

AERC Board of Directors Conference Call Meeting June 17, 2019

AERC President Monica Chapman called the meeting to order at 9:05pm EDT.

Present were Monica Chapman, Michael Campbell, Connie Caudill, Angie Mikkelson, Jan Stevens, Tonya Stroud-Oaks, Dawn Hilliard, Nick Kohut DVM, Jessica Cobbley, Naomi Preston, John Parke, Lisa Schneider, Susan Kasemeyer, Shawn Bowling, Andrew Gerhard, Troy Eckard, Marcia Hefker-Miles, Olin Balch DVM, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Bob Marshall DVM, Heather Reynolds, Mike Maul, Christoph Schork, Tim Worden, Gordie Cowan and Executive Director Kathleen Henkel.

Monica Chapman welcomed Gordie Cowan, new Director at Large, to the board. She urged all Board members to give Gordie Cowan a lot of support as he settles into the position.

Jan Stevens made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Susan Kasemeyer. Motion passed.

Christoph Schork made a motion to approve the of 5/13/19 Board meeting minutes. Nick Kohut DVM seconded. Motion passed with one abstention from Andrew Gerhard who wasn't present at that meeting.

Kathleen Henkel gave the Statistical report;

Membership as of 6/18/18: 4565; as of 6/14/19: 4357

Sanction fees as of 6/14/18: \$13,320; as of 6/14/19: \$13,795.00

Rider fees as of 6/14/18: \$32,086; as of 6/14/19: \$27,179

New members as of 6/18/18: 435; as of 6/14/19: 407

Kathleen Henkel stated there had been several rides cancelled due to weather. Gordie Cowan reported a positive point that he had attended the Wild West Pioneer Ride where there was an overall total of 292 entries.

The Sanctioning Committee presented for Board approval a 2nd year Pioneer ride, for the 2020 season, Gallop on the Greenway, 25/50 on 12/27; a morning and evening 25 on the 28th with a 55/75/100 and a 25/50 on 12/29/19. SE Sanctioning Director Susan Kasemeyer has given her approval along with the Sanctioning Committee. Motion to approve the ride passed

The Rules Committee presented a motion "re: elimination of variable hold times." The new rule would say "2.1.7.1 The duration of the hold will be uniform for all riders entering the hold."

Several rides have incorporated using variable hold times where the competitors decide how much time they would use at each hold so long as the total time was the same for all competitors. The committee felt there could be problems getting accurate information between holds to confirm the amount of time each competitor took at the previous hold and that this interfered with the spirit of competition by preventing other competitors from determining their placings throughout the ride. They also felt this would be a safe guard for fair play throughout the competition.

Some discussion was held to determine if this rule is really needed. Even though most felt it was a good idea there was a concern that the members should be notified for input with the Board receiving feedback before voting on a new rule. John Parke made a motion to defer the vote until adequate notice goes out to the membership. Seconded by Connie Caudill. Passed 19-4. Michael Campbell will have the committee

write an article to be included in the next issue of Endurance News and after will bring the motion back to the board for a vote.

Troy Eckard and Tim Worden gave the Board a refresher on rule 5. Each month the Board members will be reviewing one of the rules.

The Board reviewed and was updated on the Strategic Plan from Governance, Finance and Horse Welfare/Education groups.

Governance Group- Lisa Schneider listed eight goals.

Identify clear allegations of responsibilities between the staff, Executive Director, President and the Board members.

Improve effectiveness of Board meetings and encourage full participation of Board members.

Require effective use of committees to allow the Board to focus on strategic items.

Encourage clear communication with the Executive Director.

Increase regional director responsibilities.

Ensure continuity of understanding with new Board members.

Improve communication between Board members and the members of AERC.

Engage in joint efforts with other organizations in the US and in other countries for endurance riding and other disciplines to support equestrian sports.

The Governance group focused on the implementation of the first two goals. Lisa Schneider encouraged every board member to review the very detailed paper that was given on this subject to each Board member in their convention meeting packets.

To execute, the following implementation plan is required:

This document shall be given to all Board members at the Convention meeting and will be reviewed with the entire Board during the new member orientation, with updates as necessary.

The Executive Director shall be vigilant on agenda structure by reviewing proposed agenda items for committee recommendations prior to being presented to the Board.

The Executive Director shall regularly poll the Board members for recommendations to make the Board meetings more effective and efficient.

Board meetings shall be structured regarding cyclical issues for timing of rule changes, budget presentation and approval, midyear location and date, etc.

Feb/March (Convention)– new President, Officers, and Executive Committee are sworn in.

May Board meeting – decide Midyear meeting location and date

Aug/Sept – Midyear meeting

By Sept – all rule changes for the following season approved (exceptions will occur)

Sept 30 – nominations close for election of directors with regional directors elected in odd-numbered years and at-large directors elected in even-numbered years

November – ballots along with nominee's statements shall be sent to the membership by the first week of November and ballots must be received back by November 30th to be counted. The group will work on the next steps and will present in future meetings.

Finance group-Mollie Krumlaw-Smith will have the financials when the convention invoices are all posted since they will have more value for productive discussion.

Horse Welfare/Education group presented by Marcia Hefker and Nick Kohut DVM. They identified 6 goals.

- Continue our leadership in the protection and welfare of our equines.
- Identify and support horse research.
- Come up with a plan for a more complete investigation of horse fatalities
- Improve endurance ride practices including vet checks- to more effectively be able to identify horses that may have metabolic issues, reduce horse fatalities, ect.
- Educate members on best practices of equine management and educate the public of our commitment of these practices.
- Create a program to recruit and attract more veterinarians

Since the convention the Education Committee has been focusing on goal 1 and 5. Regarding goal 1-The plan is to draft a new rider survey by October 1st to determine the needs and interest of new riders. This would be reviewed by several committees with the final version being completed by November 1st. Each new rider would receive this survey within a month of their first ride. The committee would send quarterly reports of the surveys to the Board beginning March 1st of next year.

Regarding goal 5, the committee would continue to have educational articles each month in Endurance News. The previous articles going back to the first issues of the Endurance News will be indexed and digitized over a period of time by the education committee members and the office staff in order to provide AERC members easy access. Marcia Hefker-Miles listed the specific time frames in having past articles completed for viewing. Also the convention programs will be uploaded for members within 3 months of the convention providing permission is granted from the presenters. The education committee will be posting on the website each month and much more is envisioned to educate the endurance rider through the website/educational videos/convention topics and much more. The Education Committee goals go hand in hand with the Welfare of the Horse Committee. Nick Kohut DVM went on to say that 3 and 6 are in paper form. The Vet Committee and Horse Welfare Committees have had lots of discussion but need to come to a consensus before bringing it to the Board.

Kathleen Henkel reported that the "Ride One More" campaign has been a giant success. She has had riders call in to say they like having a fun obtainable goal to aim for. Members sign up and participating riders get stickers and every quarter their names are put in a drawing. This past quarter prize was a halter with "Ride one more" on it. This quarter the prize will be something totally different.

Convention news- To date the AERC Office has received over \$3,000 in convention sponsorship. All sponsors will receive recognition during the convention. The room bookings have already started at the Hotel for the Jacksonville convention to be held in March 2020.

Monica Chapman attended the annual American Horse Council Meeting in Washington DC this past Sunday through Wednesday. She gave a thorough report on all the meetings that she attended and invited anyone wanting more information to contact her. John Parke thanked her for taking the time to attend and reporting back to the Board.

Monica Chapman reviewed the Action items- June 2019, **Updates from this meeting.

John Parke to send ADA information to Monica Chapman. **Will send it this week.

Vet Committee to update the 2020 drug testing plan by the midyear meeting. **Michael Campbell and Nick Kohut DVM will follow up with Jay Mero DVM so that a plan will be in place and presented to the Board at the midyear Board meeting.

Strategic plan- April 22 is the deadline that the groups will need to meet to determine their implementation/metrics plan. The Board will expect the groups to have the information together by the May conference call. Lisa has offered to help any of the groups. *Making strides in getting it wrapped up. Hopefully by the June meeting. **Still moving forward, Monica Chapman will get with Lisa Schneider and she also plans on meeting with each group and discuss the plan more at midyear meeting.

Monica Chapman/Trails Committee working on MOU with the BLM. *Will keep Board updated.**Still trying to move this forward

Vance Stine will get a quote on a 3 Mil ride liability from Equisure and get it to the Board. *Working on putting a meeting together in the next week or two. **Monica Chapman will discuss this with Vance Stine and will plan on having quotes at the midyear meeting.

Diane Leshner will get proposals for Vance Stine on D&O insurance from other carriers. Vance Stine will look into reduced fees on horse insurance for members wanting to insure their horses. *Will be working on this

John Parke and Mollie Krumlaw-Smith will look at 7.09 of the supporting organization bylaws and give clarification to the Board at June BOD CC. *Pushed back to at least the June meeting.

The consent by adoption of the bylaws will need to be signed by John Parke and Mollie Krumlaw-Smith (to be completed after #2). *Pushed back to at least the June meeting. **John Parke said the content of the Bylaws are subject to the new Board on the supporting organization. AERC won't run this program, John Parke will discuss tweaking the bylaws with Mollie Krumlaw-Smith and Don Fehrs. Monica Chapman said the Board would have a discussion on the bylaws and follow up at the midyear meeting.

John Parke and Mollie Krumlaw-Smith will follow up with the attorneys to finalize all paperwork for the supporting organization once an EIN is received from the State of California. *Pushed back to at least the June meeting.**Filed and waiting to get back from attorney. When the supporting organization is ready to roll out, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith would like to have booth and a session at the convention. Lisa Schneider suggested a press release. John Parke would like it on our website and an article in Endurance News, he would like to have a draft of the article draft as soon as possible so it will be ready.

Work on making meetings easily accessible to members within the next two months. *Will have one more practice session and then open the meeting as long as Kathleen Henkel is comfortable that she can mute everyone and make sure the Executive Session is closed. John Parke asked that names be assigned to all the phone numbers so that members can see who is talking. Kathleen Henkel and Monica Chapman will sort this out before the next call. Open meeting set for the August meeting or first meeting after midyear.**Will continue working on this, Board members please send Kathleen Henkel any phone

numbers that you will likely be using for the meetings. Kathleen Henkel and Kyra Martini will check into having Board members attend midyear using Zoom.

11. Troy Eckard, Vance Stine, & Competitions Committee will be working on Moderate ride details and bring back to the board at midyear.**Troy will have the Motion out this week and will discuss at midyear meeting.

Monica, Jan, Heather, Barbara Baris & Lianne Dorian work on developing a Safe Sport and ADA policy and have it ready to roll out at the mid-year meeting.

John Parke made a motion to adjourn at 10:25 pm, Gordie Cowan seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by
Connie Caudill