

## **AERC Board meeting minutes December 14, 2020**

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm ET.

Board members present were Olin Balch DVM, Michael Campbell, Connie Caudill, Monica Chapman, Jessica Cobbley, Chalice Coward, Gordie Cowan, Dawn Hilliard, Susan Garlinghouse DVM, Andrew Gerhard, Susan Kasemeyer, Nick Kohut DVM, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, Angie Mikkelson, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, John Parke, Maribel Paulson, Naomi Preston, Heather Reynolds, Lisa Schneider, Christoph Schork, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Jan Stevens, Vance Stine, and Tim Worden. Also present were Executive Director Kathleen Henkel and Kyra DeMartini and Legal Committee members Marcel Smith and Barbara Baris.

Connie Caudill made a motion to accept the agenda, Lisa Schneider seconded. Motion passed.

Connie Caudill made a motion to excuse Jessica Cobbley from the November Board meeting due to technical issues. Seconded by Michael Campbell. Motion passed.

Lisa Schneider made the motion to approve the 11/9/20 meeting minutes. Susan Kasemeyer seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

Kathleen Henkel gave a review of the statistical report.

Membership 12/9/2019 1633

Membership 12/11/2020 1883

Sanction fees 12/11/19 – \$ 6650

Sanction fees 12/11/20 – \$ 5225

Rider fees 12/11/19 - \$ 0

Rider fees 12/11/20 - \$ 0 (nothing entered to date for the new season)

New members as of 12/11/19 44

New members as of 12/11/20 62

Kyra DeMartini sent a link to the dashboard.

Connie Caudill presented from the Sanctioning Committee the following Pioneer rides for Board approval and also from the National Championship Committee an AHA addition to the 2021 NC Ride.

First year, Hill Country Storm Pioneer, 3/12, 13, & 14/21. Ride will be held in Dripping Springs TX, with Thomas Robichaux as the ride manager.

Second year pioneer approval, Old Selam Pioneer 9/3 – 5//21. Ride will be held in Centerville ID, with Debbie Grose as the ride manager.

Ride date change: Spanish Peaks Pioneer, LaVeta CO, MT Region, Tennessee Lane is the ride manager. Previous dates 6/15 – 17/18; 8/9 – 11/19; and 6/13-14 2020. New dates: 6/26 – 30/2021.

Ride date change: Mt. Carmel Pioneer, Mt. Carmel UT, MT Region, Ann Nicholson is the ride manager, 4/25 -27/2021; and then another pioneer begins 4/29 – 5/1/2021. Previous dates 5/15 – 23/2020.

The AERC National Championship ride to host the Arabian Horse Association 100 Mile Region 6 Championship to be held in conjunction with the AERC NC 100 on 6/13/21 and the 50 Mile Region 6 championship to be held with the AERC NC 50 on 6/11/21.

The Board voted on the whole slate of ride approvals which passed with one abstention.

Michael Campbell presented a motion from the Rules Committee to clarify Rule 9.3 regarding Best Condition.

Proposed Motion: Rule 9.3 shall read “All equines placing in the Top Ten will be eligible to show for Best Condition.”

The current 9.3 reads “. . . the first ten completing equines . . .”. This change allows for ties. This would be effective immediately. Motion passed with one abstention.

Michael Campbell held a discussion regarding Rule 11. Heather Reynolds had submitted an idea that it may be good from a public perception if we added to rule 11 that whips and spurs were not allowed on the last half of a ride. She said the first half they could be used as training aids but for public image it doesn't look good.

Michael Campbell stated that some members on the Rules Committee felt the abuse rule was enough while others felt it needed more. The Committee wanted input from the Board.

In summary, the Board felt we already have a rule to prevent abuse but totally appreciated the sentiment of this suggestion. It was pointed out that this would be very challenging to enforce and there are many things the public doesn't understand. It was stated how would the public view the first half allowing it but the second half not, would it be perceived as encouraging the use of them in the first half of a ride? The Board members felt Rule 11 was sufficient.

Michael Campbell thanked everyone for their input and will report back to the Rules Committee.

The Board went into executive session to discuss budget information at 8:31 pm.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:49 pm.

The Board reviewed and updated the December 2020 Action Items:

1. John Parke to give a webinar to interested members about estate planning with regards to ALF. He also plans on writing an article for Endurance News. Update - John will submit his article for EN by the February issue which is due into the office by the first week in January. Also, Kyra DeMartini will check the schedule to see if a hot topic discussion is possible during the convention.
2. John Parke volunteered to educate members on the revised bylaws before they vote. No update.
3. John Parke to send his suggested bylaws tweaks to Christopher Delfino and then Mr. Delfino is to send the final version Bylaw draft to Kathleen Henkel, who will then distribute to the Board to discuss changes at the December meeting. Update- Not completed so moved to January meeting.
4. Lisa Schneider reminded the Board that work will continue on the policy manual, specifically the COI and the ADA policies. Update- Kathleen Henkel will continue discussion with the ADA attorney and also with Barbara Baris of the Legal Committee. Update- John Parke wanted to make sure the Horse Fatality reporting policy was included in the Policy book.

John Parke would like the Board to have a Zoom discussion on how the rides are going or it was suggested that Nick Kohut DVM could add it to the annual meeting if there was time.

Susan Garlinghouse DVM updated the Board on the inclusivity subcommittee. They are working on putting together perceptions and experiences, what is helpful or not helpful, and ways to empower ride managers to make rides more friendly. They will be sending everything to Legal, Rules and Ride Manager Committees for their input. Susan Garlinghouse DVM commented that this is a slow process but they are taking small steps to gather information to move forward appropriately.

Christoph Schork asked for clarification on the website listing National awards when AERC is not giving them out this year. He felt this was confusing. Kyra DeMartini will add a line to the website page stating the awards will not be given this year and this listing is just for stats.

Motion by Gordie Cowan and seconded by Monica Chapman to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill