

AERC BOD meeting minutes- 2/11/19

Acting President Monica Chapman called the meeting to order at 9:05 pm

Board members present were Connie Caudill, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Michael Campbell, Angie Mikkleson, Jan Stevens, Tonya Stroud-Oaks, Mary Howell, Nick Kohut DVM, Lisa Schneider, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Vance Stine, Marcia Hefker-Miles, Andrew Gerhard, Olin Balch DVM, Terry Woolley-Howe, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, Heather Reynolds, Paul Sidio, Christoph Schork and Executive Director Kathleen Henkel. Also on the call were Naomi Preston, Jessica Cobbley, Nina Bomar and Tim Worden.

A motion was made to accept the agenda by Michael Campbell and seconded by Terry Woolley Howe. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Susan Kasemeyer to approve the January 14, 2019 Board meeting minutes with one correction on the spelling of Kenelly and also to approve the Abbott Appeal meeting minutes. Seconded by Jan Stevens. Motion passed.

Christoph Schork made a motion to excuse Shawn Bowling and Troy Eckard from tonight's meeting. Terry Woolley Howe seconded. Motion passed.

Kathleen Henkel gave the statistical report:

Membership as of 2/8/18 3485

Membership as of 2/8/19 3229

Sanction fees as of 2/8/18 \$ 9,040.00

Sanction fees as of 2/8/19 \$ 10,815.00

Rider fees as of 2/8/18 \$ 4,093.00

Rider fees as of 2/8/19 \$ 3,095.00

New members as of 2/8/18 221

New members as of 2/8/19 173

A motion was made by Connie Caudill to approve Naomi Preston as the NW Regional Director to fill the position of Paul Latiolais who recently resigned, seconded by Christoph Schork. John Parke called for a point of order. He noted for future reference, that the California Corporate Code prevents the Executive Committee from appointing a director to fill a Board vacancy position even having it ratified by the Board later. Motion passed.

Monica Chapman nominated Jessica Cobbley as the NW Regional Director to fill Stephanie Teeter's position who recently resigned, seconded by Vance Stine. Motion passed.

Insurance discussion was conducted by Vance Stine. AERC has three different policies which are the General Liability, the Directors and Officers and the Ride insurance policies. He has been researching the premiums and coverage on each policy and comparing the increasing of the coverage with the increase of the premiums. There was a question from a committee chair concerning the D&O insurance, inquiring if AERC's committee chairs are covered. The answer was sent to AERC in writing from Equisure that not only the chairs are covered but also the entire committee members. Kathleen Henkel will be checking quotes with the insurance company concerning a cyber policy and sexual discrimination policy. Both Kathleen Henkel and Vance Stine will meet with Diane Leshner, the Equisure insurance agent, during the convention. Monica Chapman thanked Vance Stine and Kathleen Henkel.

AERC Office Report; Kathleen Henkel updated the Board on the things that the AERC Office have incorporated to encourage members to enter more rides this year and also to join AERC in a timely fashion. Kathleen Henkel reported that the new website program has been completed is almost ready to roll out. The AERC office is busy this time of the year with the convention but plans to be testing soon when the program has been fully entered. Lisa Schneider offered to assist in the testing.

Monica Chapman reported on Safe Sport. She stated that it doesn't appear the program will be as expensive as first expected. Lianne Dorion has been communicating with the Center Safe Sport to get answers about the program and the cost. Monica Chapman hopes to have more information by the convention.

Discussion held concerning the decline in starting riders (ridership). From 2014-2016 the ride starts were around 17,000+ per year. In 2017 it dropped to 16,000+ but then in 2018 there was a significant drop to 14,684 rider starts.

Each of the regions gave a quick review of their region and thoughts on ridership numbers.

CT Region- The directors in the Central Region had a phone meeting concerning the reduced numbers in ridership within their region and determined that 27% of all AERC rides that were cancelled in 2018 were in central region. Many rides cancelled were weather related. Also, some of the larger rides have been lost. They will speak to some regional organizations to see if they can resurrect some of these rides. The membership in the region has been steady up to 2017. Two-thirds of the ride entries in the region occur in Texas. They also discussed scheduling more rides in case the weather causes cancellations.

MW Region- The regional directors reported that ridership remained steady, almost the same as it has been over the past few years. They are concerned that even though the region has a lot of rides that many of the rides are small which places a hardship on the ride managers.

MT Region- The regional directors reported that the only ride that has been canceled this year is the new ride "Best of the Best." They felt there was a lot of interest in this ride so were surprised by the cancellation. It was noted that maybe the negative feedback on the high qualifications triggered the pullout. The region has 7 Pioneer rides and may be gaining a couple of new rides this year.

NE Region- The regional directors reported that there were 3 large rides cancelled this year due to weather. On the bright side there is a new Canadian ride and several new rides including one in PA. 2018 was an unprecedented year concerning weather in the NE, which took its toll on ride cancellations as well as lack of riders attending the events.

NW Region - The two new regional directors reported that comparing the 2015 ride schedule to the 2019 ride schedule - the loss of 13 ride days in 2016 with some being Pioneer events. There were 2,227 ride

starting riders but in 2018 there were only 1232. The region is trying to find their balance. One program they offer in S. Idaho is allowing Juniors to ride for free. The loss of some rides is due to RM's have some health issues. The brighter side is there will be a new 100-mile ride in the Tri Cities this year and also another ride is coming back to AERC.

PS Region - The directors reported that many rides were cancelled with some being relocated. One ride canceled due to extremely high park fees. Lisa Schneider would like a discussion within the Sanctioning Committee concerning rain dates on the calendar. The National Championship Ride is in the region this year and is expected to be a large ride. It was noted that while the 50-mile rides were declining this past year that Pioneer ride were increasing their entries.

SE Region- The regional directors were pleased that Christo Dinkelmann has stepped up to mentor new riders in preparing and riding his 100-mile ride with webinars and mentors for the riders. There was a clinic held at a member's store on ulcers which had over a 100 attendees. The SERA convention theme was "working together". The region will be monitoring the possibility of a decline in ridership with the departure from USEF. One ride camp was destroyed by a tornado in 2017 but they are working on reviving this popular ride. SERA is donating a green bandana to new riders in hopes the experienced riders will see it and help mentor them through the rides.

SW Region- The regional directors stated that the SW region was a small region in which the state of AZ carries 85% of the rides. There are a couple of FEI in NM. Rider starts are up but membership has declined. There will be a ride in Flagstaff in May and next year hopefully in Raton. Roger Taylor has been working to find new trails for Fort Stanton since some have been destroyed by heavy rain and erosion.

W Region- The regional directors stated that the West has a long season. Three rides were cancelled due to fire or smoke. One was lost due to the park's rain restriction policies. The region has gained 3 new rides this year including one new pioneer ride. Making a schedule to fit 30 rides in on the calendar is challenging and they are always looking for open dates to squeeze in another one.

Monica Chapman led a discussion about open Board meetings. Currently in order to listen to a Board meeting the members must go to the AERC office in Auburn California. The board members want the meeting to be open for members to attend in an easier way. The Board meetings are limited by the amount of people that can be on the call and AERC is charged for each person in the line. There was concern on the lack of quality and listening ability of the call with more people on the line. It is very hard to hear on many of the calls as it is now.

Should directors' homes or offices should be open to members so they could listen in during the call? Some members feel it would be an intrusion while others were open to this idea. There was some concern on how the executive sessions would be handled on open call meetings. There are new technologies that need researching by the Board to see if the meetings can be opened to our members like the webinar meetings or something like Zoom or just audio screening.

Monica Chapman would like the Rules Committee to flush out the pros and cons of trying to offer convenient open meetings for the members.

Two weeks prior to the meeting Monica Chapman had ask the Board members to send in any topic that they would like to have discussed during the Hot Topics meeting which is held at the convention. Each member stated which topics and reasons that they wanted them discussed. John Parke will moderate the

discussion. Monica Chapman asked the Board members to send in their vote and she would report which topics were chosen.

Monica Chapman discussed a letter from the AERC-I committee concerning the role of the committee without an affiliation with USEF. The committee would like a sense of the Board on the following letter that was sent to the Board from AERC-I.

Dear Ms. Chapman and members of the AERC Board:

At the last AERC-International meeting earlier this week, committee members discussed the many changes and challenges facing international endurance and how the committee can be most supportive for our members going forward. In spite of the recent turmoil with USEF, the international committee envisions the committee continuing to play an important role in education and support of AERC members in various capacities, but specifically:

1. Support of exchange opportunities allowing AERC members to compete at international events (and for foreign endurance riders to compete in AERC events).
 2. Support of AERC members and ride managers interested in participating in FEI
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Please let us know if this aligns with the BODs vision.

The board discussed the points in the letter and most members agreed with the role the committee has set forth. There were three members who had concerns as to how the committee would be able to support riders and ride managers that were interested in participating in FEI sense will not be involved with FEI.

Nineteen Board members agreed with the committees' role as stated in their letter. Two members agreed with the first item but didn't agree with item #2. One member agreed with the first item but didn't understand #2. Heather Reynolds, who is on the AERC-I Committee, explained that AERC-I would help educate new riders/RM wanting to move into international riding.

Monica Chapman will convey the information and sense of the Board's agreement to the AERC-I Committee's vision.

At 11 pm, John Parke made a motion to adjourn, Christoph Schork seconded. Motion passed.
