

## **AERC BOD Meeting Louisville, Kentucky February 19, 2009 AERC Convention**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Mike Maul with the following BOD members in attendance: Jan Stevens, Gail Williams, Sandy Terp, Randy Eiland, Jeff Trinkle, Roger Taylor, Patti Pizzo, Dianna Chapek, Joe Schoech, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Michael Campbell, Robert Ribley, Laura Hayes, Connie Caudill, Monica Chapman, Susie Schomburg, Maryben Stover, Tom Noll, and Mike Maul.

Also in attendance were Roberta Harms and Susan Keil, DVM – newly elected BOD members who will be sworn in at the General Session on Saturday February 21, 2009.

Absent: Joyce Mochilan (arrived at 8:20 pm), Terry Woolley-Howe (arrived at 8:20 pm), and John Crandell III.

The motion was made to excuse Heidi Smith, DVM; Bruce Weary, and C. Mike Tomlinson, DVM from the meetings this weekend. Motion Passed.

The motion was made to accept the BOD meeting minutes (see attached) from January 5, 2009 conference call. Motion passed.

The motion was made to accept the AERC Committee reports from the following committees: AERC International, Elections Committee, Finance Committee, Marketing/Public Relations, Office Operations, Research contract financial status report, Technical Committee, and Veterinary Committee. (Reports attached) The motion passed.

Kathleen reported to the BOD that currently the AERC membership stands at 4565 members compared to 5003 at the same time last year.

Susan Kasemeyer from the Special Sanctioning Committee requested the BOD to consider sanctioning the North American Junior Young Rider Endurance Ride FEI 75 mile ride for full sanctioning. The ride will be held July 24, 2009 in Henryville, Indiana. Jan Stevens is the ride manager with Connie Caudill as the alternate. The head vet has yet to be determined. This is the second year for the ride. The reason for the special sanctioning request is due to the entry limitations by the age of the rider (16-21 with an allowance for riders who also ride with a letter from AERC to ride in the adult division). The motion passed unanimously for full sanctioning.

It was determined that since Bruce Weary was absent from the meeting that the RFD-TV program about endurance riding be postponed until the next AERC BOD conference call.

Rules Committee reported to the BOD concerning the new AERC Release that is to be signed by all members when they join and/or renew their membership to AERC. Kathleen reported that around 25% of the membership have not signed and returned their release when they have been sent out with the membership cards. Some have been returned that have portions crossed out, while others have requested to have their releases sent back to them (the member) because they do not want it signed.

It was suggested that perhaps next year for the paper membership forms that the horse registration portion of the form could be removed and the release could be added into that section.

It was reported that some people disagree with the form and do not want to sign it. While other people have not signed it due to mechanical problems or for some other reason. A

recommendation came in that perhaps we could have verbiage for Ride Managers to include in their releases that would cover the same requirements of the AERC release.

Connie asked if it would be easier if the release were to be put into the bylaws. John Parke indicated that it may not be as enforceable, but would certainly be easier to keep track of.

Gail Williams stated that PNER includes AERC in the releases from rides that are sanctioned with that organization.

Monica Chapman brought up the fact that most ride managers do not have those who are not riding sign a release.

Susie stated that the Rules Committee will proceed with looking into why people are not signing the releases and make suggestions of how to proceed.

Maryben Stover reported on the AERC Junior/Young Rider Scholarship. Maryben reported that there were three people on the committee that oversees the applications for the \$1000 scholarship. She stated that there were eight applications and that all the applications were equally deserving of the scholarship. She reported that the winner of the AERC Scholarship would be announced at the AERC Awards Dinner.

Melissa Ribley, Chair of the Veterinary Committee reported to the BOD on the Outsourcing of the AERC Drug Testing by United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) by the use of a Power Point presentation. After her presentation it was brought to the BOD's attention by John Parke that it is not the sensitivity of the testing, it is the credibility of the testing facility that we lack. Dr. Schumacher, USEF head of testing, reported to the BOD that in 2008 USEF tested 17,500 tests with 198 positive tests and of those 133 were violations. USEF tests for 27 difference breeds and disciplines. The lab was established in 1995. It is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They do not do racehorse testing; rather they just test sport and performance horses.

John Parke discussed that the current cost of testing is \$18,000 and the proposed cost from USEF will be \$50,000. That makes it around \$30,000 extra in costs. He noted that at the Hot Topics held during convention last year that those AERC members present were in favor of out-sources the drug testing to USEF.

Randy indicated that the perception of testing is currently great; however the numbers testing positive are less than 1%.

Tom Noll feels that the Veterinary Committee has worked on this for several years and that the committee is in favor of out-sourcing the drug testing. He suggested that members of the Ride Managers' committee should look at this proposal.

The current proposed contract is for 25 rides to be tested with eight samples being taken at these rides. USEF indicated that they are open to negotiating the number of rides tested.

It was determined to move the motion to the Sunday morning meeting so that the BOD can have time to think it over and talk to various members of AERC who were attending the convention.

Michael Campbell, chairman of the Trails and Land Management Committee, reported to the BOD that there will be five Trail Master Classes in 2009.

He also reported that there will be two motions before the BOD for trail projects on Sunday. One will be the Lake Meredith Project and the other will be the Pierce Ranch Project.

Terry Woolley-Howe reported to the BOD as the chair of the Limited Distance sub-committee of the Competitions Committee. Terry reported that 40% of starts in the AERC are LD starts. Some rides use vets who refuse to judge Best Condition in Limited Distance rides. She stated that this is inconsistent across the country and because of this it is unfair to the membership who ride LD and could possibly be awarded a national BC award if all rides offered LD BC. A straw poll was taken asking the BOD if they felt that offering LD BC should be up to the ride manager. 15 of the members present voted that it should be up to the ride manager, while five felt that it should be worded the same as the endurance rules (that a BC award must be available, but need not be given if the veterinarian judging BC feels that there is not a horse worthy of the award).

The BOD went into Executive Session at 10:15 pm requiring all non-BOD members to leave the room.

The BOD came into regular session at 10:25 pm with a motion by Susan Kasemeyer to adjourn, seconded by Joe Schoech.

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### **AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL**

**Motion Name: RFD-TV Television program about Endurance Riding**

**Proposing Committee: Outside proposal to AERC for Board approval by “All Around Performance Horse Productions”**

**Date of Motion: 2/19/09**

**Classification of Motion Request: New motion to approve funding of educational television program about Endurance Riding**

**Proposed Motion:** Motion to approve funding for production, filming, editing and broadcasting of a cable television program highlighting Endurance Riding, it's general nature and attractive qualities.

**Background, analysis and benefit** All Around Performance Horse Productions will provide above mentioned services guided by input from AERC personnel as to content so as to portray Endurance Riding in as positive and informative light as possible. Show to be aired six (6) times over a six (6) month period on RFD-TV, which has a 40,000,000 household distribution, and a 6,000,000 household penetration. (This represents the number of households that may be likely to view the program.) After the first broadcast, AERC will own a master copy of the program, which may not be edited (but can be added to) nor may it be used in any revenue generating pursuit. Copies may be made at the discretion of AERC for educational and promotional purposes such as but not limited to: 1) Distribution to new and /or existing members 2) Use as a speaking tool at AERC presentations to other trail groups 3) Public viewing at AERC events (convention, rides, etc.,) Anticipated benefits include but are not limited to: 1) Stimulation of new memberships 2) Improving and maintaining public perception of Endurance Riding 3) Improving and maintaining relations with animal rights organizations. 4) Serving as a valuable educational tool for new members regarding safe

participation in the sport of Endurance Riding for both horse and rider.

**Budget effect/impact** No effect on general budget. Education Committee has approved disbursement of \$6,000 fee to All Around Performance Horse Productions, (AAHP). AAHP agrees to reinvest/purchase approximately \$3,000 in advertising in Endurance News to promote the airing of said program on RFD-TV. Advertising will entail six months of ads throughout the broadcasting period.

**Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization:** During this time of economic uncertainty, AERC may garner significant interest in Endurance Riding from horse owners who currently do not participate. Program will serve as a valuable educational tool for new members, as it will cover such topics as proper feeding, conditioning, pacing as well as demonstrate and explain the meaning and importance of a proper veterinary examination. The program may be used to educate other organizations whose interests may include trail preservation and animal welfare.

**Impact on AERC Office** Minimal. Copies of program may eventually be mailed to new members and/or those who request a copy for the price of shipping and handling. This would minimize further costs to AERC's general budget.

**Committees consulted and/or affected:** Educational Committee—Approves project as educational, and agrees to provide full funding so as to relieve the AERC general budget of further strain.

**Implementation plan:** Some filming has already been done. Balance of production, filming, and editing would like be completed by late 2009, with broadcasting to begin in late 2009, extending into early 2010.

**Supporting materials :** Contract proposal from AAPH available for review on request.

**Supporting approval:** Education Committee formally approves project and funding. Informal general approval given by BOD at monthly teleconference, 1/5/09.

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**Report to AERC Board**  
**AERC-I Conference Call**  
Tuesday, December 2, 2008  
Prepared by Carol Giles, Chair

9:00 p.m. Eastern (6:00 p.m. Pacific, 7:00 p.m., Mountain, 8:00 p.m. Central)

Attendance: Carol Giles – Chair  
Betty Baker – Treasurer  
Mike Tomlinson - USEF Technical Committee  
Joe Mattingly - USEF High Performance  
Jan Stevens – Junior Committee  
Jeremy Olson – Central  
Grace Ramsey – Central  
Martha McMurray – Mountain  
Cia Reis – East

Hal Hall – Pac North  
Michele Roush – Pac North  
Teresa Cross – Pac South  
Carolyn Hock – Pac South

Absent:

Lynn Kenelly – Vice Chair (excused)  
Kirsten Kimbler – USEF Youth Council Representative  
Vonita Bowers, USEF Endurance Director (excused)  
Holly Ulyate – Mountain  
Dinah Rojak - East

1. Agenda
  - Michele moved to approve the agenda for the December 2, 2008 meeting. Jeremy seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.
- Minutes
  - Jeremy moved to approve the October 2008 minutes. Michele seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Jeremy moved to approve the November 2008 minutes. Grace seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously. .
2. Treasurer's Report – Betty Baker
  - Betty reported that AERC-I has \$13490.00 in cash plus \$25,000 in CDs. To date, our income has been \$8,200 with expenses of \$6,574 for a net profit of \$1,634.
  - One FEI loan has been repaid. We have two loans outstanding.
  - AERC-I paid for the banner that was used at the Young Riders' Championship earlier this year.
  - The Young Rider budget for 2009 is \$2,236.50.
  - Betty continues to work with USEF to collect their contribution to the welcome reception.
3. USEF Update – Technical Committee – Mike Tomlinson
  - There will be an officials course following the AERC convention.
  - The new IHP rules went into effect today. Riders are now required to pay \$35.00 per FEI ride up to \$380.00 per year.
4. USEF Update – High Performance Committee – Joe Mattingly
  - USEF is asking anyone involved in process for selecting the WEG team to complete a questionnaire evaluating various aspects of the process.
5. USEF Update – Developing Rider Program
  - No activity until further notice.
6. USEF Update – Endurance Director's Report – Vonita Bowers
  - No report
7. USEF Update – USEF Youth Council Rep – Kirsten Kimbler
  - No report
8. Competitions Committee Liason – Michele Roush
  - Michele reports there is no activity.

9. Repopulation of the USEF Technical Committee
  - A general discussion was held regarding repopulation of the USEF Technical Committee. It was stressed that those placed on the committee must be actively involved. AERC-I then discussed the merits of the current members of the Technical Committee as well as the merits of new individuals who have indicated a desire to serve. Following this discussion Zone Reps nominated individuals for: (a) appointment to the USEF Technical Committee, (b) Presidential appointment to the USEF Technical Committee, and (c) alternates for possible appointment to the USEF Technical Committee. Following a written ballot, the results were presented to the AERC Board in the form of a motion. The AERC Executive Committee approved that motion, which was then forwarded to USEF.

The remainder of the agenda was tabled, and the meeting was adjourned.

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### **Elections Committee Report**

AERC Directors At Large  
Robert J Morris, Chair  
February 2009

The nomination and election of AERC Directors-at-Large for the years 2009 and 2010 took place in the latter half of 2008. As per AERC By-laws, the nominations and voting processes were conducted and Directors were elected.

This election did not run as smoothly as it has in other years. I hereby list a chronicle of events that occurred followed by explanations, excerpts from related E-mails and recommendations from the Elections Committee.

Announcements were made of the call for nominations via the Endurance News, the AERC web page and E-mail well in advance of the deadline for nominations. The list of Nominees was finalized in a post from the AERC Office to the Elections Chair on 10/1/2008.

The list of nominated persons was posted on the AERC web site as well as on line. On 11/24/2008 a question arose concerning multiple ballots being returned in a single envelope to the organization counting said ballots. Members who were voting had been informed that if multiple ballots were in a single envelope they would not be counted. This decision was subsequently reversed by Conference Executives and the matter laid to rest. Concurrently, it was brought to attention an error existed that some Youth Members had received ballots by mistake. This problem was rectified.

On 11/25/2008 another more serious matter arose. Some members of the AERC brought to the Elections Committee Chair, the fact that a number of members had not received their ballots in time to vote and return the ballots prior to the defined deadline. Here again Conference Executives made a decision and the voting deadline was extended to 12/31/2008.

On 1/6/2009 the official ballot count was received, from the organization tallying the vote, and the AERC President officially advised the nominees of the results.

In order to preclude such occurrences in the future, the AERC Elections Committee Chair requested the AERC Office reconstruct the events of this election so that action could be taken by the AERC Board of Directors, if necessary, changing policies or procedures as warranted.

The missive as received, from the AERC Office, is very well composed and descriptive of what occurred and is as follows:

*The total ballots sent out: 6422. The number of ballots sent out in the second mailing was 2937.*

*38 ballots were returned to the office by the U.S. Post Office indicating address problems.*

*1767 ballots were counted for the election by the independent ballot counter. Before the extension was granted, 1501 ballots were counted.*

*To date, I have not been advised of any invalid ballots received. Some ballots, however, contained membership applications and checks for memberships and those applications and funds were forwarded separately to the office by the ballot counter.*

*In preparation of the election, the office took count and ordered envelopes, both #9 envelopes with the address of the ballot counter, and #10 envelopes with AERC's return address to hold the ballot, the candidate sheet, and the mailing envelope (#9). The list of voting members was run off the Tomcat database and sent immediately to Auburn Printers as they were handling the mailing. Programming information had previously been input in the computer regarding voting members and appears under the mailing label program in Tomcat as "Voters". That choice was used for the list of members to ultimately receive ballots.*

*The ballots were prepared and numbered in the office. We have a handheld number stamping machine that automatically numbers.*

*The office ran copies of the candidate's statement on the AERC copy machine and assembled the envelopes for mailing. The office stuffed each envelope with one ballot, one candidate sheet and one envelope and then sealed all envelopes. The envelopes were then picked up by Auburn Printers for labeling and mailing out of the Main Sacramento, CA Post Office.*

*During the course of the month it was ascertained that the list of "Voters" was not complete. It was also ascertained that approximately six (6) individuals that received ballots should not have due to their age. The language used in the initial programming, provided to the programmer by the office many years ago was not correct. That language has since been changed and only individuals that are age 18 and over at the beginning of the ride season will receive ballots in future elections.*

*The office worked with the programmer and the President of AERC to correct the mailing list issues and a second list was run and all envelopes were stuffed with the proper paperwork and mailed from the office to the second group of voters (2937 voters).*

To the knowledge of the AERC Elections Committee there is currently no written Policy or Procedure for elections other than the AERC By-laws (revised). It is the recommendation of the AERC Elections Committee that certain Policies and Procedures (P&P) be instituted, in writing, for future elections. These P&P should be formulated to encompass the entire election process,

delineating the various steps and the entity responsible. These procedures should also determine necessary checks and balances to assure that future errors are kept to a minimum

Should the AERC Board of Directors have any questions I am more than willing to provide answers.

One of the problems causing voting confusion.

One of the problems in the recent past election for AERC Directors was the inadvertent inclusion of non-eligible, under age, members.

Our AERC By-laws state that we have a membership category called “Youth Membership”, This classification of membership does not carry voting privileges.(see excerpts from By-laws below)

When we refer to the several classifications of members in our database (the source of information for distributing ballots) we find no reference to Youth Membership. In fact if we refer to the AERC web site for information on joining the AERC we find reference to Family Members or, separately, Junior Memberships at a lower than regular member cost. But by our By-laws we do not have a membership classification of “Junior”!

The only positive method of discerning those members not eligible to vote is to rely upon the date of birth. This is a very inaccurate methodology as many times the date of birth is not available or, questionable.

Consider the possibility :

We sort out the “C” (child) classified and find date of births ranging from:

Query1					
Season	InternalMemberID	RelationCode	DivisionCode	MemberTypeCode	BirthDate
2008	26617	C	M	F	3/6/1954

(I guess that at 54 years old it is a second childhood)

To:

Query1					
Season	InternalMemberID	RelationCode	DivisionCode	MemberTypeCode	BirthDate
2008	31124	C	J	F	3/31/2005

A highly unreliable metric.

Let us next consider utilizing the “J” (junior) designation:

Query1					
Season	InternalMemberID	RelationCode	DivisionCode	MemberTypeCode	BirthDate
2008	29533	O	J	F	8/5/1984

(A 24 year old junior?)

Ranging to:

Query1					
Season	InternalMemberID	RelationCode	DivisionCode	MemberTypeCode	BirthDate
2008	30462	O	J	F	12/10/2008



(Interesting that these extremes are not considered children but “Others”! Dare we question the parentage?)

To rectify this dilemma we must consider reviewing the system of data entry, classification of membership, resolution of data, policies and procedures of elections and systems control.

References:

*By-laws*

5.03. The Board may establish membership categories and the dues and privileges of and within these categories. All membership categories shall apply to Regular, Affiliate, and Special Member classifications. No person may hold more than one membership.

(a) *Adult Membership.* An individual shall be considered an adult Member if they have attained the age of eighteen years before the beginning of the Ride Season.

(b) *Youth Membership.* An individual shall be considered a youth Member if they have not yet attained the age of eighteen years prior to the beginning of the Ride Season.

6.06. ...Youth Members, Affiliate Members, all Special Memberships other than Adult Lifetime and any Inactive Members shall not be entitled to vote on Conference matters.

*Rules and Regulations*

10.1 A Junior is a rider who was under the age of 16 as of the first day of the ride season in which the ride is held.

### **AERC 2009 Schedule of Fees**

AERC's membership year runs from December 1 through November 30.

- Membership (single) \$65
- Each additional family member \$15
- Junior only membership \$35

<b>dbo_MemberTypes</b>	
<b>MemberTypeCode</b>	<b>MemberTypeDesc</b>
C	Complimentary
F	Full Member
S	Subscription
V	Vet

<b>dbo_RelationCodes</b>	
<b>RelationCode</b>	<b>RelationDesc</b>
C	Child
H	Husband
O	Other
P	Parent

dbo_RelationCodes	
RelationCode	RelationDesc
W	Wife

dbo_Divisions		
DivisionCode	DivisionDesc	altDivisionCode
F	Featherweight	FW
H	Heavyweight	HW
J	Junior	JR
L	Lightweight	LW
M	Middleweight	MW
N	Non Declared	ND
S	Senior	SR
U	Un-sponsored Junior	UJ

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**Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report, 2/10/09  
Submitted by Troy Smith, Committee Chair**

Members of the Marketing/Public Relations Committee have spread the word about endurance riding through articles placed in publications such as Arabian Horse World, Trail Rider and Chronicle of the Horse.

Last year the committee committed just over \$5700 to advertising, as approved by the board. Our ads appeared in magazines both large and small across the U.S. This year we are cutting back to just over \$2300 in ad placements, targeting two main publications: Modern Arabian Horse (AHA's house publication) and Trail Rider.

Endurance News' ad revenue is down as well at the start of 2009, but adjustments are being made to page count in order to keep the advertising close to our target rate of 20%-30% of magazine space. We continue to attract quality articles and depend on contributions of our members for both story ideas and article submissions.

We will continue to work on bringing endurance into public awareness during the build-up to the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky next year.

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## **Office Committee Report**

AERC Convention

February 2009

Prepared by Kathleen A. Henkel, Chair

Several additions to the membership for the 2009 season added substantially to the workload in the office: 3-year memberships, excess liability insurance, and membership releases.

All three of the above have added many steps to processing and have slowed our efficiency. Three-year memberships require additional time to process in both the accounting department and the membership department. Additional time and expense is required for printing cards for the 3-year period, along with additional postage. Each person that renews via U.S. Mail or via telephone must have a release sent to them with a return envelope along with their membership card(s). It is necessary to break the dollars received down to three years in the accounting department, with care given to horse registrations, AERC International, excess liability insurance and donations to be certain they are all placed in the proper year.

The excess liability insurance requires a monthly report to Equisure along with payment of insurance for the members that signed up during the month. The report includes the member's name, street address, whether signing up for family or single coverage, and their effective date. Time consuming. When the membership forms reach the membership desk it is necessary to make a copy of the form for tracking their insurance needs and sending the information to Equisure – this occurs whether an individual signs up online or over the phone or U.S. Mail. Two mailings are necessary to those that purchased the insurance prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> and one mailing to those that purchased the insurance on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>. The cost of administering this program is more than what is brought in.

Enhancements by the Technical Committee to handle the new additions have caused some issues with the system until bugs were cleared. There has also been added expense connected to these additions. Invoices entered for 2009 to date put the office over its \$2000 budget for 2009 related to computer repair and maintenance. Cost to date: \$3695 added to the office budget and \$840 to the Technical Committee budget. The office network maintenance has run approximately \$400 to date and is included in the \$3695 figure above.

It was necessary for the office to purchase two (2) computers during the 2008 season. We now have 4 stations that handle Tomcat and Troy's stand alone with the magazine. It is our desire that a stand-alone server be purchased for the purpose of testing new additions to the Tomcat computer system. There are many times currently that something is added to the system and all of a sudden one or more items go wrong with our input and reports and it honestly slows us down. We would like the additional server utilized for working out the additions and testing so that the flow of the office workload is not interrupted.

Troy Smith continues to put out a quality issue of the Endurance News each month – working on a shoe string. She works diligently to obtain new advertisers for the magazine while servicing her long-time clients and places ads in several magazines throughout the ride season to attract new members. We received a great response to the last ads asking that individuals interested call for a magazine and new member packet. Troy adds all kinds of extra duties to her schedule at the beginning of the membership year (inputting members and mailing out cards) and also handles all the printing concerns for the convention. Troy personally typed over 600 certificates for the convention. The choice to have certificates available to the membership rather than the actual awards (awards to be mailed) is a savings of thousands of dollars in postage costs to AERC. Troy

is also responsible for updating the website – she keeps the members apprised of new rides, cancelled rides, magazine updates, etc. A never-ending job.

Rho comes in twice weekly to handle all the filing (membership applications, liability releases) and the mailing of ride manager packets and veterinary info, along with handling all address changes and mail problems. A tireless job, but she does it with much humor.

Suzi is settling into her accounting duties – she is not the new person any longer! During the busy convention time, has added Fridays to her work schedule to keep up with the tracking of attendees, etc. She works closely with the treasurer throughout the season on financial issues and contacts AERC's accountant with pertinent questions. She handles the settlement reports for those that join online, working closely with Judy regarding fee issues when necessary.

Judy is amazing – inputting the membership and the ride results, along with the mailing of membership cards and membership materials when necessary. Judy works closely with Suzi on the fee settlement reports for members that join online. The additional steps involved with the 3-year memberships and the mailing of releases has added some extra time to her routine however, everyone in the office is always eager to pitch in when needed to keep things moving and help answer the members concerns.

Membership stands at 4565 as of February 17, 2009. On February 13, 2008, the total was 5003 so AERC is a bit behind, however memberships continue to arrive daily via phone, U.S. Mail and online so I am hopeful we will continue to edge closer to our 2008 figures.

As always, our phone lines and front door is open to any and all board members that want to come and visit – we encourage you to come in and see how things happen at AERC.

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### **Research Contract Financial Status Report**

Prepared by Robert J. Morris

Contracts Administrator

February 2009

The AERC has, in past years, assigned financial assets to certain worthwhile research projects conducted by entities outside the Conference. The majority of these projects have been under written contract with constraining stipulations for reimbursement to the principal investigator.

Among the stipulations are reporting requirements, no payment for associated institutional association overhead, materials reimbursement only upon supporting invoice, etc. This methodology has been fairly successful.

From June of 2005 until now, February 2009, the AERC has awarded \$140, 506 in research contracts. (See spread sheet below) The management of these contracts has been, for the most part, quite successful.

However, there are some concerns that do exist. While the financial aspects have been almost seamless, certain administrative factors present problems. I will enumerate these contract by contract.

The "PRIDE PROJECT" was funded, not by the AERC, but by private subscription. The AERC was to administer the project. All work except the final statistical analysis was accomplished and the Principal Investigator was reimbursed. A contract was signed with Dr. Trisha Dowling in the fall of 2005 to complete the analysis. I spoke with Dr. Dowling at the AERC Convention in 2008 and the analysis was well towards completion. It appears that this was never culminated and the funds are still unpaid. It would behoove the AERC to finalize this project in one way or another; it has been over five years just hanging.

The research agreement with the University of Michigan and Dr. Hal Schott has never been finalized. (See spread sheet below) Dr. Schott. Dr. Schott has been reimbursed only 50% of his contract. I am aware that he did expend considerably more effort in his project than he has been reimbursed for. This project needs administrative attention so that it can be closed out.

Dr. Tanja Hess and Virginia Tech at Middleburg was awarded a contract for research concerning potassium supplementation in April of 2005. The reimbursement was primarily for materials to be incorporated into the project. To date this project has not been finalized? Contact should be made with the Principal Investigator and if any payments are due they should be paid and the project closed.

In January of 2008 I was asked to administer an additional research contracts::

Dr. Stith Gower, working out of the University of Wisconsin has completed his initial project concerning invasive weeds in the Eastern part of the country. This work received a peer reviewed publication and has been referenced widely in other environs. Dr. Gower has completed his first season of work on his study of invasive weeds in the Western region. Funding of this second project is a joint venture of the AERC and outside interests. The AERC is the initial point of contact and handles all financial aspects. This arrangement appears to be functioning well.

In September of 2008 another research project was added to the administration request. It was:

The project to consider is the investigation of comparison of heart rate variability in working horses with Dr. Mary Durando as principal Investigator. The contract calls for reimbursement for expendable supplies and travel. It was put into place late November of 2008 and there have been no calls on these monies as yet.

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### **2008 Technical Subcommittee report**

Prepared by Mike Maul, Chair

February 2009

Three year membership

- \* Added three year membership capability to TomCat
- \* Added three year membership capability to online renewal and new member join

Releases

- \* Added release checkoff and tracking to TomCat
- \* Added release checkoff and tracking to online renewal and new member join

## Excess Liability Insurance

- \* Added insurance capability and tracking to TomCat
- \* Added insurance and tracking to online renewal and new member join

## Ride Results Input online

- \* Added input using excel spreadsheet for managers
- \* Printout capability for BC for online ride results input for paper copies in the office
- \* Summary page for office for online ride results input

## Committee Polls and Surveys

- \* Set up capability for committee polls and surveys
- \* Ran surveys for Competitions and Education committees

## Cost savings

- \* Rehosted AERC site to save \$250/year

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## **Veterinary Committee Report**

Convention meeting, February 2009

Prepared by Melissa Ribley, Chair

- I. Accomplishments in 2008
  - A. Have written 12 monthly Vet Forum articles for Endurance News
  - B. Published 4 quarterly AERC Veterinary Newsletters
  - C. Continued the AERC Veterinary Certification Program. A total of 200 veterinarians have been certified to date. There was a total of approximately 236 AERC veterinary members for 2008.
  - D. Have written 7 fatality reports
  - E. Drug tested 19 rides, broken down by region:  
Central – 1 Midwest – 3 Mountain – 4 Northeast - 0 Northwest – 3  
Southeast – 3 Southwest – 3 West - 2 No positive test results
  - F. Planned the veterinary continuing education program for the 2009 convention
  - G. Organized a veterinary panel for the 2009 convention
  - H. Continued working with insurance committee to investigate the viability of insurance for control judges.
  - I. Have started statistical review of the post ride statistical reporting forms
  - J. Have consulted with veterinary medical boards on the issue of license requirements for judging rides in multiple states.
  - K. Worked with rules committee to revise the definition of the veterinary judge to control judge
  - L. Revised and updated the AERC Control Judge Handbook
  - M. Provided a resource to riders, veterinarians and board members for questions and concerns regarding AERC veterinary matters.
  - N. Assisted office with the election and formation of the incoming veterinary committee
  - O. Reviewed articles for Endurance News that related to horse health

- P. Updated the appendices to Rule 13, the AERC Drug Rule
  - Q. Worked with USEF on outsourcing the AERC drug testing program
  - R. Have evaluated the viability of a 30 minute maximum post ride pulse criteria through voluntary participation of rides
- II. Future Goals
- A. Outsource the AERC drug testing program to USEF
  - B. Assist the Ride Managers and Competitions Committee in the revision of the Ride Managers Handbook and Riders Handbook to make parallel updates so as to be consistent with the revised Control Judges Handbook.
  - C. Plan and implement the veterinary continuing education program for the 2010 convention. This includes obtaining a sponsor. Develop a continuing education program for endurance control judges and treating veterinarians for major veterinary CE meetings such as the AAEP.
  - D. Implementation of a 30 minute maximum post ride pulse criteria.