

AERC Board Meeting Convention Minutes 3/5/2020

President Monica Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Board members present: Nick Kohut DVM, Monica Chapman, Lisa Schneider, Michael Campbell, Mike Maul, Connie Caudill, Jan Stevens, Heather Reynolds, Dawn Hilliard, Naomi Preston, John Parke, Jessica Cobbley, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Vance Stine, Susan Kasemeyer, Tim Worden, Christoph Schork, Bob Marshall DVM. Also present; Executive Director Kathleen Henkel and Legal Committee representative Barbara Baris.

Board members absent were Troy Eckard, Marcia Hefker-Miles, Tonya Stroud-Oaks, Shawn Bowling, Andrew Gerhard, Gordie Cowan, Angie Mikkelson and Olin Balch DVM.

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to accept the agenda, Nick Kohut DVM, seconded. Motion passed

Nick Kohut DVM made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/10/20 Board meeting. Naomi Preston seconded. Motion passed.

Naomi Preston made a motion which was seconded by Heather Reynolds to excuse Gordie Cowan, Olin Balch, Marcia Hefker-Miles and Andrew Gerhard due to business conflicts, Shawn Bowling, Tonya Stroud-Oaks, Troy Eckard due to family conflicts and Angie Mikkelson due to health concerns. Motion passed with one No vote.

Kathleen Henkel reported that the 2021 AERC convention will be held in San Antonio, Texas.

Kathleen Henkel gave an update on the statistical report which is staying close to the previous year.

Membership 2/25/2019 3442

Membership 2/28/2020 3421 (more are waiting to be entered)

Sanction fees 2/25/2019 \$11,760

Sanction fees 2/28/2020 \$10,915 (\$500 more is waiting to be entered)

Rider fees 2/25/2019 \$6,571

Rider fees 2/28/2020 \$4,183 (awaiting credit cards fees to be entered for \$2039)

New members as of 2/25/2019 203

New members as of 2/28/2020 198

Connie Caudill made a motion from the Sanctioning Committee for Board approval of the Shore to Shore 3-day ride as a Pioneer ride. The dates will be July 24-26, 2020. The ride is managed by Diane Meinders. Motion passed.

Monica Chapman introduced Griffin Keller, chair of the Green Bean program within the Membership Committee. She updated the Board on the Green Beans which supports newer members (1000 miles and less). This program has been well accepted. She explained that bonus points were given for volunteering, mentoring, Juniors, webinar participation, 100-mile mentor program and more. Points can be earned even without horses. They offer Team awards. Teams must be registered by March 15. The

different divisions in the program are called “On The Vine”, “Picked” and “Cooked”. Currently 300 members are enrolled. The Green Bean program has been an excellent program for retaining members. Monica Chapman thanked Griffin Keller for working on this program, coming to the meeting and answering the Board members’ questions.

Kyra DeMartini gave an update on the statistics dashboard. The AERC Office will continue in 2020 with the “Ride One More” and added the “Step It Up” program, which gives members goals.

Tim Worden updated the Board on the discussions with the Ride and Tie (RAT) members. Ride and Tie member Steve Shaw spoke with Time Worden about having a relationship between AERC and RAT that would be beneficial to both organizations. They shared several creative ways to spend their funds in order to make things work well for both groups. Currently RAT has 300 members. Many of them are also AERC members. It’s easy for ride managers to host Ride and Tie events. The Board discussed the pros and cons of a partnership. Monica Chapman appointed Tim Worden, Naomi Preston, Mike Maul and Lisa Schneider as an exploratory group to look further into this and report their discoveries to the Board.

Kathleen Henkel reported that all Board members had completed their Safe Sport training, and all had signed their Conflict of Interest statements.

Kathleen Henkel stated that the new computer program had hit some glitches but the IT group that was hired for the job are working on it and are in contact with Mike Maul. They underbid the job but say they will fulfill their obligation, but it may not be as quickly as originally thought.

Lately AERC has had some issues with the current program as someone has to physically reset it. Stace Moss is looking at moving it to the cloud so the problems can be handled easier. The original 2003 database is obsolete. The website and database are in two separate places. Mike Maul and Russ Humphrey are the only people who can make changes in the current program but with the new one the AERC Office will be able to make changes.

Mollie Krumlaw-Smith reviewed the AERC finances. She stated that the net ordinary income needs to remain positive. Even though we had projected a negative budget in 2019 we ended up \$3,000 on the positive side. Keeping the budget flat was partly due to day member fees/rider fees being up, a successful convention, \$15,000 cash sponsorship and the maturity of a \$20,000 long standing bond. We also had a raise in the drug testing fees but have not spent much yet. We have budgeted for a loss in 2020 due to low interest rates, membership/ridership/convention uncertainty.

Due to a legal discussion, the Board went into Executive Session at 8:38 pm and came out at 8:55 pm.

A motion was presented by Mollie Krumlaw-Smith from the Executive Committee to approve Mike Maul as the third Board member (filling a vacancy) in tier one of the AERC Legacy Foundation (ALF). Motion passed with one abstention.

Connie Caudill presented from the Sanctioning Committee a motion for clarification on rule #1. Currently the rule states “The ride must be 50 miles in length per day, up to a maximum distance of 150 miles in three days. For special sanction rides, see rule 16.2 and 16.2.1., which leaves no room for variances or discrepancies in measuring devices. With the clarification rule #1 would now state- The ride must be 50 miles in length per day, up to a maximum distance of 150 miles in three days. For special

sanction rides, see rule 16.2 and 16.2.1. *Mileage is expected to be measured accurately. A 5% variance is acceptable due to human and mechanical errors.*

The clarification for this rule change will be sent out in an email blast from the Office, and it will be changed online in the rules, and will be changed in the next printed rulebook. Motion passes unanimously.

Monica Chapman led a discussion on the results from the Competitions Committee's survey concerning the addition of the 40-45-mile distances. This was a continued discussion from the midyear Board meeting. The committee has written two articles for Endurance News and sent out a survey. Some of the replies felt this was dumbing the sport down but Susan Garlinghouse pointed out that AERC has actually made the sport much tougher due to a stricter vetting criterion. Many thought the sport needed to be doable and fun. It was suggested that all Board members show up in the morning for the Hot Topic discussion that John Parke will lead on this subject. As Board members we will listen to our members both here at the convention as well as through all other avenues to see what is wanted or needed. No one on the Board has an agenda except to make endurance better.

In the Sunday Board meeting discussion will be held concerning articles that would be useful in explaining the adding of 40-45-mile distances to our members.

Monica Chapman announced that due to time, the strategic plan will be postponed to Sunday's meeting.

John Parke made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 pm, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill