

AERC National Convention BOD Meeting 3/6/2014

AERC President Jan Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:27pm EST.

AERC BOD Members and incoming BOD Members present were Paul Latiolais, Joe Schoech, Susan Kasemeyer, Duane Barnett, Tom Bache, Rusty Toth, Steph Teeter, Peter Himmertzheim, Forrest Tancer, Andrew Gerhard, John Parke, Julia Lynn-Elias, Randy Eiland, Roger Taylor, Lisa Schneider, Michael Campbell, Jan Stevens, Monica Chapman, Susan Garlinghouse, Patti Stedman, Bruce Weary, Terry Woolley Howe, Connie Caudill, Sue Keith, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Nick Kohut, Olin Balch, Mike Maul, Kathleen Henkel, and guests John Long and Dr. Jay Mero.

John Parke made a motion to allow incoming BOD members to comment and ask questions due to the agenda for the evening. Michael Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Terry Woolley-Howe made a motion to approve the agenda. Susan Garlinghouse seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Monica Chapman made a motion to add Susie Schomburg to the excused members due to illness. Gail Williams and Maryben Stover will miss the meeting due to work conflicts. John Parke seconded. Motion passed.

Roger Taylor made a motion to accept the minutes for the February 24, 2014 conference call minutes. Forrest Tancer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom Bache presented a motion to add to the agenda. The motion is accepted. See attached motion.

Connie Caudill made a motion to postpone approval of the committee reports due to just receiving them. Sue Keith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Kathleen Henkel gave the membership report.

Membership Report March 3, 2014

Membership as of 3/4/13 3959

Membership as of 3/4/14 3608

Rider Fees as of 3/3/2013 \$9439

Rider Fees as of 3/3/14 \$5959

Sanction Fees as of 3/3/13 \$13062

Sanction Fees as of 3/3/14 \$12533

New Members 3/4/13 280

New Members 3/3/14 243

AERC President Jan Steven reviewed the letter AERC sent to John Long and USEF last spring. Jan Stevens then introduced John Long CEO of the United State Equestrian Federation (USEF). Mr. Long was at the meeting to speak to the BOD about the FEI situation in the Middle East (Region 7). The format of the talk was question and answer. Mr. Long's comments included the following. USEF has as good of a relationship with FEI as any European country. USEF has people on all committees. FEI knows they have

a problem with the Middle East. USEF believes staying involved with FEI is how to fix problems instead of separating from FEI. The Endurance Strategic Planning Group (ESPG) will be releasing a report in 30 days with an update. The other countries in FEI are in complete agreement in that they are against what is happening in the Middle East. AERC and USEF need to get together more often to be more engaged and to stand together. The Middle East may decide to distance themselves from FEI. FEI will take the high ground in that case and let them leave. In the past the world was not always behind USEF on horse welfare issues but this time they are. An action plan should be set in 45 days to look into sharing fracture/fatality rates. USEF would have to look at their relationship (affiliate status) with AERC if AERC chose to no longer sanction FEI rides. The saber rattling AERC has been doing with the Sponsorship Motion has been helpful in bringing the situation in the Middle East to the forefront. Mr. Long would like for AERC and USEF to stay together on the Middle East issue. If enough isn't accomplished in the next 6 to 12 months USEF will walk away from FEI with AERC. USEF would only walk away in Endurance and not the other FEI disciplines. USEF will help set up research assistance for AERC. Waiting for the 30 day report is of the most importance and then USEF and AERC should respond to the report on both letterheads.

Randy Eiland Chairman of the Sponsorship Committee proposed to postpone discussion on the Sponsorship Committee Motion until Sunday. John Parke made a motion to postpone discussion on the Sponsorship Committee Motion until Sunday. Bruce Weary seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dr. Jay Mero DVM presented the Welfare Motion Proposal. The last major sweeping welfare changes, besides the drug policy, were in the 1990's with "fit to continue". AERC needs current policy to reflect what we have learned in the past 50 years of endurance. The original rules and veterinary guidelines were based on medical opinion and common sense. Scientific research while it is increasing is still limited in scope. AERC is actively seeking new members many of which have limited horsemanship backgrounds, and/or little to no knowledge and understanding of competing horses in such an extreme event. Minimalist rules do not provide enough framework and safety net for these new and inexperienced riders/owners and veterinarians. Standardized veterinary control from coast to coast would provide "quality control" in examination techniques which would raise the quality and consistency of control across the country. This standardized control would not only make competition safer but fairer, across the country, especially as it relates to national awards. It is not enough to just try to prevent death and destruction but to avoid suffering. The societal standard of what the public will accept as humane treatment of horses has been raised. We should decide what is acceptable in our sport and not wait for the emotional public to force change upon us. See the attached motion.

Discussion ensues with the BOD on whether a motion can be passed in concept.

Tom Bache made the motion to refer the Equine Welfare Motion to the Competitions, Ride Managers, and Rules Committees. Steph Teeter seconded the motion. The motion passed with 12 yes, 9 no, and 1 abstain.

Sue Keith Chairman of the Membership Committee handed out an update on the tasks, need, action items, cost, and target date of completion for the membership committee. The listed tasks were a new

website, develop a comprehensive newbie page, social media, more organized communication, organizational size, new member demographics, visual demographic maps, casting a larger net, printed advertisements, clinics, develop relationships with the regional organizations, review year end awards, AERC benefits, and membership value.

Mollie Krumlaw-Smith made a motion to postpone the financial status update until Sunday. Patti Stedman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mollie Krumlaw-Smith went over the 2014 AERC Budget. John Parke made a motion to pass the budget. Lisa Schneider seconded the motion. The motion passed.

John Parke went over the Horse Fatality Reporting role of the Horse Welfare Committee.

The earlier motion presented to the BOD by Tom Bache will be added to the agenda on Sunday.

John Parke made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Kasemeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:22pm EST.

Monica Chapman AERC Secretary

Tom Bache Motion Explanation: The motion Tom Bache added to the agenda was later withdrawn but the BOD was not formally briefed on that. The motion was not on the Sunday agenda nor is it attached.

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name AERC Horse Welfare Initiative

Proposing Committee None.

Date of Motion March 9, 2014

Classification of Motion Request Sense of the BOD

Proposed Motion

Whereas, welfare of the horse is a paramount AERC concern; and

Understanding of equine response to the stresses associated with endurance riding has increased markedly since AERC horse welfare rules have been modified significantly, and

The Veterinary and Research Committees have recommended significant new changes to AERC horse welfare rules and processes; Equine Welfare Reform Package and

Committees representing other AERC interests and concerns have not yet had the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes; and, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the AERC Board of Directors (“BOD”) supports the concepts embodied in the Veterinary and Research Committee recommendations and intends to implement rules and/or policies and/or guidelines that embody these concepts for the 2015 season, and

Resolved, the BOD encourages 2014 season Ride Manager Initiatives to improve understanding of implementation issues such as those planned in the West Region, and

Resolved, the BOD directs the Ride Manager, Competition, Sanctioning, and Rules Committee to study the recommended changes and report their findings to the BOD prior to the May BOD meeting.

Background, analysis and benefit: At the March 7, 2014 meeting of the BOD, the Chairman of the Veterinary Committee (Dr. Jeanette Mero) made a compelling presentation to support recommendations from the Veterinary and Research Committees. A strong majority of the BOD supports the concepts embodied in these recommendations. However, it is important for the BOD to solicit and consider opinions and recommendations from those who will be affected by the way these concepts are implemented. Within a few months, some Ride Managers will be implementing some or all of the recommendations, thereby gaining valuable information about implementation issues. Thus, the BOD is not yet prepared to offer formal approval of the recommendations as presented. This Motion expresses these considerations without diminishing the momentum toward significant improvement in our horse welfare rules and recommendations.

Budget effect/impact. None at this early stage of a process that will unfold over many months.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization This initiative expresses BOD intention to improve our horse welfare rules and processes.

Impact on AERC Office None at this stage.

Committees consulted and/or affected: Ride Managers.

Implementation plan As stated in Motion.

Supporting materials None,

Supporting approvals None