



**Annual Meeting
January 21, 2012
Rockford, IL**

- Meeting called to order at 1:15 pm by President.
- Roll call of voting delegates: 72 delegates; includes 5 rider reps and vet rep.
- Bob Egerer motioned that the minutes from the secretary's report from 2011 convention be accepted; motion seconded by Linda Mower: Passed.
- Treasurer's report was presented with a 2011 balance sheet and P&L: Barry Saylor made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; Wes Elford seconded the motion. Passed.

New Business:

- **Ride schedule for 2012**
 - The ride schedule had been printed on the UMECRA website. There was one addition; the Iron Creek Run ride in North Dakota on Oct 6 & 7. The ride schedule was reviewed by all attendees. Theresa Meyer made a motion to approve the schedule; motion seconded by Tony Troyer. Passed.
- **Insurance costs for 2012**
 - The ride insurance costs will remain the same as in the past years. Motion made by Jill Feller to keep the ride insurance costs the same as in 2011 with UMECRA paying ½ of the event costs while rides will continue to pay the additional insured costs; motion seconded by Barry Saylor. Passed.
- **Scholarship fund**
 - There are three scholarship awards for this year. There was \$3600 in the fund therefore three recipients were each awarded \$1200. The award winners were: Jessica and Sarah Rudstrum and Tanya Meyer.
- **Bylaws and Rules**
 - **Driver's rule:** Current rule: *The driver must carry a whip in hand at all times while in the cart, but not during the pre and post drive veterinary exams.* Proposed change: *The driver must have a whip within reach at all times while in the cart, but not during the pre and post drive veterinary exams.* Tony made motion to accept this rule, seconded by Theresa. Passed.
 - **Breaching or brake on light weight cart.** *Breeching or a brake is required unless using a racing type harness employing "quick hitch" couplers, which attach the shafts of the cart directly to the saddle pad of the harness. This type of racing harness may only be used with a light weight two-wheeled cart. The driver must affirm to ride management via the Safety Check that the horse is accustomed to the harness and cart configuration on hills and rough terrain.* Motion made by Tony and seconded by Theresa to accept this rule. Tony presented some photos of the brake system so a



ride manager would know what it is. Bob Egerer asked if the photos could be sent to the ride managers; Tony agreed to make them available. Passed.

- **Endurance Rules and weight divisions.** The rule about weighing a heavy weight rider is inconsistent between endurance and competitive rules. To correct this problem the following rule is being offered: *There shall be weight divisions for endurance and competitive; lightweight- 179 pounds and under; heavyweight- 180 pounds and over WITH TACK. All heavyweight riders may be weighed with tack prior to the ride.* Motion made by Theresa Meyer and seconded by Tony Troyer to accept this rule as presented. Elinore Tonsor is not sure the wording is clear. A suggestion was made to change the wording to: ***Any rider competing as a heavyweight may be required to prove their weight.*** Theresa accepts the amendment; Tony approved amendment. Passed.
- **Other items brought forward from the morning BOD meeting.**
 - **Novice division- PROPOSAL:** *The Novice division must be a one horse/rider team. To enter this division for year-end awards and individual placings, the rider must not have completed more than 90 total miles in a regular distance ride; competitive, limited distance, or endurance. Only one 25 or 30 mile competitive ride may count per year toward year-end awards. Rides longer than 30 miles will NOT count toward awards; whether endurance, LD or competitive, but they will count toward the 90 total miles.*
 - **PROPOSAL:** *A rider placing Top Five novice for three years is not eligible for further Novice Awards. Horse/rider teams not meeting these criteria may enter novice rides for mileage only.*
 - The above proposal was presented together and approved together at the morning BOD meeting.
 - Theresa Meyer made a motion; seconded by Julie Jackson-Biegert to accept these rules.
 - Lori Windows would like to make a friendly amendment to split the two and vote on each one separately. Friendly amendment was approved by both Theresa and Julie.
 - Is the 90 miles in a lifetime or season? The intent was to call for lifetime miles. Theresa made an adjustment to the proposal and added lifetime to the statement.
 - A rider could compete on different horses over and over- yes, the way this is written, that could happen.
 - Mona Radtke: as a RM- do I need to ask the riders now if they are eligible at rides? Maybe we should stop offering novice rides. Right now, there is no limitation in the Novice division.
 - If a RM does not want to offer a Novice ride, then they should not offer them, but don't punish the entire region who want to offer Novice rides.



- Tony clarified why the Novice division was originated. When started, the UMECRA membership went up.
- Robin: RM's can give awards out if they choose to do so, but this rule is really about the year-end awards. The pointskeeper will figure out the year-end awards it will not fall on the RM.
- Nancy: I love the Novice division; I ride a horse who is now injured so I am riding a young horse and will be remaining in Novice for one or two years. This change of rules is questioning if the division should remain, but just the continuing of receiving year-end awards against those riders who truly are novices.
- ⊖ The revised rule is: *A rider placing Top Five novice for three years is not eligible for further Novice Awards and may enter Novice rides for mileage only. ~~Horse/A rider teams A rider not meeting this criteria may enter novice rides for mileage only.~~* Motion passed with only 10 negative votes.
- **Reporting of errors:**
- *Thirty days after the mailing of the UMECRA newsletter ride results printed therein become official. Errors must be reported to the pointskeeper, ride manager and UMECRA secretary within the 30 days. Riders are responsible for checking ride results and points standings. If errors are found after 30 days, the UMECRA executive board, ride manager and pointskeeper must be petitioned in writing by the rider and informed of the error. The secretary will inform the board of the petition. Correct placings and points would be awarded unless intentionally delay of error notification is suspected. This will be considered fraud, and may result in no change in ride results or points awarded. All ride results and points are final 30 days after the publication of the November newsletter.* Motion made by Theresa Meyer to accept wording of the new rule; seconded by Marty Power. Passed.
- **Convention report for upcoming years:**
 - 2013- Oconomowoc, WI at Olympia Resort January 18-20, 2013
 - 2014- Rochester, MN- date to be determined. This would put the convention outside the corridor. The convention can only be held outside the corridor every 4 years; it was in MN in 2011 and will in MI in 2015. Joslyn Seefeldt made a motion; seconded by Tony Troy to table approving the 2014 convention being held in MN and allow time for another proposal. Passed. ANY UMECRA member who would like to host the 2014 convention within the corridor should contact a member of the BOD before the spring BOD meeting with their proposal. If no other proposals are brought forward for consideration, the 2014 convention may be approved to be held in Rochester, MN.
 - 2015- Clare, MI at Hotel Doherty January 16-18, 2015
- **Rider reps announcement- votes counted from ballots:**
 - Elizabeth Laurie
 - Maxine Bernsdorf



- Bonnie Mielke
- Robin Schadt
- **Dr. Beecher's proposal:**
 - A committee was formed this morning to investigate the feasibility of this proposal. The members on the committee include: Marty Power, Joslyn Seefeldt, Robin Schadt, Elizabeth Laurie, Wayne Gastfield, Bruce Birr, Tony Troyer, Barb Gardner, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Dianne Schmidt.
 - Other volunteers: Cathy Cook, Barb Kurti, Holly Kemmis, Elinore Tonsor, Pamela Fullerton, Barry Saylor.
- **Committee reports:**
 - Update on membership committee was presented along with the idea that was approved in the morning BOD meeting (see BOD minutes).
 - Why are there members who are in the smaller organizations and not in UMECRA? Carmen Stueck volunteered to lead the Facebook 'charge'.
 - Mentor sign up lists are on the tables; please sign up!
- Rider Choice ballots will be on the registration table- box will be available for ballots.
- **Election of officers:**
 - President: Rick Nelson, **Theresa Meyer (won)**
 - VP: **Linda Mower (won)**, Tony Troyer (declined), Elinore Tonsor (declined), Julie Biegert (declined), Barb Kurti, Dianne Schmidt
 - Vet Rep: **Olivia Rudolphi**, Dean Peterson, Wes Elford (declined)
 - WI Regional Director: **Joslyn Seefeldt**
 - MN Regional Director: **Dianne Schmidt**
- Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Feller
Secretary/Treasurer