

AERC General Session Meeting – Louisville, Kentucky – February 21, 2009

President Mike Maul called the meeting to order at 10:45 am.

AERC BOD members present: Jan Stvens, 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, Joyce Mocilan, Maryben Stover, Gail Williams, Terry Woolley-Howe, and Mike Maul.

Absent were: Bruce Weary, C. Mike Tomlinson, Heidi Smith, DVM, and Tom Noll.

Stagg Newman swore in the following Directors at Large:

Susan Keil
Roberta Harms
Kim Fuess
John Crandall III
Randy Eiland
Laura Hayes
Mike Maul

Nominations for the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary were opened.

John Parke nominated:
Connie Caudill as President
Laura Hayes as Vice President
Jan Stevens as Secretary

Patti Pizzo nominated:
Roger Taylor as Treasurer

Terry Woolley-Howe motioned to close the nominations with Susan Kasemeyer seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Since there were no run-offs for those positions, the nominations stood and those people nominated will be sworn in at the AERC Awards Dinner that evening.

John Parke then remarked on the fine jobs that the previous BOD members have done for the past year, Mike Maul as President, Connie Caudill as Vice President, Patti Pizzo as Treasurer, and Jan Stevens as Secretary.

Mike Maul then thanked the BOD and the membership for their support while he was President and then handed the meeting over to Connie Caudill.

Connie Caudill then opened the meeting to the membership present at the General Session.

Karen Balch, DVM then spoke to the topic of Animal Rights and questioned what AERC was doing for the safety and welfare of our Equines. Laura Hayes, chair of the Horse Welfare Committee, spoke to the statement that they have drafted to the American Horse Council (per

their request for such). She indicated that she, Laura, will be traveling to their (AHC) annual meeting to speak on what AERC is doing for horse welfare and safety.

Helen Koehler, a trails advocate from Florida, then requested that the BOD continue with their trail maintenance training, however, she indicated that we needed to show more of what AERC is doing. She felt that we needed to have exhibits of projects that we have done to be displayed here at our convention as well as at various trails symposiums across the country.

Michael Campbell, chair of the Trails and Land Management Committee, asked everyone to read the Trails Post in *Endurance News* and note that trails are disappearing. He encouraged everyone to develop relationships with the land managers. He also indicated that there are several people within AERC who are working with the American Horse Council and several other trails organizations that are getting the word out about the importance of trail preservation.

Mike Maul then spoke about a recent article in *Equus* magazine that covered trails preservation and that quoted the Eastern Weed Study that AERC provided a Trails Grant for. Mike also pointed out that the Western Weed Study (another Trails Grants project from AERC) is underway.

Susan Vuturo then spoke to the BOD requesting that the BOD needs to do more with the AERC mentoring program. She requested that AERC provide a mentoring package to be given out. She also asked that ride managers ask that AERC mentors introduce themselves at ride meeting so that novice riders can request help if they need it.

Stagg Newman, chair of the Education Committee, reported that they are currently working on updating the mentoring program. Terre O'Brennan is heading the sub-committee who is reworking the mentoring program.

Mike Maul then quoted some statistics that there are approximately 1000 new members each year and that approximately 40% of them are still members after three years. He also stated that we list the new members in *Endurance News* by region, but suggested that we might also list the city and state that these new members are from so that people who live close could possibly contact these new members and offer assistance if they need it.

Kim Fuess, chairperson of the Competitions Committee, stated that they were setting their goals for 2009 and were looking for membership input on what they would like them to pursue.

Sandy Terp, chairperson of the AERC Junior/Young Rider Scholarship Program, questioned whether anyone in the audience had applied for the Scholarship this year and if anyone had any suggestions.

Jacki Mitchell, 38 year AERC member from the Southeast, suggested that AERC award scholarships to all our National Junior/Young Rider winners. She also suggested that AERC look into finding people who would sponsor such awards.

Joy Mahler spoke to the membership in the room suggesting that there needed to be more recognition for the juniors and young riders.

Roger Taylor thanked Patti Pizzo for her hard work as treasurer. He noted that it was peoples' discretionary money that is used to do endurance. He appealed to the membership that he is looking for recommendations on where to make more money and/or where to save money.

With there being no other business or other AERC members wishing to address the BOD the motion was made by Terry Woolley-Howe and seconded by Susie Schomburg to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 am. The motion passed unanimously.