

**AERC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 2/22/07
Reno Convention Thursday Evening Meeting**

Meeting called to order by President Stagg Newman at 6:44 PM PST

In attendance: Stagg Newman, Mike Maul, Nick Warhol, Patti Pizzo, Mike Jaffe, Jennifer Nice, Connie Caudill, Joe Long, Jan Stevens, Stan Eichelberger, Tom Dean, Terry Woolley Howe, John H. Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Joe Schoech, Roger Taylor, Barry Waitte, Jerry Fruth, Laura Hayes, Robert Ribley, Dinah Rojek, and Mike Tomlinson, Kathleen A. Henkel; Kim Fuess, Joyce Mocilan, Gail Williams, Jeff Trinkle

DAL Elects: Randy Eiland, John Crandal, Heidi Smith

Stagg opens with a reminder to be sure anyone wanting to run for office has submitted their name now.

I. Housekeeping

1. **Membership Statistics: Kathleen Henkel 5024 members to date, last year to date 4967, with more to enter in the office.**
2. **Minutes Approval from the Feb 05 phone conf call- motion passes unanimously.**

II. Committee Reports

1. Non Reporting committees updates:

- **Endurance Committee- will have a new chair TBD by the new president, based on the new committee organization and structure.**
- **Junior committee- has been very active in 06.**
- **LD committee- Chair Terry W reports the committee has accomplished much and may recommend folding the group into the competitions committee. Discussion to follow in the committee meeting on Sunday.**
- **National Championship committee- Chair Robert R gives a short update.**
- **P&G Committee- Mike Marino is leading the group and is doing very well. There is still a need to re-write rule 14.**
- **Vet Committee- Chair Melissa R gives a short report. The volunteer Vet certification program has been very successful; the rewrite of a new drug rule is a huge task.**

2. Reporting committees:

- **Finance committee- Patti P requests that invoices to be paid by the office be faxed directly, rather than emailed. Patti reports that they will be raising a motion on Sunday to move the financial review from FY05 to FY06. There is some discussion regarding adding an additional trail masters class in 07. There is continued discussion on if the Trailmaster Jackets should be part of the class and funded by the AERC. A straw poll is taken to ask if the BOD remembers that the jackets expense is part of the approved budget. The majority of the BOD agrees yet, they are part of the budget. Stagg suggests a motion be raised for a vote on the additional class on Sunday.**
- **Education Committee- Dina R reports that she is stepping down as chair, and thanks the group; Stagg thanks the group as well, since they have done so much in such a short**

period of time. Some highlights: revised website, new rider briefings, mailings to new riders, mentor liaisons in all regions, monthly articles being published. Things for the future: Rework on new riders packet, updating the “basic” seminar DVD for new riders, Continue to keep the web site up to date, suggests doing another more advanced DVD called beyond the basics to help riders advance to the longer distances, finding mentors to teach beginning rider clinics.

- **Membership committee-** Jan S gives a short update, followed by Stagg who presents the motion for the new “every member gets a member” program, funded by the Friends of Maggie Price. Awards for bringing in a new member will be bumper stickers and copies of Julie’s book. Motion from committee- motion passes unanimously.
- **Sanctioning committee-** Susan K raises a motion to appoint a ride steward for the Santa Fe ride on 07. Bob Morris is the choice, motion from committee, motion passes unanimously. The Ztec challenge ride has requested the special requirements be changed to drop the requirement for the rider needing to have done a one day 100. Motion from committee, motion passes unanimously, Jan S abstains, (ride manager) The request for a motion to enable the sanctioning committee to approve pioneer rides without BOD approval is not agreed upon in committee, so it will be remanded to the new President and committee for further work.
- **Technical committee-** Mike M reports that the office is doing most of the web site administration and updates. A new user interface is being worked on to update the “look and feel” of the site. Mike reports on metrics of the location of the web site users. He gives a demo of the new ride results data entry function on the site- it is very nice and the ride managers look forward to it.
- **Trails Committee-** Jerry F reports that he is stepping down as Chair, Sarah Ensberg is recommended to take over as chair. Jerry reports on the BLM MOU, and he hopes it to be in place by summer 07. He reports on a program to better market the animals in the wild horse and burro program. He is working on permanent locations for the trail master class, maybe Ft Stanton and Susanville, Ca. The weed free hay study in the East was good- maybe do one in the west, current threats to trails
- **Insurance Committee-** Roger T reports the good working relationship between the office and Equisure. There is some discussion about insurance and indemnification; the AERC does NOT do it. Tom Dean reports on an outstanding issue that is affected by this. There is an update on the insurance issues involved with the Santa Fe ride, since there are lots of areas on this specific ride that are not normally covered by the standard policy. The insurance group is working with the ride management and Equisure to come to an agreement. Roger reports that there is an issue with some vets not carrying their own malpractice insurance. This is an issue for the vet and insurance committees to take and work on.
- **Legal Committee-** John P reports that some non profits with significant assets are becoming targets for lawsuits. Stagg gives a summary of some potential lawsuits facing the AERC. John gives a summary of how we should be looking for and identifying liability threats in advance. He reminds the BOD about the signature and authority rules and not to make commitments that may represent the AERC without the correct processes. There needs to be improvements made to the policies and procedures manuals.

3. **The BOD goes into Executive Session**
4. **John P leads a short discussion on an idea to form a group of people chartered with helping the P&G and legal committees resolve conflicts before they become official protests.**

New Business:

- **Joe Long discusses his motion for recognizing a single champion and top ten at the NC ride. He is sending the motion to committee for the correct process, to be voted on at a future meeting.**
- **Mike T reports on Endurance Canada and how we can work better with them. There are about 200 members. A meeting was held the prior week where it was determined that Endurance Canada can represent all of Canada. There is no real impact to the AERC.**

III. State of the AERC

Stagg gives his annual report on the state of the AERC as outgoing president. Highlights:

- **We are doing a good job of supporting our bylaws.**
- **Horse safety, our records, management and governance, trails- all very good.**
- **The office- is excellent in everyone's opinion. EN, the staff, all good.**
- **Special recognition for the education committee- light years ahead of where we have been in the past.**
- **The web site- excellent and an incredible asset.**
- **The financials are solid- cash flow, balance sheet all good. No deficit in 06.**
- **Our policies, procedures, and rules need some work. This will be a big project and a lot of work**
- **Legal group, P&G working very well, but WAY too busy.**
- **Committee structure can be changed- Stagg reports the new group leader concept he tried did not work out as he had planned. The goal was to save him work, it did not. The new President will decide how to proceed.**
- **We need to re-evaluate research. The membership seems interested; it needs to be more focused and directly applicable.**
- **Stagg passes out thank you gifts to the Board.**

IV. Other New Business: None raised.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm PST.

GENERAL SESSION MEETING
Saturday February 24, 2007
John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel/Casino

President Stagg Newman called the general session meeting of the membership to order at 1:40 p.m. Also present: Mike Maul, Nick Warhol, Patti Pizzo, Mike Jaffe, Connie Caudill, Jan Stevens, Joe Long, Stan Eichelberger, Gail Williams, Terry Woolley Howe, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Roger Taylor, Jerry Fruth, Laura Hayes, Robert Ribley, Mike Tomlinson, Joyce Mocilan, Barry Waitte, Jennifer Nice, Joe Schoech, Jeff Trinkle, and Tom Dean.

President Newman welcomed the members present and expressed his pleasure regarding AERC's forward progress during the past year. President Newman gave a State of AERC presentation to the membership. Bob Suhr handled swearing in duties regarding the newly elected directors at large, John Crandell III, Randy Eiland, and Heidi Smith DVM. President Newman opened the floor for nominations from the Board of Directors for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Roger Taylor and Mike Maul vied for the office of President. Nick Warhol ran unopposed for the office of Secretary, as did Patti Pizzo for the office of Treasurer and Connie Caudill for the office of Vice President. They were elected by acclamation.

The slate of officers for the 2007 ride year is as follows: Mike Maul, President, Connie Caudill, Vice President, Nick Warhol, Secretary, and Patti Pizzo, Treasurer.

The floor was opened to a question/answer session between the Board of Directors and members.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Warhol, Secretary

**AERC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 2/25/07
Reno Convention Sunday Morning Meeting**

Meeting called to order by President Mike Maul at 7:15am PM PST

In attendance: Stagg Newman, Mike Maul, Nick Warhol, Patti Pizzo, Mike Jaffe, Jennifer Nice, Connie Caudill, Joe Long, Jan Stevens, Stan Eichelberger, Tom Dean, Terry Woolley Howe, John H. Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Joe Schoech, Roger Taylor, Barry Waitte, Randy Eiland, Laura Hayes, Robert Ribley, John Crandal, Mike Tomlinson, Kathleen A. Henkel; Heidi Smith, Joyce Mocilan, Gail Williams, Jeff Trinkle

Initial comments:

New President Mike Maul welcomes everyone, and the new DAL's elected. Ex President Stagg thanks the Board. Susan K Thanks Kathleen for all her service and hard work, and offers to help if Kathleen needs any.

I. Housekeeping: None

II. New Business:

- 1. Vet Committee: Olin Balch gives a short presentation on the new proposed idea to have the ride cards copied at certain rides and collected for entry into a database for further analysis. There is much discussion on the idea and associated problems, including more workload on ride managers. Olin assures the BOD that the effort for the idea will not be required of ride managers, and only asks for the cost of a scanner and printer. Mike Maul calls for a consensus opinion of the board- it is strongly in favor, a motion will be submitted. Olin also mentions that some drug companies may be willing to fund some of the research.**
- 2. International committee- Kathy B reports that she is stepping down as committee chair, recommends Carol Giles pending BOD approval. She reports on the qualifications for the ztec ride: increase lifetime miles from 200 to 250, and drop the requirement for a 1 day 100. She mentions that there are three positions open on the international high performance team. She reports that the rest of the FEI rides in 07 will have a young rider division. She also amazes the BOD by saying that the UAE has asked for help in how to slow down the rides some what.**
- 3. Finance committee- Patti P submits the motion for the change of the financial audit from FY05 to FY06, and will be paid for in FY07. Motion from committee, motion passes unanimously. Patti reports on the large amount of reserves the AERC has, and that Omar (Accountant) will give his recommendations from an accounting perspective. John P leads a discussion on where to apply the additional income from 06, and suggests the Finance committee make a recommendation with options for a future motion. Patti suggests the recommendation come after the financial review to better understand the cash position. Sue provides a three year financial projection that includes pretty flat growth and a 3% inflation rate. This also assumes no investment in research. Her warning- without membership, rider, and ride growth there may need to be a dues increase.**
- 4. Tom Dean reports on a situation where a ride manager owes money to the AERC, and asks about permission to go after the funds.**

5. Vet Committee revisited: Stagg presents a motion from committee regarding the approval to do the rider card collection and study, as per item 1 above. There is a little discussion. Motion from committee, motion carries unanimously.
6. Trails committee- Joe S submits a motion to add one trail master class in the NorthWest region on 07. There is discussion on the program in general. Motion from committee- motion carries, with 2 no vote (Mike J, and Patti P)
7. Rules Committee- John P leads a discussion on the proposed 30 minute recovery time rule change. There has been a lot of discussion and feedback from the membership. He reminds the BOD that the initial investigation and recommendation came from the welfare and Vet committees. John suggests clarifying the rule that may allow vets to modify the 60 minute completion criteria rule. He also suggests looking at some of the alternatives proposed by many people on the BOD and from membership. It would be more consistent with FEI and other groups to see the horses within 30 minutes post ride. The overall agreement is to have the welfare committee do a summary of options that people have recommended.
8. Insurance committee- Roger T reports on the status of the Santa Fe ride insurance- there will be a phone call to work on the issue with Equisure. Equisure is not sure our policy will cover all areas posed by the new ride logistics, and it may require a custom policy. This may become an issue.
9. Office committee- Roger and Kathleen have gone through the existing policies and procedures manuals (several) and are making recommendations on proposed next steps to update them. This will require work in the future.
10. NC committee- Robert R reports that the 07 ride is approved and the contract is being reviewed for signature. The search is on for the 08 ride with several possibilities. Perspective ride managers need to complete the application process in order to be eligible.
11. Marcom committee- Jennifer N reports on the huge amount of progress made in 06. She shows examples of press releases, adds, reviews, articles. Stagg comments that this area of marketing has exploded, and the committee is doing an amazing job. Jennifer is also looking for more writers and authors. In 07 they will concentrate on continuing, and adding more press releases, and expanding breed coverage.
12. Welfare of the Horse committee- Laura H reports a summary of horse fatalities, and has several suggestions from committee that will become recommendations to the BOD.
13. Endurance ride Committee- Joyce M reports that the group is looking at age requirements, 100 mile recognition, and the need to moderate the AERC members forum. Kim F and Tom D may volunteer to do some high level moderation of the forum if needed.
14. Endurance ride committee- Joyce M reports. Kim F and Tom Dean will take a shot at moderating the AERC members forum. The committee is looking at horse age limit requirements, and 100 mile ride recognition programs. There is some discussion on the minimum age requirements.
15. Mike Maul leads a discussion on the status of the committee structure. He feels there are too many, and like Stagg, says the new scheme tried by Stagg was did not do what it was supposed to. Mike asks each member to submit to him what their recommendations are in writing on which to keep, remove, merge, etc, in two weeks. There are four

required committees by the bylaws: Executive, election, vet, and HOF. There is a roundtable to let each BOD member give their opinions; there are many suggestions.

16. Barry W makes a comment and suggests perhaps a governance committee, he will make some recommendations.
17. The office reminds everyone to be sure to sign their conflict of interest statements and forward to the office.
18. John P discusses the BOD email list and suggests some moderation on some level. Mike M will provide the BOD a common courtesy and best practices note on using email lists. Connie C agrees to try doing some moderation at a high level.
19. Mike J mentions the importance of all regional BOD members being available at the regional awards; he feels it is important to the members.

Other new Business: None raised.

Meeting adjourned at 12:21 PM pst