

BOD Meeting January 23, 2010

Call to order: 7:15 am by President Rick Nelson

Attending the meeting: Rick Nelson, Theresa Meyer, Angie Mikkelson, Shelly Sentyrz, Peggy Pasillas, Max Bernsdorf, Dianne Schmidt, Lynn Reichert, Sharon Hahn, Wayne Gastfield, Wes Elford, Marty Powers, Linda Mower, Peggy Brush, Dawn Haas, Joslyn Seefeldt, Jill Feller

Guests: Tony Troyer & Chris Powers

Secretary's report: Secretary report had been sent out to board members in December. Dawn made a motion made to accept minutes as sent out; seconded by Maxine; Passed

Treasurer's report: Treasurer's report was presented in with a 2009 profit and loss sheet. No questions were asked about the treasurer's. Motion made by Dawn to accept the treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Dianne: Passed ***an audit of the treasurer's records was conducted on January 22, 2010 by two board members; audit passed.***

Old Business:

- **Membership committee update: (Appendix A)**
 - Marty passed out buttons that say "Ask Me About Distance Riding" along with a communication piece about the "Ask Me About Distance Riding Campaign". The buttons and letter will be provided to ride managers to use at their rides so non distance riders are enticed to ask questions and get involved with the sport. One question presented was: are the rides the best place for riders to be wearing the buttons? Aren't most equestrians at the ride there for the sport anyway? Should we be advertising elsewhere? Other suggestions that were provided by board members were: have the state organization's buy signs for their respective rides that say "Ask Me About Distance Riding". This brought up the question of should the state organizations have to pay to advertise for UMECRA? Motion was then made by Peggy to provide the membership committee a budget of \$500 to use to purchase items for promoting UMECRA: seconded by Maxine: Passed.
 - Mentors program: want to revitalize the mentor program. The committee will be presenting at the annual meeting this afternoon and announce this revitalization and asking from volunteers.
 - The committee would like to change the name Newbie to New Rider as there has been some remarks stating that Newbie is a bit degrading. There will be a link put on the UMECRA website page where all Novice rides will be listed out separately making it easier for these riders to see what rides are available to them.
 - A suggestion from the committee is to have UMECRA pay for one ride entry for a Novice with a drawing at a clinic. RM's will send certificate to Jill for reimbursement.
 - Each state in the Midwest has some sort of publication in which UMECRA can put an article along with contact information for riders to get more information. In many cases, these advertisements can be at no cost if there is an article about the sport and a link to the website however if an ad would be run, there would be a charge. The state directors will be looking for publications that can be used and get this information to the membership committee. If any UMECRA member has a publication name and contact

information that can be used for this purpose, he/she should contact Marty Powers from the membership committee. Any member wishing to write an article for UMECRA should also contact Marty.

- Also on the UMECRA website will be a FAQ page for the new riders. Any submissions for questions are welcome- contact Angie Mikkelsen with these submissions.
- **Sanctioning guideline updates: (Appendix B)**
 - No new ride should be allowed to be sanctioned if it falls within 300 miles of an established ride. Wes feels that this distance should be longer; maybe 500 miles. 300 miles had been past practice; we currently have many rides that are based on the 300-mile distance. If passed, this guideline will eliminate a ride manager from saying NO to a new ride and then the ride is dead in the water. A discussion was held as to what the distance should be; longer and then how long or stay at 300 miles. This issue will be presented at the annual meeting with three choices: leave the guideline as it currently is written, change the guideline to 301 miles or change the guideline to 501 miles. These choices will be presented at the annual meeting for a vote. Passed to go to general meeting with these three choices.
 - The guideline stays that any change to a ride distance or location needs to be presented to the sanctioning coordinator by 60 days before the ride start date. A discussion was held about emergency situations; most ride changes are because of an emergency situation such as lost of trail from logging, flooding or other unavoidable situations. The guideline was changed to add verbiage about emergency situation. Passed with the emergency verbiage in it.
 - Should the \$10 extra charge for new rides stay as is or be eliminated? A ride pays \$40/year for sanctioning; a new ride pays \$50 for the first year and \$40/year thereafter. It was decided that the \$10 extra charge will remain. The first year of a ride, the ride manager needs to be supplied with more paperwork than in subsequent years. The extra \$10 assists with the costs of this extra paperwork. Passed
 - A discussion was held in regards to eliminating the 100-mile ride 800 mile distances apart rule. Should the 800 mile distance be eliminated? Would it hurt an established 100-mile ride? After much discussion a motion was made by Marty to leave the 800-mile rule in place: seconded by Marty: Passed
 - The AERC guidelines section is being moved from the rules section to guidelines as they are AERC and UMECRA really cannot change them. These rules are in the UMECRA ride manager book as a convenience to them. Motion made by Linda; seconded by Peggy Brush to move AERC items from rules section to guidelines section of the book; PASSED
 - The ride manager book also contains verbiage of how a ride manager should report the ride results to AERC. Since this is not controlled by UMECRA, it was decided to remove this portion from the UMECRA ride manager's book.
- **Bylaw changes (Appendix C):**
 - Motion was made to change the by-laws and the use of the ICF funds. Motion made by Theresa, seconded by Marty. Motion is to allow a UMECRA ride manager to use some of these ICF funds to put on a FEI ride in the Midwest. Passed- this proposal will go to the general meeting.
- **General rule changes (There were none to be discussed)**
- **ICF committee:** In accordance with the UMCERA by-laws the ICF committee will be appointed by the President. In the past few years, there has been no activity with the ICF committee nor the ICF funds. The committee needs to be reestablished and the funds discussed. Motion was made by Sharon, seconded by Theresa that the next president of UMECRA, that is being elected

in the afternoon meeting create a proposal to present to the BOD at the spring meeting in regards to direction for the establishment of a new ICF committee. Passed.

- **Insurance:** Jill presented the cost for the 2010 insurance costs. The cost will remain the same as last year: \$45/day for the ride date and \$20 for each additional insured. UMECRA will continue to pay ½ the cost of the \$45/day, but the rides will be responsible for all costs associated with the additional insured. A list of all rides with insurance coverage will be in the next newsletter as several rides did not return their insurance request forms by the deadline and were not on the application when it was sent in to the insurance company. Any ride not listed as having insurance but would like to purchase insurance can still do so.

New Business:

- **100-mile horse program**
 - A UMECRA rider wanted the 100-mile program guidelines changed to reflect it as a standalone horse program and not a horse/rider program. Can this be switched to horse only and not horse/rider team? Currently, if a UMECRA rider nominates his/her horse for this program, the recognition is only given to the horse if the rider who nominated the horse rode the horse for the 100-mile ride. If a different rider completes a 100-mile ride with the nominated horse, the miles for the horse are not recognized for this program. Motion made by Dianne; seconded by Peggy that this is a horse program and not a horse/rider program and the horse should be awarded the recognition if a different rider completes a 100-mile ride on the horse. Passed- will be taken to the annual meeting in the afternoon for approval.
- **Increase membership costs for 2011 for members receiving hard copy NL & RB**
- Jill presented a spreadsheet to show what the costs are for printing and sending out the newsletter, ride book and membership directory hard copy. A single membership cost is \$25 but the costs for that member to receive all hard copy communications for 2009 was \$27.23. Should UMECRA increase the membership costs for 2011 for members wishing to receive hard copy newsletters and ride books? No action was taken, but this subject will be presented at the annual meeting for discussion purposes only and to bring awareness to the members.
- **Rider's Choice award**
 - A new sponsor needed for this award as the sponsor who originated the award has informed Rick that they are no longer going to sponsor the award. A new sponsor for the 2010 award has been found but need a new one is needed going forward. The award normally costs about \$50.00/year. Motion made by Dianne, seconded by Dawn that UMECRA will sponsor this award. PASSED
- **Silent auction**
 - In the past the silent auction was used to support the ICF fund and was set up and managed by the Chairperson of the ICF fund. Rick was informed by this person that they would no longer be managing the silent auction. Who will manage this event in the future? A discussion followed about the silent auction; when should it be done, who should do it, how should the funds be allocated. A motion was made by Peggy B., seconded by Linda that the silent auction be held on a yearly basis; Passed.
 - To manage the silent auction a new volunteer should be requested each year. For the 2011 convention, Peggy Brush has volunteered to manage the auction.
 - How will the funds be used? Sharon: why can't the person running the auction decide what they want the funds for? This could create some controversy with the funds. A motion was made by Dianne, seconded by Wayne that the funds are used in the

following way: 50% for trails, 25% for convention fund, 25% for scholarship fund. After discussion a friendly amendment was accepted to go with the following: the 25% for the scholarship should be split to 12.5% for scholarship and 12.5% for ICF fund. Motion passed.

- **Illinois & MN Horse Fairs**

- Linda Mower is requesting that UMECRA sponsor a booth at the Illinois Horse Fair. She and Ruth Stewart will man the booth. They are requesting \$200 for the booth. Motion made by Dawn and seconded by Theresa to pay \$200 for booth. PASSED
- Dianne requested \$250 for a booth at the MN horse fair. Motion made by Dianne seconded by Peggy B. that UMECRA pay \$250 for the MN Horse Fair booth: PASSED

- A discussion was held to hold the Saturday morning BOD meeting at the convention to Friday night so the board can enjoy the speakers. Some members may not be able to make it to the convention until late night on Friday, depending on the convention location. No change was made to the Saturday morning meeting at this time.

- **Convention prices**

- A discussion was held as to the cost of the convention fee prices. They are starting to get high and are a concern for members, especially those with families. How can the prices be lowered and kept lower? With the change in the silent auction funds; some of the funds may be used to assist in deferring the convention costs.

- A **trail grant request** was submitted by Chris Power. Chris is requesting \$200 for trail used for the Endure for the Cure ride. AERC has already provided several thousand dollars for this project. Motion made by Maxine, seconded by Sharon to grant the request. PASSED.
- **Ride Calendar-** The ride calendar was presented by Shelly. Oak Leaf run requested the July 24 & 25th date that is currently occupied by Wildcat and Salomonie Sizzler rides. Although the distance to the Wildcat ride is adequate, the distance to Salomonie Sizzler is less than 200 miles. The request was denied. Motion made by Jill, seconded by Wayne to accept the ride schedule as presented minus the Oak Leaf Run ride. PASSED. The board agreed that is the Oak Leaf Run ride would move the previous weekend in July which is an open weekend, the ride would be approved for sanctioning. *Since this meeting, the Oak Leaf Run ride has been moved to the previous weekend in July.*
- **Rider's Representatives:** The ballots were counted on Friday night by three board members. The following UMECRA members will serve as a rider representative for the next two years:
 - Maxine Bernsdorf: Julie Jackson: Marge Dixon: Bonnie Mielke
- Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Jill Feller

UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer

Appendix A

To: UMECRA Delegates

From: Membership Committee: Pam Cotton, Julie Jackson, Angie Mikkelson, Linda Mower, Marty Power

Date: January 23, 2010

The membership committee suggests the following actions be taken to increase new members and retain existing members in UMECRA

Put into action an *Ask Me About Distance Riding* campaign next year.

- Have buttons made up that say “Ask Me About Distance Riding.”
- Give each ride manager several buttons to have “mentors” wear at rides so novices and new members know who to go to to ask questions.
- Put information about the “Ask Me” buttons on the novice page on the website.
- Have signs made up to put around ride camp that say something like:
OUR HELPFUL VOLUNTEERS ARE WEARING THESE BUTTONS (insert button). FEEL FREE TO ASK THEM A QUESTION. SOME WILL BE AROUND CAMP AND EVEN SOME ON THE TRAIL. THESE PEOPLE HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP YOU IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. PLEASE UTILIZE THEIR SERVICE ☺

How should we pay for and distribute these signs to ride managers?

Revitalize the “mentors” program.

Change the name for the link on the UMECRA website from “newbie” to “novice.”

List all rides with novice clinics and novice rides clearly on the novice page on the website page. (It says they are listed but I don’t see them.)

Have UMECRA pay the cost of one novice ride to be given away at a drawing at each Novice Clinic.

Have a *Frequently Asked Questions* page added to the UMECRA website and add a link to it from the Novice page.

Appendix B

BOLD items have been added from guidelines or for clarification.

SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS

1. UMECRA RULES **PASSED A & B**

A. General Duties of the Sanctioning Coordinator

The UMECRA Sanctioning Coordinator shall act as the primary contact for all correspondence regarding ride sanctioning.

Sanctioning and scheduling of rides shall be conducted in a fair and equitable manner.

Replies between the Sanctioning Coordinator, Board, and membership regarding Sanctioning issues shall occur within seven (7) days of the initial correspondence.

The duties of the Sanctioning Coordinator shall include: facilitation of sanctioning correspondence between The Board, ride managers, and the membership, organization and communication of the ride schedule, and publication of the annual Ride Book.

Ride Sanctioning

B. (was D) The current year's ride schedule will be the precedent for the succeeding year, using Memorial Day and Labor Day as the scheduling anchors.

Generally, rides will be given the same weekend as the past year. If these dates do not work, it is up to the ride manager's responsibility to notify the Sanctioning Coordinator immediately.

C. Ride manager(s) must be AERC members. Ride veterinarians must also be AERC members (a special non-voting AERC membership for veterinarians is available.) TO

GUIDELINES

D. For rides previously on the schedule, In November of each year, the Sanctioning Coordinator shall contact ride managers with the following: 1) the proposed ride schedule for the next ride season, 2) ride insurance forms, 3) request for number of printed ride forms needed for ride 4) confirmation of ride manager contact information, 5) sanctioning fee information, and 6) a timeline for creation of the upcoming year Ride Book. PASSED

- D

E. (was B) 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.

(Was C) The names of official delegates to the annual meeting must be submitted in writing to the UMECRA Secretary prior to the meeting (cut-off date to be announced).

F. (Was E) Once the schedule is finalized at the annual meeting, no new rides may be scheduled except with Board approval. Any 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)

(Was A.) Rides are to be sanctioned by approval of the Board at least 90 days before the date of the ride or at the annual meeting. RETURN TO GUIDELINES

(Was part of E) Changes to a scheduled ride must be submitted to the Sanctioning Coordinator for Board approval ~~made~~ 60 days in advance **of the ride start date or**

to the Executive Board for their approval 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. PASSED AS AMENDED – F

G. **(was F)** New rides will be given priority in order of application. The \$10 surcharge for new rides will be in effect

H. **(was G)** The Board will attempt to limit the number of rides to three per weekend. ~~No ride may be scheduled or rescheduled for any reason on the same date as another ride without the approval of the originally scheduled ride/rides.~~

Two or more rides held on a regular schedule in alternate years shall be considered a single ride for purposes of determining scheduling precedence and delegate voting. The Board and the Sanctioning Coordinator must be informed in writing that their rides will rotate. The Sanctioning Coordinator will then inform the Board of this agreement.

PASSED H

H. No more than one 100-mile one-day ride will be scheduled on any one weekend closer than 800 miles apart. Preference will be given to the existing 100-miler. (discuss-remove?)

I. Rider points will only be given for mileage which the ride applied for, or for which notice of a mileage change has been made **at least** 60 days in advance.

J. Reject rides or other fun rides shall not be considered point-eligible rides.

K. If a UMECRA sanctioned ride offers novice classes, all fees and rules shall be observed. Novices are only eligible for year-end awards in the competitive novice division or other awards where the criteria specifically states that novice rides shall count. Novice mileage shall count for chevrons and horse mileage, but shall not be considered in determining eligibility for Restricted Mileage awards.

L. Fees

Yearly fees per ride are \$40, with a surcharge of \$10 for a first-year. **These fees cover the cost of** ~~This includes~~ **printed** ride supplies and **include** a prorate share of printing and mailing of the ride book.

If a ride organization or manager sponsors more than one event per year, the \$40 fee applies to each ride.

There is also a fee of ~~\$1.50~~ **\$2.50** per starting rider. **PASSED L**

M. Ride Cancellations

1. In the event of a forced cancellation, the ride manager shall report the cancellation to the UMECRA President, Sanctioning Coordinator and Secretary as soon as possible.

The Sanctioning Coordinator or Secretary shall notify the UMECRA Board, Newsletter Editor and the UMECRA Website Editor in writing as soon as possible.

PASSED

2. Ride managers of canceled rides shall retain voting rights for one year. PASSED

3. (was M) Ride managers who cancel their ride two years in a row will give up their ride date and forfeit their ride's voting eligibility for the second year.

2. AERC (ENDURANCE and LD ONLY) TO GUIDELINES

A. Ride managers are responsible to apply for **AERC** sanctioning. ~~in AERC.~~ Sanctioning requests should be sent to the regional sanctioning director a minimum of 120 days before the ride for approval, and the approved application must reach AERC 90 days prior to the ride. Current sanctioning fees and forms can be found on the AERC website at www.aerc.org.

There is also a surcharge for each non-AERC member entering a ride. (This includes limited distance riders **that are sanctioned by AERC.**)

B. Endurance rides must be at least 50 miles per day, but not more than 150 miles. Special event rides (Pioneer and multi-day rides) are series of rides on consecutive days -- a minimum of three days and at least 155 miles. Special Qualification rides are rides with entry qualifications other than those contained in AERC rule #3. Special event and special qualification rides shall require approval of the AERC Board of Directors for sanctioning for the first two years. These rides must contact the AERC office with their request. The online sanction form may be used, plus the ride manager must inform the AERC office that this is a Special Event or Special Qualification Ride request. Limited distance rides (at least 25 miles, but not more than 35) may also be offered but must be held in conjunction with an AERC endurance ride, if AERC sanctioning is sought.

3. REPORTING

A. UMECRA ride results, per rider reporting fees, and insurance fees must be sent to the Secretary postmarked within 14 days **of the completion of the ride**, with a penalty of \$50 for non-compliance and denial of re-sanctioning the following year if the penalty is not paid.

PASSED 3.A & 3.B,

B. Every rider who starts will be reported according to divisions (heavyweight, lightweight and junior). ~~Riders who have signed up as AERC featherweights, lightweights or middleweights must be assigned to either UMECRA lightweight or heavyweight divisions. DO NOT list UMECRA weight divisions on AERC report forms. The AERC weight division must be determined at the time of entry.~~

C. (was B) AERC results ~~will~~ **shall** be sent directly to AERC headquarters on forms provided by AERC. **TO GUIDELINES**

~~D. Both sets of results must be accompanied by the respective sanctioning fees as specified.~~

Appendix C

PASSED 1/23/10

ARTICLE III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. The property and business of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors. Only Delegates may be elected as Officers or as Directors, with the following exceptions: the Board position of Veterinarian Representative will be composed of an endurance or competitive ride veterinarian, and President (see, Article III, Section 5, below.) Authorized alternate voting delegates shall not be eligible for election for the purpose of this section. (1/25/09)

The Board shall not be less than three in number and not more than sixteen. The Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, immediate Past President, two members elected at large, or more as may be determined by majority of the Board of Directors up to a maximum of six, a Veterinarian Representative and four geographic board membership and **four rider representatives.** (1/23/10) The Veterinarian Representative will be elected to a two year term commencing at the January 2008 convention. Each state, or foreign country which maintains a minimum of 25 UMECRA memberships (individuals to count as one and families to count as two) and which hosts a minimum of five sanctioned rides in the preceding season, shall be eligible to have an official delegate from that state or foreign country nominated and elected by the official delegates to the general meeting to a two-year term as geographic board member. If more than four states or foreign countries qualify, the number of rides shall be the first qualifier for determination of which four geographic areas are eligible, followed by the number of memberships within that state or country. If still tied, the state or foreign country with the largest number of rides over the history of UMECRA shall be given priority.

One, two, or three directors at large will be elected each year for two-year terms, to stagger their service, or until their successor shall have been elected at the annual meeting by majority vote of the attending delegates at the convention. Commencing at the 1997 convention, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota will initially qualify for geographic board members. Commencing at the 1997 convention, Illinois, Michigan's geographic board members will be elected at the convention, together with one at-large board member. The geographic board positions will be filled for 1997 by current Directors at Large, Monna Radtke and Dianne Kuhn. Their geographic positions will come up for election at the 1998 convention, together with the second at-large board position. The geographic board members will be nominated by delegates from their respective states and elected by the voting delegates at large at the general meeting.

In even numbered years four rider representatives will be elected by the membership for two-year terms. They will have voting rights and any other privileges pertaining to Board membership. (1/26/02) (1-20-07)

DID NOT PASS 1/23/10 (this passed at the BOD meeting, but not at the annual meeting)

ARTICLE VIII

Standing Committees

Section 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. An Executive Committee of the Board will be made up of its President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.

Section 2. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FUND COMMITTEE.

A. A permanent committee is established to fully administer, maintain, guide and keep an international competition fund for fund-raising to assist in supporting UMECRA ride managers that host a ride event sanctioned by FEI and UMECRA members who may be selected to participate in international endurance or competitive ride events sanctioned by the FEI.

B. Committee members: The committee shall be made up of five persons as follows: a current UMECRA officer and four members at large to include a chairperson and three others. Preference shall also be given to appointing UMECRA members who are acting as Chef d'Equipe for time zone teams, generally the East or Central teams. The committee will be appointed by the UMECRA president.

C. Committee responsibilities:

1. To prepare guidelines for administration and dispersal of the fund, to be approved by the Board;
2. To prepare plans for fund-raising, to be approved by the Board;
3. To implement Board approved guidelines and plans; and
4. To furnish an annual report to the Board and membership at the general meeting, to include; financial report, fundraising report, activity/use report.

Section 3. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE. The Grievance committee shall be comprised of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may adjudicate any infraction of such rules and take such action as it deems necessary in relation to that infraction.

Section 4. AUDIT COMMITTEE. The President may, upon the affirmative action of the Board of Directors, designate two or more persons from the membership of the corporation to constitute an auditing committee, which, to the extent determined by the President, shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the auditing of the accounts of the corporation and shall have full access to all books of the corporation in the possession of any of the officers of the corporation. The Secretary/Treasurer shall submit her/his accounts to the auditing committee and any time at their request.