

AERC Board of Directors Conference Call December 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Campbell at 6:01 p.m. PST

In attendance were Michael Campbell, Lisa Schneider, Susan Garlinghouse, Mollie Krumlaw- Smith, Monica Chapman, Connie Caudill, Sue Keith, Carla Richardson, Kevin Waters, Mary Howell, Nick Kohut, Paul Latiolais, Steph Teeter, John Parke, Andrew Gerhard, Forrest Tancer, Roger Taylor, Julia-Lynn Elias, Duane Barnett, Susan Kasemeyer, Mike Maul, Christoph Schork and Terry Woolley-Howe. Also present was Sarah Holloway as nominated Junior representative and Jay Mero, chair of Veterinary Committee.

Tom Bache, Olin Balch, Tennessee Lane requested excusals for out of town travel. John Parke commented that board members repeatedly failing to attend conference calls and meetings should re-evaluate their commitment to board membership. Roger Taylor made a motion to approve excusals, Christoph Schork seconded. Motion passes.

Connie Caudill made a motion to approve the agenda, Susan Garlinghouse seconded, motion passed.

Connie Caudill made a motion to approve the minutes provided by the International Committee. Nick Kohut seconds, motion passes.

Michael Campbell announced that the current executive committee (Michael Campbell, president; Lisa Schneider, vice president; Susan Garlinghouse, secretary; Mollie Krumlaw- Smith, treasurer) will be running for their respective positions at the upcoming annual meeting in Reno.

Roger Taylor announced that a private donation has been made to AERC to provide for a Trail Masters class to be held in the SW region. Roger also nominated Barbara Reinke as replacement SW regional director for the seat left vacant in recent regional election. It was commented that Barbara is a longtime endurance rider who took some time off from the sport and now returned to competing. Motion to approve Barbara Reinke as SW regional director passes.

Andrew Gerhard announced that he is in the process of contacting and considering several individuals to fill the vacant West regional director seat and will be announcing the nomination at the January meeting.

Roger Taylor announced that Specialized Saddles is interested in sponsoring an award for Rookie of the Year, which would present a saddle to the annual winner in the Endurance distance division. The proposed award to be based on mileage, not speed or placings. This project is still under discussion, no motion at this time.

Michael Campbell nominated Lisa Schneider as the new chair for the Rules Committee. In the interest of full disclosure, Lisa Schneider stated that she is also the current chair of the Rules Committee for the Western States Trail Foundation. Motion to accept passes.

Steph Teeter on behalf of the Junior Committee nominated Sarah Holloway as the new youth representative to the board. Steph commented that the committee considered three individuals and made their decision based upon highly favorable letters of support and Sarah's letter to the committee. Motion to accept passes.

Statistical report - Kathleen Henkel

Membership as of 12/8/14 – 1480

Membership as of 12/2/15 – 1680

Membership for the 2015 season totaled: 5260

End of year totals are not booked yet – the figures for sanction and rider fees are forthcoming when the office is in receipt of all monies owed.

New Members as of 12/8/14 - 77

New Members as of 12/2/15 - 44

Business before the board:

Motion - Approval of finalized AERC budget as prepared by treasurer Mollie Krumlaw-Smith. Mollie commented that there are no changes from the previous draft reviewed at the mid-year meeting, other than a few line item changes per request. Motion to approve passes.

Motion - Strategic Plan. John Parke commented that following Randy Eiland's retiring from the board, John will write the Strategic financial plan with the assistance of Mollie Krumlaw-Smith. John will also be providing summaries for Trails and Membership areas of the Strategic Plan. Mary Howell (incoming NW regional director) will co-champion the Membership area with Terry Woolley-Howe. Mary Howell introduced herself, commented that she has been involved with membership issues throughout her career and will be reviewing some ideas prior to implementation. Motion to approve nomination passes.

Motion - Approval to use \$25,000 of reserve veterinary fund for increased drug testing. John Parke briefly reviewed that following the Board's decision at the mid-year meeting not to increase the current drug testing program via increased rider fees, the current motion will instead utilize a portion of the reserve funds to increase testing during the 2016 season. Reassessment of the program and future funding will be considered following a review of the results. There was some brief discussion of the revised protocols which ensure random samples throughout the entry field, and not just top ten. Jay Mero commented that following the changes to protocols, more drug tests are coming back as positive for prohibited substances. Motion to approve the use of funds passes.

John Parke made a motion to adjourn, Lisa Schneider seconded. Motion passes. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m. PST

AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name – Motion to use Drug Testing Reserves to Increase Drug Testing (outside of CA)

Proposing Committee – Veterinary Committee, Legal Counsel

Date of Motion – November 30, 2015

Classification of Motion Request –

Proposed Motion – Motion to use \$25,000 from the Drug Testing Reserves to increase drug testing for the ride year 2016– outside of CA

Background, analysis and benefit –

In 2013 the AERC Veterinary and Legal Committees completed an extensive overhaul of the AERC Drug Testing Program. This resulted in improved testing protocols and a better interface with the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), the agency that carries out the actual testing at AERC rides. This improved testing may have been a factor in the subsequent identification of three positive drug tests during the 2014 season amongst only 114 horses sampled. This trend is continuing with additional positive tests being obtained during the 2015 ride year. At this time, AERC only tests one ride per region, plus the two days of the National Championships, with one additional ride chosen at random from all regions. AERC contracts with USEF for approximately 120 samples per year at a cost of \$315 per sample, a total budget of approximately \$37,200. Riders are charged \$3 drug fee per entry, for rides outside of California. There is approximately a little over \$100,000 held in the drug testing reserves.

At the Mid Year 2015 meeting the BOD was asked to increase the rider drug fee from \$3 to \$5 to increase the testing presence throughout the country. The BOD declined the motion to increase rider fees, but did express interest in a modest increase in drug testing through use of some of the drug testing reserve funds. Legal counsel advised using \$25,000 from the drug testing reserve as a reasonable number to work with. Increasing our testing budget by \$25,000 will allow us to obtain approximately 80 more samples, which will equate to 6 more rides being tested. This will increase our testing presence by a little over half, as we currently only test 10 ride days.

Based on 13-15,000 annual starts (excluding California), AERC is providing a testing presence of approximately 4%. By comparison, the state of California's Equine Medications and Monitory Program (EMMP), the program responsible for maintaining the integrity of CA's equine events, targets testing approximately 25% of all rider entries, and charges \$5 per entry. In addition USEF also targets testing approximately 25% of its equine disciplines and charges \$8 per entry. In 2016, the CA EMMP will raise their drug testing fee per entry to \$8 in order to pay for increased lab fees and to maintain a strong testing presence. Of note there have been positive samples obtained in endurance in the CA EMMP program as well. Despite the myth there is no drugging going on within the sport of endurance, the results of the past several years of multiple positive samples, within different testing organizations, speaks to the need of as large and robust a drug testing presence AERC can afford to provide.

Budget effect/impact - None at this time

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization - This increase in testing, while modest, will have a significant beneficial effect on the AERC Drug Testing Program by allowing us to test a little over half again our current testing ability and presence in the ride year 2016. It has been thought in the past that AERC endurance is a clean sport, with minimal or non-existent prevalence of prohibited performance-enhancing drugs during competition. However, with the recently improved testing methodology, positive results identified from relatively small sample populations, this thinking may have been overly optimistic, indicating the prudence of providing deterrence through an adequate testing program. The increased presence of testing six more rides supports our stance of integrity within our sport by providing an increased and visible disincentive to those who might be tempted to gain an unfair advantage through the use of performance-enhancing drugs. An increased drug testing program will contribute towards providing a more level playing field amongst all competitors, whether they be front runners or 'turtles'. Most importantly, an increased and consistent testing presence, and thus an increased deterrent factor, helps to protect the welfare of the horses under our care which might otherwise be put at increased risk of significant harm through the use of illegal substances during competition.

Impact on AERC Office - None

Committees consulted and/or affected - Research, Legal, Veterinary

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) – To start with ride year 2016

Supporting materials (List of any other documents and/or spreadsheets) Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

AERC Research Committee Report: December 2015

The following is a list of the activities pursued by the Research Committee during the past 12 months (brief summaries):

1. INITIATIVES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR AERC RESEARCH: In previous reports the Committee has presented the needs for enhancing research fund in order to initiate both intramural and extramural research. The Committee has recommended pursuing several different initiatives simultaneously to achieve our funding goal of approximately \$75,000. The Committee's initial effort to assess \$1/entry in AERC rides was not approved by the Board. Subsequently the Executive Committee and the AERC Office have agreed with the Committee's proposal to enable donations by riders at rides (details of this program have been submitted to the Executive Committee and the AERC Office). The Committee wishes to initiate this program January 2016.

2. PROCEDURES TO ASSURE THE PROPER HANDLING OF AERC SENSITIVE RESEARCH DATA: The Committee has been working with the Veterinary Committee to devise a procedure for review of AERC research data deemed to be sensitive prior to its publication or presentation in a public forum. "Sensitive data" in this instance refers to data, which might cause harm to AERC, its mission, or to its members if it were misused or misinterpreted by the public or the media. Researchers in general resist requiring review of research data because it is viewed as a way of suppressing independent, unbiased research. On the other hand, most researchers aspire to enhance the quality of their research by having all their research reviewed by peers within their institution prior to its presentation. It is the goal of the Committee to have an internal review process for all data derived from AERC-funded research prior to submission for publication or presentation to assure that it of the highest quality. This issue is still under review by the Research

and Veterinary Committees.

3. PLANS FOR THE 2016 AERC RESEARCH PLANNING ROUNDTABLE: A Subcommittee of the Research Committee developed a planning document for the "2016 AERC RESEARCH PLANNING ROUNDTABLE," which has been approved by the Committee, and submitted to the Executive Committee. The plans are for the Roundtable to be held in conjunction with the Mid-year Board of Directors Meeting. The theme of the Roundtable will be to enhance research at AERC Sanctioned Rides.

4. THE COMMITTEE HAS CONTINUED ITS WORK TO ENCODE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE COMMITTEE TO ASSURE FULL ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS.

5. THE COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO WORK ON AN INITIATIVE TO ENHANCE ELECTRONIC/DIGITAL COLLECTION, TRANSMISSION AND ANALYSIS OF VETERINARY AND OTHER RIDE DATA FROM AERC RIDES.

6. DURING 2015, THE COMMITTEE HAS PROVIDED SEVERAL ARTICLES FOR THE AERC ENDURANCE NEWS.

7. THE COMMITTEE HAS EXPANDED ITS INTERACTION AND COLLABORATION WITH THE VETERINARY AND EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE BY EXCHANGING DOCUMENTS AND PROPOSALS: Currently, the Research and Veterinary Committee are establishing a Task Force to investigate and recommend ways of enhancing the collection of fatality, diagnoses, and treatment data from rides.

8. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE WORKING ON RESEARCH PROPOSALS TO INVESTIGATE; a) Dehydration during rides, b) Usefulness of the Cardiac Recovery Index, c) The relationship between speed of travel and physiological parameters of horses in the same ride.

Respectfully submitted, Jerry R. Gillespie, Chair

Junior Committee Report

The Junior committee has been working on a few ideas to help make the sport of endurance more Junior friendly. Some of the ideas being tossed around is: Replacing existing "Junior division" with "Youth Division"- This would fit better with AERC's categorization of "youth" and "senior" membership.

- Age would be all riders under the age of 18 at the beginning of the ride season.

- Instead of awards being point based, we have discussed possibly being mileage based to make it more fair for sponsored juniors to compete against unsponsored juniors. Placement would not matter as much as mileage completed.

- All youth division riders will compete in the same division whether they are sponsored or not. It is too hard for juniors to be competitive in the Senior division when turn 14 and partition AERC to ride without a sponsor. Finding appropriate sponsors to sponsor Jrs. is becoming more of an issue also. Many young riders lack the resources to remain competitive in the standings once they are forced to compete in the Senior division. We would like youth riders to be able to compete in the Youth Division until they turn 18.

- We would put emphasis that youth under the age of 14 should continue to ride with a sponsor, but we would like to see the sponsor age changed to 18 instead of 21.

We had 3 nominations for a Junior representative to sit on board discussions. The three applicants consisted of Sarah Holloway, Lily Turaski, and Bryna Stevenson. I have no doubt that anyone of these Youth would do a great job representing the Jrs. of the sport. After some discussion the Jr. committee would like to recommend Sarah Holloway be named Junior representative to the board. The main reason is because of her professional manner, and a wide variety of letters of recommendations that accompanied her nomination. I think Sarah would do an outstanding job.

That's everything in a nutshell. Thanks for all you do!

Terry and Nalisa Bradley

Welfare of the Horse Cmte

Joe Schoech has assured me that the fatality reports (8) are in progress. Membership and Education Cmtes. While researching the possibility of officially bringing the green beans under the wings of AERC, we found there was a very strong need within AERC to nurture our newer members. Most joining AERC see our regional and/or national annual award programs as out of reach and quickly lose interest. As an organization we need to develop a program(s) within AERC to offer these new riders and keep their interest. The programs should include educational requirements, volunteering requirements, and competition requirements starting with LD, then moving to Endurance with the opportunity for final achievement to be the completion of a 100 mile ride. Statistically we know membership retention is significantly higher in those who stay part of AERC for a minimum of three years. We need to remove the requirement to meet goals each year (encourages annual membership renewal) and allow everyone to work at their own pace. We'll develop names for each level of achievement and offer an AERC Pin for the completion of each level. This might also provide an incentive to buy an AERC jacket to display their pins. Additionally we hope it has a horse welfare impact as these riders will be much more educated when starting our sport.

We've talked about having an educational page on the AERC site with links to both free and subscribed content (details on that are in the future), pod casts, censored videos made by members, on-line courses and testing to acknowledge completion of the course, and similar.

The intent is to put together a sub-committee of membership committee members, and some of our newer members to develop this program.

Respectfully submitted, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith

Ride Managers Committee Update

Prepared by Jan Stevens, Chair

The Ride Managers Committee welcomed Terry Woolley-Howe as a member of the committee. Recent topics that the RM Committee have discussed include:

Pull Codes - Article written

Overtime Rides - concern if Ride Managers are figuring times correctly

The use of Pre-Entries - Article written

Junior Sponsor age change proposal - RM Committee is in favor of change from 21 to 18

Research Committee Donations - RM Committee discussed the request from the Research Committee about allocating a space on the entry forms for donations. The Committee doesn't see a problem with it to ask RM to do this, however, they suggested that the Research Committee come up with specific studies to request funding assistance for.

AERC Website and the RM Page update

Finish Line Ties - Article written

Letter to non-members to join AERC - Discussed a suggested letter to be handed out by RM to non-members encouraging them to join

Rule Change suggestion - Changing LD rule to coincide with Endurance rule concerning 30 minutes to complete:

L4.1 All equines must stand a mandatory post-ride evaluation within 30 minutes of finishing the course. Riders may present their equines for the final examination at a time of their choosing during the 30-minute period. An equine that does not meet the established criteria within 30 minutes of arrival time shall be disqualified. Once a completed equine has passed the post-ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons.

6.2.1.1 Each equine must pass the post-ride control check within one hour of crossing the finish line. Each equine is required to pass the final pulse rate criterion alone in 30 minutes but shall have the full hour from finish to pass other completion criteria.

After meeting the final pulse criterion, riders may present their equines for the final examination for other completion criteria at a time of their choosing during the one-hour period. An equine that does not meet the established pulse and completion criteria shall be disqualified. Once a competing equine has passed the post-ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons.

AERC International summary

December 10, 2015

The committee continues to work to simplify the process for those AERC members that are interested in getting involved with international endurance and also to encourage more interest from the membership. Specifically, we have completed or initiated the following tasks:

Official application forms (available at the USEF website) have been simplified so that they are easier to understand. Additionally, starting next year there will be one "super course" per year, held at a central location (hub airport hotel) where judges, stewards, technical delegates and veterinarians will be able to fulfill their training requirements for advancement.

We have renewed the grant program by which rides can request money to help offset the expense of hosting an FEI event. Two rides have already submitted applications for the 2016 ride season and have been approved for grants. We have renewed the grant program to help support young rider and junior FEI ride participants. A handful of young people have submitted their applications and received funds (and we received a very nice thank you note from one of the recipients).

We have submitted an informal proposal to gauge how likely we will succeed in gaining formal approval from the FEI for a championship ride. The goal of the proposal is a North American Championship (NAC) ride (4 star CEI) similar in format to the NAC and Pan American Championships held in this country up until the rule change in the mid 2000s that reduced athlete participation to one team per country. Our goal would be to allow one team from each AERC-I zone (and a squad of 10-15 from each zone that could compete as individuals). We believe that this "attainable" goal would encourage more participation in the FEI and could show case AERCs "bucket list" rides.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Sleeper VMD, DACVIM; chair AERC-I