January 2020 UMECRA Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting was held at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point, WI on Saturday, January 18, 2020, and was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 1:00 pm. He started by reviewing meeting procedures, having the Secretary-Treasurer read off a roll call of voting delegates, and appointed official vote counters. The Annual meeting quorum was met and voting majorities were established.

Approval of Minutes The minutes from the last annual meeting (January, 2019) were approved by unanimous consent.

Sec./Treas. Reports

- **Profit & Loss/Balance Sheet Summaries:** Bruce Birr presented the Profit & Loss statement summary and the Balance Sheet summary; these were approved upon motion by Dr. Wes Elford and second by Tony Troyer. (P&L and Balance Sheet Summaries are attached)
- **Audit/Internal Review:** Tony Troyer presented the findings of the Audit/Internal Review of the Treasurer's records. Account statements, deposits and debits reviewed balanced accordingly. Procedural disbursement of Silent Auction monies needs some clarification. The BoD will discuss these issues at its March board meeting.

Sanctioning Coordinator Report The 2020 ride schedule was presented, corrections and additions were made, and the schedule was approved upon motion of Linda Mowrer and a second by Ruth Stewart. The amended and approved schedule will be forwarded to Sanctioning Coordinator Joslyn Seefeldt for official posting to the UMECRA web-site. Ride Managers were reminded that ride flyers need to be submitted to Joslyn by February 1 to be included in the 2020 Ride Book.

President's Report

- **2021 Convention Info**: Theresa Meyer announced that next year's annual meeting and convention will be held in La Crescent, MN on January 22-24, 2021.
- **2020 Insurance Info:** Insurance costs for 2020 are similar to 2019 costs ($45.00 per day - $20.00 per additional insured).
- There is no benefit to RM's listing themselves as an additional insured *unless* they are a private landowner and any part of their ride takes place on their property.
- Additional insureds should include; private land owners, DNR's, State/County Parks and Trail Systems and Clubs i.e. MnDra, AHDra, DRAW and AHA
- BoD will pursue converting annual policy dates of insurance coverage *from* March to March *to* February to February to assist early rides needing insurance certificates well in advance of their ride.
- BoD will also investigate costs of increasing insurance coverage from $1 million to $3 million as more venues are requiring higher liability coverage.
- **2019 Insurance Review/Audit:** An audit of the 2019 insurance costs and needs revealed that some RM's were inadvertently listed as an additional insured resulting in an over-charge while other rides were under-charged for their insurance needs due to mis-calculations of cost. RM's who were over-charged were sent refund checks on 1/6/2019. Under-charged rides have been contacted to make arrangements for payment of fees due.

- **2019 Rider Fee Summary:** A review of the rider fees for 2019 indicated that several rides either *over-paid fees* **or** *under-paid fees.* The BoD determined at its morning board meeting to refund RM's who made over-payments, and will contact those RM's who made under-payments.
- **2019 Ride Statistics:** Ride statistics indicate that ride entries dropped from 2254 in 2018 to 1955 in 2019. A difference of -299 entries. Entries decreased in all categories in 2019. The average number of entries per ride in 2019 equaled: 55.8 as compared to 60.9 in 2018.

Old Business

- **International Competition Fund Annual Report**: Bill Suskey reported the ICF fund balance is at $6816.48. There was no active use of the fund during the 2019 fiscal year.
- **Data Integrity**: Jon and Nicole commented on the need for increased data integrity when reporting ride results, submitting fees and the use of both horse and rider numbers. There have been many instances of careless omissions of data that requires extra work for our Sanctioning Coordinator, Points Keeper and Membership Coordinator as well as others. The BoD will be looking at ways to improve data integrity.
- **Safe Sport**: Ride Managers were reminded of the AERC requirement that every ride needs to have at least one member of its management team Safe Sport certified. Certification can be obtained through AERC.
- **LD Wt. Divisions and Out of Region Ride Ideas/Proposals:** The BoD will continue to look at and discuss possible proposals to deal with potentially adding weight divisions in LD and the sanctioning of rides outside the "normal" region of UMECRA. Members with ideas/comments are encouraged to contact their Geographic or Rider Representatives to share their thoughts.

New Business

- **Endurance Rule #9 Proposal:** Theresa Meyer explained, read, and motioned to approve the proposal, with Bill Suskey seconding. Discussion followed. Three separate amendments to the proposal were made but each of those amendments failed. Eventually, an amendment to the proposal made by Deb Moe and seconded by Sheryl O'Brien to remove all of sub-section "B" of the proposal passed. Endurance Rule 9 as amended: "**The 'gate into a hold' type check is highly recommended at all vet checks. Other checks may be used as described in *The Guidelines for Control Judges and Treatment Veterinarians at AERC Endurance Competitions.* The "pulse and go" is also recommended if a hold is to be avoided. A horse is held until a set pulse parameter is met and the horse is trotted out to check for lameness."**
    - **A rider entering a vet check must present his horse for p/r's at any time within 30 minutes. (2020)**
    - The amended motion was approved by a majority vote.
- **Competitive Rule 3-E Clarification on sponging**: Lynda Zimmerman explained, read, and moved, and Tony Troyer seconded, to approve the proposal. Discussion followed. Aaron Mowrer moved to insert the words "and ride management" to follow veterinary judges in the last sentence of the proposal, and Linda Mowrer seconded. This amendment was defeated. An amendment was moved and seconded respectively by Linda Mowrer and Alice Hubert, to delete the second sentence of the proposal ('Drinking water only is allowed at rest stops') Motion to amend passed. The group then passed, by majority vote, the resulting amended proposal, which reads as follows:

Competitive Rule 3 – E: "Drinking and sponging are allowed in natural water, whether puddles, creeks, lakes, or that which is declared by ride management to be natural water. A horse shall not be denied drinking water

from a bucket 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. (2020)

- **Sec./Treas. Position Split Proposal: The UMECRA Board of Directors moves that the current position of Secretary/Treasurer be split into two separate board positions, individual Secretary and Treasurer positions. Duties already defined by the bylaws for each position will remain with the appropriate position. Implied duties and any responsibilities evolving from the growth of the organization will be assigned accordingly to the appropriate position by approval of the Board of Directors.** Jon Wagner explained, read, and moved to adopt the proposal. Tony Troyer seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the proposal was approved by a majority vote. The board will immediately begin a search for individuals who may be interested in either position. If an individual is vetted by the board and accepts a position on the board, the position will be both a non-voting and an interim position for the remainder of 2020. Both positions will become two-year Board of Director positions with voting rights at the 2021 Annual meeting following the 2021 elections for the separate Secretary and Treasurers positions.
- **Attitude and Fatigue Separation:** Dr. Elford motioned to approve the separation of the Attitude and Fatigue section on the Competitive score sheet allowing a 0 - 20-point deduction for each. Motion was seconded by Lynda Zimmerman. Dr. Elford explained the rationale behind the proposal and after a few comments from the membership **the proposal was approved, starting in the 2021 ride season, by a majority vote.**

2020 Elections

- **Rider Representatives:** Bill Suskey presented the statistics and results on the electronic voting for Rider Reps. - 290 voting emails were sent out; 109 voters visited the voting link and 105 voters voted. The following people were elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors as Rider Representatives; **Maxine Bernsdorf, Jen Moore, Lynda Zimmerman, and Kim Fosler**.
- **President: Jon Wagner** was nominated for President, and he was elected by unanimous consent.
- **Mn. Representative: Sarah Maass** was nominated for the MN rep, and she was elected by unanimous consent.
- **Wi. Representative: Laurie Henschel** was the nominee for the WI rep, and she was elected by unanimous consent as well.
- **Veterinarian Representative:** Dr. Elford announced he would not seek re-election and asked the board and UMECRA members to encourage other qualified Veterinarians to consider filling the position. The BoD will actively pursue a replacement for the Veterinarian Representative and encourages all members to let the board know if they are aware of, or can recommend, any potential candidates for the position.

Announcements: On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of UMECRA, Jon thanked **Dr. Elford** and former **Rider Representatives Tracy Johnson and Jan Sasena** for their service to UMECRA and their time as members of the Board of Directors. Dr. Elford was further recognized by Lynda Zimmerman and received a standing ovation for his many years of service/support of UMECRA, distance riding, riders and their equines.

Adjournment Motion by Linda Mowrer and second by Kim Fosler to adjourn was approved at 4:31 pm.

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