

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



“Always find opportunities to make someone smile, and to offer random acts of kindness in everyday life.” – Roy T Bennett

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Do you have old newsletters?

Do you have a box, drawer, 3-ring binder with old UMECRA newsletters? I'm in search of old newsletters, 2003 and earlier. If you have some, please contact:

Theresa Meyer thmeyer753@gmail.com

Looking for final point standings? Go to UMECRA.com to see the 2024 year end awards.

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Convention is for everyone!

It doesn't matter if you are getting an award or not – convention is a great place to catch up with your ride friends and meet new people! We have an amazing speaker – check out her bio - so you have the opportunity to learn new things too. Did I mention the silent auction? So many creative, fun and useful items to bid on!

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New Technology Committee.

The UMECRA BoD is creating a Technology Committee and we're

looking for UMECRA members who would like to join this team. Ideally, you'd be a self-described techy geek interested in helping us with a few upcoming projects including website, data automation, and other fun things that might make things easier for the organization, its ride managers, and its members. Ideally, we're looking to meet once/month via zoom. If you're interested, please reach out to Deb Moe at debralmoe@gmail.com.

Treasurer Position Update During the recent April BoD meeting, we appointed an interim treasurer, Janet Cram, to replace Deb Moe. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, Janet is no longer able to continue. Therefore, Deb will resume as Treasurer. Please mail checks to:

Deb Moe - Treasurer
2632 County Road G
Emerald, WI 54013. With the recent upgrade to Quickbooks online, several enhancements will be implemented to cut down on the manual entry of data. Additionally, Janet will continue to assist Deb with certain bookkeeping tasks. Thank you for your patience during these transitions. Clinic Insurance
If you are considering putting on a clinic in 2025 and would like UMECRA insurance, the Board has approved a 100% subsidy of your insurance costs if the request for insurance is received by

January 30th, 2025. If you apply after that date, UMECRA will contribute \$22.50 toward the costs which are \$45/day for the event and \$20 for each additional insured required. Please email Deb (debralmoe@gmail.com) for instructions on how to apply for Clinic Insurance. Ride Manager

Resources: <https://payumecra.com/ridemanagers>

Thank you to the ride managers who adopted using the Ride Manager Resources page on the payumecra.com website to retrieve the insurance certificates and insurance fees. In addition to insurance information, you can find links to submit your ride flyer, submit your Annual Meeting Delegate information, links to the sanctioning rules and handbook, a ride manager checklist and more. We plan to continue to use this tool. If you encounter issues using it, please reach out to Deb Moe for assistance.

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The Rule Box

Per UMECRA Rules:
SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS
2. UMECRA RULES

D. Ride managers must announce their mileage to the UMECRA Sanctioning Coordinator at least seven (7) days before the annual meeting; otherwise, they will receive the same mileage as the previous year. Corrections and/or adjustments can be made during the annual meeting before voting to approve the schedule. (2017) E. The names of official delegates to the annual meeting must be submitted in writing or orally to the UMECRA Secretary prior to the meeting (cut-off date to be announced). (2017)(2020) 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 within ten (10) calendar days. (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)

G. Changes to a scheduled ride must be submitted to the Sanctioning Coordinator for Board approval 60 days in advance of the ride start date or to the Executive Board for their approval or as early as possible in emergency situations.

Sanctioning votes by the Board can be taken via email. Members without email will be contacted by the UMECRA President.

H. New rides will be given priority in order of application. The \$10 surcharge for new rides will be in effect.

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Elections!

Are you interested in serving on the UMECRA Board of Directors? The board meets three times a year in person (November/January/April) and is active on group email throughout the year. The following positions are up for election in January 2025. Each of these positions would serve two years.

2025 Open Positions

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Illinois Director at Large (must be a ride manager in Illinois)
- Michigan Director at Large (must be a ride manager in Michigan)
- Director at Large
- Director at Large

If you are interested in any of the open positions, please write up a description of yourself and why you want to serve. Nominations can come from the convention floor or can be submitted in advance by email to the UMECRA Secretary,

Janet Sarver at jsarver662@gmail.com. Deadline is January 10, 2025.

Voting Delegates Needed

2024 Ride Managers – each sanctioned ride must have voting delegates declared before the UMECRA annual meeting on January 18, 2025. Please provide the names to Janet Sarver, UMECRA Secretary, at jsarver662@gmail.com by Jan 10th, 2025.

Awards Nominations are open!

UMECRA Senior Equine Award - This award honors the equine 20 years of age and older that accrues the highest number of points plus miles during the season.

- The equine may compete in multiple divisions (endurance, limited distance, competitive, novice, driving) and with any number of riders.
- The equine must complete at least 4 rides to be eligible.
- Owners must nominate their equine by sending the form (found on the UMECRA.com award page) to Points Keeper Amber Davis at Ajdavis.aussies@gmail.com. The form must be accompanied by proof of age (registration papers or vet letter or other evidence for unregistered animals).
- There is no fee to nominate and the nomination carries over from year to year.

UMECRA Riders Choice Award

This award is presented annually at the UMECRA Convention by attending members. The guidelines to be considered when nominating and voting for a horse for this honor are:

- A horse with superior ability in its division
- A horse that has been a consistent competitor
- A horse that has shown its ability to overcome setbacks
- A horse the nominator feels is a superior representative of the "Distance Horse"

Please send a write up and a photo of a horse you want to nominate to the UMECRA Secretary, Janet Sarver at jsarver662@gmail.com. The due date for nominations is January 10, 2025.

Hey Ride Managers – time to start thinking about your voting delegates! You will need to use the link below to submit your rides voting delegates at the convention in January.

Here's a direct link that'll drop folks right to that spot on the page:

<https://payumecra.com/ridemangers#delegates>

Proposed Bylaw Changes for Convention

UMECRA Rule change proposals for January 18, 2025

The following are UMECRA rule change proposals coming to the upcoming General Meeting.

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UMECRA Rules 4. Rider Requirements

M. The UMECRA website: www.umecra.com, shall serve as the official process of notification of ride results and point standings. Ride results and points printed therein become official 30 days after the publication date to the website (Publication dates will be logged on the site.)

a. Riders are responsible for checking ride results and point standings for any potential errors in a timely manner and must report any suspected errors to the Points Keeper and Ride Manager within the 30 days of the publication date. Any discrepancies in the attempts by the Points Keeper, rider and/or the Ride Manager to resolve any suspected errors must be forwarded to the UMECRA Secretary. The UMECRA Secretary will inform the Executive Board of Directors of such discrepancies. The UMECRA Board of Directors will be responsible for the final resolution of these issues in a timely fashion.

b. **The year-end final points and standings published on www.umecra.com will become official the day before Thanksgiving. Riders must check their year-end points, standings, and miles and report any discrepancies before this date. Please note that although the last ride results, final year-end points, standings and miles may be available on the website for less than 30 days, it is the**

responsibility of the riders to review and address any issues before the deadline.

(2020) (2022)

Rationale: This moves the deadline for Final Points review to the day before Thanksgiving so that the Awards Committee has more time to inform the award winners and gather their award choice/color/size, etc. The 30-day period for the Final Points pushed the gathering of prize information until mid-December which does not give adequate time for purchase, shipping, embroidery and other artwork in some cases.

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UMECRA RULES

4. RIDER REQUIREMENTS

E. While the welfare of an equine participating in a ride is the primary responsibility of the rider, it is also the responsibility of everyone participating in the event whether as a rider, crew member, ride official, veterinarian or spectator to protect the welfare of equines at the ride. Any inhumane treatment of horses **an equine** may be cause for disqualification.

Rationale: This adds a portion of AERC’s Rule 12 to UMECRA rules so that it covers competitive trail riders/equines. It also includes those people present at an event who might also witness inhumane treatment and can report it. Previous rule could be viewed as limited to the riders, ride managers and veterinarians.

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UMECRA General Rule

2. Management requirements

I. If ride management, veterinarians, rider(s), crew, volunteer(s), or family feels that any person(s) have been abused or harassed by a member, they have the right to notify ~~the~~ **a Board Member who will respond. The Board Member will forward the information to the President or Vice President who will notify the Board.**

· Upon review, the Board will ask for comment from the **complainant**, alleged offending member and other people who might have witnessed the event.

· If deemed warranted, the Board will privately warn that member; part of the warning being that if the offense continues, the member will be publicly warned.

· If the conduct continues, the Board can take whatever further action it deems appropriate, including prohibiting the member from entering or attending a ride or from managing any other UMECRA event in the future. (2024)

Rationale: Clarifies a step that was vague, about how a board member passes on information of this nature to the rest of the board.

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UMECRA Board Meeting

November 16, 2024

Quality Inn, Lodi Wisconsin

Present: Robin Schadt, Sherry Aune, Kim Fosler, Theresa Meyer, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Sarah Mower, Crystal Esqueda, Barb Gardner, Debbie Weisbecker, Peggy Pasillas, Emily Schupp, Janet Sarver

Others: Jan Sasena, Linda Jacobsen, Ann DeLang

Absent: Sarah Maass, Alana McNutt, Karen Jarvi

Meeting called to order by Robin at 10am
4/6/24 board minutes approved.

Secretary report – Janet reviewed activities of summer actions by the board. Report was motioned, seconded and approved.

Treasurer summary – Deb stated that club finances remain steady and that postage costs increased due to mailing out ride books. Conversion to online finance program is complete. This will provide a new way to submit expense reports which include reimbursement requests, trail grant approvals, and card purchases. Ride fees are holding steady and memberships are also holding steady at 291 total. Trail grants are down this year. Motion to approve, seconded. Treasurer report approved.

Committee reports

Vet committee – Recruitment of vets continues. Positive reviews on the vet students that came to some of the rides this year.

Rules committee

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on www.umecra.com will become official the day before

Thanksgiving. Riders must check their year-end points, standings, and miles and report any discrepancies before this date. Please note that although the last ride results, final year-end points, standings and miles may be available on the website for less than 30 days, it is the responsibility of the riders to review and address any issues before the deadline.

(2020) (2022)

Request to bring Rule M. off the table and suggest the a. and b. section. Theresa moved and Peggy seconded. Approved. This will be voted on at the annual meeting.

UMECRA Rules 4. Rider Requirements

E. While the welfare of an equine participating in a ride is the primary responsibility of the rider, it is also the responsibility of everyone participating in the event whether as a rider, crew member, ride official, veterinarian or spectator to protect the welfare of equines at the ride. Any inhumane treatment of horses **an equine** may be cause for disqualification.

Theresa moved for the change as highlighted. Motion to approve, seconded. Approved. Will go to membership.

UMECRA General Rule 2. Management requirements

I. If ride management, veterinarians, rider(s), crew, volunteer(s), or family feels that any person(s) have been abused or harassed by a member, they have the right to notify ~~the a Board Member who will respond.~~ **The Board Member will forward the information to the President or Vice President who will notify the Board.**

- Upon review, the Board will ask for comment from the **complainant**, alleged offending member and other people who might have witnessed the event.
- If deemed warranted, the Board will privately warn that member; part of the warning being that if the offense continues, the member will be publicly warned.
- If the conduct continues, the Board can take whatever further action it deems appropriate, including prohibiting the member from entering or attending a ride or from managing any other UMECRA event in the future. (2024)

Motion to approve, seconded. Discussion.

Suggestion to add complainant to the first bullet point. Motion to approve suggestion, seconded. Approved. Will go to membership

Awards committee – Jan Sasena gave a report on the new vendor. Review of first LD rider tshirts process. Form will be changed for rider manager to send form directly to Jan who will direct to the vendor . Secretary will update the form with new

information with cost forwarded to the treasurer. Discussion of the design on the back of the UMECRA award jacket. Peggy made a motion that all UMECRA jackets will be standardized. Motion seconded and approved. Midwest Distance Drivers Association (MDDA) would like to subsidize the cost of an award jacket for their top driver starting in 2024. Motion to approve, seconded. Approved.

Technology committee – Robin proposed a committee to coordinate technology, website and social media. Deb Moe and Nicole will be co-chairs. A request will be made for volunteers who are interested in this area.

Convention update - Kim reported that a contract was signed for Holiday Inn on the west side of Madison for January 17-19, 2025. The previously arranged speaker is unable to attend so a search will start for another presenter.

Minnesota will host the next convention in 2025.

Ride Representative reports – Crystal reported on her survey of members: 1) question about new point system that adds in mileage; 2) issue of top ten vs elite eight awards; 3) online registration for UMECRA rides; 4) GPS tracking ability for trails at rides; 5) new ideas for member recognition. Discussion of structure of points for awards. This will go to the awards and points committees for review. Debbie reported that she showed riders the resource on the UMECRA website. She will write something for the newsletter. Sherry stated that she enjoyed connecting with people, suggested identification of board members and rider reps at rides.

Old Business

Protest Investigation Process – Janet has gathered different protest forms from equine organizations and will work to develop a draft of a form

Ride Manager Code of Conduct – referred to committee

International Competition (USEF) – no news at this time

New Business

2025 Ride Calendar - Theresa presented the draft. Discussion of inquiry from Distance Riders of Manitoba about sanctioning with UMECRA.

Electronic ride registration/payment to ride managers – question about developing this capability for all UMECRA rides. There is a current website that a ride manager can purchase this feature for their ride that Deb Moe can set up for their ride upon request for a reasonable fee. This will be tabled for now.

Ride with GPS service/club membership – this is a website that can be purchased by an individual at \$80 or a club at \$250. If UMECRA purchases the membership, any ride manager could use it for free to map their trails. Motion for UMECRA to spend \$250 to purchase a year membership for 2025. Seconded. Approved.

Recognition of lifetime mileage for 1000 mile horses competed by non-members – discussion of pros and cons. Current rule practice will not change. Riders need to be UMECRA members.

Intro vs. Novice rides – motion that intro ride entries be subject to the \$2.50/rider reporting fee charged the same rider fee as novice ride entries require. Seconded. Approved. This will be voted on at the annual meeting.

Horse Protection Act – inquiries have been made by board members about this new law. Will wait for clarification from AERC.

Elections - Vice President (Peggy), Treasurer (Deb), Illinois Rep (Nicole), Michigan Rep (Karen), Director at Large (Emily), Director at Large (Theresa). Appointments are also open for newsletter and sanctioning coordinator. General meeting is adjourned at 2:02pm. Closed session.

UMECRA Convention

2025 Convention – January 17-19, 2025

Holiday Inn & Suites Madison West, 1109
Fourier Dr, Madison, WI 53717

Be sure to use the Booking Code "UMECRA" to count towards the total room count - if the total is not reached UMECRA is responsible for room costs and this can be avoided by using the code when booking your room.

2025 Convention Awards Banquet - Registration is Open. Deadline to register is January 7, 2024

Please go to payumecra.com/fees to register. When the form launches, answer *No* to the first question "Are you paying for your membership?".

For any issues submitting the form, please reach out to Deb Moe. For questions regarding the convention itself or banquet meals, please reach out to Kim Fosler.

Banquet Choices*

All meals (except kids meals) include a mixed green salad and rolls with butter.

- **Sirloin Steak (\$33).** 8 oz USDA grade sirloin steak, quartered seasoned potatoes, green beans.
- **Baked Parmesan Chicken (\$29).** Chicken breast quartered with a parmesan seasoned blend, quartered seasoned potatoes, green beans.
- **Veggie Stir Fry (\$27).** Gluten Free/Vegan/Vegetarian. Stir fried vegetables array served over a bed of rice.
- **Kids Meal (\$19).** Chicken tenders & fries served with a fruit cup and milk.
- **No Meal Attendee (\$10).** Anyone not purchasing a meal who attends the morning seminar and/or afternoon meeting will be assessed \$10 to help cover room & audio rental fees.

** We are not able to refund meals purchased if you are not able to attend.*

CONVENTION SPEAKER:

JESSICA VAN BUSKIRK, OSTEOPATH

Jessica is an Equine Osteopath EDO based out of Stavely, AB. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan, attaining her Bachelors of Science in Agriculture in 2016, and from there pursued her education in Equine Osteopathy. She graduated from the Vluggen Institute of Equine Osteopathy and Education in Garwood, TX in 2019.

Jessica has had a passion for horses from a very young age, and always wanted to work in the animal health and wellness field. As an Equine Osteopath EDO, her goal with each horse is to restore balance and homeostasis in the body by drawing from the horse's own reserves and addressing the mobility of all structures in the body. Equine Osteopathy is a manual therapy that involves a whole horse approach and searching for the root problem.

She thoroughly enjoys working alongside Dr. Fancy and her staff as she believes it truly takes a team effort to help horses live and perform to their highest potential. Jessica is currently working on attaining her Canine Osteopathy Diploma and is always looking to expand her knowledge in the field.

When Jessica is not busy helping horses, she enjoys riding and barrel racing, as well as spending time with her family.

Definition of Equine Osteopathy: a drug-free, manual therapy that aims to improve the mobility and function of the horse's musculoskeletal system. It is a holistic approach that involves an understanding of the problem and its causes.

Don't forget to bring something for the silent auction! Gift baskets, handmade items, crew for someone at a ride – get creative! This is a fund raiser for UMECRA trail and scholarship funds!

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

Deadline for Next Newsletter:
 10th of each month
 Send news to:
UMECRAnews@gmail.com



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