

UMECRA Board Meeting Minutes – March 14, Lodi, WI Quality Inn & Suites

The meeting was called to order at 9:58 am by President Jon Wagner. Board members present were: Jon Wagner, Peggy Pasillas, Deb Moe, Bruce Birr, Lynda Zimmerman, Jen Moore, Maxine Bernsdorf, Sarah Maass, Theresa Meyer, Laurie Henschel, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Tony Troyer, Kim Fosler, and by phone Sandra Wright. Absent: At- Large Representative Bill Suskey. Guests present were: Linda Jacobson, Dr. Jennifer Lorenz, Carol Wagner, Ruth Casserly, Jan Sasena and Janet Sarver. Jon welcomed Kim and Jen to the Board as the new Rider Representatives and Deb Moe as the new Interim UMECRA Treasurer. He introduced Dr. Lorenz, DVM and explained that she was observing the board meeting because she is interested in possibly serving as the Veterinarian Representative to the Board.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

The January 18th 2020 Annual Meeting minutes had been previously approved by the Board via group email. The morning BoD meeting minutes of 1/18/2020 still needed approval. They were approved following a motion of Tony Troyer and second by Sarah Maass.

SEC./TREAS. REPORTS

- **PROFIT & LOSS/BALANCE SHEET SUMMARIES:** Board informational packets contained YTD Profit & Loss Reports only. Jon reported that communications were ongoing between himself and UMECRA's newly appointed Treasurer Deb Moe, and Secretary Bruce Birr and that things seemed to be transitioning smoothly and efficiently. Deb would provide a more detailed update concerning the Sec./Treas. split and transition agenda item under Old Business. Jon requested that with the transition taking place between the Secretary and Treasurers positions we forego approval of the Treasures Report (with updated P&L Reports and Balance Sheet summaries) for now and have the updated reports approved at a later date by use of the egroup account. There was no dissent so the request was approved by unanimous consent.
- **2019 SILENT AUCTION INCOME & DISTRIBUTION:** The 2019 Silent Auction raised a total \$3,322.00. The monies were distributed per board policy to: Trail Grant Fund; \$2,076.25, Convention Fund; \$830.50 and Scholarship Fund; \$415.25. A huge **THANK YOU** to the organizers of the convention and a special shout out and **thanks to Jessie Zerbel** who managed and hosted the Silent Auction.
- **INSURANCE UPDATE:** Jon presented information on moving our insurance period from March 15-March 15th, to an earlier date. Earlier coverage dates would allow for RM'S with early ride dates to receive insurance certificates a bit earlier to show proof of insurance to their respective DNR's, etc. Jon also stated that increasing insurance coverage from \$1 million to \$3 million (more venues are requiring the higher coverage amount) would cost the club about \$1,000 more annually. Discussions about this information took place, including how the increase in costs would be paid for, and led to a motion by Peggy to move the coverage period to Feb. 15 to Feb. 15 for next year, as well as increase coverage amounts as noted above. Motion was seconded by Max and the motion was approved by the Board.
- **TRAIL GRANTS/SPONSORSHIPS:** Trail grant requests received since January's BoD meeting and approved via Board egroup included: Rock River Trail and Horseman's Assoc. in Illinois and Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park in Minnesota. Each group will receive grants totaling \$300.00 apiece. Jon received a request from The Friends of Governor Dodge State Park asking for a sponsorship donation from UMECRA. Our club has supported their fund-raising efforts in the past and after some discussion the Board approved a \$100.00 sponsorship be made to them. Motion to approve the sponsorship was made by Jen and seconded by Peggy. Theresa reminded Board members and guests to promote the use of the Trail Grant Fund (fund balance @ \$5000.00)

PRESIDENT's REPORT

- **SCHEDULE UPDATES:** The recent request to sanction the Michigan Tin Cup Ride was denied when it failed to meet the 2/3rds majority approval of all Ride Managers. The UMECRA BoD approved sending the request to all RM's for a vote unaware that an understanding had been made between Michigan ride managers **NOT** to hold four rides consecutively. It was noted that had the Board known this beforehand, it would not have approved the initial sanctioning request which would have eliminated the forwarding of it to all RM's. Jon has ideas on how to adjust the current sanctioning guidelines and rules so that similar scenarios won't happen again in the future. He will share those thoughts and ideas with the Board via the egroup for further discussion.
- **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** Nicole reported that the current membership number is 236, comprised of 34 family memberships, 123 single memberships and 5 Junior Only memberships.
- **MEMBERSHIP BOOK:** Jon reminded the Board that it had agreed to publish membership directories every two years and that we are due for a new one in 2020. Costs were discussed and Theresa will look into getting a quote for 200 ride books from the printer she uses for the RM's and Vet's Handbook (cost to publish in 2018: \$683.56). Any publication of a membership book would not be available until mid to late June or after most paid memberships are complete.

OLD BUSINESS

- **RIDER FEES:** After a bit of discussion, a motion was made by Kim and seconded by Laurie to not charge rides in 2019 that owed \$2.50 for rider fee shortages. This motion passed. The remaining rides (n=4) who erroneously paid too little in rider fees, will be sent a letter requesting those fees.
- **VETERINARIAN REPRESENTATIVE:** (current board position is vacant) Dr. Lorenz shared some information about herself and her thoughts about possibly working with and helping our club. Jon suggested that the board might consider recruiting a veterinarian in more of an advisory role vs. a full-time vet member status required by the bylaws until a veterinarian could be found to fill the position in the traditional method/manner. The board could discuss this concept further on the egroup if necessary.
- **SEC./TREAS. POSITION APPOINTMENT and UPDATE:** Please note: The general membership agreed to the official splitting of the Sec./Treas. position at the 2020 Annual Meeting into separate Secretary and Treasurer positions and approved having the BoD vet any candidates interested in either position. In mid-January Bruce Birr, Deb Moe and a third candidate applied for the Treasurers position and after careful consideration, the BoD offered the position of Interim UMECRA Treasurer to Deb which she accepted and Bruce agreed to continue to serve on the Board as UMECRA's Secretary. Since the Interim Treasurers position is an appointed position, Deb will have all board privileges with the exception of board voting rights. Bruce, in his elected position as Secretary will retain all board privileges including board voting rights. The position of Treasurer will accrue full voting and board privileges at the next election for Officers of the Board of Directors.

Jon indicated that the bylaw changes needed to reflect the approved changes to the Secretary and Treasurers positions are in draft form and will be published soon for members to review prior to the 2021 Annual Meeting where they will be proposed for approval by the general membership.

Treasurer Update; Deb shared that the transition of funds and the opening of new accounts was going smoothly. Associated Banks will be the club's new financial institution. Deb anticipates she'll be ready to assume full Treasurer responsibilities as soon as the fund transfers are complete.

- **1000 MILE HORSE PROGRAM:** The 1000-mile horse program was briefly reviewed and discussed. A related possible fee increase was postponed to later in the meeting when discussion would center on an overall view of finances.

- **DATA INTEGRITY:** Data integrity was again touched on for discussion, with some changes suggested to UMECRA Rule 5-A, Reporting. A motion was made by Tony and seconded by Bruce to adopt those changes, after a brief discussion, (the rules committee will work on the proper verbiage to reflect the proposed changes), the motion was approved. *PROPOSED CHANGES ITALITIZED: "UMECRA ride results, "per rider" reporting fees must be sent to the Treasurer postmarked within 14 days of the ride date. Late submissions of results and/or fees will result in a \$50 late fee. Ride Managers that submit ride results in an unacceptable format (i.e. improper file, data out of order, incorrect or incomplete or incoherent information) will have said results returned to them with an explanation of what needs to be corrected. Corrected results must be resubmitted within 14 days of return date or the ride will be assessed a \$50 late fee. Submission of ride results that require further interventions/corrections by the UMECRA Points Keeper will result in a \$50 corrections fee."*
- **LD PROPOSAL:** Jon reviewed the recent BoD egroup discussions concerning possible LD proposals. These discussions included the increasing of awards offered to LD riders through weight divisions and/or an expanded number of LD Hi Point awards (16-20) and how any additional awards could be paid for. The current awards program is operating at a deficit and adding any awards will increase the gap between award income (rider fees) and award costs. Ride entries have been declining for ten consecutive years (1,955 in 2019) while award costs continue to rise.

The board then began a lengthy discussion revolving around how to provide additional awards in LD, reduce/minimize the awards deficit gap, and look at and review other facets of the club's income spectrum. This discussion led to the following actions being taken by the board:

- 1) increase the membership dues in 2021 to \$45 for a family, \$35 for individual. Junior dues would remain at \$15. Motion by Peggy, seconded by Tony. **Motion passed**, will forward proposal to 2021 Annual meeting.
- 2) a motion to raise the sanctioning fee from \$40 to \$45 was made by Nicole and seconded by Peggy. This **was approved** for forwarding to the 2021 Annual Meeting.
- 3) increase the 1000 Mile Horse nomination fee from \$10 to \$20 in 2021, with income from these fees going directly to the awards budget. Motion made by Peggy, second by Theresa. **Motion passed** and will be forwarded as well.
- 4) LD Proposal #1: "Select 8 / Sweet 16" motion made by Lynda, seconded by Theresa to have Hi Point Awards in Comp and Endurance drop from 10 to 8 placings in both Hwt. and Lwt divisions, LD Hi Point Awards would go to 16 w/o weight divisions. Reduce all existing Restricted Mileage categories from 6 placings to 5 and increase Res. Mileage LD to 10 places. (reduction of awards in Comp, End. and Res. Mi. would help offset costs of new awards for LD). **Motion failed**.
- 5) LD Proposal #2: Further discussion led to a motion by Laurie, second by Kim to create an "Elite Eight" format for top awards in End., Comp., and LD with weight divisions in every category (48 total awards vs. current 50). **Motion passed**.

(Board took a 10-minute break here.)

After the break, Peggy asked the board to *rescind* the previous motion and explained her concerns. Sarah seconded the motion and the board voted (2/3rds majority vote required) and agreed to rescind the previous motion (LD Proposal #2).

- 6) LD Proposal #3: Peggy proposed a motion, seconded by Sarah, to keep the current system of awarding Top Ten in Comp. Hwt. & Lwt., Endurance Hwt., and Lwt. and adding weight divisions to LD and raise the minimum mileage requirement from a point-based minimum to a miles-based minimum. **Motion failed**.
- 7) LD Proposal #4: After further discussion a motion was made by Nicole and seconded by Tony to present the following options to the membership at the next Annual Meeting: a) use the "Elite 8" awards concept with weight divisions in all three categories (Comp., End., and LD), raise the minimum requirements to attain an award and change the requirements from a points minimum to a miles based minimum keeping rider

fees at \$2.50 or; b) Give awards to Top Ten in all three categories, including weight divisions in all three, raise minimum requirements as in option a, and raise rider fees by \$1.00 or more. **Motion passed.**

8) A discussion of what level to set minimum mileage requirements yielded the following: Nicole and Bruce moved and seconded that the Endurance Restricted Mileage category minimum requirements be set at 200 miles, maximum miles, 295. Comp and LD Res. Mi. categories minimum requirements be set at 100 miles and a maximum of 195. **Motion passed.**

9) Tony and Peggy moved and seconded respectively that Hi Point Awards for Endurance the minimum mileage requirement be set at 250 miles. **Motion passed.**

10) Peggy and Max respectively moved and seconded that the minimum mileage requirements for Hi Point Comp and LD awards be set at 150 miles. **Motion passed.**

OUT of REGION RIDES: Regarding the Out of Region Rides discussion and proposal, Jon suggested that we continue to fine tune that, and as it was getting late in the day, the board was good with that.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tony presented some information/scoring parameters that AHA and other organizations use in scoring gut sounds for Comp rides/competition. This information is being forwarded to our Rules Committee to draft a scoring system for gut sounds compatible with UMECRA's needs and future consideration.
- A proposed change to the Jan Scott Family Award was explained by Peggy, the idea being to expand the family unit to include adult sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle but not to exceed two adults. A motion and second by Peggy and Jen respectively were eventually withdrawn by Peggy after further board discussion. Jon asked that if there was continued interest in potential changes to the award that they be forwarded to the November board meeting for consideration.

The remainder of the meeting was spent addressing the issues related to the Corona virus (Covid-19) and its potential effects on the ride schedule/season. It was decided that the board will monitor developments and that the board would discuss and act via the egroup account as needed. All ride managers will need to be kept informed of developments and any board decisions/discussions.

ADJORNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm upon approval of such motion made by Kim and seconded by Peggy.

/s/ Bruce A. Birr, Secretary