

March 1, 2021 AERC Board Meeting minutes

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 805 pm EST

Board members present: Olin Balch DVM, Michael Campbell, Connie Caudill, Monica Chapman, Jessica Cobbley, Chalice Coward, Dawn Hilliard, Susan Garlinghouse DVM, Andrew Gerhard, Susan Kasemeyer, Nick Kohut DVM, Mike Maul, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, John Parke, Maribel Paulson, Naomi Preston, 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 member Barbara Baris. Also on the call were BOD elect members Laurie Underwood and Tami Rougeau.

Lisa Schneider joined the call when cell service was available and so did Bob Marshall DVM after an emergency call.

Connie Caudill made a motion to accept the agenda which was seconded by Andrew Gerhard. Motion passed.

A motion to excuse Angie Mikkelson and Gordie Cowan due to medical appointments was made by Mollie Krumlaw-Smith and seconded by Jessica Cobbley. Motion passed.

A motion to approve the 2/8/21 conference call minutes was made by Jan Stevens and Andrew Gerhard seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

Motion was made by Vance Stine to excuse Heather Reynolds, seconded by Gordie Cowan. Motion passed.

Kathleen Henkel reviewed the statistical report.

Membership 2/21/2020 3350

Membership 2/23/2021 3229

Sanction fees 2/23/20 \$10,720

Sanction fees 2/23/21 \$ 8,190

Rider fees 2/23/20 \$4183

Rider fees 2/23/21 \$3610

New members as of 2/21/20 203

New members as of 2/23/21 226

Mollie Krumlaw-Smith asked if Mike Maul could run a query on membership by region over the past two years. Mike Maul gave a positive response.

Connie Caudill presented a motion from the Sanctioning Committee to approve a first-year pioneer ride – Cariboo Gold Rush Express, NW Region, RM is listed as Joanne Macaluso and the ride is in British Columbia, Canada. Dates for the ride will be August 27-29, 2021. Jessica Cobbley and the Sanctioning Committee have approved of the ride. Motion passed.

Due to Andrew Gerhard moving out of the West region, Susan Garlinghouse DVM made a motion to nominate Kelly Williams Stehman for the West region Sanctioning Director. The Board was impressed with Kelly Williams Stehman's qualifications, not only being a rider of all distances but also a ride manager. Andrew Gerhard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mission statement update- Susan Garlinghouse DVM reviewed the updated AERC Mission Statement. She had helped Lisa Schneider with the revision. The overall message stayed the same with some editing. The only exception was the addition of the final sentence. Connie Caudill seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old version:

“To promote the sport of endurance riding and to encourage and enforce the safe use of horses in demonstrating their endurance abilities in a natural setting through the development, use and preservation of trails. Further, AERC's mission is to maintain horse and ride records of event competition and completions, to record and provide awards to outstanding horses and riders, to ensure that all sanctioned events are conducted in a safe, fair and consistent manner, and to actively promote and conduct educational efforts and research projects that will foster a high level of safety and enjoyment for all horses and riders. The above is to be accomplished with the understanding that goals for the rider must be meshed with the abilities of the horse. Part of AERC's mission is to attract and reward members who act to insure the highest priority for their horses' immediate and long-term physical and emotional health and well-being.”

New version

“To promote, encourage and regulate the safe use of equines in organized distance events, demonstrating their inherent endurance abilities in a natural setting through the development, use and preservation of trails. Further, AERC shall maintain permanent records of sanctioned competition results and awards, to ensure that all events are conducted in a safe, fair and consistent manner, and to actively promote and conduct educational efforts and scientific research to foster a high standard of safety and enjoyment for all participants. Of foremost priority is the understanding that all competitive goals of the rider must remain secondary to the welfare and inherent abilities of the equines under their care, and AERC’s mission shall be to attract and reward members who ensure their equines’ immediate and long-term physical and emotional health and well-being as their highest priority. AERC shall commit to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all its members, staff, volunteers, and vendors without discrimination in any of its activities or operations.”

Updated to be consistent with the Bylaws. Changes made were:

1. Changed “the sport of endurance riding” to “equine distance events.”
2. Added the inclusivity statement.
3. Changed all instances of “horse” to “equine.”
4. Edited for clarity.

The Mission Statement reflects core values and founding principles, so this update makes it consistent with the Bylaws.

At 8:21 Nick Kohut DVM went into Executive Session for legal discussion.

At 9:00 the Executive Session concluded.

Vance Stine stated that his committee was going to be working on an idea that would acknowledge best condition high vet score on the ride results. This would be for recognition only and not for another award.

Kyra DeMartini updated the Board on how to get into the convention general meeting on Saturday at 11 am EST.

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Mollie Krumlaw-Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill