

Convention meeting minutes Thursday, March 8, 2012 Grand Sierra Resort & Casino, Reno, NV

The meeting was called to order by President Connie Caudill at 7 p.m.

All directors were present with the exception of Patti Pizzo, Sandy Terp, and Susan Keil DVM, and all three were excused.

The newly elected regional directors, Patti Stedman, Nick Kohut DVM, and Julia Lynn-Elias DVM, were introduced.

Terry Woolley-Howe moved and Forrest Tancer seconded the approval of the agenda.

Sue Keith moved and Joe Schoech seconded approval and acceptance of the minutes and committee reports.

Report from Kathleen:

Memberships as of 3/1/2011 4043
Memberships as of 3/6/2012 3921

Rider fees as of 3/6/2011 \$7,062
Rider fees as of 3/6/2012 \$11,095

Sanction fees as of 3/6/2011 \$13,945
Sanction fees as of 3/6/2012 \$14,345

New members as of 3/1/2011 281
New members as of 3/6/2012 329

Financials are the same as were sent out earlier with a predicted plus balance of \$85,000 and the reports will be printed in the upcoming issue of Endurance News.

The special sanctioning of the Barefoot in NM Pioneer ride was approved.

Troy Smith, Endurance News Editor, discussed the costs involved for printing and sending the Endurance News. The board then had a discussion regarding the printed and online versions of the magazine with no action taken.

A motion from the Vet Committee to amend Rule 13 Appendix A was passed with 1 nay only.

A motion from the Competitions Committee to add a Young Riders award which is funded for the next 10 years was approved. Also from that committee, the Decade Team award was approved.

John Parke then conducted a mini-seminar for all directors on the duties and responsibilities of directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

This Motion Proposal form is to be used in the development, presentation and approval process of submitting motions to the Board.

Motion Name Update of rule 13 Appendix A. Prohibited Substances

Proposing Committee Veterinary Committee

Date of Motion March 8, 2012 BOD Convention Meeting

Classification of Motion Request Update rule 13 Appendix A

Proposed Motion Add GABA (gama aminobutyric acid) to the list of prohibited substances found in Rule 13 Appendix A. GABA is an inhibitory neurotransmitter and has been used as a “calming supplement” in feedstuffs and supplement products. There is no recognized medical use for GABA in the horse, and its use as a calming supplement, violates the spirit of the AERC drug rule whereby horses are to compete on their own merit, without benefit of artificial substances.

Background, analysis and benefit GABA was recently banned by USEF in an announcement released on February 22, 2012, for the above named reasons. USEF also noted that GABA has been used in the commercial product “Carolina Gold,” and after review of research and feeding trials of Carolina Gold many adverse reactions in the horse were documented. Given these reactions and the intent of GABA to be used as a calming agent, USEF declared GABA, Carolina Gold, and any other product containing GABA, to be a prohibited substance. AERC is generally recognized as having the strictest drug policy among the entire sport and show horse disciplines. To be consistent with our mission, that all horses should compete without the influence of any drug, medication or veterinary treatment, AERC should immediately follow USEF’s lead and also ban GABA and any product containing GABA.

Budget effect/impact None

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization Adding GABA to Rule 13 Appendix A allows AERC to maintain one of the strictest drug policy’s in the competition horse world, and continues to ensure the safety and welfare of our competing equines.

Impact on AERC Office Updating the drug appendices can be done on-line following the BOD’s decision.

Committees consulted and/or affected Veterinary Committee

Implementation plan Addition to Appendix A to be made immediately following BOD’s decision.

Supporting materials Previously supplied/released announcement from USEF on GABA. Still available on USEF’s website.

Supporting approvals Veterinary committee

AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL

This Motion Proposal form is to be used in the development, presentation and approval process of submitting motions to the Board.

Motion Name Establishing National Top Ten High Mileage Award for Young Riders

Proposing Committee Competition

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) March 8, 2012

Classification of Motion Request (new, change, add, delete, by-law, rule, policy) new recognition award

Proposed Motion (use exact wording)

Establishing a new national Young Riders Award. This would be for the top ten high mileage senior riders between the ages of 14 to 21, on any number of equines. Each of the ten riders would receive a certificate and the top five recipients would receive jackets. Riders would have to complete at least 300 miles annually to qualify.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving)

To generate interest and possibly keep more young riders (under 21 years of age) active in the sport.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate)

There would be approximately \$300 in one time computer work to program the tracking of this award. Award would be underwritten by outside party. Committee has obtained an anonymous donor who will donate jacket awards for the first five years.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization

If we can keep these young people riding, we can possibly keep them as members in the future

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget)

It would be necessary for office to prepare certificates and ascertain the size of the five recipients' jackets prior to convention and notify donor so jackets can be procured.

Committees consulted and/or affected

Competition, International, Junior & Young Riders Committees

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial)

Article in Endurance News announcing the new award. To start with the current ride year. (2012)

Supporting materials (List of any other documents and/or spreadsheets)

None

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

Competition, International, Junior & Young Riders Committees

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

This Motion Proposal form is to be used in the development, presentation and approval process of submitting motions to the Board.

Motion Name Recognition of Decade Teams

Proposing Committee Competition

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) March 8, 2012

Classification of Motion Request (new, change, add, delete, by-law, rule, policy) New Recognition Award

Proposed Motion (use exact wording)

Establishment of the Decade Team Award. This would recognize those equine and rider teams who completed at least one 50 mile ride each year for 10 years. This would not have to be consecutive years, and the rider would not have to be the owner of the horse. (This is the criteria established by Karen Chaton). The rider would be given a certificate and a patch from AERC, and the rider would have the opportunity to purchase other items (jacket, horse blanket and buckle) which would recognize this achievement.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving)

For the last several years, Karen Chaton (with the help of Mike Maul) has tracked and informally recognized equine and rider teams who over a period of years completed at least one 50 mile ride each year for at least ten years. There has been pressure by the endurance community to have AERC recognize this achievement. When I asked Karen if she would give her permission for AERC to take over this award, her response was "I would like very much if the AERC were to make the Decade Teams an official recognition - that would be great and I know it would mean a lot to many of the riders." The number of teams qualifying for this award annually are 35-55, but this number is expected to rise, as riders strive to reach this achievement.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate)

There would be approximately \$300 in one time computer work to program the tracking of this award. The cost for the patches are about \$1 each, and another \$1 for the certificate and mailing costs. There may be an initial cost of approximately \$500 to go back and award these certificates and patches to past riders who have reached this plateau. After that the cost would be approximately \$100 to \$150 annually.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization

This award recognizes an achievement that represents the foundation on which AERC was formed by acknowledging a rider who over a long period of time has kept an equine sound and actively competing. This award may also help retain members who want to strive for this plateau.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget)

The preparation of certificates as well as mailing out the certificates and patches. It will have to be determined how we will handle the premium awards that riders can purchase.

Committees consulted and/or affected

Competition and Membership Committees

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial)

This could start immediately and would be ongoing (similar to mileage plateaus), or these could be bunched and awarded at the regional awards on Friday evening.. In either event, I think it would be appropriate if those riders who reached that distinction during the previous year, would stand at the national banquet, at the same time as a slide was shown that listed those rider/equine teams who reached that distinction.

Supporting materials (List of any other documents and/or spreadsheets)

There was much discussion and support of this on the AERC forum and AERC members that Committee members talked with at rides.

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

Supported by Competition Committee and Membership Committee.