

BOD Meeting
January 20, 2007
7:00 am

President Rick Nelson called meeting to order.

Roll call was taken: Rick Nelson, Mary Mott, Jill Feller, Peggy Brush, Howard Ketover, Maxine Bernsdorf, Wayne Gastfield, June Scheunemann, Roberta Harms, Paula Rapp, Dawn Haas, Dianne Schmidt, Joyce Mocilan, Bettina Koehn, Theresa Meyer, Kathy Schauer, Elinore Tonsor, Barb Gardner, Sheryl Levin, Sharon Hahn, Wes Elford and Tony Troyer.

Secretary minutes, as were emailed to all BOD members prior to the meeting, were approved as written.

Treasury report was approved as presented. The balance sheet reflected a total of \$27,999.23 in assets. The breakdown is: \$3100.23 in ICF Fund; \$21841.73 in checking; and \$3056.94 in Trail Fund.

Old Business:

- Drug testing: A discussion was held on drug testing within UMECRA. It was pointed out that this has seldom been done by AERC. Guest Wes Elford, a member of the veterinarian committee with AERC, explained that AERC drug testing is going through some changes right now. His recommendation was that UMECRA ride managers, officers and members in general should contact AERC with their concerns and ask that UMECRA rides be tested more frequently. This recommendation was accepted by the BOD and will be passed on to all UMECRA members.
- Vests for chevrons: At the spring 2006 BOD meeting, Maxine Bernsdorf presented an idea to award a vest to riders earning their first chevron. At that time, Maxine presented several vests created by two separate vendors, all with the UMECRA emblem but in various colors and materials. Maxine has requested that new chevron winners be presented with a \$15 certificate to be used to purchase a vest of their choice to put their chevrons on. It was also suggested that the awards committee investigate the cost of these vests to other UMECRA members and, if an interest were shown, a choice of vests would be offered to purchase at the next convention. The BOD accepted both of these ideas.
- Insurance costs: Another discussion was held concerning the cost of insurance that UMECRA will be providing to competitive rides. The motion going to the floor is to have UMECRA pay all the cost of the UMECRA insurance for the 2007 season. The projected cost of the insurance is \$4200; however this cost is based on *only* the rides that have expressed interest in using the UMECRA insurance. The cost will increase if more rides are added or if more additional insured are added to the list. If all rides under the

UMECRA umbrella were added, the cost could escalate up \$1000 - \$2000. After discussion, it was decided to keep the motion going to the floor as previously voted on in the November meeting: UMECRA pays 100% of the cost.

New Business:

- Awards committee: UMECRA is privileged to have many talented members who are willing to provide excellent quality awards to our members each year. Each year, members will be allowed to submit their bids for embroidery work on the year-end awards to the awards committee. This work is open to all UMECRA members and the lowest bid will receive the awards work for that year. No member who submits a bid for his or her services will be allowed to serve on the awards committee due to a conflict of interest.
- High Point Award: UMECRA BOD members discussed the award that is currently given for our senior and junior high point recipients. Although in the past several years, this award has been a monetary award, to maintain a fair and consistent awards process, beginning with the 2007 ride season, the high point award will be an award that is presented at the annual awards banquet and will be selected by the UMECRA awards committee.
- Dr. Wes Elford has expressed his concern regarding the release form signed by all riders at a UMECRA ride. In the past ride season, there has been a legal case brought against a ride vet and some vets are providing their own release forms. The release form provided by Dr. Elford has been sent to Art Priesz, UMECRA's legal advisor for review. This subject will be discussed in further details at the spring BOD meeting.
- Trail Master Class: At the fall BOD meeting, a decision was made to consider paying tuition for the Trail Master classes being offered by Lucy Bagot in June of 2007. This is a program through AERC, which offers instruction on the construction and maintenance of horse trails. The December newsletter contained this information; it also stated that any interested parties needed to contact a member of the BOD for consideration for the monetary assistance. Only two UMECRA members expressed interest in attending the class. The BOD voted to pay the tuition for both members (a total of \$222). The money would come out of the trail fund and the members will report back to UMECRA and be available to assist other UMECRA members with trail issues.
- Trail Grants: Two organizations requested a trail grant from UMECRA; Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Riders and the Castle Rock Trails. The BOD approved a grant for \$250 each; the money will come from the trail grant fund.

- Sheryl Levin, Peggy Brush and Tony Troyer presented an overview of a proposal to increase membership in UMECRA. The proposal was based on mailing to non-members, packets available at all rides and the creation of a Novice division. This division would encompass riders who only want to ride 12 or 15-mile distances. The riders could ride an unlimited amount of novice rides throughout the year with points being awarded. Awards would be given for first through fifth place. The membership committee asked for a budget of \$750 to work with to complete these mailings. The breakdown of these expenses was presented in detail to the BOD. A discussion followed.
 - The picture on the flyer that the membership committee wants to use is in color. It was pointed out that the cost to print that picture could be quite expensive. Sheryl stated that she would use her own printer to save these costs.
 - Theresa Meyer also presented a brochure that she is working on to use to distribute.
 - Each state hosts a horse fair and currently UMECRA pays up to \$250 for members to host a booth to advertise our sport. It was suggested that the cost of these booths remains separate for the membership proposal.
 - MNDRA pushes UMECRA membership already by requiring all MNDRA members to also be UMECRA members. They also promote the sport and the organization throughout the year.
 - Novice Division: The creation of this division is part of the membership plan. The idea is to create a situation to get new people hooked into the sport by starting them out slowly and then encourages them to move to the longer distances. An amendment was discussed and approved that the novice riders can ride as many novice rides as they choose to ride and they can ride at least one 25 or 30-mile ride during the year. They will still be eligible for “Rookie” status the following year if they move up to the longer distances. Five year-end awards will be presented for this division.
 - The Novice division will consist of one-horse/one rider teams who must compete in at least 75 miles to be eligible for awards. The rides will run under the current competitive rules.
 - The cost of awards will also be an additional cost to the organization. Mary Mott volunteered to pay for the first place Novice award.
 - Bettina suggested that the Novice be a one-year proposal and re-evaluated next fall.

Sheryl

Comment [1]: delete

- Dianne suggested that the state organizations should do a project such as this and not UMECRA.
- Kathy suggested that we promote rookie and mileage awards better to encourage people to work toward those goals.
- It was also suggested that each State, WI, IL, MN and MI, be budgeted for \$100 advertising fees. Approved.

A motion was made and seconded to approve a budget of \$1150 (this includes state money listed above) for the membership committee to work with. The creation of the Novice division will be presented to the voting membership at the annual meeting.

- AERC may possibly be moving to a 30-minute final check for endurance horses in place of the one-hour check. Joyce, our AERC representative, stated that there has been lots of mail and emails sent to AERC about this subject and we as endurance riders are strongly encouraged to contact AERC with our opinions on this subject.
- A member has requested that the purchase of back miles for a horse should be a flat \$15 fee. Currently, the cost is \$15/year to purchase these miles. Joyce pointed out that many of the mileage records are still manual and it is time consuming to sort through the miles with some of the horses. No action was taken on this request.
- A member also requested that UMECRA move to three weight divisions. After a brief discussion, no action was taken.
- A discussion on creating a convention fee was initiated. There had been some complaints about the cost of the convention fee for the current convention. It was mentioned that previous guidelines stated the convention fee should not be more than \$7.00. A committee was organized to create some guidelines to convention managers and to help govern the costs of the convention. The committee consists of Dianne Schmidt, Kathy Schauer and Jill Feller. A motion was made and seconded to take \$500 out of the general treasury and set up a convention fund. This motion was passed.
- Using Hand-held heart monitors for competitive rides: Tony Troyer experimented with using hand-held monitors for competitive rides. Although stethoscopes are the preferred method of checking a pulse for competitive rides, hand-helds could be used when ride help is at a minimum. Tony created a chart that can be used to make the scoring consistent with stethoscopes. It was pointed out that there is NO rule right now in UMECRA that forbids the use of hand-helds to be used for competitive rides. The proposal from Tony that will be presented at the general meeting is to adapt the scoring system created by Tony.

Sheryl

Comment [2]: Add

- Theresa Meyer presented several 'housekeeping rule changes".
 - For competitive rules under section 2 Management Requirements, part D number 2) Juniors under the age of 16 as of the beginning of the UMECRA ride season shall be accompanied by a sponsor. EXCEPTION: If they are between 13 and 16 and it can be validated by the UMECRA ~~secretary~~ *points keeper* that they have completed at least 500 ~~competitive-mile in competitive, limited distance or endurance.~~ They must have the approval of a parent. (Changes are in italics).
 - Under Competitive Driving Rules; General Rules, point B: Mileage of Distance Drives shall not be less than 10 miles ~~nor more than 25 miles.~~ Mileage can graduate in increments of 2.5 miles. (Strike the maximum miles).
 - UMECRA By-Laws:
 - Article III: Board of Directors; Section 1: *Louise Riedel is granted a lifetime board membership.* This sentence was removed from the by-laws
 - Article III: Board of Directors; Section 1: ~~Each year~~ *In even numbered years* four rider representatives will be elected by the membership for ~~one~~ *two*-year terms.
 - Article III: Board of Directors; Section 1: *The Veterinarian Representative will be elected to a two-year term commencing at the January 2008 convention.*
 - Article V; Officers: Section 1: *Commencing at the January 2008 convention, the President will be elected to a two-year term. Commencing at the January 2007 convention, the Vice President and the Secretary/Treasurer will be elected to a two-year term.* Said officers shall hold office ~~until the next annual meeting of the corporation or~~ until their successors are elected and qualified.
 - Article III; Vacancies; Section 2; Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors may be filled by vote of a majority of the remaining directors or by election at a meeting of the corporation. A director elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of his predecessor in office. *If an opening occurs on the Board of Directors because of an election to another position at the annual meeting, an election shall be held at that meeting to fill the unexpired term of the previous office.*
- Future UMECRA conventions: 2008 convention will be in Rockford, IL- managed by Joyce Mocilan and Tony Troyer. 2009 convention will be in Wisconsin Dells managed by Dianne

Schmidt. Dianne Schmidt also accepted the 2011 convention to be held in Minnesota (this is the next one to be held out of the 'corridor').

- Newsletter Editor: Sharon Hahn presented quotes for printing the newsletter. Three quotes were presented; one was accepted. Sharon was also appointed the new newsletter editor for 2007 & 2008.
- Barb Gardner was appointed as the new points keeper for UMECRA.
- Two UMECRA members showed interest in the sanctioning coordinator position; Elinore Tonsor and Roberta Harms. The BOD took a vote; Elinore Tonsor was appointed the new sanctioning coordinator.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller

UMECRA secretary/treasurer