

# UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



## Upcoming Proposals at Convention!

Synopsis of Rules for January Meeting:

Please see the minutes for full wording, but the following proposals will be voted on at the January general meeting:

- Drivers will get 15 minutes to present their horses for competitive drives when driving 2 horses, 10 minutes for singles.
  - Stallions must be double tied.
  - All endurance and limited distance rides must be AERC sanctioned.
  - All sanctioning must be listed on the ride flyer, if not AERC sanctioned, it must be state on the flyer.
  - 25 mile loops allowed on competitive rides of longer than 34 miles.
  - No new rides will be sanctioned after the January meeting unless there is 2/3rds approval of all ride managers responding.
  - \$5 fee charged for non-UMECRA members for each ride entry.
  - Short Competitive Rules were not passed by the Board of Directors, but something will likely be discussed and presented at the January annual meeting.
  - Other rules may come before the board between now and January.
- Contact someone on the UMECRA Board if you have questions about these rules after reading through the minutes and plan to attend the January general meeting.

**Attention Ride Managers:** send the names of your voting proxies by January 15 to: [jfeller@nconnect.net](mailto:jfeller@nconnect.net) -or- call 920.948.9502 -or- mail it to: Jill Feller; N9280 County Road TW; Mayville, WI 53050.

**ADVANCED  
BIOLOGICAL  
CONCEPTS®**

**Applied Common Sense®**

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Mileage Award**

## AWARDS REMINDER:

Awards are given out at convention and are NOT mailed. No – not never! If you cannot attend please make arrangements for someone to pick up your chevrons & awards. We are NOT responsible for lost or leftover items.

## IMPORTANT BYLAW VOTES AT JANUARY CONVENTION

There are at least two bylaw votes to be taken at the January general meeting. The changes are below:

ARTICLE V (Suggestion from the Blue Ribbon Committee)

### 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

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Novice Division**

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)

And:

#### 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 or ride managers who may be selected to participate in compete in or host international endurance or competitive ride events sanctioned by the FEI.

**\*\*AND THERE COULD ALSO BE VOTES ON ALLOWING FOR THE ELECTION OF VOTING RIDER DELEGATES AT THE GENERAL MEETING – UP TO 10 PER STATE and a separate bylaw which would address AN AGE AND EXPERIENCE MINIMUM TO BE ABLE TO SERVE ON THE UMECRA BOARD.\*\***

This could be one of the most crucial conventions concerning by-law and rule language in a number of years I hope you will all make your reservations now to attend.

–The Rules & Bylaws Committee

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#### **A NOTE FROM MAX–YOUR RIDER REP...**

Approximately a year ago a request was presented to the Board of Directors to add a division for riders no longer eligible to place in the Novice division but not able to ride longer distances.

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This request was turned over to an open committee to investigate – thus the option of “SHORT COMP” was developed after MUCH discussion.

The purpose of this new division would be “to provide a place for horse and rider combination that cannot or chose not to compete in longer distances to work for yearend awards.”

Taken into consideration are horse and/or rider with possible age or physical limitations and inclusion of more breeds of equine. UMECRA would benefit with retention of members and acquiring new members thus resulting in more ride entries.

All comp rules would apply with exception of 10-15 mile distance limitation.

Year end awards would be to top 5 riders with no weight or Sr. or Jr. Division. This could be expanded in the future based on rider participation. This division could be offered on a trial basis (this has been done with other divisions).

We need the feedback from riders as well as ride managers in order to bring this division to a vote at the annual meeting in January. PLEASE respond to ALL members of the BOD with both positive and negative opinions ASAP.

This is your opportunity to let your voice be heard.

### **Advertising in the UMECRA Newsletter**

Rates depend on the size of your ad and how many times you wish to run it: Contact the newsletter editor for ad pricing information. Email:

[UMECRAnews@gmail.com](mailto:UMECRAnews@gmail.com).

We can handle most common formats, such as Word, .pdf, or .jpg. The deadline for each issue is the last day of the previous month – newsletters are generally mailed by the 15<sup>th</sup>.



**Don't forget to renew your membership for 2013! It's going to be another great year for UMECRA!**

## **Time to Think About Nominations for Rider's Choice Awards!**

It is time to make your nominations for this year's Rider's Choice Award. This award originated in 1981, and has been presented annually at the UMECRA Convention and Awards banquet following a vote of those present at the convention.

The guidelines to be considered when nominated a horse for this honor are as follows:

1. A horse that has shown superior ability in its division
2. A horse that has been a consistent competitor
3. A horse that has shown its ability to overcome setbacks
4. Any horse, for any reason, the nominator admires and feels is a superior representative of the "Distance Horse."

When submitting your nomination, please include a description of the horse's accomplishments and the reasons why you are nominating the horse. There is a form on the UMECRA website under the Awards tab. Scroll down all the way to the bottom of the page to Rider's Choice. Or you can just mail or email your nomination. This nomination will appear in the UMECRA Convention program, and may be the basis for attendees at the convention to making their selection.

Nominations should be submitted to:  
Sarah Mower at [dammitthunder@gmail.com](mailto:dammitthunder@gmail.com)

Or via snail mail to:  
Theresa Meyer  
3028 181st Ave. NW,  
Cedar, MN 55011  
Deadline for nominations - Tuesday, January 8, 2013

## **Have you made your reservations?**

Members who are sending in their UMECRA membership and convention reservations together- you will need to send TWO separate checks as the membership and convention are two different accounts. Please send two checks UMECRA for the membership and UMECRA convention for the convention.

Thank you! *Jill*

### **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](http://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](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.

Janesville, WI 53548

Phone: 608-758-0883

Fax: 608-758-8551

Email: [kristen@cfsw.org](mailto:kristen@cfsw.org)

	<u>Oct 27, 12</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
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>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>34,842.70</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
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>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>34,842.70</u></b>

**The tentative 2013 ride schedule is available on the UMECRA website! Time to start planning for the next ride season!**

**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.

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**

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:

1. 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?

#### BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE:

- The Riders' Sub-committee proposal was presented to the Board as part of the Blue Ribbon Committee Report, but due to the limited time frame the Board had to review the proposal, it was decided to put off a full discussion until the January Board meeting. There were several items regarding rule changes that were discussed (see the suggested changes listed above).
- One item discussed but not action taken was that "Other Positions" (Newsletter Editor, Points Keeper, Sanctioning Coordinator, and Webmaster) have voting privileges on the Board. This subject will be reviewed again in the January BOD meeting

#### 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

### **Got something for the 2013 Convention Silent Auction?**

**Contact: Jessi Zirbel**

[siberian@dwave.net](mailto:siberian@dwave.net)

phone 715-212-2533

**2406 Aster Road,  
Wausau, WI 54401**

Proceeds from the Silent Auction support Trail funds, International FEI and the Scholarship funds

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### **AFTER A YEAR OF HARD WORK THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT IS FINALLY HERE!!!**

The committee would like each of you to carefully read the report (every word of it!). There are lots of good ideas and thoughtful suggestions for moving UMECRA forward.

Over the last forty years UMECRA has grown from a handful of passionate and committed horse lovers to almost 400 members, and we should be proud of that history. However, now is the time for us to decide what direction we want UMECRA to go. Do we want to remain a "ride manger organization" (where 50 are making the decisions for 400), or do we want to change the organization to allow for greater input from the membership?

There are legitimate reasons for staying as we are (e.g., it's worked thus far; ride mangers understand the sport and have the best interest of the organization in mind when making decisions, etc.). But there are also legitimate reasons to change the organization to give the membership more voice (e.g., the majority of members think they should have a vote; when members have representation they are more vested in the organization; decision making look less capricious when more are involved in the process, etc).

The Riders' Sub-committee of the Blue Ribbon Committee has proposed changing our by-laws to allow rider delegates, with voting privileges, to be elected proportionally from the states (see the Riders' Sub-committee Proposal at the end of the BRC Report for details.)

This would require a by-laws change and (to avoid hasty decision-making) all by-laws changes must be acted on at the November Board meeting in order to be eligible to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Unfortunately (and I take responsibility for this), the Board did not receive this proposal until the day before the meeting and did not feel they had adequate time to review it. As a result, we cannot



vote on making this by-laws change at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

We can, however, vote on the intent of the proposal with the understanding that (if it passes) the Rules and By-Laws committee will work on the wording to amend the by-laws during 2013 so it can be voted on at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Please give serious thought to this proposal and share your thoughts with others. If you can come to the annual meeting, please do so. We'd love to hear from you there. If you can't come, share your ideas with a Board member, ride manager, rider rep, or with a BRC Committee member and we'll be sure your ideas are heard.

Respectfully,  
Marty Power, BRC Chairperson.

You can review the final Blue Ribbon Committee meeting report by going to the UMECRA website (live link in electronic newsletter):

[Click on Blue Ribbon Committee Meeting Report](#)

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## Easy Ways You Can Help AERC (and UMECRA) Grow by Patti Stedman

Reprinted with permission by the American Endurance Ride Conference, national governing body for endurance riding in the United States and Canada, [www.aerc.org](http://www.aerc.org), 866-271-2372.

My long-suffering husband, Richard, has a theory. He says that if an endurance rider were to show up at a ride the afternoon prior without a horse, tack, helmet, hay and/or cash, that within a lap or two of walking around the ride camp and asking around, he or she could have all of the above and be ready to compete the following morning.

There is something special about the people in this sport. If someone needs help, all they need to do is ask. So officially, here is the request: HELP!

AERC is at a crossroads. At the recent midyear meeting, we spent a good chunk of time looking at our numbers, a bunch of charts and a bunch of initiatives to address this fact: AERC membership growth is stagnant.

The Membership Committee is working a grass-roots plan that has me as excited as just about anything the organization has spearheaded.

But we need your help!

The organization and office, over the last few years, have done an admirable job in controlling costs. There are no bleeding wounds to stop with regard to cost control.

Our major sources of income are dues and ride fees, and no one (and I mean no one!) wants to raise those. So the controllable factor in our future is growth.

When I look around, I see so much talent and willingness to help and get involved that I am confident that all we need to do is work collectively to grow our membership. I keep saying to the members of the BoD that I'm overwhelmed by the marketing team that we have in our membership—I just know we can do this!

If you have simply been waiting to be asked, consider this column to be AERC doing just that.

How can you help?

- Write an article. If you compete on an atypical breed, why not write an article for your breed's publication about how much you enjoy endurance riding on your horse, and ask others to join you? (If you're not a writer but have a story to share, contact me, and we'll get someone to interview you for the article and write it up.)

- Give a talk. If you have a local 4-H group, Pony Club, FFA, trail riding club or riding stable in your area, why not offer to come speak to their group about endurance riding?

- Mentor a new rider. If you are an experienced competitor, why not sign up to become a mentor?

- Go local. Got a local newspaper? Regional horse publication? Tell them about endurance riding. Tell them about a local upcoming ride. Invite the paper or local news to send a reporter to cover the event.

- Post a flier. When you stop at the feed store, tack shop or vet's office, you could post a flier for an upcoming local endurance ride with a little note: "Volunteers welcome!"

- Host a clinic. Why not work with a group of others in your region or area to organize and host an Endurance 101 clinic?

- Offer a fun ride. If you are a ride manager, how about an introductory/fun ride in conjunction with your LD and endurance ride? (Be sure to pass out AERC membership applications and drop the office a note to request endurance info packets, chock full of information to help them get started.)

- Introduce new riders. Why not ask the newbie riders at your ride briefing to get up and introduce themselves briefly? Encourage them to ask lots of questions, and have a few friendly veterans keep an eye on them as they get around their first few rides.

- Offer your help. What about simply seeing someone who is a little inexperienced and perhaps struggling with their horse—we've all seen the new person at the ride with a fire-breathing horse, an entirely different species than the docile beast they had at home—and say, "Hey, do you want some help?" or even, "Hey, I've been there, too. Stop by my trailer and let's talk after the ride; I'll introduce you to a bunch of my friends."

- Encourage joining. Ask a day member, "Have you joined AERC yet?" and tell them all the reasons they should become a part of the AERC family.

- Share your enthusiasm. Share the magic of our sport with anyone who will listen. Tell them about the camaraderie, the sense of accomplishment, the ability of any horse that is metabolically and physically sound to get around a ride and our motto of "to finish is to win."

So when I say to all of you—"HELP!"—I am not just talking to the ride managers. I am talking to every single member. Each of you is our biggest recruitment tool.

We did a little math at the midyear BoD meeting, and figured that if each region could garner 50 new members for the 2013 season, we would be sitting comfortably from a budgetary perspective. No need to raise fees or cut services or change our way of doing business. I'm already winding up the members of my region, the Northeast, and I just know we can make this goal. How about your region?

Hey, can you help? If you have ideas or suggestions on this topic, or you want to help but don't know where to begin, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Happy trails!

**UMECRA Convention  
January 18, 19 & 20, 2013  
Olympia Resort  
Oconomowoc, WI**

**ROOM RESERVATIONS**

Olympia Resort  
1350 Royale Mile Road  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
[www.olympiaresort.com](http://www.olympiaresort.com)

800.558.9573- call for reservation (Want UPPER  
MIDWEST rate)

- \$95- single and double rate
- \$105- triple rate
- \$115- for quad rate

***Breakfast buffet is included for each  
registered guest each night***

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY  
DECEMBER 19**

**EVENT SCHEDULE**

**FRIDAY**

4:00 – 7:00 registration- downstairs by Westlake  
room

7:00 - AHDRA Awards- Westlake room

Food and cash bar available at 7:30

Food for evening is SPONSORED by AHDRA

**SATURDAY**

- 7:00 am - BOD meeting- Boardroom- in  
lobby- down the stairs
- 8:00 am - 9:00- registration- downstairs  
by Westlake room
- 9:00 -11:30 - Speaker- Dr. Howard  
Ketover- large animal rescues- what to do  
until help arrives
- 11:30-1:00- lunch (on your own)
- 1:00- 4:00- Annual meeting- Westlake  
room
- 5:00- 6:00- cocktails- Westlake room
- 6:30- dinner- Westlake room
- 7:30- 9:00 awards- Westlake room
- 9:00- 12:00 live music by Gary Cross-  
Westlake room

**SUNDAY**

- 7:00- AHDRA meeting-Crown room- off  
of lobby

**Convention & Saturday night buffet**

Menu: tossed salad with assorted dressings,  
four composed salads, dinner rolls, Pecan  
Crusted Pork, Tenderloin Tips, Honey  
Glazed Carrots, Roasted Red Potatoes,  
Dessert, Coffee, Tea and Milk

Adult: \$45.00

Child: \$15.50 (ages 5-12) under 4- free  
Vegetarian Plate meal: \$37.00 (will replace  
the buffet) Vegetarian plate meal: Pasta  
Primavera with marinara sauce

**Convention ONLY- no Saturday night  
buffet:**

Adult: \$15

Child: \$3 (5-12 years of age) under 4 - free

You must pay the convention fee if you plan  
to attend any of the following events:

- Friday night activities
- Saturday morning speaker
- Saturday night meal, awards and  
entertainment

You do NOT need to pay the convention fee  
if you plan to ONLY attend one or both of the  
following meetings:

- BOD Saturday morning meeting
- General annual meeting on Saturday  
afternoon

Please be honest; if you don't pay the  
convention fee; do not attend the events  
listed above.

Contact for any questions:  
Convention Manager  
Jill Feller  
jfeller@nconnect.net  
920.948.9502

**UMECRA**



UPPER MIDWEST  
ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDE  
ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP FORM  
2013

**CIRCLE ONE:**

- Single \$35** Family \$45 - hard copy newsletter and/or ride book
- Single \$ 25** Family \$35- electronic newsletter and CD for ride book

*NOTE: to receive the reduced rate, you MUST receive the newsletter electronically AND receive a CD for the ride book. If you have either the newsletter or ride book delivered via USPS you MUST pay the higher membership fees.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
Check one: **RENEWAL** \*\*\*\*\* **NEW MEMBERSHIP** \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Please include all names of family members. Juniors are riders who are 16 and under as of December 15 or previous year; identify which names are junior riders. **Please write clearly!**

**PRINT CLEARLY**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ UMECRA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you do NOT want ANY newsletter sent to you- please check this box:**

Please mail completed form along with check made out to UMECRA to:

Jill Feller  
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer  
N9280 County Road TW  
Mayville, WI 53050

**UMECRA CONVENTION 2013**  
**January 18, 19 & 20**  
**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY JANUARY 11**

Name (s) of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult meal and convention @ \$45	Child meal and convention \$15.50 Age 5-12	Vegetarian* plate meal in place of buffet and convention @ \$37	Adult convention fee ONLY @ \$15	Child convention fee ONLY @ \$3 Age 5-12	TOTAL COST
_____ x 45	_____ x 15.50	_____ x 37	_____ x 15	_____ x 3	
Total = \$ _____	Total = \$ _____	Total = \$ _____	Total = \$ _____	Total = \$ _____	

**Send completed form and check (made out to UMECRA Convention) to:**

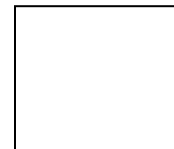
Jill Feller  
UMECRA Sec/Treasurer  
N9280 County Road TW  
Mayville, WI 53050

**Form and money must be received by January 11, 2013.**

**NO REFUNDS after January 11, 2013**

*Register early (registration needs to be received or post marked on or before January 1, 2013) to receive a refund on the convention fee. Only UMECRA members are eligible for the refund and only ONE name will be picked during the annual meeting to receive the refund.*

UMECRA Newsletter  
c/o Peggy Pasillas  
9928 Rich Valley Blvd  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077  
[www.umecra.com](http://www.umecra.com)



Deadline for Next Newsletter:  
5<sup>th</sup> of each month  
Send news to:  
[UMECRAnews@gmail.com](mailto:UMECRAnews@gmail.com)



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