

General Session Convention Meeting Minutes: AERC National Convention General Session March 11, 2017

AERC President Michael Campbell called to order the AERC Board of Directors General Session Meeting at the National Convention on March 11, 2017, at 11: 05 am CT

Present at the meeting were current and new AERC BOD Members: Michael Campbell, Mollie Krumlaw- Smith, Monica Chapman, Connie Caudill, Susan Kasemeyer, Nick Kohut, Lisa Schneider, Mike Maul, John Parke, Susan Garlinghouse, Olin Balch, Roger Taylor, Duane Barnett, Andrew Gerhard, Paul Latiolais, Christoph Schork, Janet Tipton, Jan Stevens, Mary Howell, Jody Wyatt, Sue Keith, Barbara Reinke, Heather Reynolds, Paul Sidio, and Bob Marshall.

AERC President Michael Campbell thanked everyone for coming, the AERC office staff, convention staff and outgoing board members. He also thanked his Executive Committee. OCER, TERA for hosting the National Convention and his wife Dianne.

President Michael Campbell listed the boards accomplishments during his tenure. Improvements to rules covering welfare of the horse by Vet Committee. Overhaul of website by Lisa Schneider and Mike Maul. A strategic plan was developed covering membership, finance, trails, education, horse welfare and governance. AERC membership increased over the past 3 years although currently down from last year. Dr. Susan Garlinghouse DVM educational You-tube videos and Patti Stedman who developed the 101 and 102 endurance clinics programs, AERC Facebook page monitoring by Troy and the additional monitors. Monica Chapman chair of the Trails Committee has worked hard to give AERC an increased national trails presence. AERC members rode in the Rose Parade thanks to Gayle Pena. Jr/Youth initiatives by Stephanie Teeter and board Jr representative Sarah Holloway. Terry Woolley Howe started the Longevity Award and everyone liked receiving the pins. Dr. Jerry Gillespie DVM, research on Transportation Fluid Lost. AERC has exerted a strong International presence on welfare of the horse through letters and press releases. AERC has focused on long term partnership with our horses and on horse welfare.

Robert Ribley, chair of the Elections Committee, swore in the Directors at Large Members: Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Heather Reynolds, Mike Maul, Bob Marshall, Susan Garlinghouse, Olin Balch, Christoph Schork and Paul Sidio.

Election of Officers. Elected: Paul Latiolais as President, Susan Kasemeyer, Vice- President, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith Treasurer and Sue Keith as Secretary.

The floor was opened to the membership for questions or comments.

A question about the Ridgway Trot (CRI): She thought it started out as only used for a problem the vet might be seeing in the horse. Now CRI is used at every vet check. The vets on the board thought the CRI is a good parameter on how the horse is doing and is important in consideration with other observations of the horse at every vet check.

A ride manager question on the National Championship. He would like to see qualifications expanded for riders qualifying for the NC by using multi-day rides and 2 day 100's. Market the NC better. Connie Caudill said NC committee has talked about having team competition at NC..

A question on welfare of the horse and body score concerns. Dr. Garlinghouse, horses with body scores under 3 and more than 8 have a greater chance for metabolic pulls and lameness. Tevis has looked at data with horses less than 3 body scores, they usually don't finish the Tevis. Riders would send pictures to Tevis officials to see if they could start the ride before entry. Duane Bernett comment, people are watching and low horse body scores could cause a marketing problem for AERC and rides.

A comment on how to make ride camp more friendly for new riders. She challenged riders to find ways to be more welcoming, suggestions like tailgate taco night and campfire music. Ride managers should always have a new rider meeting. Susan Kasemeyer said colored ribbons and bandanas like green for new riders and purple for mentoring questions help riders know who is who. New President Paul Latiolias wants to cook gumbo in every region.

Question: If there were any new research projects happening? Asked about possible research on CK Creatine Kinase. Dr. Garlinghouse DVM, she would like to see continue research on Dr. Jerry Gillespie's DVM Transportation Fluid Loss Project. Having funding for research is always a problem.

Dr. Garlinghouse DVM was thanked for the LD questions on the last membership survey and commented that members wanted more input with comment boxes on the next survey. Dr. Garlinghouse said the last survey had 1800 responses.

Comment: With the focus on fitness of the endurance horse, riders should also focus on their fitness to ride.

Question: does AERC have Breed Awards? He felt it would build membership. Mike Maul answered yes we have many Breed awards.

Comment on Mongolian Endurance Riding. The first real American AERC style ride will happen using AERC rules. It will be a point to point ride. This AERC type of ride could help build relations and horse welfare within Mongolia.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 Central Time.

Submitted by Sue Keith