

**American Endurance Ride Conference
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference Call
April 4, 2009**

President Connie Caudill called the meeting of the AERC Board of Directors to order at 6:00 pm Pacific time.

Present at the meeting are: Jan Stevens, Tom Noll, Laura Hayes, Kim Fuess, Terry Woolley-Howe, Roberta Harms, Mike Maul, Joyce Mocilan, John Crandell, III, Dianna Chapek, Sandy Terp, Susie Schomburg, Susan Kasemeyer, Joe Schoech, Monica Chapman, Susan Keil, DVM, Michael Campbell, Maryben Stover, Randy Eiland, Jeff Trinkle, Roger Taylor Patti Pizzo, Gail Williams, Bruce Weary, and Connie Caudill.

Absent: John Parke

Additional AERC Members present: Kathleen Henkel - Executive Director of AERC, Olin Balch, DVM - Chair of the Research Committee, Stagg Newman - Chair of the Education Committee, and Jeanette Mero, DVM - Chair of the Veterinary Committee.

The request was made to approve the agenda. Susan Kasemeyer made the motion and it was seconded by Sandy Terp. The motion passed unaniomously.

Roger Taylor made the motion to approve the minutes from the AERC Annual Convention (February 19th Regular meeting, 21st General Session, and the Regular meeting on March 2nd). Mike Maul seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Laura Hayes made the motion to accept the committee reports (attached) with Susan Kasemeyer seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathleen Henkel reported the BOD on the membership numbers and current AERC ride information:

Membership as of 4/7/08 6014, 4/6/09 5341. Rider fees as of 4/6/08 \$15,569.40; 4/6/09 \$13,625.00. Sanction fees as of 4/6/08 \$13,195.00; 4/6/09 \$13,040.00. Sanction fees to date for the 2010 season: \$70.00. New members as of 4/7/08 627. New members as of 4/6/09 394.

New Business

John Parke was to give a presentation to the BOD on his New Board Member Seminar, but due to his absence the presentation was tabled.

Mike Maul brought before the BOD membership issues. Mike reported that we tend to

lose new members after three years and he felt that it was due to these new members not having enough contact with current members of AERC, emphasizing his feeling that the BOD members need to be contacting these new members to bring them into the fold of AERC. Mike suggested that BOD members call the new members who live in their region and recommend that they attend an endurance event as a volunteer if they weren't planning on riding. Several members requested that the office not only list the region that the new members are from in Endurance News, but also list the city and state. Kathleen remarked that she felt it was an invasion of privacy to list all that information in Endurance News. Some BOD members agreed with Kathleen and further stated that they (themselves) didn't like receiving phone calls from organizations. It was pointed out that regional clubs might be a better 'starting point' for new members to get the experience and have local help. Additional comments included that the new members need to be educated, but they felt that we did not have enough resources in place. It was also felt that we needed to have more information on the demographics of those who haven't renewed. It was then asked if Kathleen could provide the BOD members with the list of new members and their contact information in their regions. Kathleen agreed that this would be a better idea than to publish it in the magazine.

Requests from the Special Sanctioning Committee.

Draw-O-Rama in Wisconsin in the Midwest region Oct 1-3. The motion came from committee and was approved unanimously by the BOD.

Emergency resanctioning due to weather for the Black Water Boogie on May 2, 2009. Susan informed the BOD that this was the same weekend as the Biltmore, however, they were 500 miles apart. The ride would be a one day ride with a 25 LD and a 50 Endurance. Roger made the motion to approve the resanctioning with Susan Keil seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

John Parke joined the call. John was having difficulty calling in due to additional people being on the call.

Roger Taylor reported to the BOD that there was an excess of funds in 2007 and what the Finance Committee's recommendations for distribution of those funds are with the motion provided (motion attached). The Finance Committee recommended that of the \$85,250 left over in the General Fund that \$30,310 be moved to 2008 to offset the over expenses. They also

recommended that \$25,000 be put into the Restricted Reserves. In addition, money would be distributed into the Trails Reserve (\$11,150), Education Reserve (\$1,074) and the Research Reserves (\$2,592) based on a percentage of donations received in 2008. This would leave \$15,150 left over that would cover changes in the balances of the General Fund when the 2008 books are closed. It was brought to the Finance Committees attention that it would be fairer to use the percentage of donations to the various Reserve Funds for 2007 rather than 2008. With this recommendation the numbers were updated to reflect that the Trails Reserve would receive \$13,177, Education Reserve \$3,503 and the Research Reserve \$4,168. This would then leave \$9,092 to cover the changes in the balances of the General Fund when the 2008 books are closed. The motion was made to amend the motion to utilize the 2007 figures rather than the 2008 figures by Dianna Chapek and seconded by Patti Pizzo. The motion passed unanimously to amend the motion. A final vote was taken on the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Weary reported to the BOD on the RFD-TV program about Endurance Riding. Bruce informed the BOD on the meeting of the Executive Committee who met on March 30, 2009 to approve the expenditure of \$5,000 from the unrestrictive reserve funds to the producers of the television show. Michael Campbell made the motion to ratify the decision of the Executive Committee and Gail Williams seconded it.

The motion passed unanimously. Bruce then informed the BOD that he was going to be unable to attend the ride where the filming is going to take place due to a previous commitment. There are several other BOD members who plan on attending the ride including Michael Campbell, who offered to be the point person to help the producer, Jeff Tucker, with the project. Due to the restrictions of the Executive Committee in their ability to spend AERC funds being limited to \$5,000 and the necessity of the original motion calling for \$6,000, Michael Campbell motioned for the BOD to approve the additional \$1,000 that was seconded by Roger Taylor. The motion passed unanimously. (Motion attached as well as minutes from the Executive Committee meeting)

Olin Balch, DVM, chairman of the AERC Research Committee then spoke to the BOD concerning the motion to approve funding for the Research Summit Meeting planned for Denver, Colorado on August 21-22, 2009 (motion attached) Olin informed the BOD that the following AERC Veterinarians will be in attendance Trish Dowling, Jeanette Mero, Meg Sleeper, and Hal Schoot. The BOD expressed concerns about the meeting and the funding issue. Olin pointed out

several items that he and the group involved felt were important issues as to why the meeting should take place, the format of the meeting, and why it should be funded using AERC Research Grant monies.

They felt that it was not a good idea to have it as a conference call or video conference due to:

People who come to the convention are mainly endurance ride vets, not the people from the education community.

It helps to build a sense of camaraderie - thereby making it a strong group effort.

Olin felt that it was important to realize how public sentiment can sway.

They intend to come up with a 'white paper' to give to groups who are looking at horse welfare issues.

By having a group meeting it provides a stronger position to solicit money for research from outside sources.

Jeanette pointed out that the Veterinary Committee is 19 members strong - however, she felt that it was very important to bring in the institutions rather than just 'endurance vets'.

Randy Eiland asked Olin if this were approved and the attendance and issues nailed down what were some of the issues that the group intended to look into? Olin stated that some of the key research projects could include: Data on ride starts vs non-completions (or fatalities) - is it due to the distance traveled? How to control metabolic wrecks, and how to handle non-completions.

Kim Fuess expressed that she felt that this would develop a roadmap for further research with the hope for universities to look into some of the issues we're having.

Olin emphasized that he wanted as many of the BOD members to come and attend since it was going to be held two days before the AERC mid-year BOD meeting at the same location.

Patti Pizzo noted that this is a volunteer organization and suggested that everything could be done at convention - on their own dime - emphasizing that they won't have any money left over for research projects. Olin stated that they hoped that by doing this summit that it would help bring more money in. He also pointed out that they won't get the academics at the convention, rather they felt that they would only get the AERC ride veterinarians. Jeanette pointed out that they needed 'experts in the trenches'.

Susie Schomburg asked Olin if there was a list of goals. Olin said that yes there was a list

of goals as well as protocols to achieve those goals. She then asked ‘what if someone comes to the committee with something that is not on the goals?’ Olin stated that they are looking for proposals and universities that can help fund the.

Sandy Terp indicated that she felt the ‘white paper’ was a good idea, however, if they spent all the money on the summit that they wouldn’t have any money for research projects. She also sided with the idea that having at convention could help expose those not involved in endurance as ride vets to our sport.

Tom Noll agreed that Olin and his group had a good idea. He would like to see a list of deliverables that they are looking at doing. John Parke then commented that discussion is less precise and that a strategic plan is what is needed. Olin indicated that the meeting would provide a deliverable list of goals. John Parke noted that he as not as worried about the finances and that he feels that there will be more funding coming in for research. He questioned Olin if he thought that if they were to have it at convention would it cause problems for the continuing education classes? Olin felt that it would.

Roger Taylor and Jeff Trinkle both commented that they agreed with John Parke. Randy Eiland commented that he agreed with everyone else. He pointed out that we had a lot of post-ride statistical reports that nothing has been done with. He also mentioned that there are several other research projects that we have funded that haven’t provided us with any information.

Olin countered that a lot of the reports are available on the previous research projects on the AERC website. He also indicated that there were more that were being written using the research that has been funded by AERC. He and the committee are working on getting more of the information out there for the membership.

Kim Fuess stated that she felt it was good to get the academics involved in our research. Laura Hayes remarked that she was very excited about the plan for this summit. She feels that it is better for us to look ahead rather than waiting to defend ourselves concerning welfare issues. Susan Keil felt that it was important to remember that the Veterinary Committee supports this summit. Mike Maul agreed with Kim and Laura. He also indicated that Melissa Ribley, former chair of the Veterinary Committee, created a new post-ride statistical report that was better than the former one.

Jeanette commented that they still felt that it would be improved on. Connie Caudill asked Olin if they felt that more universities would be coming to us if we approved this? Olin

stated that they felt there would be more university involvement since they (the universities) are looking for more ways to attract public awareness to their programs.

Jan Stevens inquired if the committee had created a specific date for proposals to be presented to the committee for consideration. Olin stated that the committee was creating a better set of guidelines for presentation of proposals that included timelines for submission of proposals and other relevant dates.

Terry Woolley-Howe feels that this is an important project. John Parke stated that it was better to win later than to possibly lose now. Susan Kasemeyer brought up the fact that the BOD has expressed concern about whether our membership would think this was important. Olin pointed out that the Research Committee and the Veterinary Committee were all unanimously in favor of this summit.

Randy Eiland called for a roll call vote with Laura Hayes seconding the motion. The motion passed. Results of the Roll Call Vote: Members voting in favor: Laura Hayes, Jan Stevens, Roger Taylor, Michael Campbell, Monica Chapman, Joyce Mocilian, Susan Schomburg, Patti Pizzo, Sandy Terp, Tom Noll, Gail Williams, Terry Woolley-Howe, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Joe Schoech, Jeff Trinkle, Maryben Stover, Kim Fuess, Susan Keil, Mike Maul, and Bruce Weary.

Members voting against: Dianna Chapek, Randy Eiland, and Roberta Harms. Members not voting: John Crandell III (not on the call at the time of the vote) and Connie Caudill (President's option). The motion passed.

Additional comments made after the vote included Olin asking the BOD if they felt that the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) should be contacted to see if they would be interested in supporting the summit and becoming involved. It was suggested that we offer to fund their summit expenses, but ask that they provide their own transportation.

Connie asked Olin if they would write something up for Endurance News to let the membership know of their goals and plans for the summit. He said that they would.

Stagg Newman commented that the Education Committee would like to work the Research Committee on this project. Olin stated that they would contact the other committees of AERC to see if any of them were interested in this project.

Discussion on spending trail funds on privately owned property - IE Shanghai Trails and Old Dominion Grant requests.

John Parke informed that BOD that we, as a nonprofit organization, could use our money to give it to private individuals by contracting with them to provide us with 'something' in return for the money.

Roger Taylor indicated that the Old Dominion was a 501C3 and that it was his understanding that one 501C3 can transfer funds to another 501C3, though it did involve certain paperwork and that we would want to be sure that it was done correctly.

Kathleen Henkel then commented that we have no control over the money that we donate to a 501C3. She also stated that we couldn't give money to private individuals to improve their lands unless we are going to give them money to put on rides. Omar, our current CPA, cautioned Kathleen about AERC getting involved with private individuals and contracts with them.

Michael Campbell indicated that it was his understanding that John Parke was supposed to look over the contract with Shanghai Trails to see if the wording in it was in the best interests of AERC. Roger Taylor then informed the BOD that the funding for Old Dominion project was correct, but that the Lake Meredith grant was in need of an additional \$1,000 to extend a water line, thereby changing the grant request.

John Parke requested that there be a more definite description of what we are dealing with and the changes requested. Connie Caudill commented that AERC needs to find a lawyer who deals with this type of contracts and dealings with 501C3 organizations. John Parke said that he would find a lawyer who is versed on this type of issue concerning 501C3 and will give the contact information to Kathleen.

John Parke will cover his "New BOD member" presentation at the next meeting and will create a 'cheat sheet' for the BOD to use concerning procedures.

With there being no further business before the AERC BOD, Susan Kasemeyer made the motion at 8:15 Pacific time to adjourn the meeting with Sandy Terp seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items from the February/March Convention meetings:

Olin will provide the BOD the motion proposal for the Research Conference that will take place before the mid-year meeting in 2009 - Completed

John Parke will be sending (either mailing or emailing) out to all the BOD prior to the April BOD meeting his outline for the New BOD Member Seminar for all of us to review -

Completed

The Finance Committee will provide quarterly reports to the BOD and will have a quarterly report prepared at the April BOD meeting - Completed

The BOD also requested that the Research Committee attempt to provide information to Troy Smith all of the past research projects and their outcomes be listed on the AERC website. They would also like to see a listing with information on current projects be on the website as well. - Completed

John Parke, as AERC Legal Council, will review the contract for Shangai Trails - Not Completed

Rules Committee is researching how many people haven't signed the AERC Release that was sent out with their membership cards, why those people haven't signed it and then come up with a plan to address these issues. - Not completed

Protest Committee - look into making it geographically equal - Not completed

Chairs of the various committees were reminded to provide a list of their committee members by the April meeting - Not completed

Education Committee - provide a list to the BOD to approve of where/when AERC clinics are being held and then provide the list to Troy Smith, editor of Endurance News, to have it listed in EN and on the website - Not completed

The motion entitled: Violations and penalties (Rule 15) revision did not pass. John Parke remarked that it was a band-aid on a poorly written rule. After discussion, the board directed the rules committee to rewrite rule 15 and to make the rule pertain to "penalties only" and to write a new rule regarding horse abuse and rider conduct. It was also requested that Troy Smith provide this motion on the BOD list so that the BOD can review it and discuss it. - Not completed

Action Items for the next meeting (in addition to the not completed ones from above).

It was then asked if Kathleen could provide the BOD members with the list of new members and their contact information in their regions.

John Parke said that he would find a lawyer who is versed on this type of issue concerning 501C3 and will give the contact information to Kathleen.

John Parke will cover his "New BOD member" presentation at the next meeting and will create a 'cheat sheet' for the BOD to use concerning procedures.

It was suggested that Olin contact USEF to see if they would like to become involved

with the Research Summit. We offer to fund their summit expenses, but ask that they provide their own transportation.

It was requested that Olin and his committee would write something up for Endurance News to let the membership know of their goals and plans for the summit. Olin stated that they would contact the other committees of AERC to see if any of them were interested in this project.

Motion Proposal: 2007 Funds Distribution

Proposing Committee: Finance Committee

Date of Motion: 6 April 2009

Classification of Motion Request: New

Proposed Motion: The Finance Committee moves that the 2007 excess funds of \$85,280 be distributed as follows:

a) cover the 2008 negative of	\$30,306.47	\$30,310
b) match member donations for:		
1. Education	\$1,074	
2. Research	\$2,592	\$14,820
3. Trails	\$11,150	\$45,130
c) Restricted Reserve	\$25,000	<u>\$70,130</u>
d) Balance to Unrestricted Reserve	\$15,150	\$85,280

Background, analysis and benefit: This is the proposed distribution for 2007 excess funds. Each year that there are excess funds, the Board will be requested to distribute these funds.

Budget effect/impact: This motion puts funds into the reserves to match the membership contributions for Education, Research and Trails. The motion also puts additional funds in the restricted reserve which is the AERC emergency reserve.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization: This motion puts funds into reserves that match the membership's contributions.

Impact on AERC Office: The impact will be minimal. Minor financial adjustments will be necessary.

Committees consulted and/or affected: Finance Committee

Implementation: The office will do the necessary financial adjustments.

Supporting materials: None.

Supporting approvals: The Finance Committee reviewed and approved.

Motion Proposal: 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.

AERC Executive Committee Meeting, March 30, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Connie Caudill at 5:32 pm Pacific Time. Members in attendance were Connie Caudill, Laura Hayes, Roger Taylor and Jan Stevens. Also in attendance was Executive Director Kathleen Henkel.

Absent was Michael Campbell.

The motion before the Executive Committee was the RFD-TV Motion. Bruce Weary, AERC BOD member, requested that the Executive Committee consider evaluating the motion prior to the regularly scheduled BOD meeting on April 6, 2009 due to time constraints in the upcoming filming of the television show spotlighting Endurance Riding.

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the motion requesting \$5000 from the unrestricted reserve funds to be disbursed to the RFD-TV producers of the Endurance Riding television show. This amount differs from the original motion that requested \$6000 due to the restriction placed by the AERC BOD limiting the Executive Committee to disbursements of \$5000 or less. They also agreed to have Kathleen Henkel sign the contract with the producers. The Executive Committee will request that the AERC BOD approve the above decisions made by the Executive Committee and that they also approve that an additional \$1000 (again from unrestricted reserve funds to meet the original motion request) be supplied to the producers at the regularly scheduled BOD meeting on April 6, 2009.

The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 5:38 pm Pacific Time.

Motion Proposal: Authorization/funding of 1-1/2 day research summit meeting & task force

Proposing Committee: Research Committee

Date of Motion: April 6, 2009

Classification of Motion Request: Funding request

Proposed Motion: Authorization/funding of 1½ day research summit meeting & task force Aug. 20 & 21, Denver

Background, analysis and benefit: The current AERC research approach is too piecemeal and fragmented to provide comprehensive, sustained benefits to the sport of endurance riding. The Research Committee proposes that the AERC BOD authorize a 1½ day research summit conference and task force to precede the mid-year BOD meeting in 2009.

The task force would be authorized to: 1) detail and document non-completions, catastrophic injuries and other injuries associated with the sport; 2) develop investigations and protocols to make the horse safer in this sport; and 3) develop protocols to communicate these efforts effectively to AERC members, the general public, and “horse welfare” groups.

This meeting will hammer out a roadmap of specific research proposal and objectives for a multiple-year plan. AERC will subsidize the flight cost of the 12 participants up to \$400/each. AERC will cover the cost of meals and sleeping quarters for one night for the participants who will put together a “white paper” on how to proceed for the next several years.

Task force will convene at 2:00 PM, August 20, in Denver and close at 3:00 PM, August

21. A detailed outline of the proposal will be presented to the BoD at the 2009 annual mid-year meeting.

BOD will authorize Drs. Hal Schott and Trish Dowling to co-chair this task force and 1½ day summit meeting. Each of the co-chairs will select two more participants who may or may not be AERC members. Three participants will be selected from members and ex-members of the Veterinary Committee and Research Committee by their respective chairs. Total working task force participants would number 12. Members of the BOD would be encouraged to sit in as well.

Budget effect/impact: Meals (dinner, breakfast, and lunch) at the 1½ day conference will be paid for by the AERC. Kathleen has contracted the hotel on my behalf on the Research Committee to determine meal expenses for 12 people. Food will run \$15 for breakfast, lunch is \$18-20 per person, and dinner is \$28 per person. Food and beverage has a 21% service charge plus Colorado State and Local taxes of 8.1%. So the breakfast comes out to be \$235.44. Lunch will run \$298.23. Dinner comes in at \$439.50. Total is: \$973.17. Coffee availability throughout the meeting is not figured into the \$973.17 and will be approximately \$75 extra. Food and coffee will total \$1,048.17. A block of rooms in that hotel will be available for rent that night at a special rate of \$89 per night. Total cost for 12 rooms plus Colorado State and local taxes of 8.1% would be \$1,154.50. Total cost for meals and rooms would be \$2,202.67. The AERC will reimburse participants up to \$400 for the flight upon submission of receipts. Maximum reimbursement for all flight expenses is \$4,800 (\$400 per participant). Miscellaneous expenses (paper, room costs, etc.) is estimated at \$200. Grand Total is \$7,202.67 (\$1048.17 + \$1154.50 + \$4,800 + \$200) assuming each participant completely uses the offered flight reimbursement. It is anticipated that these funds will come from current and expected monies earmarked for the Research Committee.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization: A defensible, comprehensive multi-year plan for research efforts and protocols; co-ordination with other “sister” organizations and institutions for endurance-horse research. Ultimately, improved rules and therapeutic treatments that will reduce the frequency/severity of injury in endurance-horse competition.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) – Minimal. Preliminary and after-summit paperwork will be largely done by chair of Research Committee.

Committees consulted and/or affected: Research and Veterinary Committees have been

consulted.

Implementation plan: Task force will convene at 2:00 PM, August 20, in Denver and close at 3:00 PM, August 21.

Supporting materials: Research minutes presented at the Feb. 22 AERC BoD meeting.

Supporting approvals: The Research Committee is in support of this motion.