

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



Letter from the President:

I don't know about you, but I'm still basking in the warm glow that was the 2015 UMECRA convention in Clare, Michigan. Thanks GLDRA for providing the support for this, and Wayne Gastfield, Dianne Meinders and family, Barb Kurti, Cathy Cook and all the other GLDRA members who pitched it. It was a pleasure to have the convention in Michigan for the first time.

Besides the time to just chat with fellow members; my favorite part of convention is awards. It's really a big thank you for your steady participation in this sport. Many of you have been in the Top Ten for years, other are winning jackets and novice awards for the first time. Congratulations! I loved seeing the smiling faces standing in front of your peers. One of UMECRA's founding principals was to honor our horses and riders with year-end awards to give thanks for the rides attended.

As we look forward to the 2015 ride season and what looks like lower fuel and gas prices, I hope everyone encourages a friend, neighbor acquaintance, social media friend/contact to try a distance ride. F

ride or two, sponsor a junior, chat on the phone, email or facebook. I still remember pacing at "long" ride was one of the mysteries of this sport for the first few years. Plus just mentoring a conditioning ride or two of 3 to 6 miles, potential new riders can get a feel for what pace they should be going.

Also please volunteer to be at a horse fair booth to talk about our sport. Put on a clinic. Join our promotions team! We have openings!

Again, congratulations on last year's accomplishments and we look forward to seeing you on the trail MORE with friends in 2015!

Theresa Meyer, UMECRA President

Shining Light Award 2015 Dianne Schmidt

This is UMECRA's second year of presenting the Dr. Beecher Shining Light Award. There were two nominations for one member – Dianne Schmidt – longtime ride manager and member of the Board of Directors. The award honors a ride manager or veterinarian who for is providing tireless service to the UMECRA organization through managing of ride(s) and/or acting as a veterinarian. Nominated individuals should possess some of the following characteristics: being organized, helpful, honest, supportive, a sense of fairness, knowledge of the sport, consistency, able to educate and mentors others, able to delegate and able to deal with crisis situations.

Here are some of the comments written about Dianne: she started in this sport/organization as a competitor. She and her daughters competed regularly all around UMECRA. When the original managers of the Southeast Minnesota Ride decided retire from managing the ride, Dianne stepped



forward and agreed to manage the ride – because it was one of the original rides in the Midwest and was one of the founding rides of UMECRA. She didn't want to see the ride disappear.

Dianne always runs a well-organized ride. She has a number of events that could easily step on each other's toes, but she handles the challenge superiorly, provides good awards, a great pot luck dinner and a friendly environment. She was an honest competitor and has proven herself an honest ride manager as well.

While a competitor, she was one of the first two rider representatives, helped get the 1000 mile horse award going and also helped to get going the junior division. (Because the juniors were beating the adults in many divisions.)

Dianne continued to compete in the sport for a number of years. Then she had a riding accident and was no longer able to compete. She might have used this as an opportunity to stop putting on/managing the SE MN ride, but she didn't. Not even the year of her accident. There she was, with one useful arm, managing her ride, cooking for the vets and taking care of the business of running a ride in UMECRA. SE MN will celebrate its 46th anniversary this year, and Dianne has been at the helm for half of the ride's tenure.

Dianne travels to many rides to assist other managers with her time and stethoscope throughout the ride season. Congratulations to Dianne Schmidt on your Dr. Beecher Shining Light Award!

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO RECEIVED AWARDS THIS YEAR. IF YOU RECEIVED YOUR VERY FIRST CHEVRON FOR MILEAGE IN EITHER ENDURANCE OR COMPETITIVE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A CERTIFICATE GIVING YOU \$15 OFF ON A VEST TO DISPLAY YOUR CHEVRON(S). MAY YOU EARN MANY MORE. CONTACT ROBIN TO VERIFY ELGIBILITY AND THEN CONTACT MAX (MIRANCH@HOTMAIL.COM) AND WE WILL GET YOUR CERTIFICATE MAILED TO YOU

AWARDS COMMITTEE,
Max

Majer Ridge Scarlet Debut – Owned and ridden exclusively by Linda Jacobson (but only if I had my way, that wouldn't be true)!

"She's a Morgan" "She takes too long to recover." She requires her weight in carrots at every ride." "She's emotional." "She doesn't play well with others." All these statements are true. Scarlet carries this baggage, along with her equally quirky rider. But when it comes to recognizing a true champion of our sport regarding these statements, "Frankly, my dear(s), I don't give a damn."

A horse that has shown superior ability in its division and been a consistent competitor: Scarlet has placed Top Ten UMECRA in either Comp or Endurance since 2004. She placed High Mileage in '05, '08, and '12. She has placed in AERC's Midwest division since 2008, and this year placed in AERC's National War Mare Division. She has placed DRAW Top Eight since 2004, winning the Competitive Division in 2005 and winning the Endurance Division in 2010 and 2012. In the Morgan World, she has wond Reserve Champion Endurance in '06, '07, and '09 and won Champion in '08, '10, '11 and '12 (but you will never see her wearing a Morgan jacket announcing these things 'cause the Morgan World just can't compete with UMECRA). In 2012, she had a total of 4,485 UMECRA miles and 3,860 AERC miles. She has completed 72 of her 79 endurance starts and 5 of her 6 100's. That last statistic is a little skewed because I was there for that pull. There was NOTHING wrong with Scarlet. The pair had taken a spill and Linda was out of it. The only way they could get her to quit was to declare Scarlet lame.

A horse that has shown its ability to overcome setbacks: Can I repeat – "She takes too long to recover." It's a fact Whe the Pulse Rate is set at 60, Scarlet is placed even more in the hole. But it never seems to discourage either horse or rider. They play by the rules and place in spite of them. She doesn't play well with others." That's an understatement. Linda takes great pains to make sure Scarlet sares the trail with no

UMECRA



PERSEVERE

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND
COMPETITIVE RIDE ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership year: 2015

CIRCLE ONE:

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

Single \$ 25 Family* \$35- electronic newsletter and CD for ride book

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

If you do NOT want a CD or Ridebook sent to you- please check this box:

If you do NOT want your name and contact info in the membership book, check this box:

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 MEMBERSHP _____

***Family memberships shall consist of one or more related, or coupled as significant other, adults and/or children of such adults who are less than 18 years of age, all of whom reside in the same household.**

Please include all names of eligible family members.

PRINT CLEARLY

Date: _____

AERC MEMBER NUMBER(s)(if applicable): _____

AERC HORSE NUMBER(s)if applicable: _____

UMECRA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER(S): _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number (s): _____

Email: _____

Please mail completed form and check made out to UMECRA to: Jill Feller, N9280 Cty Hwy TW, Mayville, WI 53050

**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	4,192.19
Total Checking/Savings	41,165.52
Total Current Assets	41,165.52
 TOTAL ASSETS	 41,165.52

Start planning your ride season! Check out the ride calendar on UMECRA.com

Full schedule will be in the March newsletter!

- **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

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**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

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**Annual 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 **64-68** 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)
- **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

Attention Junior Riders !!! Announcing the
Donna Lee Ozment Junior Rider Award

To support and encourage Junior Riders to pursue the sport of Distance Riding, Donna Lee Ozment is offering a Junior Rider a \$300 award to cover the cost of ride entries.

To be eligible to apply for this award the Junior must:

- Be under the age of 18 at the start of the ride season,
- Write a brief essay on what riding means to them, why they participate in this sport, how long they have been riding, etc., and
- Include a letter of support from at least one sponsor.

The Junior's application must be sent to:

Donna Lee Ozment, 3040 Halsted, Steger, IL 60475

Deadline: Applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2015

UMECRA Newsletter
c/o Peggy Pasillas
9928 Rich Valley Blvd
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
www.umecra.com



Deadline for Next Newsletter:
5th of each month
Send news to:
UMECRAnews@gmail.com



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