

**AERC Board of Directors Conference Call
October 10, 2016**

President Michael Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. PST.

Present at the meeting were Michael Campbell, Lisa Schneider, Susan Garlinghouse Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Monica Chapman, Connie Caudill, Jan Stevens, Mary Howell, Nick Kohut, Paul Latiolais, Steph Teeter, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Barbara Reinke, Roger Taylor, Andrew Gerhard, Tom Bache, Olin Balch, Terry Woolley-Howe, Mike Maul, Carla Richardson, Christoph Schork, Sarah Holloway (youth representative).

Michael Campbell asked for any changes to the agenda. John Parke requested executive session after agenda items. No other changes requested.

Connie Caudill made a motion to accept the minutes submitted by the International Committee. Roger Taylor seconded. The motion passed.

Excusals were requested for Janet Tipton (out of area without cell service), Duane Barnett (attending to a veterinary emergency), Sue Keith (working a ride out of cell service area). Roger Taylor made a motion to approve requests for excusal. Connie Caudill seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of minutes submitted for September board meetings. Monica Chapman identified a mistake in being listed as at meeting, but in actuality was excused and did not attend the meeting. Susan Garlinghouse said she will correct the September minutes accordingly.

Kathleen Henkel reported the insurance quote from Equisure as \$2,659.00 for \$1 million coverage, and \$5,281.00 for \$2 million coverage. Roger Taylor made a motion to approve \$2 million coverage. Lisa Schneider seconded. There were some questions and comments about specific coverages. Motion passed with one abstention.

Membership Report - Kathleen Henkel

Sanction fees as of 10/14/15:	\$ 15,675
Sanction fees as of 10/14/16:	\$ 16,095
Rider fees as of 10/14/15:	\$ 75,748.50
Rider fees as of 10/14/16:	\$ 71,219.00

Membership 10/9/15	5205
Membership 10/7/16	5102
New members 10/9/15:	718
New members 10/7/16:	641

Junior Committee - Steph Teeter reported on ongoing work and motion in regards to adding a Young Rider award division. After discussion with ride managers, it was recommended that the Young Rider become an extension of the existing Junior Division, rather than its own division. The Youth Representative present was consulted as to her input, and her support was noted. Other comments both pro and con were discussed, as well as the suggestion of initiating as a five-year pilot program, with a subsequent review and reassessment as warranted. This latter suggestion was accepted by the author (Steph Teeter, as chair of Junior Committee) to add a clause for review in three years (following the end of the 2019 season or beginning of 2020 season). Coming from committee, this motion did not require a second. The motion passed with changes to review in three years, one abstention.

Sanctioning Committee motion - Pine Tree Pioneer held the same weekend as Shore to Shore, but ride management of both rides had no objection, as ride sites are approximately 931 miles apart. It was agreed to review and reconsider as warranted before sanctioning next year. There was some discussion about similar issues in other regions. Pine Tree Pioneer 8/2-4/17, Tom Hutchinson is the ride manager – this is a continuing pioneer ride in its 4th year as a pioneer with a ride the day before and the day after the pioneer. Coming from committee, this motion did not require a second. Motion passed.

Sanctioning Committee motion - approval of Madawaska ride as a Pioneer ride for the second year, August 21-23, 2017, in Central Ontario, with Connie Rawski & Chrystal Woodhouse sharing ride manager duties, Stan Alkemade control judge. First year was held in July 2016. Coming from committee, this motion did not require a second. Motion passed.

The board went into executive session at 6:31 p.m. PST. Executive session ended at 7:12 p.m. PST.

There was discussion in regards to issues of co-sanctioning rides with other ride organizations, including insurance and liability issues, current and past relationships with regional ride groups (SERA, TERA, UMECRA, ECTRA, PNER, etc). Discussion of the pros and cons of various relationships, as well as clarification of current rules regarding award points and reporting by ride management. No motion was put forward or proposed at this time.

There being no further business before the board, Susan Garlinghouse made a motion to adjourn. Roger Taylor seconded.

The meeting was adjourned by President Michael Campbell at 7:30 p.m. PST.

Young rider award division motion:

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name: Young Rider Award Division (original submission)

Proposing Committee: Junior/Young Rider committee

Date of Motion: February 18

Classification of Motion Request : New Awards, Rules Modification

Proposed Motion :

Create a Regional award division for Young Riders. Those eligible for this award would include AERC members who are between 16 and 21 years of age as of the first day of the AERC ride season (December 1). It would also include any Juniors (under 16 years of age) who have been granted permission to ride unsponsored per Rule 10.3 .

The Young Rider Division awards would be calculated in the same manner as Junior Division awards of the same category

Background, analysis and benefit :

The median age of AERC members is over 52, and steadily increasing. Our future lies in recruiting new members and creating a desire and commitment in our youth to continue the sport as they age, or return to it when able.

Recognition and awards are important, especially to AERC's youth. They create a playful sense of competition among peers, and a sense of pride and accomplishment resulting from their participation. They also help create a bond with the horse, and respect and gratitude for the partner that helped them achieve, or just try for, the award. An award helps the individual set a goal and discover the real life lessons learned in its pursuit.

Under the current Regional Awards system, AERC's youth are eligible for a Junior award as long as they are under 16 and ride with a sponsor. As soon as the youth is no longer eligible to compete in the Junior Division, they must compete within the Senior Division. It is very difficult for a child that is still dependent on a parent or guardian for finances, transportation and opportunity to place in the Senior awards division. They are usually limited to competing during school breaks, which greatly reduces their opportunity to earn points towards awards.

Most youth fall out of the standings as soon as they leave the Junior Division. Many lose interest in the sport when they no longer have attainable goals. The longer we can keep these kids interested in riding AERC the greater the likelihood that they will continue on into adulthood or return to the sport when life permits. Plus it is just more fair that kids compete against other kids for recognition and awards, rather than against adults.

Most other National equine sport organizations recognize Young Riders as a division, in addition to Junior and Senior divisions. This age group is an important demographic – representing those old enough and skilled enough to reach high levels of performance, yet still disadvantaged from senior competitors due to lack of independent finances, dependence upon parents or guardians, school commitments, etc.

Budget effect/impact: Cost Estimate to add Young Rider Awards

Award Jackets estimated @ \$35/jacket

In 2015 there were 227 members under the age of 16. Top 3 in each region (9) are eligible for awards. 39 Juniors received jackets.

There were 254 members between 16 and 21 years, the proposed age range for a Young Rider division.

Based on this, the estimated number of jackets for a YR Division would be 40.

Regional Mileage Championship

Two per region qualify. Additional jacket purchases is unlikely because they would already place in Points Standings

Young Rider National 100 Miles

Already exists – Kathy Brunjes YR Award, top 5 Young Riders in one-day 100 mile rides, mileage only

National Limited Distance Mileage

3 jackets

National Mileage Already Kathy Brunjes Young Rider Mileage Award

Regional Limited Distance Mileage Championship

Nine regions, 2 awards per region: negligible cost since jackets would already be awarded in regional awards

Total Additional Cost Estimate: 40 jackets @ \$35 = \$1400

*** two Gold Level, Regional Awards sponsorship offers to consider**

Impact on AERC Office

Creation of new division (Mike Maul, Russ Humphrey - ?time, cost)

Purchase of additional jackets and awards

Committees consulted and/or affected: Rules, Junior/Young Rider, Technical

Implementation plan: Present to the board February 18, solicit comments, print in Endurance News. Present for final approval at October BoD meeting - to begin December 1, 2017 for the 2017 ride season.