working	Endurance	Reining	Saddleseat	Therapeutic	Rodeo	Team Penning	Driving	Team Penning
Working	Racing	Reining	Foxhunting	Team Penning	Roping	Therapeutic	CT/E	Team Penning	Therapeutic
Saddleseat	Team Penning	Racing	Saddleseat	Racing	Team Penning	Endurance	Therapeutic	Rodeo	Cutting
Reining	Endurance	Roping	Roping	Endurance	Endurance	Team Penning	Driving	Therapeutic	Roping
Racing	Rodeo	Saddleseat	Rodeo	Foxhunting	Cutting	Saddleseat	Endurance	Cutting	Rodeo
Roping	Saddleseat	Team Penning	Team Penning	Rodeo	Saddleseat	Cutting	Racing	Foxhunting	Saddleseat
Cutting	Roping	Rodeo	Cutting	Roping	Racing	Foxhunting	Saddleseat	Saddleseat	Racing
Polo	Cutting	Cutting	Racing	Cutting	Foxhunting	Racing	Foxhunting	Racing	Foxhunting
Rodeo	Polo	Polo	Polo	Polo	Polo	Polo	Polo	Polo	Polo
Steeplechasing	Steeplechasing	Steeplechasing	Steeplechasing	Steeplechasing	Steeplechasing	Steeplechasing	Steeplechasing	Steeplechasing	Steeplechasing

The table above identifies the ranking of uses of horses by frequency for each zip code region. Pleasure/trail riding is the #1 activity in all regions. Dressage is the #2 activity in 6 of the 10 regions.





Annual Meeting Minutes`
January 18, 2014

Call to order by President Theresa Meyer
Roll call was taken; 83 votes were present

Minutes from 2013 annual meeting: Tony Troyer motioned to approve minutes: Wayne Gastfield seconded; passed.

Treasurer's report

	<u>Dec 31,</u> <u>13</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Convention fund	5,652.83
ICF Fund	7,384.76
Mayville Savings Bank	20,659.16
Trail checking	<u>3,597.69</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>37,294.44</u>
Total Current Assets	37,294.44

- Motion made by Barry Saylor; seconded by Sheryl O'Brien to approve treasurer's report; passed.
- Mileage reimbursement for spring and fall BOD meeting was voted on and approved at the morning BOD meeting; no discussion and/or questions were presented on this subject.
- Run meeting with 1 minute discussions. Wayne Gastfield motions to keep all discussions at this meeting to 1 minute; seconded by Sara Mowrer; passed. Robin Schadt will be the timer.

Old Business:

- Bylaw – age/experience limit

ARTICLE III
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. The property and business of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors. Only Delegates may be elected as Officers or as Directors, with the following exceptions: the Board position of Veterinarian Representative will be composed of an endurance or competitive ride veterinarian, President (see, Article III, Section 5, below), and Secretary/Treasurer (see, Article III, Section 7, below). Authorized alternate voting delegates shall not be eligible for election for the purpose of this section. (1/25/09)

The Board shall not be less than three in number and not more than sixteen. The Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, immediate Past President, two members elected at large, or more as may be determined by majority of the Board of Directors up to a maximum of six, a Veterinarian Representative and four geographic board members and four rider representatives. (1/23/10). The Veterinarian Representative will be elected to a two year term commencing at the January 2008 convention. Each state, or foreign country which maintains a minimum of 25 UMECRA memberships (individuals to count as one and families to count as two) and which hosts a minimum of five sanctioned rides in the preceding season, shall be eligible to have an official delegate from that state or foreign country nominated and elected by the official delegates to the general meeting to a two-year term as geographic board member. If more than four states or foreign countries qualify, the number of rides shall be the first qualifier for determination of which four geographic areas are eligible, followed by the number



of memberships within that state or country. If still tied, the state or foreign country with the largest number of rides over the history of UMECRA shall be given priority.

One, two, or three directors at large will be elected each year for two-year terms, to stagger their service, or until their successor shall have been elected at the annual meeting by majority vote of the attending delegates at the convention. Commencing at the 1997 convention, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota will initially qualify for geographic board members. Commencing at the 1997 convention, Illinois, Michigan's geographic board members will be elected at the convention, together with one at-large board member. The geographic board positions will be filled for 1997 by current Directors at Large, Monna Radtke and Dianne Kuhn. Their geographic positions will come up for election at the 1998 convention, together with the second at-large board position. The geographic board members will be nominated by delegates from their respective states and elected by the voting delegates at large at the general meeting. In even numbered years, four rider representatives will be elected by the membership for two-year terms. They will have voting rights and any other privileges pertaining to Board membership. **To be eligible for election as a rider rep to the board of directors, members must be at least 18 years old and be a UMECRA member for the previous 2 years.**

Motion made by Tony Troyer, Wayne Gastfield seconded to change the Election of Directors to the above. Passed

Rules:

- Revisit the stallion rule
 - If a stallion is confined to a pipe corral- do they still need to be tied?
 - If a stallion is high-tied- how do you follow the rule? (**Proposed change to current rule in bold**)
 - *Stallions must be double tied (two halters & two lead ropes ~~tied to two distinct tie points~~) to trailer, hitching post, or high tie when not being ridden or handled. **They may be tied with a single halter and lead rope if also enclosed in a charged electric fence or in a secure pen provided by campground.** Stallions must be marked with a yellow ribbon on the bridle or forelock and tail at all times. **Alternative containment options may be approved by Ride Management.***

Motion made by Tony Troyer, Carmen Steuck seconded. Passed

- Rider requirement rule: (**Proposed addition rule in bold**)
 - There is no consequence listed in the rule book for a rider who breaks a requirement rule.
 - To add to page 13 of the rule book: (**H**) **The penalty for failing to follow the above requirements: completion only, miles only or disqualification.**

Motion made by Tony Troyer, Sheryl O'Brien seconded. Passed

- Re-evaluate the 'Boot' rule for competitive rides; some of the new hoof boots go above the coronet band and results in point deductions. (**Proposed change to current rule in bold**)
 - *If boots, bandages or wraps are used, the horse shall be penalized two points per leg per day. **Boots and their permanent attachments, designed to protect the sole of the hoof, are permitted and shall not be penalized. The judges may request to observe the area covered by the attached strap, keeper or gaiter at any time. If boots are not declared, see (H).***

Motion made by Tony Troyer; Robin Schadt seconded. Tony called question; Roberta seconded; passed. Hand vote resulted in passing this rule change.



- Rule changes suggested by UMECRA members. (**Proposed change to current rule in bold**)
 - UMECRA GENERAL RULES
 - 2. Management Requirements:
 - M. There shall be weight divisions for endurance and competitive: Lightweight- ~~179~~**185** pounds and under; heavyweight- ~~180~~**186** pounds and over WITH TACK. Any rider competing as a heavyweight may be required to prove their weight.

Motion made by Tony Troyer; Wayne Gastfield seconded. Passed. This will go into effect in 2015 as all new forms need to be created. A suggestion was made to also put pertinent medical information on the ride entry form.

- UMECRA General Rules 3. Veterinary Requirements (**proposed change in bold**):
 - A rider may ask for one recheck on a P/R. **Pulse rechecks must be done with a stethoscope.** P/Rs shall be taken as a unit and a recheck shall be requesting immediately after BOTH have been taken and announced. The recheck must be taken immediately and the rider must accept the second score, whether higher or lower. **In the case of a documented arrhythmia a stethoscope must be used for all vet checks. Heart rate monitors (HRM) will be allowed as long as they are used for all riders and in the same manner. Individual rider HRM must be turned off as they interfere with the hand held.**

Tony Troyer motioned; seconded by Jodi Johannessen. Hand vote resulted in rule passing.

Competitive rules

4. Veterinary requirements- judging competitive horses

2) Pulse and respiration

f) P/R's shall be taken for 15 seconds and recorded as actual during the recording period. No plus points shall be awarded for pulse and respiration. **See chart Appendix A for scoring with stethoscope (regular score sheet).**

i) **If HRMs are used they must be placed on the horse and have the pulse read 30 seconds after being placed on the horse. The pulse taker must give care that they keep the watch/receiver within one foot of the HRM for the full 30 seconds. Horses must stand at least 10 feet apart. The actual HRM count at 30 seconds is recorded on the pulse card. Do not divide by 4. Fractional points shall be deducted as indicated. Scoring of P&R with HRM will be indicated by chart in Appendix B.**

ii) **For an immediate P&R recheck, a stethoscope must be used. The actual count at 15 seconds is recorded on the pulse card. Do not multiple by 4.**

Motion made by Tony Troyer; seconded by Joslyn Seefeldt. Hand vote resulted in rule passing.

- Lameness on competitive horses (**proposed change in bold**):
 - Competitive – Veterinary Requirements- 6.Completion Criteria
 - Horses that are grade **3 or 4** lame will not receive placing or completion points but will receive mileage. Grade 5 horses will be disqualified.

Motion made by Tony Troyer; seconded by Dianne Schmidt. Hand vote resulted in rule passing.

- **Any UMECRA sanctioned ride with ride miles of 15 miles or less must follow the established UMECRA Novice rules or the AERC Introductory rules. AERC Introductory rides or Ride and Ties are not eligible for UMECRA points and miles.** Tony Troyer motioned; Barb Kurti seconded. Ramona Radtke amended to add the Ride and Tie; Elinore Tonsor: amendment passed. Passed

New Business:

- 2014 ride schedule
 - Motion made by Tony Troyer; seconded by Barry Saylor to approve schedule with minor changes; passed.



- Ride insurance update
 - Insurance: Jill motions; Tony seconded that UMECRA will pay for ½ of the daily insurance costs for rides in 2014 and rides will be required to pay for all additional insured costs. Passed
- Self-nominating form was explained and will be available on the website to access. Hard copies of the form will be mailed out if needed by contacting Jill.
- Promotions Committee Report was given. The full report will be posted on the website; anyone wanting a hard copy of the report can contact Nicole Mauser-Storer. Raven Flores & Alice Hubert volunteered to be part of the committee.
- Membership Committee Report was given. Elinore Tonsor volunteered to join this committee.
- Convention 2015 update
 - The convention will be held at Clair MI. More information will be on the website.
- Other:
 - Member numbers:
 - Robin discussed the need for riders to be entering their UMECRA membership number on their ride entry forms. We are working on creating a searchable database for all UMECRA membership to use and we will need rider numbers to make this process work.
 - A letter will be sent out with remaining membership cards to remind people to record the numbers on entry forms.
 - Ride Flyers-the ride flyers are due by February 1st. Send them to Jill in word format, PDF and hard copy will work. If anyone needs assistance with their ride flyer, they can contact Jill or Robin for assistance.
 - Rider's choice voting ballots; vote by 6:00 pm.
- Rider Rep announcement: Maxine Bernsdorf, Bonnie Mielke, Joslyn Seefeldt, Elizabeth Laurie are the rider reps for the next two years
 - The March meeting will discuss alternative ways of voting to get better turnout; only 45 ballots were returned for rider rep votes.
- Election of officers:
 - President: Nominated: Wayne nominated **Theresa Meyer**; Carmen Steuck seconded. Barb Gardner nominated Tony Troyer; seconded by Joyce Mocilan. Wayne motioned to close nominations; Ed Hauser seconded. Winner: Theresa Meyer
 - Veterinarian Representative: Tony Troyer nominated Dr. Olivia Rudolphi; seconded by Jill Feller. Wayne moved nominations closed; Linda Mowrer closed.
 - **MN Regional Director**: Darlene Molitor nominated Dianne S. Ken Meyer seconded; no further nominations.
 - **WI Regional Director**: Jill Feller nominated Jon Wagner; seconded by Katie Bachhuber; no further nominations.
- Dr. Olivia gave a summary of the AERC rule changes.
 - Use of Cushings medication is no longer prohibited
 - LD rides can have BC award
 - Random drug testing will be done on horses throughout the ride and not just the top ten horses.
- Vet committee
 - RM's should contact Dr. Olivia with ride vet information who might be interested in joining this committee.

Wayne motioned to adjourn meeting; Tony Troyer seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Feller
UMECRA secretary/treasurer



Agenda items for BOD Meeting
March 15, 2014

Call to order by President Theresa Meyer at 11:10 am

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

Guest: Linda Jacobson, Josh Mowrer

Minutes from Jan BOD meeting. Going forward, minutes will be approved on line shortly after the meetings. Wayne motions to approve Jan BOD minutes, Tony seconded. Passed.

Treasurer's report presented (presented at end of minutes)

- 2014 convention financials presented
- Silent auction financials presented
- Motion to approve financial reports by Max; seconded by Tony. Passed.

Old Business:

- **Protest process**
 - Tony motioned to approve process, Olivia seconded. A discussion followed regarding the length of the process and if emails should be allowed. The Protest Process passed with one small change on sending the protest letter via registered mail at the beginning of the process.
- **Blind horses at rides**
 - Elinore Tonsor asked if the blind horse rule could be changed to allow partial sighted horses to compete. Motion made by Dianne Schmidt to remove the partially sighted horse from the rule. Elizabeth Laurie seconded. Passed.
 - **3. Veterinary Requirements G**

A final decision allowing unsighted ~~or partially sighted~~ equines to compete shall be made on a case by case basis by the control judge at each event. Riders of ~~vision impaired~~ blind equines should contact the ride manager prior to entry for approval (2013).

 - ***This rule will go to the annual meeting to be voted on.***
- **Horse welfare**
 - There were several updates from the AERC convention that were approved but will not go into effect until 2015. The last major change was in the 1990 where "Fit to Continue" was created.

Proposed Motion by AERC to begin in 2015

 - 1. Initial triage and treatment availability at all rides, including intravenous fluid therapy.*
 - 2. Thirty minutes to meet recovery pulse at the finish line, with exceptions where needed for rides with finish lines far away from final checkpoints.*
 - 3. Recovery pulse rate at the finish lowered from 68 bpm to 64 (or less) bpm.*
 - 4. Horses must be six years of age to start a 100 mile ride.*
 - 5. Horses shall have Body Condition Scores of no less than 3.0 and no greater than 8.0 to start an endurance ride.*
 - 6. Exams on all equines by a control judge before they leave the ride site, but no sooner than two hours from when they cross the finish line.*



(This is just a safety check; the rider has already received their completion)

7. Standardized control judge ride cards should be used nationally, with sections added for BCS (Body Condition Score) scores and graphs for each quadrant of the gastrointestinal examinations.

8. Rides should have at least one hold on distances of 25 miles or greater.

(Just a rule clarification)

- Nicole will put a "Welfare of the Horse" page on the website. The PowerPoint presented by Dr. Olivia regarding this proposal will be placed on the Welfare tab on the UMECRA website.
- Social Media committee
 - There is an option to change Facebook to a Page instead of a group. A Page would give us some more control options but some of the options would only be available for a fee. Not all Page options have a fee and we run the page as a group interaction like we are doing now, there is no charge.
 - There is no unified voice with the page; it is a group page.
 - After discussion, there was no further action to take regarding the Facebook page; it remains as it currently is.
- Promotions Committee
 - There are two ads in multiple magazines. There are multiple seminars being run in IL in April; WI is also hosting a ride clinic on March 29. If anyone in other states would like to be part of the promotions committee, see Nicole Mauser-Storer as she has designed ads that can run in any state publication.
- Membership Committee
 - Joslyn started a Facebook UMECRA Greenbean group for distance riding newbies and mentors.
- Vet Directory update
 - The vet list will be sent out to RM's to use but not to be shared with the general membership.
- Fun rides
 - The ride flyers that had FUN rides listed on them have been updated to show that these rides are not UMECRA sanctioned.
- Intro rides
 - Barb suggested UMECRA charge a \$.50 fee for Intro rides and not the \$2.50/rider fee. Motion made by Barb to pay \$.50 rider fees for Intro rides; seconded by Wayne. Tony asked for an amendment for \$1.00; Wayne seconded. Failed 6/5.
 - There is a liability risk in the Intro rides and we should not support the Intro rides as they are as there are no specific rules for them.
 - Tony will be contacting Connie Caudill to discuss AERC creating rules for the Intro rides to lower any liability.
 - The Novice division is doing well; riders could ride there instead of Intro rides.

New Business:

- Ride sanctioning update



- The Brushy Creek ride has been cancelled. The RM has been giving three different dates that she could possibly use later in the year, but there has been no response to reschedule the ride.
- An email will be sent out to Ride Managers in April with the reporting spreadsheet and vet list.
- Ride book update
 - The ride book (hard copy and CD) was mailed out on March 13.
- Ride Manager/Vet handbook
 - Will go to print the week of March 17th and will be mailed out to ride managers.
- Increase annual meeting quorum
 - The current annual meeting quorum number is 20. After a discussion a decision was made to table this discussion until fall.
- AERC convention update
 - AERC would like to remind ride managers to get their reports in on time.
- New rule changes
 - ICF funds bylaw was updated in 2013 to allow ride managers to use ICF funds to sponsor an FEI ride. A ride manager contacted President Theresa and wanted additional wording added to the bylaws. The wording was to state that if a ride manager was putting on an FEI ride and requesting funds, the ride had to be on the same date as the ride manager would have used for his/her 'normal ride'; a new date which would affect other rides would not be allowed. After a discussion, no action was taken to change the wording of the bylaws as ride managers approve the ride schedule at the annual meeting and can therefore not approve a schedule if there is a conflict.
- Insurance
 - From a confidential settlement reached in a lawsuit regarding an incident at a 2011 ride, there were a few lessons learned about insurance coverage.
 - Who is covered under UMECRA insurance?
 - AHDRA or any other organization should have their own liability insurance to cover officers and the organization.
 - UMECRA insurance covers volunteers but not vets as they are paid.
 - Riders are *not covered* under the insurance.
 - Riders can take out insurance through AERC, AHDRA and IL or WI Horse Councils.
- Trail grants
 - Jodi Johannessen requested money to increase the trails at Duluth Area Trail Horse Alliance. The trails are not used for any current endurance rides. Tony motioned to give the \$250 to the trails; seconded by Bill; motion fail 6/5.
 - Katie Bachhuber requested a grant for the Northern Kettle Moraine campground to finish erecting pipe corrals in the family sites. This campground is used for the Kettles N Bits ride and a vet check for Colorama is held her. Dianne motioned to give the \$250 to the trail group; seconded by Bonnie; passed.
 - Mary Clapper requested a grant for the Castle Rock Horse Trails group to purchase a disk harrow for grooming the trails. The Castle Rock Horse group will match the funds for the purchase. Tony motioned to give the \$250 to the trail group; seconded by Bonnie; Passed.



- Convention update:
 - Motion made by Tony; seconded by Bill Suskey to not have a convention fee for 2015 convention; passed.
 - 2015- Wayne Gastfield: convention will be in Clare MI; January 16-18, 2015. AHDR is hosting and DRAW is doing the entertainment on Friday night.
 - Theresa is looking at a coach bus to run from MN to MI picking up people in WI and IL.
 - 2016- DRAW will be hosting; no further details at this time.
- GLDRA meeting: Tony gave an update of the GLDRA meeting that he and Joslyn Seefeldt attended. The meeting was held at the hotel where the 2015 convention will be held.
- Other
 - Mentors should put up a sign on their trailer saying 'Mentor' to alert new riders who they can go to with questions. New riders can also talk to the ride managers.
 - UMECRA banners will be made; one for each state to use at horse fairs, clinics, etc.
- Riders Rep
 - The voting for future rider reps will be done at conventions similar to the Rider's Choice. Members will nominate themselves and ballots will be made up for voting at the convention. The rider reps who are elected will be announced at the annual meeting.
- Nov meeting will be on Nov 8th.
- Tony motioned to adjourn; seconded by Jon.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller
 UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer

Treasurer's Report:

ASSETS (2/23/14)		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Convention fund	5,321.97	
ICF Fund	7,730.48	
Mayville Savings Bank	15,688.92	
Trail checking	<u>4,942.19</u>	
Total Checking/Savings	<u>33,683.56</u>	
Total Current Assets	33,683.56	

2014 convention in Madison, WI	
Income:	
RSVPS	\$5,769.00
AHDRA	\$949.50
DRAW	\$718.10
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$7,436.60</i>
Expenses:	
Insurance	NA
Speaker	\$300.00
Entertainment	na
Hotel	\$6,128.71
Meal for speaker	\$0.00
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$6,428.71</i>
Difference	\$1,007.89



2014 Silent Auction

Total = \$2689 (2013 = \$3160; 2012= \$3746.50)

Trails fund = \$1344.50

Convention fund = \$672.25

Scholarship fund = \$336.12

ICF fund = \$336.13



BOD Meeting Minutes
Wintergreen Resort- Wisconsin Dells
November 8, 2014

Present: Peggy Pasillis, Bill Suskey, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Sarah Mowrer, Wayne Gastfield, Barb Kurti, Dianne Schmidt, Maxine Bernsdorf, Jon Wagner, Bonnie Mielke, Joslyn Seefeldt, Tony Troyer, Theresa Meyer, Jill Feller

Guests: Josh Mowrer, Elinore Tonsor, Linda Jacobson

Call to order at 11:15 am by President Theresa Meyer.

Secretary Report: Maxine made a motion and Bonnie seconded to accept the minutes from the March 15 meeting with two minor changes: adding the place of the meeting and changing 'agenda' to minutes. Passed.

Treasurer Report consisting of a balance sheet, summary P&L and detail P&L report was filed.

	<u>Nov 1, 14</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Convention fund	5,321.97
ICF Fund	7,730.48
Mayville Savings Bank	23,920.88
Trail checking	<u>4,192.19</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>41,165.52</u>
 Total Current Assets	 <u>41,165.52</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS	 <u><u>41,165.52</u></u>

- **Convention Report:**
 - 2015 – The convention is hosted by Wayne Gastfield in Michigan on January 16-19, 2015. The silent auction will be set up and running on Friday night through Saturday. Dr. Hal Schott from Michigan State University is the guest speaker.
 - 2016 – The convention is being hosted by DRAW and will be held in WI Dells on January 22, 23, 24, 2016 at the Wintergreen Resort.
- **Appoint Webmaster & Pointskeeper:**
 - Nicole Mauser-Storer is willing to continue with this position. Wayne makes a motion and Tony seconds to appoint Nicole as webmaster. Passed.



- Robin Schadt is willing to continue with this position. Bonnie makes a motion and Maxine seconds to appoint Robin as pointskeeper. Passed.
- **UMECRA Horse numbers:**
 - Nicole and Robin have been giving horses numbers behind the scenes all season in order to implement a new searchable database. This process does eliminate points being inaccurate due to horse names being sent in with either their registered name or with a horse's barn name. Each horse with a UMECRA rider will have a unique horse number and that number will be used when points are sent in from a ride. Riders will need to put their horse's number on the entry forms so ride managers have those numbers when reporting results.
 - Since many of the horses already have an AERC horse number, the AERC number will also be used for the UMECRA database. If a horse does not have an AERC number, a unique UMECRA number will be assigned to that horse. If that same horse with a UMECRA number later gets an AERC number, there can be a 'find and replace' in the database to replace the UMECRA with the AERC number.
 - Horses that have been ridden within UMECRA already are in the database. Any new horse will need to be registered with UMECRA. Nicole will work on creating an online form where UMECRA members can go in and list their horses and AERC numbers.
 - Robin will start using horse numbers with the 2015 ride season. Riders will need to put their horse numbers on their entry forms along with their membership number.
 - A subcommittee of Robin, Nicole and Jill will create numbers for UMECRA only horses. Riders with those horses will be given their horse numbers so they can write them on the UMECRA entry forms.
- **Mileage reimbursement for BOD meetings:**
 - In the morning meeting at the January convention, it was voted and approved to provide a mileage reimbursement to BOD members to attend the spring and fall meetings at a cost of \$.25/mile.
 - Dianne made a motion and Maxine seconded the motion to rescind the reimbursement of mileage for BOD for attending meetings. Passed.
- **Tentative ride schedule:**
 - Jill presented the tentative ride schedule for 2015. Tony made a motion and Sarah seconded the motion to accept the tentative schedule as presented. Nicole will get the tentative schedule posted on the website for UMECRA members to see. The schedule will be presented at the annual meeting in January for approval from the ride managers.
- **Rules:**
 - The new AERC Horse Welfare rules were discussed:
 - Treatment vet: when sanctioning a ride with AERC, ride managers will need to specify if there will be a treatment vet at the ride, a treatment vet on call or a nearby clinic on call.
 - 30-minutes to pulse down for endurance: riders in 2015 will get 30 minutes to pulse down at the end of an endurance ride vs. 60 minutes they had in the past. If the finish line is a 'distance' from the vet area, a ride manager may increase the time to more than 30 minutes. Riders would still have 60 minutes from crossing the finish line to meet the rest of the completion criteria.



- Body Score: the new AERC vet cards will include a body score evaluation. Horses must have a body score of no less than 3 nor greater than 8 to start the ride.
- Gut sounds: the four quadrants of the guts will need to be recorded on the new rider cards.
- AERC will be designing new rider cards and rides are required to use those cards. UMECRA will be making copies of the new cards for our ride managers. They will be printed in white, blue and green.
 - Peggy will get some of the Endurance News articles concerning the new rules in the UMECRA Newsletter after she contacts AERC for permission.
 - UMECRA will also be having a new membership and entry form for 2015. The new membership form will be on the UMECRA website in November 2014.
- **UMECRA rules proposal(s):**
 - General Rules
 - 4. Rider Requirements
 - F. Horses must not be under the influence of drugs, medication 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.)*
 - Jill motioned and Tony seconds to accept the change on this rule. Passed.
- **Bylaw proposed changes:**
 - Separate Sec/Treasurer:
 - A report was presented on separating the secretary/treasurer report. Dianne would like to see all of the old minutes from UMERCA meetings scanned and made searchable so the history of rules, guidelines, etc. can be researched easier.
 - Bill volunteered to scan the minutes; the documents would be then searchable. Some of the minutes are handwritten and will need to be typed up so the software is capable of searching it. Elinore volunteered to type up the handwritten minutes and get them back to Bill to scan into the software.
 - Once the minutes are scanned they will need to be cataloged. This part of the process will be discussed in more detail at the spring BOD meeting.
- **Sanctioning Coordinator:**
 - ARTICLE V- OFFICERS
 - B. Sanctioning Coordinator will work with the AERC Sanctioning Director to sanction and coordinate scheduling recommendations to the Board for UMECRA rides and shall edit and coordinate publishing of the yearly UMECRA ride book. *The sanctioning coordinator must be a current Delegate or UMECRA member who has been a ride manager within the past 5 years.*
 - Bonnie made a motion and Tony seconded to accept the new wording of the Sanction Coordinator position. Passed.
- **Quorum increase for meeting:**
 - Theresa talked with Art about the quorum of 20 in the bylaws. He agreed that the 20 is too low for our current organization.
 - NOTICE OF MEETING:



- Section 5. QUORUM. The presence in person of twenty (20) rides that are represented by *ride managers as are listed on the sanctioning forms*, or a majority, whichever is the lesser amount, of the delegates to a meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the absence of a quorum any meeting may be adjourned from time to time. 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 his 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.
 - Bonnie makes a motion seconded by Tony to accept the new wording for quorums. Passed.
- **Confidentiality within the BOD:**
 - Code of Conduct for BOD
 - A proposed Code of Conduct was presented to the BOD to review and discuss.
 - Jon motioned and Tony seconded to accept the Code of Conduct with #11 removed and #1 amended. The updated version of the Code of Conduct will be sent out to the BOD to sign and return to Jill to keep on file. Passed.
- **Roll call votes for each vote on the BOD:**
 - A discussion was held if all votes that are taken during BOD meeting should be published or just when a roll call vote is needed/requested. Currently any BOD member can ask for a roll call vote to be taken for a specific vote.
 - Dianne motions for a roll call vote on every vote at BOD meeting and web group email votes; Joslyn seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Jos, Dianne, Wayne, Sarah voted yes; Jon abstained; all other BOD present voted no. This discussion will continue in spring
- **Sending out rule changes and other voting items to the RM's in December**
 - The new protest procedure and other topics that will be voted on at the annual meeting will be sent out to the RMs for consideration before the meeting in January.
- **Remove the convention corridor and move the convention within the four states:**
 - A discussion was held to remove the corridor and then move the convention to each of four states.
 - Dianne motions to remove the corridor and move the convention to each of four states beginning with MI in 2015, WI in 2016, MN in 2017 and IL in 2018. If any state elects not to host the convention in their designated year, the next state on the list will do the convention. Barb seconds the motion. Passed.
- **Weight divisions with Limited Distance:**
 - A discussion was held on the pros and cons of having weight divisions. There are a lot of LD riders at rides; would weight divisions help to encourage more riders?
 - No decision was made on this topic at this time. BOD members are asked to talk about this with riders and ride managers and come back in March with more information.
- **Grant request:**
 - DRAW is requesting \$250 for a booth at the Midwest Horse Fair. Grants for the horse fairs and expos were approved at the January 2014 meeting; therefore WI, IL, MN, MI just need



to send Jill their request and documents showing they have a booth at the horse fair/expo and \$250 will be paid toward the booth.

- **Shining Light award**
 - No discussion was held about this award.
- **Hall of Fame:**
 - No nominations for this year
- **Promotions Committee Report:**
 - Barb gave a brief report about getting advertising into more publications. Anyone wanting to assist with the promotions committee or who has some advertising ideas should contact Barb Kurti or Nicole Mauser-Storer.
- **Other:**
 - **Scholarships:**
 - Community Foundation of Southern WI has sent the available money for the 2014-2015 scholarships: \$4530.00
 - With the new weight change of heavyweight riders, will RM's need to start weighing these riders to make sure they meet the weight? To be further discussed in 2015 meeting.
 - Do riders need to give a new form for each ride they do within a weekend? Theresa will talk to Art about any liabilities with only one form. To be further discussed in 2015 meeting.
 - Should the BOD be strictly following the Roberts Rules of Order at the meetings? After a discussion, no further action was taken on this subject.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**BOD Meeting Minutes
Clare MI
Annual Convention
January 17, 2015**

Meeting was called to order by President Theresa Meyer.

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

Secretary Report: the meeting minutes from Nov 18th presented were presented. There were a few changes made since the minutes were sent out to BOD members in November. Jon Wagner motions to approve the minutes with the changes; seconded by Maxine Bernsdorf; passed.

Treasurer Report was presented by a balance sheet and P&L summary. Motion made by Tony Troyer to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Bill Suskey; passed. The audit of the treasury was done on Friday, January 16th by Tony Troyer and Wayne Gastfield; all records were found to be in order.

- **Horse Fair money**
 - Jill Feller motions to allow MN, MI, IL and WI to receive up to \$250 annually from the general fund to host a informational/promotional booth at their annual horse fairs/expos; seconded by Joslyn Seefeldt; passed.
- **Quorum revisited**
 - In order to discuss this issue, the former motion needs to be rescinded. Jon Wagner motions to retract the quorum motion from the November meeting; seconded by Joslyn Seefeldt; passed.
 - Tony Troyer motions to accept the wording below; seconded by Wayne Gastfield. A discussion followed that ended with the motion being withdrawn.
 - The topic of the quorum is tabled to spring meeting.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

*Section 3. ANNUAL MEETINGS. 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 days prior to the meeting or by posting the same on the UMECRA website <www.umecra.com>**.*

*Section 4. 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 postmarked via U.S. Mail or sent via membership email address at least five days prior to the meeting or by posting the same on the UMECRA website <www.umecra.com>**. 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 via certified U.S. Mail with return receipt requested** to the president, vice president or the Board of Directors by twenty (20) or more members.*

*Section 5. QUORUM. The presence in person **by 15 active ride manager(s) from a minimum of 15 different sanctioned ride events, being the ride managers as listed on the prior or upcoming year's sanctioning forms, or a majority of the potentially eligible delegates, also designated as eligible to formally participate and attend a meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business (meaning: IF there were 40 rides sanctioned and held in the preceding season, then 41 recorded delegates must be in attendance)**. In the absence of a quorum, **the commencement of any meeting may be adjourned from time to time. 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 his 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.

*Section 6. TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS. Business transacted at all Special Meetings shall be confined **only** to the purposes stated in the call to the Special Meeting.*

*Section 7 DELEGATES. Each manager of **an** endurance **and/or** competitive trail ride shall submit the names of its official voting delegates or its authorized alternate voting delegate(s) to be recorded by the corporate secretary prior to any meeting of members. (See, Article VII, herein.) The corporate officers (excluding Newsletter Editor[s], Points-Keeper, Sanctioning Coordinator, and Webmaster), board members, Veterinary Representative, and Rider Representatives also will serve as voting delegates. However, while they may hold more than one of these positions at a time, they may only cast one vote. Only voting delegates may vote on business presented at a meeting.*

- **UMECRA GENERAL RULES** – (Apply to both endurance and competitive rides)
 - Motion made by Bonnie Mielke that UMECRA does not accept the change from 30 to 35 miles; seconded by Dianne Schmidt; failed
 - Motion made by Jill Feller; seconded by Bill Suskey to accept the wording below; passed and goes to the annual meeting for approval.
 - 1. *Eligibility*
 - A. *Each ride must be open to all breeds. On a ride of ~~35-30~~ miles or less the horse must be at least 48 months old, ~~on a ride over 30 miles a horse must be at least 60 months old.~~*
*New for AERC – Add to A above: **The equines entered in distances of 50 or more miles must be at least 60 months of age at the time of the ride with the exception of those entered in single day 100 mile rides. Equines entered in single day 100 mile distances must be at least 72 months of age at the time of the ride.***
 - Theresa said she talked with Connie Caudill who stated that UMECRA rides would still need to accept the 48 month old horse under AERC rules but not recognize that rider/horse in UMECRA.
 - 2. *Management Requirements (UMECRA General Rules)*
 - Motion made by Joslyn Seefeldt to accept the rule change below in bold italics; seconded by Bill Suskey; passed.
 - ***G. There must be at least one checkpoint and hold during all rides of 25 miles or more.***
 - Motion made by Tony Troyer to accept the rule change below in bold italics; seconded by Joslyn Seefeldt; passed.
 - ***H. The ride manager must include a plan for providing emergency treatment for equines entered in the event. **Beginning the 2016 ride season this plan must be indicated on the sanctioning/re-sanctioning form. If your plan indicates nearby vet/treatment facility or on-call vet options phone numbers and maps must be available for inspection by ride veterinarians and riders.*****
- **ENDURANCE RULES:**
 - These rule changes were not voted upon as UMECRA has voted in prior years to accept the AERC rules once they go into effect with AERC.
 - NOTE: we will look at adding the body score to the comp rule in November.
 - Add and renumber to 5 – AERC 2015 - 5. ***Horses shall have a body condition score of no less than 3.0 and no greater than 8.0 to start an endurance ride as determined by the ride***



veterinarians. *Veterinarians will use the Henneke Body Condition Scoring Guide in determining body condition score. Body condition score will only be judged during the pre-ride veterinary examination.*

- 9. Completion Criteria - Each ride must have a post finish line vet examination which the equine must pass for a successful completion, the criteria to be announced prior to the ride.
 - A. The minimum criteria for the post finish line vet check are as follows. Any ride may adopt more stringent criteria, but these must be provided to competitors before the ride in written form. The post-finish-line vet check is where the final criteria for completion must be met; an equine has not completed the ride until he has passed this check. The post-finish-line vet check also serves as a safety check to monitor for late-developing problems (so that they can be treated if necessary) as well as extending veterinary control over the last leg of the ride. Because an equine at the finish line is not, in actuality, going on--and not going in to the wilderness far from veterinary aid--the standards for completion need not be as strict as those on the trail, but they must meet the minimum standards below.
 - Change to: *The minimum criteria for the post-finish-line control check are as follows.*
 - *The head control judge of any ride may adopt more stringent criteria, including the final pulse rate criteria, as part of the setting of the judging parameters under Endurance Rule 7. Additionally, the ride manager may increase the maximum time to meet the final pulse rate by up to 30 minutes after crossing the finish line if circumstances dictate a need for additional time to reach the final control check. Notice of any change in the maximum time to meet the final pulse rate criterion and notice of any other more stringent criteria for the post-finish line control check must be provided to competitors by written notice posted in a conspicuous location at the ride camp at least 12 hours prior to the start of the ride and shall also be presented by the ride manager or head control judge at any pre-ride briefing or meeting.*
- 1) All horses must stand for a mandatory post ride evaluation within one hour of finishing. Riders may present their horses for the final examination at a time of their choosing during the one-hour period. A horse that does not meet the established criteria within one hour of crossing the finish line shall be disqualified. Once a competing horse has passed the post ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons. (AERC only). No horse will be certified for UMECRA completion if it needs or receives treatment for metabolic reasons within 1 hour of finishing, regardless of whether it has passed its final check. Such horse/rider combination may still receive AERC points and mileage credit.
 - Change to *1) each equine must pass the post-ride control check within one hour of crossing the finish line. Each equine is required to pass the final pulse rate criterion alone in 30 minutes but shall have the full hour from finish to pass other completion criteria. After meeting the final pulse criterion, riders may present their equines for the final examination for other completion criteria at a time of their choosing during the one-hour period. An equine that does not meet the established pulse and completion criteria shall be disqualified. Once a competing equine has passed the post-ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons. (AERC only). No horse will be certified for UMECRA completion if it*



needs or receives treatment for metabolic reasons within 1 hour of finishing, regardless of whether it has passed its final check. Such horse/rider combination may still receive AERC points and mileage credit.

- 2) The horse must reach a reasonable pulse recovery based on ambient conditions. The maximum pulse criteria is ~~64~~ 68 beats per minute; however, the ride veterinarian(s) may allow different pulse criteria. The MINIMUM pulse rate criteria shall be 60 bpm. Respiration should be evaluated on its own merit. Ambient temperature and humidity effects need to be recognized and their effects on respiration rate considered. (2015 AERC)

- **Update on horse/rider databas**
 - Robin Schadt has pulled from AERC database the AERC rider and horse numbers and those riders/horses without AERC numbers will be assigned UMECRA numbers. Robin and Nicole have created an excel spreadsheet for UMECRA ride managers for reporting ride results. The database works the same as the one that AERC has created. Nicole will be demonstrating the new spreadsheet at the meeting this afternoon.
- **Updated ride schedule for 2015**
 - The updated 2015 rides schedule was presented. Motion made by Bonnie Mielke to accept the schedule as presented; seconded by Tony Troyer; passed.
- **Update on 2015 insurance costs**
 - Motion was made by Dianne Schmidt to pay ½ of daily insurance costs for rides using the UMECRA insurance and rides paying 100% of additional insured costs annually effective every year beginning in 2015; seconded by Tony Troyer; passed.
- **Update on scanning UMECRA meeting minutes**
 - Bill Suskey gave an update on this project. All the minutes from 1988- 2005 are all scanned. Bill will put the files into a Dropbox file and invite all BOD members to share the file. We will readdress this issue at the spring meeting after everyone has a chance to read through the minutes.
- **Code of Conduct for BOD members**
 - Theresa Meyer presented a new Code of Conduct with some re-wording from UMECRA's attorney. Motion was made by Max Bernsdorf to accept the new Code of Conduct and to have BOD members sign it; seconded by Sarah Mowrer; passed.
- **Promotions committee update**
 - Nicole will mail the UMECRA banners to the various state groups.
 - There were several state clinics and ads in publications in the past year.
 - Electronic advertising, including Smartphone access, is another avenue to look into over time.
 - Bill and Nicole will work on getting more info on what we can do moving forward such as Google analytics. The BOD will be emailed additional information on this information for consideration.
 - There has not been a lot of help from volunteers to join the promotions committee. The Promotions committee will contact the state organizations webmasters to see if they can get their involvement with the committee.
 - Motion made by Joslyn Seefeldt to allow distance riding clinics to offer a free UMECRA membership starting in 2015 and future years; seconded by Jon Wagner; passed. Jill will update the current 'free clinic' membership form and make it available to anyone hosting a riding clinic.
- **Trail grants**
 - No grants have been received for consideration.
- **Vet membership**
 - We have a couple of veterinarians who regularly vet our rides but do not ride for completion points who pay to join UMECRA to receive the newsletters and ride book. A motion was made by Joslyn Seefeldt to give our ride veterinarians a complimentary membership; seconded by Max; passed.



Note: if the veterinarian also competes in the UMECRA rides; he/she will need to purchase a membership in order to receive points and miles the same as ride managers so. Jill will create a veterinarian form that RM's can present to their vets to join UMECRA and get a newsletter.

- **March meeting**
 - The March meeting will be held on either March 21 or 28 with the exact date and location to be determined later.
 - Items on agenda include:
 - LD weight divisions
 - Non-member miles on horses to count for mileage
 - Daily rider fee for UMECRA rides
 - Sanctioning coordinator for 2016-2017
 - Update rider fee from \$2.50 or change the budget
 - Paypal – Peggy will send survey out to members and greenbean page
- **Other**
 - UMECRA has received a \$200 donation in memory of Jim Heftner. Motion was made by Dianne Schmidt; seconded by Tony Troyer to put the \$200 into the scholarship fund; passed.
- Tony motions to adjourn meeting; seconded by Max.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



BOD Meeting
Clare MI
Annual Convention
January 17, 2015

Call to order by President Theresa Meyer

Roll call was taken: 66 delegates, 3 rider reps and 1 vet rep = 70 total votes

Secretary Report: minutes from 2014 annual meeting was posted. Tony Troyer motions to accept minutes; seconded by Maxine Bernsdorf; passed.

Treasurer Report: balance sheet and P&L summary were presented Wayne motions to accept financial reports as presented; seconded by Tony Troyer; passed.

- **Rules of the Meeting:**
 - Present Theresa Meyer had a brief discussion regarding the running of the last two years of meetings. The meetings had a 2-minute limit of time for each person to state their comments on the topic at hand and a person could speak more than once on the topic but each discussion is limited to 2 minutes. Theresa asked if there was any opposition to keep this process in place for the 2015 annual meeting; no opposition was shown and the meeting rules of 2-minute discussions was put in place with Wayne Gastfield being the timer.
- **2015 ride schedule**
 - The ride schedule presented was based on sanctioning forms submitted in November. There were several changes to the schedule from the posted tentative schedule; all changes were discussed. The Run for the Ridge ride, which was already on the schedule, requested that their ride move from a two day to a three day ride; the change was made. Peggy Pasillas motions to accept the schedule as presented with the change of Run for the Ridge to a three day ride; seconded by Cathy Cook; passed.
- **2015 ride insurance update**
 - At the morning meeting, the BOD voted to have UMECRA pay ½ of the daily costs of rides who have the UMECRA insurance and the rides will pay 100% of additional insured costs for UMECRA insurance. This motion was approved for 2015 going forward. The motion will be revisited at a later date if there is a significant change in the insurance costs and/or process.
- **Update on horse/rider database and horse numbers**
 - Nicole Mauser-Storer gave a presentation on the new ride results reporting database that she and Robin Schadt created. The spreadsheet is preloaded with rider and horse numbers but in order for accurate tracking of mile and ride placings, all riders need to help by recording their AERC and/or UMECRA numbers on ride entries so RM's can record them on the reporting sheets. The message of using UMECRA and AERC numbers will be stressed to riders on the website and newsletters. A huge thank you was given to Nicole and Robin for all the time they spent creating this program!
- **Protest process**
 - A new protest process was presented to the attendees and will go into effect immediately. The new process provides a more detail process on how a protest will be handled.
- **Blind horses at rides**
 - Tony Troyer motions to accept the following wording to the Blind Horse rule; seconded by Dianne Schmidt; passed with change in bold and strike out.
 - *3. Veterinary Requirements G*
 - *A final decision allowing unsighted ~~or partially sighted~~ equines to compete shall be made on a case by case basis by the control judge at each event. Riders of ~~vision impaired~~ blind equines should contact the ride manager prior to entry ~~for approval~~.*
 - After a discussion the highlighted strike out word above (~~for approval~~) were removed from the original motion. Motion passed with these words removed.



- *Donnie Hamrick suggested to add "At least 7 days prior to entry". A discussion followed on the merits of adding a time frame to this rule; the suggested change was not accepted.*
- **UMECRA Rules Proposal:**
 - Tony Troyer motions to accept the changes in bold print to the general rules; seconded by Sarah Mowrer; passed
 - *General Rules*
 - *4. Rider Requirements*
 - *F. Horses must not be under the influence of drugs, medication or stimulants, **except those allowed under AERC, and may be subjected to drug analysis while entered in the ride.***
- **Sanctioning Coordinator:**
 - Tony Troyer motions to accept the changes in bold to the Article V of the bylaws; seconded by Rae Birr; motion failed.
 - *ARTICLE V- OFFICERS*
 - *B. Sanctioning Coordinator will work with the AERC Sanctioning Director to sanction and coordinate scheduling recommendations to the Board for UMECRA rides and shall edit and coordinate publishing of the yearly UMECRA ride book. **The sanctioning coordinator must be a current Delegate or UMECRA member who has been a ride manager within the past 5 years.***
 - A discussion was held as to the merit of adding this wording to the bylaws. The sanctioning coordinator position is appointed by the BOD; therefore the BOD can determine the eligibility of the applicants and appoint the person who is qualified to execute the position properly.
- **Remove convention corridor and move the convention with-in the four states:** Linda Mower motions to remove the convention corridor with the wording below; seconded by Ruth Stewart. The portion in bold below was added to the original motion after discussion; motion passed with the addition.
 - *A motion was made and seconded to remove the corridor and move the convention to each of four states beginning with MI in 2015, WI in 2016, MN in 2017, and IL in 2018. If any state elects not to host the convention in their designated year, the next state on the list will do the convention and **the state refusing their turn must wait for the next rotation to host the convention again.***
- **Rules brought forward from morning BOD meeting**
- **UMECRA GENERAL RULES – (Apply to both endurance and competitive rides)** Tony motions to accept the rule change written below in bold italics; Peggy Pasillas seconded; passed.
 1. *Eligibility*
 - *A. Each ride must be open to all breeds. On a ride of 35-30 miles or less the horse must be at least 48 months old, ~~on a ride over 30 miles a horse must be at least 60 months old.~~*
*New for AERC – Add to A above: **The equines entered in distances of 50 or more miles must be at least 60 months of age at the time of the ride with the exception of those entered in single day 100 mile rides. Equines entered in single day 100 mile distances must be at least 72 months of age at the time of the ride.***
 2. **Management Requirements (UMECRA General Rules)** Tony motions to accept the rule below written in bold italics; seconded by Katie Bachhuber; passed.
 - ***G. There must be at least one checkpoint and hold during all rides of 25 miles or more.***

Tony motions to accept the rule change below written in bold italics; seconded by Peggy Pasillas; passed.
 - *H. The ride manager must include a plan for providing emergency treatment for equines entered in the event. **Beginning the 2016 ride season this plan must be indicated on the sanctioning/re-sanctioning form. If your plan indicates nearby vet/treatment facility or on-call vet options phone numbers and maps must be available for inspection by ride veterinarians and riders.***
- **ENDURANCE RULES changed due to the AERC Horse Welfare rule changes.** These rules were not voted upon as UMECRA accepts the AERC rules as they are approved.
 - Add and renumber to 5 – AERC 2015 - 5. *Horses shall have a body condition score of no less than 3.0 and no greater than 8.0 to start an endurance ride as determined by the ride veterinarians. Veterinarians will use the*



Henneke Body Condition Scoring Guide in determining body condition score. Body condition score will only be judged during the pre-ride veterinary examination.

- 9. Completion Criteria - Each ride must have a post finish line vet examination which the equine must pass for a successful completion, the criteria to be announced prior to the ride.
 - A. The minimum criteria for the post finish line vet check are as follows. Any ride may adopt more stringent criteria, but these must be provided to competitors before the ride in written form. The post-finish-line vet check is where the final criteria for completion must be met; an equine has not completed the ride until he has passed this check. The post-finish-line vet check also serves as a safety check to monitor for late-developing problems (so that they can be treated if necessary) as well as extending veterinary control over the last leg of the ride. Because an equine at the finish line is not, in actuality, going on--and not going in to the wilderness far from veterinary aid--the standards for completion need not be as strict as those on the trail, but they must meet the minimum standards below.
 - Change to: *The minimum criteria for the post-finish-line control check are as follows.*
 - *The head control judge of any ride may adopt more stringent criteria, including the final pulse rate criteria, as part of the setting of the judging parameters under Endurance Rule 7. Additionally, the ride manager may increase the maximum time to meet the final pulse rate by up to 30 minutes after crossing the finish line if circumstances dictate a need for additional time to reach the final control check. Notice of any change in the maximum time to meet the final pulse rate criterion and notice of any other more stringent criteria for the post-finish line control check must be provided to competitors by written notice posted in a conspicuous location at the ride camp at least 12 hours prior to the start of the ride and shall also be presented by the ride manager or head control judge at any pre-ride briefing or meeting.*
 - 1) All horses must stand for a mandatory post ride evaluation within one hour of finishing. Riders may present their horses for the final examination at a time of their choosing during the one-hour period. A horse that does not meet the established criteria within one hour of crossing the finish line shall be disqualified. Once a competing horse has passed the post ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons. (AERC only). No horse will be certified for UMECRA completion if it needs or receives treatment for metabolic reasons within 1 hour of finishing, regardless of whether it has passed its final check. Such horse/rider combination may still receive AERC points and mileage credit.
 - Change to *1) each equine must pass the post-ride control check within one hour of crossing the finish line. Each equine is required to pass the final pulse rate criterion alone in 30 minutes but shall have the full hour from finish to pass other completion criteria. After meeting the final pulse criterion, riders may present their equines for the final examination for other completion criteria at a time of their choosing during the one-hour period. An equine that does not meet the established pulse and completion criteria shall be disqualified. Once a competing equine has passed the post-ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons. (AERC only). No horse will be certified for UMECRA completion if it needs or receives treatment for metabolic reasons within 1 hour of finishing, regardless of whether it has passed its final check. Such horse/rider combination may still receive AERC points and mileage credit.*
 - 2) The horse must reach a reasonable pulse recovery based on ambient conditions. The maximum pulse criteria is ~~64~~ 60 beats per minute; however, the ride veterinarian(s) may allow different pulse criteria. The MINIMUM pulse rate criteria shall be 60 bpm. Respiration should be evaluated on its own merit. Ambient temperature and humidity effects need to be recognized and their effects on respiration rate considered. (2015 AERC)
- Vet Directory
 - Dr. Olivia Rudolphi has a veterinarian directory created with our current UMECRA vets with their contacts. Any ride manager who needs assistance with finding a veterinarian for their ride or would like to add a veterinarian to the list should contact Dr. Olivia.



- **2016 Convention**
 - The 2016 convention will be held on January 15, 16 17, 2016 in Wisconsin Dells and is being hosted by DRAW.
- **Other**
 - Nicole Mauser-Storer discussed the efforts of the promotions committee. Several members volunteered to help last year, but not everyone who volunteered has been able to help the committee. The promotions committee would like a representative from each state to help with this committee.
 - If anyone has a publication or website in which we can place ads at no cost, such as the state horse councils, contact Nicole with those ideas. The electronic ride schedule can be sent out by contacting Jill for the schedule.
- **Voting:**
 - Winners of each position are highlighted in **bold**.
 - **Vice President:** Nominated: **Tony Troyer** – elected
 - **Secretary/Treasurer** Nominated: **Jill Feller**- elected
 - **Director at Large (2)**
 - Nominated: Barb Kurti, **Nicole Mauser-Storer**
 - Nominated: **Bill Suskey**, Barb Kurti, Chris Power (declined)
 - **IL Regional Director:** **Sarah Mowrer**- elected
 - **MI Regional Director:** **Wayne Gastfield**- elected
- Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



BOD Meeting Minutes
Wisconsin Dells WI
March 21, 2015

Present: Jon Wagner, Jill Feller, Theresa Meyer, Bonnie Mielke, Tony Troyer, Max Bernsdorf, Jos Seefeldt, Bill Suskey,

Guests: Linda Jacobson

Call to order by Theresa Meyer at 11:09 am.

Secretary Report: meeting minutes from January presented; Tony motions to accept minutes as presented; Bonnie seconded. Passed.

Treasurer Report: balance sheet and P&L summary were presented. Amend the P&L report to reflect real costs of silent auction. Max motions to accept reports with the change to the P&L, Bonnie seconded. Passed.

- **Quorum revisited;** Bill motions to withdraw the January motion on the quorum, Tony seconded. Passed.
 - A discussion was held on the new wording that included the definition of a quorum vs. voting. A discussion was held on the definition of what a delegate is. Jon motions to accept new wording as written below; Tony seconded. Passed. *Motion goes to the annual meeting in January 2016.*

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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Section 4. 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 postmarked via U.S. Mail or sent via membership email address at least five days prior to the meeting or by posting the same on the UMECRA website <www.umecra.com>*. 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 via certified U.S. Mail with return receipt requested* to the president, vice president or the Board of Directors by twenty (20) or more members.

Section 5. QUORUM. The presence in person of twenty (20) of the *previous year's ride managers as indicated on the sanctioning form, veterinary representative and rider representatives* or a majority, whichever is the lesser amount, of the delegates to a meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the absence of a quorum, any meeting may be adjourned from time to time. 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 his 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.

Section 6. TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS. Business transacted at all Special Meetings shall be confined *only* to the purposes stated in the call to the Special Meeting.



Section 7 DELEGATES. Each manager of *an* endurance *and/or* competitive trail ride shall submit the names of its official voting delegates or its authorized alternate voting delegate(s) to be recorded by the corporate secretary prior to any meeting of members. (See, Article VII, herein.) The corporate officers (excluding Newsletter Editor[s], Points-Keeper, Sanctioning Coordinator, and Webmaster), board members, Veterinary Representative, and Rider Representatives also will serve as voting delegates. However, while they may hold more than one of these positions at a time, they may only cast one vote. Only voting delegates may vote on business presented at a meeting.

- **Update on horse/rider database:**
 - Nicole and Robin have worked hard on creating the database with is now completed The database will only be effective if riders use their membership numbers and horse numbers so the results can be reported on the new spreadsheet will be sent out to ride managers to review and play with.
- **Update on scanning UMECRA meeting minutes:**
 - Bill is done with the scanning of the minutes and the past minutes are all placed in Drop Box folder for BOD members to review.
 - The PDF files of the minutes will also be put on the website for all members to view.
 - The minutes are also in a word document which need to be reformatted. When the PDF files were converted to word documents, the formatting was not consistent. Some meeting minutes that were scanned were also hand-written files. Elinore Tonsor has volunteered to work on formatting these word documents.
- **Code of Conduct for BOD members**
 - The appointed positions should also be signing the Code of Conduct. Bill motions that appointed members of BOD should sign Code of Conduct; Jon seconded. Passed.
- **Promotions committee update:**
 - UMECRA ads have been placed in IA, IL, MN horse fair books.
 - Anyone attending an endurance clinic get a letter with their membership cards with links to various help sites such as the Green Beans page. Once the new rider booklet is complete, a link will also be placed in this letter for those attendees to access.
- **Trail grants:**
 - A trail grant request was presented from the Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association (NKMHTA) for the Northern Kettle Moraine campground in WI for a shelter to be built in the group camp sites. The NKMHTA is the organization working with the WI DNR for improvements on the horse trails and campground in this forest. The campground in the request is used for the Kettles N Bits and Colorama rides. Jill motions to give \$250 to the NKMHTA to assist in building a picnic shelter, Bonnie seconded. Passed.
 - A second trail request was submitted for the Governor Knowles State Forest campground where the Border Battle Boogie ride is held. The request was for \$250 to be used for needed maintenance at the Trade River Horse Camp. After a discussion, the BOD decided to delay granting this request as the request was not specific enough and also if the money could be given to a local trail group instead of the DNR where the money could end up in a general fund and not designated for the improvements. Theresa will contact the person who requested the grant. Once more specific information is provided, the BOD will discuss this request via the group email.



- **AHA request for donation for National Championship ride:**
 - The AHA National Championship ride will be held in TN on September 10 – 12. There are several different levels of sponsorship available beginning with a \$50 donation.
 - Bonnie motions to give \$100 to the National Championship Ride, Jos seconded. Motion failed but will be discussed again via the BOD group email once Tony sends out the sponsorship form and the BOD have an opportunity to learn more about the donation options.
- **Shagya-Arabian Registry Inspection:**
 - Performance Shagya-Arabian Registry (PShR) is asking for a sponsorship. In 2015, there will be four inspections in the United States with the first one held at Run Along Farms in Geneseo IL, the home of UMECRA member Julie Jackson. A document was presented which provided a summary of the different sponsorship opportunities which included an ad in their official program. Nicole volunteered to create an ad for the programs if the BOD approves a sponsorship.
 - Jon motions to take a full page ad for \$50 and place the medium banner at all four inspection sites for \$35, seconded by Max. Passed.
- **LD weight division:**
 - A discussion was held on the merits and disadvantages of having weight divisions for LD. No action was taken.
- **Non-member miles on horses to count for mileage:**
 - Bonnie was one of the original members who requested the 1000 mile program to be created in UMECRA. She explained that the intent of the 1000 mile award program was to award the UMECRA members and their nominated mounts; both the rider and the horse needed to be UMECRA members (horse needed to be nominated). The membership form for the 1000 mile horse has an error in wording which is the reason for the confusion of understanding the program. The form will be changed and reposted for members to use. There will not be any miles awarded to horses who were ridden by non-UMECRA members over the past few years.
- **Daily rider for UMECRA rides:**
 - A discussion was held to put a \$5.00 fee/ride for any rider that is not a UMECRA member in place. Motion made by Jon Wagner to charge a \$5.00/daily rider fee for UMECRA fee, seconded by Bill. Passed. This motion goes to the Annual meeting in January 2016 for approval.
- **Sanctioning coordinator for 2016-2017:**
 - A short discussion was held on this position; no actions were taken.
- **Convention guidelines:**
 - A document was presented to be used to help convention managers. The document is a guideline for people who are managing a convention to use to assist them. Jill Feller will be the contact person for convention managers regarding reviewing contracts **before** signing, questions about what is needed to run a convention and any other convention questions.
 - The convention guidelines include "***No other silent auction can be held simultaneously with the UMECRA auction***".



YEAR	Trails fund	Convention fund	Scholarship fund	ICF Fund	TOTAL	
	50%	25%	12.5%	12.5%		
2010	\$372.00		\$372.00	\$2,232.00	\$2,976.00	50% went to ICF/ 25% to trails & scholarships
2011	\$1,334.00	\$667.00	\$333.50	\$333.50	\$2,668.00	formula was changed this year
2012	\$1,873.25	\$936.63	\$468.31	\$468.31	\$3,746.50	
2013	\$1,580.00	\$790.00	\$395.00	\$395.00	\$3,160.00	
2014	\$1,344.50	\$672.25	\$336.12	\$336.13	\$2,689.00	
2015	\$790.50	\$395.25	\$197.63	\$197.63	\$1,581.00	
					\$0.00	

- **PayPal for memberships:**
 - Discussion was held on setting up a PayPal account for members to use to join UMECRA; no action was taken.
- **Jan Scott Family Award- family definition:**
 - This award was created on January 26, 1985. The definition of a family at that time was: husband, wife and all dependent children living at home. In the past years, this family award has been given to families with only one parent riding with dependent children.
 - The definition of family will be reworded and brought back to the November BOD meeting for approval. Tony, Theresa and Jill will work on this rewording project.
- **Change rider fees from \$2.50 to allow more money for awards:**
 - Discussion held on increasing the rider fees for rides; no action taken. The awards committee is diligent in getting good quality awards using the budget allowed and the BOD felt this action was not needed and would only hurt rides.
- **Year-end awards restricted mileage/top ten evaluation:**
 - A discussion was held on our current awards and how they are awarded. The discussion covered ride entries, types of rides and how many rides need to be ridden to receive an award. No action was taken as there does not appear to be any problem with our current process.
- **Purina sponsorship for Novice year-end awards:**
 - Tony was able to get a 3-year sponsorship for year-end Novice awards from Purina. Purina likes to have pictures and stories from award winner that they can post. Novice award winner are strongly encouraged to send Tony a picture and story regarding their experience as a Novice rider. Tony will get those items to his contact at Purina.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Feller
 UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



**BOD Meeting
Wisconsin Dells WI
November 7, 2015**

Present at meeting: Theresa Meyer, Tony Troyer, Jill Feller, Wayne Gastfield, Jon Wagner, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Bill Suskey, Maxine Bernsdorf, Bonnie Mielke, Joslyn Seefeldt

Guests: Bruce Birr, Sue Herrick, Barb Gardner, Carol Wagner

Meeting called to order at 11:05 by President Theresa Meyer

Agenda:

- Secretary report:
 - Minutes from the March meeting were presented. Tony made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Wayne; passed.
- Treasury report:
 - The report was presented with a Balance sheet, Summary P&L, Detail P&L.
 - Bonnie motions to have two copies of the detail P&L report for annual meeting due to the size of the report; Jos seconded; passed.
 - Jon motions to accept treasurer report as presented; Tony seconded; passed

	<u>Oct 31, 15</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Convention fund	5,607.24
ICF Fund	7,937.12
Mayville Savings Bank	21,410.38
Trail checking	<u>3,837.44</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>38,792.18</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>38,792.18</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>38,792.18</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	16,860.34
Retained Earnings	20,395.21
Net Income	<u>1,536.63</u>
Total Equity	<u>38,792.18</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>38,792.18</u>



- Board Member Behavior:
 - The BOD is held to a higher standard than the general membership and we need to be professional in our interactions with both members and non-members. The BOD needs to uphold the established rules, hold discussions with members regarding those rules and bring any concerns of those rules to the BOD meetings for review. We want members to approach us at rides to discuss problems, issues, questions, etc., therefore, we should not be confrontational or sarcastic when talking with other BOD members, UMECRA members or *anyone* else.
- Code of Conduct:
 - The Code of Conduct was discussed at the November 2014 meeting and again at the January morning BOD meeting at the convention where it was signed by BOD members. BOD members were not required to sign the Code of Conduct, it was strictly on a voluntary basis; however there was not one member of the board who opposed signing it.
 - The Code of Conduct covers what is expected as appropriate behavior for the BOD; however, there are no repercussions for violating the code.
 - Motion made by Jill that the EBOD will create an addition to the By-laws to be presented at the morning BOD meeting at the January convention that requires the Code of Conduct to be signed by the BOD members and a process of what will happen if the Code of Conduct is violated, seconded by Bill. Jon asked to amend the motion to include a subset of BOD members to work on the wording. Jill and Bill both approve of the amendment. Passed.
 - Tony, Jill, Jon, Theresa, and Nicole will be on the committee to create the wording of this by-law change to be presented in January.
- Ride schedule 2016:
 - Jill presented the proposed schedule as it exists today; there are several changes made to rides:
 - Colorama is moving to a 2 day ride
 - DRAWARMA is moving to a 3 day ride and moving to the Northern Kettle Moraine campground
 - Thistle Down Run will not be held in 2016
 - AHAM and Hopkins Creek ride are combining and will be held in July on the AHAM dates
 - Grand Island North ride is moving to the June date vacated by Hopkins Creek
 - *Sanctioned requests are due by November 30th; once all requests are received, the 2016 tentative schedule will be updated and posted on the UMECRA website for members to view.*
- Bruce Birr and sanctioning changes:
 - SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS
 - 4. Ride Cancellations (current rule)
 - B. Ride managers of canceled rides shall retain voting rights for one year.
 - Proposed by Bruce (**changes in bold**):
 - Ride managers of cancelled rides, **who have paid their sanctioning fees before the ride has been cancelled**, shall retain voting rights for ~~one~~ **year at the next annual meeting**. A discussion followed on this topic.



- Tony motions to table this discussion until the next agenda item of paying sanctioning fees by Feb 1st are discussed, seconded by Joslyn. Passed.
- Motion made by Tony, seconded by Jos to reopen this discussion after discussing the sanctioning fee cutoff date.
 - Bill motions to accept the guideline as proposed by Bruce, seconded by Tony. Passes. This will be reviewed again in January meeting.
 - Sanctioning fees paid by Feb 1st:
 - A discussion was held on the proposed wording of the guideline change:
 - *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 Jon to accept wording, seconded by Wayne; passed. Will be presented at annual meeting for RM vote.
 - Old minutes posted online:
 - The minutes from past years are posted on the website. Some of the handwritten notes are hard to read and we looking at getting these typed and rescanned.
 - Family Award wording:
 - *A family (as defined for the Jan Scott Family Award) shall consist of one of two parents, 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 by Jon to accept wording, Bill seconded; Passed.
 - Convention update:
 - Barb Gardner gave an update on the 2016 convention. Room rates are \$79 and you get a discount on breakfast and lunch specials. Speakers: Kathy Soukup will be talking on saddle fit and trot out videos from AERC which will be interactive discussion with the audience led by Wes Elford.
 - . In the past years, there has not been a lot of participation with a D.J. and/or band, therefore, Saturday night will be background music with free beer, wine, soda and some snacks to encourage socializing between members.
 - Bonnie motions that UMECRA pays for up to \$300 toward Saturday night refreshments in lieu of paying for a DJ as in past years, seconded by Tony. Amended by Bonnie to \$400; seconded by Tony. Passed.
 - Horse ID number review:
 - The 2015 season went through without too many mishaps. Riders were very proactive in contacting Jill and Nicole when they needed a horse number; their requests were responded to within 24 hours. Robin's job as pointkeeper was helped substantially by the process.



- Missing rules (or forgotten resolutions):
 - Resolutions are hard to track as they aren't collected anywhere. No one on the BOD at the meeting was able to reference a specific rule that has 'disappeared' from the rulebook. Some of the items that people feel have disappeared, may never have ever been a rule, but were written out as a guideline or resolution and are not published with the rule book.
- Novice:
 - Max stated that there is not a good way to track some of the novice riders. Should Novice's put a "N" on their entry forms to designate them similar to the R that Rookie riders do? No further discussion was held and no action taken on this subject.
- Review of bylaw change from March meeting:
 - Motion made by Tony to accept the wording for the Special Meetings as presented below, seconded by Wayne. Failed.
 - Section 4. 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 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***. Special Meetings of the Corporation may be called at any time upon request of the president, vice president or a major of the members of the Board of Directors, or upon written request ***submitted via certified U.S. Mail with return receipt requested*** to the president, vice president or the Board of Directors by ~~twenty (20) or more members.~~ ***Ride managers representing 50% + 1 of the previous year's sanctioned rides which were held. The signatures must be by persons listed as ride managers on the sanctioning application. If the special meeting is requested by the majority of the ride managers, they must procure and pay for the meeting room. The Executive Board decides which city the meeting will be held.***
 - This motion will be readdressed in January
 - There are several places in the by-laws where it states "five days". Art Priez, the UMECRA attorney consultant, suggested that those references in the by-laws be changed to five business days.
 - Motion made by Bonnie, seconded by Max to approve changes in by-laws from five (5) days to five (5) business days. Passed.
- The Quorum discussion was held again with the BOD. Art Priez had suggested some wording for the quorum; however, the BOD had already discussed this subject multiple times and would like more discussion with Art before making any changes.
 - Tony motions, seconded by Wayne to table the Quorum discussion until January and Art will be asked to attend the meeting. Passed.
- Possible rule changes/updates:
 - Dr. Peterson requested that the maximum speed for competitive rides be raised to 8 mph. A discussion followed that covered:
 - How will this increase in speed could affect
 - pregnant horses
 - New riders



- Young horses
 - Welfare of horses
 - Rides with short/long miles and trail conditions
 - After discussing all of the above items, the BOD felt that the current rule will not be changed; 7 mph is better for the welfare of the horse.
- Dr. Dean also would like to see a resolution that ride managers pay timers \$100 and people who mark trail \$200 and increase ride fees to rides as he feels the rides in UMECRA are very inexpensive and some of the rides not sponsored by an organization are having a hard time not losing money.
 - A discussion followed regarding the economics of raising rides. UMECRA will not dictate to ride managers what their ride fees should be. The BOD looked at some rides from the AERC website and entry fees are considerably higher in other areas of the country with some rides charging \$120 for an LD ride. No further action was taken on this subject.
- Publicity/promotion report:
 - Nicole will look at putting ads in some of the publications again in spring. Last year, she partnered with AERC on some ads in some Midwest publications.
 - If any member has any ideas and suggestions about promoting UMECRA and/or endurance riding they can submit their ideas to Nicole. Anyone wanting to be on the promotion program should also contact Nicole.
- ICF:
 - The ICF fund has \$7900 in it. Candy Barbo, Lucy Periwinkle and Dr. Olivia are working on revamping the guidelines for this fund which could include funding vets going to rides, fund clinics and make the funds more available to qualified UMECRA riders. The guidelines from the committee will be presented at the January BOD meeting. Bill Suskey volunteered to be on the committee also.
- Ride Manager ID wear:
 - There was a discussion on FaceBook about how to identify a ride manager at a ride. Some rides will post the RM phone number or post a sign by the RM trailer to identify RM; it varies from ride to ride. Identifying the RM is at the discretion of each ride; no further discussion or action will be taken at this time by UMECRA.
- Awards:
 - The purchasing of the awards is all up to date; Max, Boots, Robin and Linda are the awards committee. If anyone is interested in assisting this committee, contact Max.
- Membership directory:
 - A discussion was held on how to do this in the future as the current format is very time consuming. Nicole and Jill will look at an option of giving members the option to receive the member directory electronically instead of hard copy. The hard copy option will still be provided to any members; but members can opt out and just receive it electronically or not at all.
- Hall of Fame award:
 - A nomination for a UMECRA member was discussed. Jill motions to accept the nomination; Bill seconded. Passed.
- Appointment for NL Editor and Sanctioning Coordinator:



- Motion made by Max to accept Peggy as the NL editor for a 2-year term, seconded by Tony. Passed.
- Motion made by Bonnie to accept Jill as the SC for a 2-year term, seconded by Jon. Passed.
- Trail grants:
 - Bonnie presented a request for \$250 to the Southern Kettle Moraine for campground improvements. Wayne motions to give the \$250 donation to the request, Tony seconded. Passed.
- 2016 Elections in January:
 - President
 - Veterinary Representative
 - Four rider reps: three people nominated so far; voting will be held at the convention
 - MN Director
 - WI Director

Jos motions to adjourn, seconded by Wayne. Passed
Meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer