

AERC Board of Directors - conference call minutes January 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:02 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, Janet Tipton, Mary Howell, Nick Kohut, Olin Balch, Paul Latiolais, Steph Teeter, John Parke, Andrew Gerhard, Forrest Tancer, Roger Taylor, Barbara Reinke, Duane Barnett, Susan Kasemeyer, Mike Maul, Christoph Schork, Terry Woolley-Howe, and Sarah Holloway (youth representative).

Tom Bache requested an excusal for out of town travel. Roger Taylor made a motion to approve excusal. Paul Latiolais seconds. Fourteen voted to approve, five voted not to approve the excusal. Motion passes.

There was a discussion in regards to developing criteria for what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable standards for recurrent non-emergency absences from Board conference calls and meetings. Tennessee Lane and Julia Lynn-Elias were absent.

There were no changes to the agenda. Lisa Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda, Roger seconds. Motion passes, none opposed.

Susan Garlinghouse made a motion to approve the minutes from the November and December 2015 conference calls. Nick Kohut seconds, motion passes, none opposed.

John Parke commented that there are no updates to ongoing project to develop the supporting organization.

It was announced that Cheryl Van Deusen has been selected by USEF to be awarded the Maggy Price Excellence Award; and that Kelsey Russell is to be the recipient of the Young Rider Trophy.

Statistical report – Kathleen

Membership as of 1/8/15: 2492
Membership as of 1/8/16: 2745

Sanction fees as of 1/8/15: \$8,000
Sanction fees as of 1/8/16: \$7560

Rider fees as of 1/8/15: \$5964
Rider fees as of 1/8/16: \$6010

New members as of 1/8/15: 167
New members as of 1/8/16: 132

Business before the Board

Renewal of contract with Candace FitzGerald for AERC marketing position. There was prolonged discussion of both the pros and cons of renewing the current contract with Candace FitzGerald. It was universally agreed by all that Candace is experienced and a pleasure to work with. However, it is possible that certain marketing projects can be done by the AERC office, especially if more hours of employment per week are approved. It was pointed out that hopes of Candace being successful in obtaining certain corporate sponsorships proved to be unsuccessful (as was the case after contact by AERC staff and directors), but was unlikely to have been the result of lack of effort or savvy on Candace's part. It was pointed out that Candace brings a certain level of skill currently unavailable elsewhere in AERC, and failing to renew the contract may slow or reverse certain positive trends and momentum now being demonstrated. It was commented, and generally agreed upon, that marketing needs specific goals to be identified and focused upon rather than ambiguity. It was further pointed out that only half of the amount previously approved within the budget for marketing has been used. The suggestion was made to request that Candace work with NE Director Mary Howell (also with a background in marketing) to develop Mary's skills and expertise for future use in AERC projects.

Roger Taylor made a motion to continue the contract for an additional six months, with reassessment at the 2016 mid-year Board meeting. Terry Woolley-Howe seconded. Fourteen votes yes, three no, one abstain. Motion passes. Michael, Campbell, Lisa Schneider and Kathleen Henkel will meet to discuss and plan specific goals and objectives.

Michael Campbell welcomed Barbara Reinke to the Board as the new SW regional director, as appointed by Roger Taylor.

Motion from the Junior Committee changing the required age of an adult sponsoring a junior from 21 years of age to 18. Lisa Schneider commented that this motion has the support of the majority of members of the Rules Committee. Motion passes.

There was considerable discussion in regards to forming an ad hoc committee to examine the recurring issue of rides with alleged short mileage, the suggestion of adding or modifying existing mileage divisions and how to respond to an increasing median age of AERC riders and continuing difficulty of identifying suitable and available trails for rides. There were several comments made regarding error factors in the methodology currently used to measure courses, including GPS technology, survey wheels and vehicle odometers. It was commented by John Parke that this is more than a “short mileage” topic, that it is also related to the governance, finance growth and membership of AERC, all of which are currently under review and development by the Strategic Planning Committee. It was universally agreed during comments that this has the potential to be an issue dividing the membership, and that AERC membership should be polled in regards to future directions of the organization. It was also universally agreed that exceptional care must be taken not to place additional undue burden on ride managers, and that any ad hoc committee must understand that there is no specific obligation to change current methodology within the sport, should the status quo be so deemed to be the best course of action.

John Parke suggested that “The Endurance Ride of the Future” would be an appropriate subject for the Hot Topics session at convention, and that the issue can then be further discussed at the Sunday morning Board meeting.

West Region director Andrew Gerhard nominated Jody Wyatt for West Region director. He apprised the Board as to Jody’s background in endurance riding, expertise as an attorney with experience in corporate protocols and familiarity with Middle Eastern culture (a benefit in helping to understand current issues in regards to Group 7 FEI issues). The Board expressed a positive response to Jody’s selection and appointment. The Board will vote to approve Ms. Wyatt’s appointment at the Thursday evening meeting at convention.

There being no further business, Terry Woolley-Howe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Kasemeyer seconds, motion passes. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. PST by Michael Campbell.

Submitted by Susan Garlinghouse

AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name: Junior Sponsor Age Change Proposing Committee: Junior committee Date of Motion: January 11

Classification of Motion Request : Rule modification

Proposed Motion : Change the minimum age for Junior Sponsor from 21 to 18 (Rule 10: FROM: “competent adult (21 years or older)” TO “competent adult (18 years or older)”

Background, analysis and benefit : It can be difficult for parents and guardians to find appropriate sponsors for junior riders, both before a ride starts, and during a ride in case the initial sponsor is eliminated from competition. This change will provide more choices, such as older siblings and family friends.

Eighteen is the age of majority in our legal system and a person is no longer considered a child once they reach the age of eighteen. The average 18 yr old should have the maturity to understand the duty and take on the responsibility of sponsoring a Junior. Ultimately, it is the duty of the Junior's parent/guardian to ensure the Junior is on a suitable mount and the Junior's sponsor understands the responsibility and has the appropriate skill to sponsor the Junior. In all cases the parent or guardian must ultimately approve any sponsor.

Budget effect/impact : no direct expenses, some office staff time required

Impact on AERC Office : notification to membership of rules modification, re-print rules book

Committees consulted and/or affected : Rules, Legal counsel: stated that there are no issues, Executive Director (re insurance policy): stated that the insurance policy and coverage would not be affected.

Implementation plan : change effective immediately upon board approval. Change made to aerc.org website "Rules_Current.pdf" , announce change through Endurance News, email lists, facebook pages, other social media. Send notice to all members, including ride managers and junior riders, via sql direct email.

Supporting materials : age distribution graph, 2015 statistics. Junior riders: 227 members under the age of 16

93 members between the ages of 18 and 20

Current Rule 10:

10. All Junior riders in both full and Limited Distance rides, whether they are AERC members or not, must be accompanied by a competent adult (21 years or older) sponsor throughout the competition. Junior and Sponsor must ride together at all times, including entering and leaving all control checks at the same time; the only exception being that at the finish a Junior may finish within the same minute or within the one minute on either side of the sponsor's finishing minute.

10.1 A Junior is a rider who was under the age of 16 as of the first day of the ride season in which the ride is held.

10.1.1 All Juniors, sponsored or un-sponsored, must wear approved safety helmets (approval by AHSA, PCA, ANSIZ90.4, or Snell).

10.2 Junior riders may participate in AERC competition only with the written consent of a parent or guardian. This consent shall imply:

10.2a. Acceptance of all AERC rules, particularly the ability of a Junior to substitute a sponsor during a ride as allowed by AERC rules and regulations; and,

10.2b. Prior consent to any emergency medical treatment or aid.

10.3 An AERC member 14 years or older who has completed 500 miles or more in the AERC rider mileage program may ride un-sponsored, but will compete in the senior division.

10.3.1 Such un-sponsored young rider must have on file in the AERC office a letter by parent or guardian which consents to and requests un-sponsored status.

10.3.2 The AERC office will then provide a letter for this un-sponsored young rider verifying 500 miles in AERC rider mileage program, which letter must be presented to ride management at check-in or earlier.

10.3.3 Management may choose not to honor the "un-sponsored young rider" concept and require all persons under 16 years of age to have sponsors.

10.4 The sponsor must be a competent adult (21 years or older) and must be duly entered as a competitor in the event and sponsorship must be documented on the Junior entry form complete with sponsor signature, at the time sponsorship begins.

10.4.1 Junior and/or sponsor normally may suspend their sponsorship agreement only at regular stated checks and then only with the knowledge and consent of ride management, and management's documentation of the change when it occurs.

10.4.1.1 Sponsorships may change between checks only in the event that either competitor or either competitor's mount is unable to continue safely to a checkpoint.

10.4.1.2 In the event of an emergency and in order to remain in competition, the Junior who is in last place and whose pre-registered sponsor is pulled, and there are no other qualified sponsors to follow, the Junior may be sponsored by an un-entered qualified rider through the completion of the ride, with ride management and control judge approval. He would receive last place junior points. This emergency sponsor will receive no credit for mileage or points. The Junior may also be sponsored by an adult on foot from the last control check with the approval of ride management.

10.5 Infraction of the sponsorship shall result in either the sponsor and/or the Junior being disqualified.

10.6 AERC points must be submitted and recorded per the above regulations independent of ride management's local ride rules governing Junior and Senior riders.