

## UMECRA 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2018

President Theresa Meyer called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm, and proceeded to share comments on procedures to be followed for the meeting, the time limit authorized for speaking and that Bonnie Mielke was the timer, and stated who the vote counters would be (Ed & Wendy Hauser, Jean Allen, Lisa Docter, and Sally Hoff). She then had Sec-Treas Bruce Birr take the roll call. There were 29 rides represented (met quorum criteria of 20) by 63 people, plus the 4 rider reps and the vet rep for a total of 68. Half and two-thirds numbers were calculated (35 and 46 respectively).

**The Minutes** from the January, 2017 meeting were approved upon motion/second of Wes Elford / Linda Mowrer.

**The Treasurer's report** was similarly approved (Tony Troyer / Maxine Bernsdorf).

Linda Mowrer stated that a committee consisting of herself, Dr. Wes Elford, Tony Troyer, Linda Jacobson, and Jon Wagner had conducted an internal review ('audit' of sorts) of the treasurer's records the night before, and that the results were that things were good.

Bruce stated that ride insurance rates had not gone up from the preceding year, so insurance costs would be the same/similar to last year.

**The 2018 ride schedule** was reviewed with changes noted from what was printed. Namely these were as follows:

Drawarama – adding a 6-mile drive to both days

Lincoln Trail – Location is to be Middle Fork at Oakwood this year, as well as adding a 15-mile drive on Saturday

Run for the Ridge – There will be two LD's on Friday, one being a night ride.

Next discussed was the **revamp of the Competitive Score sheet**, which Wes Elford presented and moved for approval, and this was seconded by Tony Troyer. This passed.

**Under Old Business**, Rule or bylaw change is shown in **bold italic**:

### COMPETITIVE RULES

#### 2. RIDER REQUIREMENTS

E. Natural water only is allowed on the trail. Drinking water only is allowed at rest stops. A horse shall not be denied drinking water from a bucket and/or other approved source at a scheduled vet check. Horses may be sponged after the final vet check. ***Depending on ambient conditions, veterinary judges may allow sponging at vet checks.***

This passed (Tony Troyer / Roberta Harms).

Also under Old Business, the following bylaw changes were approved:

ARTICLE III, SECTION 5 DELEGATES. Each endurance/competitive trail ride sanctioned the immediately preceding year/season, by one of its ride managers as listed on its sanctioning form shall submit the names of its official voting delegates or its authorized alternate voting delegate(s) [also referred to as proxies] to be recorded by the corporate Secretary prior to any meeting of the members. ***Ride managers as listed on their sanctioning form, or as amended, must have actively participated in the management of the sanctioned event. Ride managers of cancelled rides, who have paid their sanctioning fees before the ride has been cancelled and where the cancellation occurred for good cause shown, shall retain voting rights for the next Annual Meeting.***

**Under New Business** (again, new language is in ***bold italics***, and deleted text is ~~strikeout~~):

The following bylaw change proposal was approved (Tony Troyer / Maxine Bernsdorf):

ARTICLE III, SECTION 3. QUORUM FOR ANNUAL OR SPECIAL MEETINGS A quorum is determined based upon the presence in person at an Annual or Special Meeting of official voting delegates representing ***forty percent (40%)*** ~~twenty (20)~~ of the immediately preceding year/season's sanctioned endurance/competitive trail ride events as recorded by the Secretary, plus the President or Vice President, and at least one (1) Rider Representative. After a meeting is duly commenced, the absence of a quorum in the meeting room/hall at any meeting may result in adjournment from time to time at the discretion of the President or the Vice President. However, unless the meeting has been so adjourned, the delegates present at a duly called or held meeting may

continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum. The President, or in their absence, the Vice President, or in their absence any person designated from time to time by a majority of the Board of Directors, shall preside at all Annual or Special Meetings.

**And, rule change proposals were approved as shown:**

General Rules

2. Management Requirements

~~N. Ride results shall not be officially published until the ride fees are received by the Secretary/Treasurer.~~

**((Delete rule N - Ride results shall not be officially published until the ride fees are received by the Secretary/Treasurer.))**

(this was passed upon motion/second of Tony Troyer / Roberta Harms).

And,

General Rules

4. Rider Requirements

F. **All horses entered in a sanctioned event** must not be under the influence of drugs, medications or stimulants, except those allowed by AERC, and may be subject to drug analysis while entered in the ride (See AERC Rule 13 and its Appendixes for allowed and prohibited substances and treatments.) (2015)

This was approved (Wes Elford /Bill Suskey).

Regarding Endurance Rules:

Number 14. There shall also be a junior division. All junior riders whether they are AERC members or not must be accompanied by a competent adult (age ~~18~~ **21** or over) throughout the competition. Junior and sponsor must ride together at all times including entering and leaving all vet checks at the same time; the only exception being that at the finish a junior may finish within the same minute or within the one minute on either side of the sponsor's finishing minute. This was passed (Bill Suskey /Tony Troyer).

Number 14, subsection A. to read, "A junior is a rider who was under the age of 16 as of **December 1<sup>st</sup> of the ride season in which the ride is held.**" (Bill Suskey /Tony Troyer as amended by Jon Wagner.) This passed.

Under Competitive Rules:

2. Management Requirements

C. There shall also be a junior division. Riders shall not have reached the age of 18 years **as of December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Placing and completion awards should be furnished. 2 (Bill Suskey / Tony Troyer, with an amendment moved/seconded by Ruth Casserly /Tony Troyer.) Passed.

A change to Competitive Rules, 2. Management Requirements, C 2 (Bill Suskey / Tony Troyer, with an amendment moved/seconded by Ruth Casserly / Tony Troyer) was proposed to ultimately read as follows: **There shall also be a junior division. Riders shall not have reached the age of 18 years as of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Juniors generally must ride in the junior division (unless they have advised the UMECRA secretary and the UMECRA points keeper in writing of their intent to ride as seniors for that season, and before their first ride of that season). Placing and completion awards should be furnished.** This passed. An amendment (Bill Suskey / Tony Troyer) to change the word "should" in the last sentence, to "**shall**", was passed.

1. **All riders under 18 years of age** are required to wear helmets. (Bill Suskey / Nicole Mauser-Storer).

2. **Riders in the junior division** shall be accompanied by a sponsor **18 years of age or older**. (Bill Suskey / Tony Troyer.) Passed.

3. Juniors **may ride in the senior division**. Before their first ride of each season, if they are between 14 and 18 and it can be validated by the UMECRA points keeper that they have completed at least 500 miles in competitive, limited distance and/or endurance; **the rider who wishes to switch divisions** must advise the UMECRA secretary and the UMECRA points keeper in writing of their intent to ride as seniors for that season. **The rider must have a letter on file with the secretary/treasurer by which a parent/legal guardian consents to the request for unsponsored status. A copy of this letter shall also accompany the junior to each ride.** (Bill Suskey /Tony Troyer as amended by Jon Wagner). Passed.

**Under Promotion Report**, Peggy Pasillas and Barb Kurti gave brief remarks concerning clinics for new riders. Peggy puts on a clinic and mock ride separate from a ride event in early spring. Barb runs a clinic at her fall ride to help draw newcomers to the sport of distance riding.

Bill Suskey gave a verbal report on the ICF, and moved to change our ICF language to allow the use of any 3-star or 4-star ride to qualify. The changes were approved.

Theresa discussed the handout summarizing the 2017 ride year statistics, and commented on them.

Dr. Wes Elford, speaking on behalf of Connie Caudill, stated that AERC had spent \$5,000 on trail improvements in the Midwest region this year, and that there is money available for trails work. The National Championship ride will be at the Biltmore this year. The National Championship Committee is looking for a place to have the 2019 National Championship ride and AERC will support that ride with \$7,000. Dr. Elford also reported on actions of the Welfare and the Veterinary committees.

**Under Election of Officers**, Bill Suskey stated the outcome of the Rider Rep e-voting: 337 emails were sent, of which 154 voted. Rider Reps for 2018 will be Tracy Johnson, Maxine Bernsdorf, Lynda Zimmerman, and Jan Sasena.

For **President**, Theresa stated that she was not running. Jon Wagner was nominated/seconded by Bill Suskey / Linda Jacobson, and as there were no other nominees, Jon was voted in as the new President.

**MN regional rep**, Sarah Maass was nominated (Dana Gasner / Sheryl O'Brien). Sarah was not in attendance and the question of allowing her nomination to proceed was raised by Tony Troyer and other members of the assembly. Discussion ensued about whether a rule existed requiring nominees to be present, or if there are any possible exceptions to such a rule. Neither the Board of Directors nor the members of the assembly were able to confirm the actual scope of the rule during these proceedings. No alternative nominations were offered from the Minnesota delegates and thus Sarah's nomination was ultimately accepted by President Theresa Meyer and Sarah was elected to the position.

One nomination for **WI regional rep** was made (Laurie Henschel, by Linda Jacobson / Katie Bachhuber), and she was elected. Likewise, there was only one nomination for **Vet Rep** (Dr. Wes Elford, by Peggy Pasillas / Tony Troyer), and he was elected to that position.

Dr. Wes Elford presented outgoing President Theresa Meyer with a plaque in appreciation of her years of service to the organization.

It was announced that the 2019 convention will be held in Gladstone, MI, January 18-20.

New board members were reminded to meet with Bruce after the meeting, to sign Code of Conduct forms.

The **meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm** upon approved motion by Tony Troyer and second by Peggy Pasillas.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Bruce A. Birr, Sec-Treas