

**American Endurance Ride Conference
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference Call
January 5, 2009**

Call to Order: 6:03 pm Pacific Standard Time

Roll Call: Mike Maul, Connie Caudill, Patti Pizzo, Michael Campbell, Monica Chapman, Joyce Mocilan, Susan Schomburg, Sandy Terp, Tom Noll, Gail Williams, Terry Woolley Howe, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Joe Schoech, Roger Taylor, Jeff Trinkle, Dianna Chapek, Randy Eiland, Laura Hayes, Robert Ribley, C. Mike Tomlinson DVM, and Bruce Weary.

Also in attendance was Kathleen Henkel, Executive Director of AERC.

Absent from this meeting were Heidi Smith and Jan Stevens – both requested and were granted excusals. Also absent Maryben Stover and John Crandell III.

Minutes of the November and December 2008 conference call minutes approved.

Kathleen Henkel reported on the current state of AERC

Membership as of 1/2/08 - 3401
1/5/09 - 2576

2009 ride result fees have not been entered into the system.

Sanction fees as of 12/1/07 – 1/5/08 - \$8205
12/1/08 – 1/5/09 - \$7075

New members as of 1/2/08 – 237
New members as of 1/5/09 – 113

No committee reports received as of 12/31/08 for this conference call.

Kathleen brought up the issue of members crossing out certain areas of the AERC Release form. Individual sections of the release were discussed at length by the board. Regarding the veterinary records area of the release, Laura Hayes advised regarding all fatalities since 2003 that she has looked into for the Welfare of the Horse Committee, the owners have been forthright with providing information regarding the deaths. John Parke advised he will check the legality of making the release a condition of membership. There is a possibility the bylaws may need to be amended. The Rules Committee will monitor this issue and bring it before the board during a future meeting.

New Business

Equisure, Inc. requested additional information be added to the ride managers handbook regarding finish lines. The following was drafted: *When considering the safety of the horse and rider, the finish line needs extra attention to every detail by the ride manager. The finish line should be well defined so that riders are aware of its location. The finish line should be located where a safe run out on good footing is provided, not through camp or on roads that includes vehicular traffic. It should be located well away from open vehicle roads but if this is not possible then a ride manager must have road crossing guards in place to stop traffic when horses are present. Often times it is best to locate the finish lines well out on the trail, it can even be a couple of miles out in order to have a safer finish. In the pre ride meeting, the ride manager needs to explain to riders where the finish is located. Riders are encouraged to go out before the start of the ride to take a look at the last mile and the finish line so that they can assess the finish line and then ride accordingly. Both the ride manager and the rider need to take the responsibility in making the entire ride safe including the start and finish.*

John Parke advised this information should be brought before the Ride Manager's Committee for review before it is made a part of the ride managers' handbook.

The board was advised by President Maul the Executive Committee approved AERC International's recommendations regarding the USEF Endurance Tech Committee on a teleconference held 12/5/08. Members of the committee - Linda Howard, Teresa Cross, Joe Mattingley, Mike Tomlinson, Charrise Glenn, Jan Stevens, Michele Roush, and Dinah Rojek.

Regarding endowments, John Parke advised the cost for setting up a parallel organization to attract large testamentary donations could run as high as \$20,000 with a maintenance cost annually of \$2,000-\$5,000.

John Parke suggests setting up an Ad Hoc Committee to focus on looking into setting up ride camps all over the country for use by AERC for rides over the long haul. The land could be acquired by AERC for ride use or the land could be obtained on long-term leases. John anticipates conference calls before the convention with the committee. Other than John Parke, committee members are: Michael Campbell, John Crandell, Laura Hayes, Roger Taylor, Susan Kasemeyer, and Tom Noll. New information will be presented to the membership during John's Hot Topics presentations at the convention and in turn presented to the board during Sunday's meeting.

Bruce Weary advised a motion will be presented at the convention regarding the RFD-TV proposal. Bruce has worked closely with Stagg Newman and the Education Committee regarding the motion and funding. Bruce was asked by the producer to be on site during the filming. Bruce advised AERC will have creative input throughout the filming.

The board moved into executive session at 7:13 p.m. and the recording was stopped.

Meeting resumed at 7:27 p.m.

Randy Eiland advised the sponsorship committee secured SR Saddles as a sponsor for the 2009 season.

Bruce Weary moved to adjourn with Robert Ribley seconding. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Henkel
In absence of Secretary Jan Stevens