

Dr. Beecher Shining Light Award – 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 mentor 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!