

January/February
2019

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



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Convention Recap!

2019 CONVENTION

A big shout-out to Bruce Birr, GLDRA and the rest of the crew from Michigan who helped to host the 2019 Annual Meeting and Convention in the Upper Peninsula! It was another great convention with excellent accommodations, information, food and fun. I know I speak for all of our members when I say thank you for your time and efforts to provide us with such a nice experience.

Thanks also to AHDRA for their “forky” Friday night awards, appetizers and of course the games. The Mowers won the trivia contest for the second year in a row (note to self to get on their team next year) and I think Jen Allen can be very proud of Beth Frieders standing in for her. Beth has a mean arm, and there weren’t to many candy bars that missed the mark!

Numbers aren’t in yet from the Silent Auction but from the look of things, I’d say people really appreciated Dianne Mienders organizing and managing the event. Once again, people donated terrific items to the auction, all for the benefit of the organization. Thank you, Dianne, and all who donated. Thank you to, Jan, Peggy, Jean and Sherry, our Awards Committee, who did an awesome job putting together the awards ceremony. Organizing and selecting awards for the multiple winners in all of the different divisions is certainly no easy task. There will be a lot of people proudly wearing their new jackets, relaxing in their “Directors” chair or covering their equines back-end with a new rump rug in 2019!

Finally, thank you to everyone who was able to attend the convention/annual meeting. Your support and participation are also part of what makes our organization unique.

Sincerely,

Jon Wagner

UMECRA President



**BoD Meeting
Gladstone, MI
January 19, 2019**

Call to Order – the meeting was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 7:00 am. Others present at the meeting were, Bruce Birr, Peggy Pasillas, Jan Sasena, Maxine Bernsdorf, Bill Suskey, Lynda Zimmerman, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Laurie Henschel, Dr. Elford, Theresa Meyer, Lisa Germann, Tracy Johnson, Tony Troyer, Sarah Maass, Sanctioning Coordinator Joslyn Seefeldt and guest Sandra Wright.

Approval of Minutes – the November 14th, 2018 BoD minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Treas./Sec. Reports – the organization’s financial reports (P&L summary and Balance Sheet) were reviewed and approved upon motion by Dr. Elford, second by Peggy.

- **Insurance update:** costs for the 2019 ride season should be similar to last season. Bruce will forward a summary of ride insureds to Ride Managers soon for approval and then will submit said information to our insurer for a quote. The board has asked Bruce to have a discussion with our insurance carrier about increasing coverage from the current \$1 million coverage to \$3 million, and potentially changing the time of coverage. Currently our coverage runs from March to March. Is it more advantageous to have policy coverage for a calendar year or even possibly the ride season (November to November)? Bruce will attempt to have cost information, advantages/disadvantages involved, and information about the ability to make these changes available for the March BoD meeting.
- **Trail Grants/Horse Fair Requests:** no new trail grant requests had been received. A request for funds for the MN Horse Expo has been submitted by Sandra Fett on behalf of MnDRA. The BoD had previously decided to fund up to \$350 for Horse Expos/fairs as well as ½ of the daily insurance costs. Bruce noted that he had not necessarily been tracking trail grants as affecting the Trail Fund and that he would make those corrections to the appropriate accounts.
- **Internal Review/Audit:** Jon asked Tony to chair an internal peer review of the Treasurer’s records between this morning’s BoD meeting and the first scheduled speaker for this afternoons convention. Other members of the peer review team include: Dr. Elford, Maxine Bernsdorf, Sandra Wright and Ken Meyer.

Presidents Report – Jon reported that there will be three \$1,100 individual scholarships awarded this year (to be handed out at the Awards Presentation).

- **2020 Convention:** the 2020 convention will be held on the weekend of January 17-19 @ the Holiday Inn of Stevens Point, Wi. Kim Fosler will be the convention host.
- **Awards Wording Update:** to avoid confusion or any misunderstandings, the Charles Phillips Versatility Award has had the following language returned to its description on both the web-site and nomination form: *“Nominations must be submitted to the Points Keeper before the beginning of the last scheduled ride of the season”*. This language was originally adopted in 2008. A description of the Competitive Drive Top Five Award has been added to the web-site. UMECRA has presented this award for several years, but there has not been a description of the award or its necessary qualifications listed under the Awards tab. The following description is now posted to the web-site: *“Competitive Drive Top Five – The Top Five (5) drivers, singles or pairs, shall be recognized. Drivers must successfully complete a minimum of five drives to be eligible for an award.”*
- **Comp Sheet:** The Competitive score sheet was presented with the addition of a place for “zero points” during the pre-trot out.
- **Safe Sport:** this national awareness program was briefly discussed and Peggy has agreed to chair a committee to look into the details of the program.

Old Business –

- **Membership Form:** the CD choice has been eliminated (few if any members were selecting this option) and some minor language changes have been made to the form. The BoD has agreed to continue an additional charge of \$10 for members selecting a hard copy of the ride book. The ride book will be available as a free (PDF) down load from the web-site.
- **LD Points Proposal:** discussion of this item was withdrawn from the agenda pending further information.
- **Review of Endurance Rule 9:** after a lengthy discussion, the BoD approved a motion by Tony, second from Lisa, to withdraw this rule proposal from the afternoons general membership meeting agenda and send it back to the rules committee for further study/review.

- **Review/Discuss Annual Meeting Procedures:** Jon shared that he'd like to keep the meeting informal, orderly and on time. The procedures for the motions related to the bylaw and rule changes were discussed and agreed upon. (Tony and Peggy will make motions, Lynda and Dr. Elford to second)

Announcements – the AERC Convention is being held March 7th – 9th. The BoD members will decide via the BoD Yahoo account on when to meet for their March board meeting (March 16th or 30th).

Adjournment – motion to adjourn was made by Tony, seconded by Peggy at 8:45 am.

Respectively submitted,

/s/Bruce Birr, Sec-Treas

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Advertising in the UMECRA Newsletter

Rates depend on the size of your ad and how many times you wish to run it:

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Classified 10 lines * \$.60 extra per line	\$6.00				
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Full Page	\$45.00	\$36.00 ea.	\$31.50 ea.	\$29.25 ea.	\$270.00

*Line = (65 Characters per line including spaces)

Hey UMECRA! Anyone out there interested in taking over the newsletter? We are still looking for a new newsletter editor. Responsibilities include producing 10-11 newsletters per year and helping with organization wide emails on occasion. If you are interested, please contact UMECRA President Jon Wagner (jwagner288@wi.rr.com) or current newsletter editor Peggy Pasillas (UMECRAnews@gmail.com)

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UMECRA Annual Meeting

Gladstone, MI

January 19th, 2019

Call to Order – the meeting was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 2:06 pm.

- Meeting procedures: Jon explained that he would like the meeting to proceed informally yet orderly to insure everyone had a chance to be heard. He asked that individuals wishing to speak, wait until they are recognized and to use the available microphones.
- Roll Call of Rides/Quorum/Majorities: Bruce called for Ride representation. Thirty (30) rides responded as being present with sixty-one (61) ride delegates, four (4) Rider Reps and one (1) Vet Rep for a total of sixty-six (66) voting delegates. Quorum was met with better than 40% of the rides present. Simple majority n= thirty-four (34), two-thirds majority n= fortyfour (44).
- Official vote counters: Peggy Goberg and Ainsley Suskey were identified as the meetings official vote counters.

Approval of 2018 Annual Mtg. Minutes – the January 27th, 2018 Annual Meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Sec./Treas. Reports – Profit and Loss Comparisons (P&L) and copies of the Balance Sheet had been distributed in delegate packets for members to review. There being no additions/corrections to either the P&L statements or the Balance Sheet, they were approved by unanimous consent. (P&L and Balance Sheet are attached)

- 2019 Insurance: costs are expected to be similar to last season. Bruce will be in contact with Ride Managers concerning insurance needs and will submit that information for appropriate quotes of cost. Bruce shared that he had been asked by the board to inquire about

increasing coverage from \$1 million to \$3 million and possibly changing dates of coverage (i.e. policy period). He anticipates being able to share his findings with the BoD at the March board meeting.

- Audit/Internal Peer Review: The Internal Peer Review committee of Tony Troyer, (Chair), Dr. Elford, Maxine Bernsdorf, Sandra Wright and Ken Meyer reported the results of their peer review to the general assembly. The committee noted that a few receipts were missing and that Bruce would follow up by locating those receipts by the March Board of Directors meeting. The committees report was approved upon motion of Tony, second by Roberta Harms.

- Membership Report: the membership report (included in delegate packets) was briefly discussed and it was noted that there was an increase in total memberships of +41 new members.

2019 Ride Schedule – copies of the ride schedule were also included in the delegates packet.

Sanctioning Coordinator Joslyn Seefeldt recorded the few corrections noted and will make the necessary changes. The 2019 ride schedule was approved as amended by motion of Linda Mower, seconded by Tony Troyer. The updated schedule will be subsequently posted to the UMECRA web-site. It was also noted that ride flyers are due by February 1st.

Old Business – Nicole reported that the Promotions Committee has been working on procuring an online store featuring the UMECRA logo. Look for more information about this in the near future.

- Comp Score Sheet: Dr. Elford briefly described the addition of the “zero points” line to the sheet and offered to meet with anyone after the meeting to discuss any other items concerning the score sheet. The addition of the zero points line was approved by unanimous consent.

- ICF Annual Report: Bill Suskey gave a brief overview of the International Competitive Fund and reported its balance as: \$6806.25 as of December 31st, 2018.

- Motion to approve the addition of Bylaw Definitions as Appendix B, page 11 to the bylaws – Jon provided some background on the development of the proposed addition of the definitions (to help clarify terms/language used in our bylaws) and a motion to approve the addition of the definitions as Appendix B, page 11 was made by Peggy Pasillas, seconded by Lynda Zimmerman. Motion was approved unanimously. (Appendix B attached)

- Motion to approve changes to Article IV, Sec. 5 – this proposed Bylaw change as brought forward by the Bylaws Committee: (words inserted/added are underlined; words removed are struck out) “Article IV, Sec. 5, President, sub section (d) To be eligible to be elected, a nominee for President: must be present and a delegate to the meeting at which the election is held, must be; 1) A current UMECRA Ride Manager or former Ride Manager; 2) Who has been a UMECRA Ride Manager during at least three (3) seasons in the past five (5) seasons, or who has been a Delegate in the preceding two (2) years”. A motion to approve these changes was made by Tony Troyer, seconded by Dr. Elford and was concurrently approved by a unanimous vote (prior notice of both proposed bylaw changes had been posted in the UMECRA newsletter).

New Business – the Rules Committee brought forward the following rule change proposals:

- General Rule 5 Awards - C: to remove item C; “Horses that tie will receive identical placings and the next placing will be omitted. [IE: 1st, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, etc.]” from General Rule 5 and place it in the Competitive Rules section under Rule 2 – Management Requirements -H. And add the following language to this item for clarity; “Points to be awarded will be that of the placing. [IE: If two riders tie for first place in a 25-mile ride, the points awarded, 11 will be given to each first-place rider. No rider would receive second place points.]” Bruce Birr motioned to approve said changes. Motion was seconded by Dr. Elford. Motion was approved unanimously.

- Endurance Rule 12 Ties: to rewrite the current language to help clarify the rule concerning ties occurring in Endurance rides, and to distinguish it from the Competitive rule concerning ties, and without changing the current practice of the rule. The current wording of Rule 12 is: In the case of ties, the points to be awarded shall be the sum of the positions divided by the number of people who tied. (* note: this rule is underlined to denote that it is stricter than or different from AERC rules). Proposed changes: Horses that tie will receive identical

placings and the next placing will be omitted, (IE: 1st, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, etc.) Points to be awarded shall be the sum of the positions divided by the number of riders who tied. (IE: if two riders tie for first place in a 50-mile event, the points awarded, $22+20=42$. $42/2=21$, 21 points will be awarded to each first-place rider.) Tony Troyer motioned that proposed changes to Endurance rule 12 be approved, second by Tracy Johnson. Motion was approved unanimously.

- Endurance Rule 9 – item B: the proposed change to Endurance Rule 9 was the elimination of item B of the rule which states: “Horses passing the P/R parameters shall remain at the check area for the time specified, but a minimum of 20 minutes. (underlined to show difference from AERC rules) The BoD, at its morning meeting, decided to withdraw this agenda item from the general meeting agenda and send it back to the Rules Committee for further review/study. There were no comments/questions from the general assembly and the proposal will return to the rules committee.

- AERC Rule L4.1: Jon reminded RM's of the change to the Limited Distance rule allowing a rider to use the entire ride time to complete the ride, and have an additional 30 minutes to meet completion criteria including pulse recovery. This rule takes effect for the 2019 ride season.

- New Business from the Floor: 1) A member asked for a clarification about rules pertaining to Juniors and their Sponsors, asking specifically if it was permissible for a Sponsor to allow the Junior to change sponsors on trail because the sponsor felt they were holding the junior back by going slower than the junior. Jon indicated that this specific action is not permissible per AERC/UMECRA rules. Additional scenarios were discussed and comments/suggestions were shared and discussed. Jon summarized the discussion by stating that there are specific AERC rules governing the Junior/Sponsor relationship and that both UMECRA RM's and members should become familiar with them to avoid any problems/issues. 2) Lisa Doctor, UMECRA member, introduced herself and shared with the group that she is the Trails Grant Liaison for AERC. She invited members wanting information about trail grants/trail advocacy to contact her.

Elections – elections were held as follows:

- Vice President: Tony Troyer, nominated by Barb Gardner, seconded by Ruth Casserly. There were no other nominations. Tony was approved as Vice President.

- Sec./Treas.: Bruce Birr, nominated by Linda Hamrick, seconded by Peggy Pasillas. No other nominations were received, Bruce was approved as Sec. Treas.

- Ill. Representative: Nicole Mauser-Storer nominated by Roberta Harms, seconded by Linda Mower. There were no other nominations from the floor, Nicole was approved as the Ill.

Rep.

- Mi Representative: Sandra Wright was nominated by Lisa Germann, seconded by Diane Maxey. There being no other nominations Sandra was approved as the Mi. Rep.

- Two At-Large Representatives: Barb Gardner was nominated by Katie Bachhuber, seconded by Roberta Harms, Peggy Pasillas nominated by Jan Sasena, seconded by Lynda Zimmerman and Bill Suskey nominated by Samantha Donath, seconded by Dr. Rae Birr. Peggy and Bill were elected as the two At-Large Reps.

- Announcements – 2020 Convention to be held on the weekend of January 17-19@ the Holiday Inn of Stevens Point, Wi. Kim Fosler is the Chair of the Convention Committee.

Adjournment – Katie Bachhuber moved to adjourn at 3:43 pm., seconded by Tracy Johnson. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Bruce Birr,

UMECRA Sec./Treas.



Shining Light Award Winner – Lori Windows!!

To My UMECRA Family,

I cannot express clearly enough how honored, surprised, and thankful I am for the great presentation at UMECRA's Awards Banquet on January 19th. I can also not express how disappointed I am that I was not there!!! It seems like an oxymoron for a dog musher to say they couldn't get to a destination because of snow! Distance Riding has been my passion ever since my first ride in 1982, and the people with whom I have ridden, especially my fellow UMECRA members, have been more family to me than my real family. Only you have seen the REAL me, seen me frustrated, sad, elated, proud, and humble. I doubt anyone has ever seen me in tears except for you.

May I take a little of your time and space to reflect just on my 36 years of Distance Riding:

Most beautiful ride ever: Big Horn

Most Challenging ride ever: 2000 Yellowstone Ride – temperatures rivaling those in HELL

Best marked trails: Anything by Linda Jacobson

Most enjoyable rides: Anything with Elinore and Mona's games on trail and after awards

Biggest sense of accomplishment: Watching my numerous "ducklings" accomplish THEIR goals, not only at rides but in life

Most incredible equine ever ridden: Shaman of the Wallows

Most admired fellow riders: toss up – Louise Riedel and Grace Ramsey

Ride that impresses "nonrider" the most: Shore to Shore

Biggest disappointment ever: 2018 Big River and the passing of Bannarr. And the loss of my second mule, The Postman. Pasture accident ended his career and life.

Best advice ever: from 9 year old Joey Mattingley. "Don't start a ride any faster than you can finish.

Most memorable ride: Oh my gosh, do you have the time? Here are a few:

One of the first rides I ever attended. Up near Chicago with my mare, Wallowa. A huge storm rolled in right after vetting in. I had no rain blanket, no waterproof place to sleep. I had basically nothing. I was packing up to go home when a race volunteer said I could come to their house in a suburb and Lowa could stay in the garage. I was

so impressed. So that night, we picketed Lowa in the garage and I cooked my hosts the steaks I had brought. The thunder was amazing, and when I looked out the kitchen window, I saw the garage door opening and closing, glimpsing Lowa standing patiently every time the door was open. Noted, we won the comp ride the next day.

Tevis 2002. Should be enough said, but of course consider the source. After being knocked to ground at the beginning by the arrogant Potato Richardson, Gandie and I recovered to achieve a respectable completion. Forget the fact I got lost in the last 1/2 mile but as usual, Gandie saved me.

1994 Point Chaser, 2 days of 50's. Deb Olson on the incredible Spruce Sarta, unbeaten in 22 consecutive rides, and I on my incredible Benny. We ran together for 49 1/2 miles and agreed to race the final 1/2 mile. Rick Nelson and Kim Bruno were crewing for me, and as they came to the finish line, anticipating a run off, they found people in lawn chairs to watch the race. Kimmy lost it and told them to get the Hell out of the way. "But we are 20 feet from the finish," said some observer. "That horse stops for NOTHING." How she knew Benny. The race off was in my favor. The next morning, I got in line at below freezing temps to vet in for a second run off. Deb's horse could not vet in. As she pulled out of the grounds, she said, "The king is dead. Long live the king." She did not mean it literally, but Spruce Sarta died in a pasture accident that winter. Benny went on to win that day's 50 only 4 minutes slower than the previous, UMECRA's Endurance championship that year and Riders's Choice.

Off Road Warrior, 2014. Ella had enjoyed an incredible season but we were down to the last ride of the year for a chance to win AERC Best Condition Championship. In Texas, we raced it off with Gunnar Frank. Together the two of us completed the 50 in 1st and 2nd place, but how was I going to win BC against a 200 + pound rider who was such good friends with the judging veterinarian that the later had written a poem about the former? Well, we did. 2017's Kettle 100. My first 100 miler ever on Flair's Black Jack. 30 years later my 50th 100 mile completion on Ella. First Place and BC! What a history!

I am going to stop now because just thinking about these and the thousands and thousands of miles and memories are making me weak and blubbering. I just want to thank UMECRA again for those memories. More importantly, I want to thank the equines who made those memories for me: Wallowa; Shaman of the Wallowas, Wallowa's Dreamer, Flairs Black Jack, Galamon, Ibn Ben Bask, JA Bannarr, Nelly's Thunder, Red Satin Star, Seger's Accompany Me, Martinah, Gandie, The Postman, and Ella N Fires Jane Doe. Some have crossed No Hand Bridge and are awaiting me. I will be with all of them again someday.

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Clinics!!

Clinics are a great way to introduce new people to our sport! This year there are 3 clinics being offered within the UMECRA family! Please share these with anyone you know who is interested in learning more about the sport!

April 7th – Wisconsin – Introduction to Distance Riding. J&J Stables 6723 State Road 81, Platteville, Wisconsin 53818. Contact Tracy Johnson at 608.209.2516 or on Facebook at DRAW Clinic 2019 for more information!

April 20th – Minnesota - Morning Session – Introduction to Distance Riding – What you need to know to get started. (9am – 12), Break out sessions after lunch on multiple topics. Afternoon Session – So you want to do 50's and beyond! (1:30pm – 4:30pm). For more information contact: Peggy Pasillas email: peggy@pasillas.net or 651.353.7959 or check it out on Facebook at 2019 MN Distance Riding Clinic.

May 10-12th - Minnesota. This is will be a hands-on opportunity to experience a ride and the whole camping experience. Designed to provide information and experience to novices in both Novice and Intro style rides. For more information contact: Peggy Pasillas email: peggy@pasillas.net or 651.353.7959.

Time to Start Planning Your Ride Season!

2019 Ride Date	Ride Name	Location	State	RM Last Name	RM Email
4/13-14	Brighton Competitive Trails Spring	Howell	MI	Lisa Germann	lgermann08@comcast.net
5/10 - 5/12	Novice Clinic	Rogers	MN	Peggy Pasillas	peggy@pasillas.net
5/4-5	MnDRA I	Hinckley	MN	Theresa Meyer	thmeyer753@gmail.com
5/4-5	White River Spring	Hesperia	MI	Kari Hanes	montaleearabians@gmail.com
5/10-12	Glacier Trails	Palmyra	WI	Ramona Radtke	ward.elizm@gmail.com
5-18-19	Border Battle Boogie	Cushing	WI	Deb Moe	borderbattle@mndra.com
5/25-26	Grand Island	Rapid River	MI	Kathy Macki	k_macki@yahoo.com
6/1-2	AHDRA's Endure Ride	Chandlerville	IL	Nicole Mauser-Storer	n.mauserstorer@huskers.unl.edu
6/1-2	Maplewood West	Pelican Rapids	MN	Sarah Peltier	peltier.sa@gmail.com
6/8-9	White River Summer	Hesperia	MI	Kari Hanes	montaleearabians@gmail.com
6/8-9	ApDRA	Palmyra	WI	Dawn Haas	jehaas@centurytel.net
6/15-16	SE Minn	Preston	MN	Diane Schmidt	diannerusty01@gmail.com
6/22-23	Grand Island North	Limestone	MI	Karen Bahrman	kbahrman@gmail.com
6/29-30	Dead Dog Creek	Kinmundy	IL	Linda Mowrer	ridedeaddog@hotmail.com
7/5-6	Endless Valley	Arena	WI	Linda Jacobson	jdisawesome@lycos.com
7/13-14	AHAM-Hopkins Creek	Manton	MI	Gene Dake	dedake6196@gmail.com
7/13-14	Mosquito Run	Rogers	MN	Peggy Pasillas	peggy@pasillas.net
7/20-21	AHDRA I - My Backyard	Brimfield	IL	Sarah Mowrer	ridedeaddog@hotmail.com
7/20-21	Pine Marten	Wetmore	MI	Karen Bahrman	kbahrman@gmail.com
7/26-	Bonecrusher	Palmyra	WI	Amber	endurochiro3@gmail.com

28				Erickson	
7/27-28	Northern Lightz Run	Twin Valley	MN	Diane Schermerhorn	dasher09@gmail.com
8/3-9	Shore-to-Shore	L. Huron to L. Michigan	MI	Bruce Birr	bbirr@centurytel.net
8/10-11	Louise Reidel Memorial	Arkdale	WI	Elinor Tonsor	helinoretonsor@earthlink.net
8/17-18	Rock River Charity	Franklin Grove	IL	Tony Troyer	il4aerc@aol.com
8/17-18	Run for the Cactus	Granite Falls	MN	Sarah Maass	sarahmaass@hotmail.com
8/24-25	Northern Highland	Conover	WI	Laurie Henschel	ridgeviewwalkers@frontiernet.net
8/31-9/2	White River Fall-Labor Day	Hesperia	MI	Kari Hanes	montaleearabians@gmail.com
9/7-8	Charity Cup	Pillager	MN	Darlene Molitor	valleycreek1@gmail.com
9/7-8	Keweenaw	Marquette	MI	Karen Jarvi	kjarvi0914@gmail.com
9/7-8	Lincoln Trail	Kinmundy	IL	Ruth Stewart	rrstewart2002@yahoo.com
9/14-15	Colorama Classic	New Prospect	WI	Pam Cotton	hellsbellsfarm@gmail.com
9/21-22	Run for the Ridge	Granite Falls	MN	Sarah Maass	sarahmaass@hotmail.com
9/28-29	Metro Park Express	Milford	MI	Mindy Nagy	melindasmeyers@gmail.com
10/4-6	DRAW Festivus	Palmyra	WI	Sherry Aune	aunesherry@hotmail.com
10/12-13	Iron Oak	Arkdale	WI	Ruth Casserly	casserlytimruth@gmail.com
10/12-13	Oak Leaf Run	Hamilton	MI	Barb Kurti	silverheartsfarm@yahoo.com
10/18-19	Point Chaser	Theilman	MN	Holly Egerer	regerer287@aol.com
10/26-27	AHDRA III - Big River	Keiths burg	IL	Jim Andriakos	cgswwimcoach@yahoo.com

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



PRESIDENT

Jon Wagner
W359 N 8280 Brown Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
920-342-0958
jwagner288@wi.rr.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Tony Troyer
867 N 45th Road
Earlville, IL 60518
815.539.7375
il4aerc@aol.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Bruce Birr
1633N W, Kendll Road
Manistique, MI 49854
906.341.8562 Home
906.286.1991 Cell
bbirr@centurytel.net

POINTS KEEPER

Robin Schadt

7342 W 115th Street
Worth, IL 60482
708.280.8241
robinschadt@aol.com

**REGIONAL DIRECTORS
ILLINOIS**

Nicole Mauser-Storer
201 S Cameron Lane
Bartonville, IL 61607
618.868.2999
n.mauserstorer@huskers.unl.e

MICHIGAN

Sandra Wright
6639 Golf Club Road
Howell MI 48843
734.748.3634
sandraowright@gmail.com

MINNESOTA

Sarah Maass
60693 State Hwy 4
Fairfax, Mn 55332
507-340-7859
sarahmaass@hotmail.com

WISCONSIN

Laurie Henshel
N8969 Cty 00
Clintonville, Wi 54929
715-250-3242
ridgeviewwalkers@frontiernet.net

AERC REGIONAL REPS

Connie Caudill – Ride
Sanctioning
812-967-5973
Angie Mickelson
701.690.1563

**SANCTIONING
COORDINATOR**

Joslyn Seefeldt
5738 Klug Road
Milton, WI 53563
608.774.7490
joslynsfiberfarm@aol.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Peggy Pasillas
9928 Rich Valley Blvd
Inver Grove Hgts MN 55077
651-450-7959
peggy@pasillas.net

UMECRAnews@gmail.com

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Peggy Pasillas
9928 Rich Valley Blvd
Inver Grove Hgts MN 55077
621.353.7959
peggy@pasillas.net
Bill Suskey
5605 W Pine Lane
Mequon, WI 53092
262.242.9402
hellsbellsfarm@gmail.com

VETERINARY REP

Wes Elford
N9140 Cty Road V
Mayville, WI 53050
920.948.1078

wselford@sbcglobal.net

WEBSITE EDITOR

Nicole Mauser- Storer
201 S Cameron Lane
Bartonville, IL 61607
309.697.5591
n.mauserstorer@huskers.unl.edu

RIDER REPS

Max Bernsdorf
N5630 Hwy 42
Kewaunee, WI 54216
920-255-1102
miranch@hotmail.com

Janette Sasena

17185 Pheasant Meadow Ln SW
Prior Lake, MN 55372
952.292.2973
janettesasena@mac.com

Lynda Zimmerman
130-8th St. NW
Maple Lake, Mn 55358
612-804-4387
blz@usfamily.net

Tracy Johnson

404 Allen St.

Cambridge, Wi 53523
608-209-2516
tracyj6907@hotmail.com