

AERC 9/10/18 Conference Call meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Latiolais at 9:03 pm

Present were- Paul Latiolais, Monica Chapman, Connie Caudill, Tonya Stoud-Oaks, Mary Howell, Nick Kohut DVM, Michael Campbell, Susan Kasemeyer, Marcia Hefker-Miles, Shawn Bowling, Andrew Gerhard, Olin Balch DVM, Terry Woolley Howe, Mike Maul, Christoph Schork and Executive Director, Kathleen Henkel.

Michael Campbell asked to add to the agenda a discussion on the Horse Excellence Award. Connie Caudill moves to accept the revised agenda and Nick Kohut 2nd. Motion passed

Christoph Schork made a motion to excuse Lisa Schneider for medical reasons, Susan Kasemeyer 2nd. Motion passed. Susan Kasemeyer asked for excusal of Jan Stevens, Bob Marshall DVM, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith and Heather Reynolds. Nick Kohut 2nd the motion. Motion passed

Statistical Report from Kathleen Henkel

Membership as of 9/11/17 4897

Membership as of 9/10/18 4793

Sanction fees as of 9/10/17 \$ 16,112

Sanction fees as of 9/10/18 \$ 14,750

Rider fees as of 9/10/17 \$ 58,518

Rider fees as of 9/10/18 \$ 48,352

New members as of 9/11/17 533

New members as of 9/10/18 542

Nick Kohut DVM made a motion to accept the 8/4/18 midyear Board meeting minutes. Olin Balch DVM 2nd. Motion passed

Michael Campbell made a motion to approve the Petition for FEI for Horse Welfare Reform, 2nd by Susan Kasemeyer. Connie Caudill stated even though the Board approved the petition on e-mails, that AERC needs to make it official. This petition has been on the Change.org website site for 2 weeks and has over 5,000 signatures. (The petition is below) AERC wants true reforms for FEI endurance, especially having riders maintain a 66% completion rate to participate in open speeds, revise coc and stiffer penalties for drug abuse. Motion passed unanimously. (The full Petition below the minutes)

Mary Howell presented a motion from the Sanctioning Committee for the approval of the Pine Tree Pioneer Ride to be held August 7-9, 2019 in Maine. Motion passed

Michael Campbell discussed options for funding the new Horse Excellence Award. Promotional info will be published in October's Endurance News. AERC will put out a news release. The Board will vote on the best candidates. The cost was estimated to be \$2,000. Michael Campbell would prefer the Board members fund it. Olin Balch DVM suggested that AERC should stand behind this award financially since it is supporting AERC's basic principle for longevity of the horse. Christoph Schork agreed that AERC should be presenting this award not the AERC Board.

Olin Balch DVM made a motion that funding for the award is to come from AERC. Christoph Schork 2nd. Olin Balch DVM accepted a friendly amendment from Connie Caudill that AERC was to fund this

for one year and then the Board would revisit. Marcia Hefker-Miles stated that the intent of this award is to extend the arm of clean endurance internationally. Motion for funding passed

Olin Balch DVM requested that Board members that will be attending the WEG to give a report.

Susan Kasemeyer moved to adjourn at 9:40 pm, Marcia Hefker-Miles 2nd. Motion passed

Submitted by Connie Caudill

Global Petition for FEI Horse Welfare Reform

The purpose of this petition is to clarify for FEI that the endurance riders and supporters worldwide demand a return to the traditions of our sport with emphasis on the proper care for endurance horses everywhere by allowing the horses to compete on their own natural abilities without performance enhancing drugs. The petition also requires increased rest periods for excessive speed and stiffer penalties for those who would abuse these animals. This petition has the support of 25 American Endurance Ride Conference Board members and we expect the public support of relevant committees and organizations from endurance organizations all around the world.

FEI must take a stand for endurance horse welfare reform worldwide before equestrians lose the privilege of competing in equestrian sports. We request that FEI accept and enforce the following 9 rules that will punish the cheaters and abusers of horses that believe in "winning at all cost". Enough is enough, endurance athletes and horse enthusiasts globally demand change in the FEI organization.

1. Increase penalties for positive drug tested horses- Higher fines as well as stiffer suspensions on the horses. At least a year suspension (not the current 2 months). (May depend on the type of drug))

2. Strong penalties on Trainers/Athletes/Owners who have 3 positive drug violations within a 5 year period. (5 year suspension)

3. Positive drug violations for anabolic steroids, (such as testosterone) the horse will be banned for life. Possible life ban on –Athlete/Owner/Trainer

4. Have mandated drug test on all 4 and 5* and Championship rides. Increase the drug testing fees in this type of race to help pay for the extra testing. Take a blood draw on ALL at check in (hair follicle possibly in future drug testing programs). At the finish always drug test top 10-20 horses in these types of races, then others at random. (4* is a 160K with prize money of \$10,000-\$50,000, 5* prize money greater than \$50,000)*

5. Check for sensitivity of the horses' lower legs at initial vetting, during the ride at the vet checks and upon completion. Strong penalty for violation.

6. Athletes/horses must maintain a completion rate of 66%. If either fall below a 66% completion rate (Retired/Rider Option will not count against them) they will immediately go back to restricted or controlled speed (which currently is no greater than 16kmh or 10 mph). They will stay at this rate for at least 6 months and if their completion rate has improved above the 66% they can go back into open speed, if it has not improved they will remain in the controlled speed category another 6 months until they can improve their completion rate.

7. Remove elite athlete status. (Elite status only comes into play at championship rides). All athletes must qualify on the horse that is to be ridden in the championship ride, no special status for elite athletes.

8. Eliminate current COC timing. (This promotes fast flat courses only.)

9. Increase rest periods for all horses that exceed average speeds of 16kmh (10mph). Reduce rest period by 50% when average speed is less than 16kmh (10 mph).