

October 2012

Supplement

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



Ride Calendar!



Verify Ride Status at www.UMECRA.com

10/27-28 Big River (AHDRA III) – Keithsburg, IL

NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

At the November Board of Director's meeting the following will be appointed:

- Pointskeeper
- Webmaster

If you are interested in one of these appointed positions, please contact Jill Feller at Jfeller@nconnect.net or 920-948-9502 by November 8th.

Please write a letter to the board stating which position you would like to hold and your qualifications. The people who hold these positions are highly encouraged to attend the Spring and Fall Board of Director's meetings as well as the January meetings of the Board and the membership.

At the General Meeting in January the following positions will be vote on:

- Vice President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Illinois Representative
- Michigan Representative
- 2- Directors at large

Volunteers Needed!

The UMECRA convention will be here before we know it! Jill Feller is heading up the convention this year and is looking for a volunteer to manage the silent auction. If you are interested in helping out please contact Jill at:

Jill Feller
N9280 Cty Hwy TW
Mayville, WI 53050
920-948-9502 (cell) or
920-387-5732 or
jfeller@nconnect.net

RULE OR BYLAW CHANGE SUGGESTIONS?

If you have UMECRA rule or bylaw changes, ideas for new rules or rule removal suggestions, please submit them to the rules & bylaws committee before the November UMECRA board meeting. It's easier for the Rules & Bylaws Committee to craft language beforehand, check it against other rules, etc. before submitting it to the whole board for a vote at that meeting. Rules & Bylaw Committee members are Tony Troyer - il4aerc@aol.com – phone 815-530-4464, Olivia Rudolphi – liv.rudolphi@gmail.com – or Theresa Meyer – tmeyer@tpt.org – Phone 763-753-5236 . The rules and bylaws can be found on www.umecra.com

THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE...MEMBER FEEDBACK!

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

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.

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?

Hmm, sorry I do not have any suggestions on this one.
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.

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FROM THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE: 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.

The Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) is finishing up its work and will be reporting to the UMECRA Board at the Fall Board meeting on November 10th. The Board will then decide if a recommendation to change UMECRA's Bylaws to allow member voting should be brought to the annual meeting for a vote of the delegates. This decision will have a big impact on the future of our organization. Please let a committee member know your thinking on this issue. Following are BRC committee members and their email addresses.

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,

helinoreltonson@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, BRC Chairperson

From the UMECRA Awards Committee

As the competition season draws to a close and all are trying for that "last point" it is also time to think about the award categories that you may nominate for:

Riders Choice for that special horse.

Senior horse for that special older equine.

Diversity for those who have tried it all.

Hall of fame for contributors to the welfare of UMECRA.

And, do not forget you do not have to ride an Arabian to nominate for AHDRA sponsored awards of outstanding service and outstanding mentor awards.

Check the full list on the web site.

REMEMBER "TO FINISH IS TO WIN!"

Looking forward to seeing you all at convention!

Awards Committee

ATTENTION COLLEGE BOUND AND COLLEGE ENROLLED STUDENTS

Applications are now being accepted through November 12, 2012 for scholarships for post high school educational opportunities. Applicants must have at least two years' membership in the Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Trail Association. The applicants must have participated in at least 25 rides sponsored by UMECRA and intend to study for at least a two year program.

Former Wisconsin members Ray and Audrey Gehrig established this scholarship in 1996. Additional tax deductible contributions are welcome for anyone at any time. Many UMECRA members have made charitable contributions to support this scholarship fund in the past. We encourage members to continue to add memorial gifts and honorariums to the fund to support this worthy scholarship for youth and others returning to school. You can donate directly on-line at the website cfsw.org For scholarship materials and/or information about making a contribution to the UMECRA Fund, please go to the website:

http://cfsw.org/high_school_list0.aspx and scroll down to UMECRA or contact:

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE & COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

c/o Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin

Kristen Duesdieker, Program Officer

26 S. Jackson St.

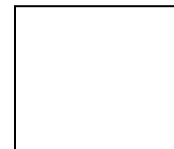
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UMECRA Newsletter
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Deadline for Next Newsletter:
5th of each month
Send news to:
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