

AERC General Session meeting 3/9/19

Acting President Monica Chapman called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

She thanked the Board members who served this past year and the ones that will be leaving the Board- Terry Wooley Howe, Paul Sidio, Mary Howeel, Paul Latiolais and Steph Teeter.

She welcomed the new Board Members- Nina Bomar, Tim Worden, Naomi Preston, Jessica Cobbley and Dawn Hilliard.

Robert Ribley swore in the new Board members.

Vote for AERC officers

Susan Kasemeyer nominated Connie Caudill for secretary, Lisa Schneider seconded. With there being no other nominations, Lisa Schneider made a motion to accept Connie Caudill as Secretary by acclamation, Susan Kasemeyer seconded. Motion passed

Jan Stevens nominated Mollie Krumaw-Smith for Treasurer, seconded by Lisa Schneider. With there being no other nominations, Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to accept MollieKrumlaw Smith as Treasurer by acclimation, seconded by Vance Stine. Motion passed

Olin Balch DVM nominated Nick Kohut DVM for Vice President, seconded by Bob Marshall DVM. With there being no other nominations, Mollie Krumlaw Smith made a motion to accept Nick Kohut DVM as Vice President by acclamation, seconded by Tim Worden. Motion passed

Michael Campbell nominated Monica Chapman for President, Lisa Schneider seconded. With there being no other nominations, Michael Campbell made a motion to accept Monica Chapman as President by acclamation, seconded by Susan Kasemeyer. Motion passed

The officers will be sworn in at the National Awards banquet on Saturday.

Monica Chapman went on to discuss AERC business.

She stated one of the challenges that AERC faces in the future is a decrease in rider starts. This is an issue the BOD will be delving into this year.

There have been many ride days lost to weather issues, forest fires, trail loss, and other reasons. In reviewing the Central Region statistics which had a high number of ride days cancelled for weather issues last year there is an overall trend in fewer riders starting rides. She went on to explain the decrease in rider starts falls under AERC's strategic plan which was first developed in 2015 but has not been put into full effect. A strategic plan is a guidebook for organizations to follow. The plan identifies how the organization should be run and gives a game plan on how to do that. It is a big undertaking that will require many hours of BOD members and other volunteers to make it happen. She hopes the members

will support the Board in this endeavor. The Strategic Plan can be accessed on the AERC website at <https://www.aerc.org/static/AERCStrategicPlan2015.pdf>.

Monica Chapman also discussed Safe Sport which is short for Senate Bill 534 titled “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017”. S524 was passed in February 2018. In meeting with The US Center for Safe Sport, AERC has discovered that since AERC is an amateur sports organization we are not held to the same standards as national governing bodies. AERC will be developing best practices and policies on Safe Sport. The plan is to have that done by our Mid-Year Meeting.

Monica Chapman stated that the entire horse industry needs to be supportive of each other. We need to reach out to all the other Equine and Trail organizations and be supportive. If you can only belong to a few groups besides AERC and your endurance regional club don't forget about organizations that support trails. Back Country Horseman of America (or your state trail group), Equine Land Conservation Resource(ELCR), and your state horse council if your state has one. All these groups work well together and have a common goal of saving land and trails.

Monica Chapman had one more request to AERC members – please volunteer. Whether it's with AERC or another equestrian group it is going to take us all to keep what we have now. If you have a certain expertise let her know. She asks the membership to contact her or the AERC office about volunteering.

Monica Chapman opened the floor up to questions from the members. Some of the questions concerned accurate mileages and the concerns if it is worth losing members over fighting on this issue. Another member asked that AERC think about different items other than just mileage when measuring trails. Like terrain and weather conditions. A NW regional member felt there was a lack of communication from the Board to the members. Monica Chapman said there is a lag time with getting the Endurance News so stated that AERC would work on sending out mass email updates, communicate better on FB AERC pages and with regional FB pages. She will try to do better in keeping members updated.

Melissa Ribley invited all members including the Board members to attend to the AERC National Championship ride to be held in Ridgecrest California in October.

Some members complemented the Board for working to keep AERC on track during a stressful year. A question was asked about the current relationship between AERC and USEF. Monica Chapman replied that we currently have an operational and drug testing agreement through the end of the year. AERC is no longer the USEF affiliate and on November 1, 2019 we will not have a relationship with them. It will be up to USEF if they are willing to co sanction at that time.

At 12:40 pm John Parke made a motion to adjourn, Marcia Hefker-Miles seconded. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted by

Connie Caudill