

Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Rides Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting

JANUARY 18, 2025

Holiday Inn & Suites Madison West, Madison WI

Call to order 1:06pm by President Robin Schadt

Secretary Roll Call of Delegates – the number of delegates reached quorum with a number of 71

Minutes of 2024 general meeting -Tony Troyer motioned to approve, Alice Hubert seconded. Approved.

Scholarship Fund report - Robin Schadt reported on the scholarship fund balance which is \$107,000. There were two scholarship applicants for this year that will be awarded at the awards banquet.

Trail Grants – three grants were given out this year for a total of \$1500. The amount for each grant continues to be \$500.

Ride with GPS - Robin Schadt announced that UMECRA has decided to join Ride with GPS as a club. Each ride manager will get an email to set up an account if they choose. Cost was \$250 for a year.

Secretary report – Janet Sarver presented a summary of board activities completed through the IO board from April – November, 2024.

Treasurer report – Deb Moe reviewed the year end financial report. There are 291 paid members of which 39 members were new. There were also 18 memberships given to participants at clinics. There will be a new option for linking a checking account for ride fees where a ride manager can do an ACH payment through their bank account. Insurance will remain the same with UMECRA covering half of the \$45 fee per ride. UMECRA will continue to pay 50% of the daily event insurance rate. The daily rate is not expected to change from prior years at \$45/day but will be finalized in the April BoD meeting. UMECRA will pay the full cost of insurance for any clinic or mock ride who requests insurance no later than January 30th, annually. Linda Mowrer motioned to accept the treasurer report. Jen Wise seconded. Approved.

Committee Reports

Sanctioning Coordinator report - 2025 Ride Calendar – Theresa Meyer reviewed the proposed ride calendar for this year. She noted that there were 2 rides in Manitoba on the list. The Shore to Shore Ride will also take place for this summer only. Theresa moved that this schedule be approved with amendments. Peggy seconded. Schedule approved.

Rules Committee – Theresa Meyer thanked the members of her committee.

UMECRA Rules 4. Rider Requirements

M. The UMECRA website: www.umecra.com, shall serve as the official process of notification of ride results and point standings. Ride results and points printed therein become official 30 days after the publication date to the website (Publication dates will be logged on the site.)

a. Riders are responsible for checking ride results and point standings for any potential errors in a timely manner and must report any suspected errors to the Points Keeper and Ride Manager within the 30 days of the publication date. Any discrepancies in the attempts by the Points Keeper, rider and/or the Ride Manager to resolve any suspected errors must be forwarded to the UMECRA Secretary. The UMECRA Secretary will inform the Executive Board of Directors of such discrepancies. The UMECRA Board of Directors will be responsible for the final resolution of these issues in a timely fashion.

b. The year-end final points and standings published on www.umecra.com will become official the day before Thanksgiving. Riders must check their year-end points, standings, and miles and report any discrepancies before this date. Please note that although the last ride results, final year-end points, standings and miles may be available on the website for less than 30 days, it is the responsibility of the riders to review and address any issues before the deadline.

(2020) (2022) (2025)

Theresa moved to approve the change of adding the wording in part b. Deb Moe seconded. Discussion. Approved.

UMECRA Rules 4. Rider Requirements

E. While the welfare of an equine participating in a ride is the primary responsibility of the rider, it is also the responsibility of everyone participating in the event whether as a rider, crew member, ride official, veterinarian or spectator to protect the welfare of equines at the ride. Any inhumane treatment of horses ~~an equine~~ may be cause for disqualification.

Theresa moved to accept this new wording. Peggy Pasillas seconded. Discussion. Sarah Maass noted that the wording in the first sentence was in error. Proposed amendment to change primary to primarily “*While the welfare of the equine participant in the ride is primarily the responsibility of the rider...*” Dr. Alana seconded. Discussion. New wording amendment approved. Continued discussion of the proposed initial change. Dr. Alana stated that AERC has this rule and is trying to provide guideline for social license to operate. Deb Moe made a motion to move the rule back to the committee. Seconded. Approved.

UMECRA General Rule 2. Management requirements

I. If ride management, veterinarians, rider(s), crew, volunteer(s), or family feels that any person(s) have been abused or harassed by a member, they have the right to notify ~~the a~~ Board ~~Member who will respond~~. **The Board Member will forward the information to the President or Vice President who will notify the Board.**

- Upon review, the Board will ask for comment from the **complainant**, alleged offending member and other people who might have witnessed the event.

- If deemed warranted, the Board will privately warn that member; part of the warning being that if the offense continues, the member will be publicly warned.

- If the conduct continues, the Board can take whatever further action it deems appropriate, including prohibiting the member from entering or attending a ride or from managing any other UMECRA event in the future. (2024) (2025)

Theresa presented this rule and the proposed change to the membership. Theresa moved to approve. Peggy seconded. Discussion. Elinore Tonsor moved to amend that *“the complainant must notify the offending member of their actions before leaving the grounds”*. Seconded by Mona Radtke. Discussion. Motion was not approved. Theresa restated the original motion. Approved.

New Business

Intro Fees – Robin made a motion that intro ride entries be subject to the \$2.50/rider reporting fee. This is the same rider fee that novice ride entries require. Seconded. Discussion. Emily Schupp called the question Motion failed.

2026 Convention - Theresa Meyer described attempts to reach hotels and convention sites in Minnesota. She asked for volunteers for this committee.

Elections

Vice President – Peggy Pasillas is willing to continue. Nominated and seconded. Approved as Vice President.

Treasurer – Deb Moe is not seeking re-election. She nominated Emily Schupp. Motion and seconded. Emily Schupp approved to take the position as Treasurer. Announcement was made that a new non voting volunteer position of bookkeeper has been created. Jessica Sonnek was appointed for this position.

Illinois Director – Deb Searle was nominated and seconded. Approved as Illinois Director.

Michigan Director – Barb Kurdi nominated but did not accept. The position will be left open and the board will make an appointment.

Director at Large – Brooke Mueller nominated, seconded, and accepted. Theresa Meyer nominated, seconded, accepted. Brooke Mueller approved as Director at Large.

Director at Large – Theresa Meyer nominated, seconded and accepted. Elinor Tonsor nominated, seconded, accepted. Theresa Meyer approved as Director at Large.

Appointments

- Sanctioning coordinator – Maria Enge agreed to take this position.
- Newsletter editor – Peggy will continue, willing to step down if anyone else interested.

Motion made by Dr. Alana to remove the tabled motion of UMECRA Rule 4: Rider requirement E. Seconded. Discussion. Dr. Alana stated that this is already a rule in **AERC Rule 11** and read it to the membership. This is an attempt to update club rules to comply with the existing AERC rule. Discussion. Motion made by Chelsea Talaski and seconded by Aurora Walsh to amend changing the rule to remove the word spectator. Discussion. Sarah Mowrer stated that we cannot take a word out that is less strict than what AERC stated. Motion denied. Original motion by Dr. Alana voted on and passed.

Linda Mowrer motioned to adjourn, Emily Schupp seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Sarver

UMECRA Secretary