

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
EQUINE DISTANCE RIDING ASSOCIATION

Pursuant to notice, the annual general meeting of Equine Distance Riding Association was held at the Grant County Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. Board members present were Lois Fox, Kathleen Ferguson, Susan Summers, Julie Barnfather, Kathleen Pillo, Sandy Cheek, being the directors. Sandy Cheek served as Secretary. Membership quorum achieved. The AGM was also live-broadcast for public viewing on Facebook Live.

Call to Order: Kathleen Ferguson, President
Treasurer/Membership Report: See attached.

New Business:

I. 2017 BOD Highlights/Report on Goals: Please see attached summary from Friday 3-16-2018 BOD report.

II. Rules changes: Sandy provided a summary of the rules changes for 2018. See attached.

III. Membership input for 2018: From the Friday night meeting, the following suggestions were discussed:

1. Concussion policy (Carol Giles): There is a need for development and adoption of a Concussion Policy. Specifically, this policy would be developed to provide guidance to ride managers, riders, and anyone else who has to deal with a rider who has a potential injury. There are both safety and legal issues when dealing with a potential injury. **Carol Giles agreed to develop a draft policy for review by the Board.** Committee members (yet to be formally confirmed) are Julie Barnfather, Ron Sproat and Carol Giles as Chair.

2. Mentor Program (Jennifer Kaplan) Jennifer shared that she had a nine-year old sign up for mentoring whose parents do not ride who now also needs a sponsor for her rides. This led to a discussion of the need for some guidelines to help those who wish to be sponsors but need to know scope of responsibility. It would cover what constitutes the scope of reasonable expectations for a sponsor/sponsee and liability issues. Ideas such as a Facebook page for sponsors were also suggested. This led to:

3. Youth development: A discussion of how to attract and retain youth members in EDRA ensued. Issues such as sponsorship, support, and how to bring in youth in general were discussed. It was decided that a Youth Committee be created. **Bobbi Knapp agreed to chair. Darlene Merlich, Alex Gesheva and Jennifer Kaplan agreed to create a framework for sponsorship responsibilities for review by the Board and explore a plan for attracting and supporting youth riders.**

4. Ride records: public or private? (Darlene Merlich) The issue of what portions of our website should be open to the public was debated, specifically regarding ride/horse records. Currently, this information is available only to members. Pros of this were that it is a benefit of membership; if someone wants a record, they can ask the owner to print it off; value of privacy. Cons were if someone wanted to look up a horse's record prior to purchase this was difficult; it doesn't seem in keeping with EDRA's policy of transparency. A straw vote indicated that most present were in favor of opening the records.

5. Suggestions for the pre-ride clinics (Kathleen Ferguson): Several suggestions were put

forth for clinics:

How to take heart rate w/o a HRM

What exactly is “not doing right”

Electrolyte supplementation

How to trot out for vet presentation

After-ride care

How to show for Best in Class/Rules

6. Water Tank Identification (Darlene Merlich): At a ride Darlene attended, she noted that water tanks were numbered. This assisted RMs and riders in identifying their location in the event of an emergency or trail issues. **It was agreed that we would put numbers on EDRA tanks.**

IV. Program Chair Reports:

1. Service (Erin Putnam): 2017 was a year of development for the service program. Goal was to honor all who served/donated time, but it was apparent that many individuals did not fill out service records. In order to recognize levels of service, volunteers will need to estimate their hours of service. The levels and awards will be as follows:

Bronze pin: 1-19 hours

Silver pin: 20-49 hours

Gold pin: >50 hours

The pins were not available for distribution at the Conference, but they will be given out at rides throughout the year. Erin suggested that those who receive them wear them at rides as a way of indicating they are there to help and provide guidance on ‘how to be helpful’ to those who are not sure or don’t want to bother the ride manager.

It was too difficult to determine one volunteer of the year who should be honored, so instead, those who gave >50 hours will be entered in a drawing for a ride entry. (EDRA will pay the entry fee so the RM will not have to forfeit the funds). UPDATE: The winner of the free ride entry was drawn at the Awards banquet: congratulations Tom Dean!

2. Education (Robin Leigh Burns): EDRA now has an Instagram account! Robin explained that Instagram allows for a wider audience, and focuses more on sharing photos and media rather than text. She feels it will assist in guiding people to the web page, and will align with our Facebook page to complete a social media profile. **She promises to provide guidelines on how to use Instagram to those unfamiliar with the platform.** In addition Robin will be working with Dennis on advertising and developing the pre-ride clinics and posting other information on the website under our Education tab.

3. IT (Sue Summers): The web page is up and worked well for providing information on ride results and awards. The Education page is working well and ride reports, horse results are all functioning. See Part III for details on discussion of portions of website being public or private. It was suggested that **those who wish to change the current policy send a proposal to the Board for review and consideration.**

4. Mentor Program (Jennifer Kaplan): Currently all mentors have agreed to continue to serve. It was suggested that current mentors review their bios and revise if necessary. Discussion ensued about how mentees can choose to leave their mentors without causing hard feelings. Suggested that mentors start the season by reviewing their personal interests and goals in mentoring with their mentees and ‘giving permission’ to those for whom the interests are no longer aligning with their own. Further, a private Facebook page for mentees was suggested.

Jennifer asked that all mentors send a list of their mentees so that she has accurate records of who is with whom.

5. Steward Program (Gail Williams) A list of rides and who will be acting as stewards is now available. There were a number of rides that still did not have stewards, and Gail will be soliciting volunteers at the steward training. **The Job Description/Qualifications, Guidelines, and Fillable Report will be posted on the web page.**

6. Logbooks (Susan Summers): Sue reported that the logbooks are being used effectively. She reminded members that in order to be eligible for year-end awards and track lifetime mileage, an equine must have, and present, a logbook at every event. Instructions for applying for a logbook are on the website.

7. Drug Testing (Carol Giles): Carol has revised the drug policy and it is now posted on the web page. It is the responsibility of all members and particularly stewards and ride managers to become familiar with the policy. Carol developed the policy based on USEF guidelines as they have endured a number of challenges in court and have prevailed. She is seeking a viable method of transporting blood as the test tubes are larger than a small cooler. She is also preparing a video for training stewards and vets on blood sample protocols. She discussed the contents of the kit and will have an inventory sheet and instructions that are with the drug sampling kit. We are also moving to a standardized method of numbering horses at rides in order to ensure that all STARTING horses at a ride remain in the pool of horses to be tested. The details of the numbering standard are in the drug policy.

8. TYM Relays (Jennifer Kaplan): The rules for TYM relay awards have changed. Please review the Awards document for details.

9. Awards clarification (Sue Summers for Sue McLain): The finalized awards document for 2018 is now posted on the web. Please review carefully and any questions can be sent to Sue McLain.

10. Equipment Trailer (Terry James): The trailer has a few more issues than we had expected. Approval of additional funds to cover cost of current repairs was approved by the Board at the last meeting (see minutes of 3-07-2018). Mike Williams has kindly offered to do the essential welding work necessary to ensure the frame of the trailer is sound and safe for trailering. Thank you Mike! It will be ready for the April Daze ride.

11. News (Sophia McKee): Proposal: A Communications Plan is needed to address communications protocols and policy in the event of a crisis such as an equine or rider related injury or fatality. While we would never want this to happen, it can and will, so being prepared with a plan would be helpful. This plan would be shared with each ride manager, steward and the communications team tasked with social media, website, and on-site. Additionally, a Lost Horse Protocol should be developed for each ride location. The Committee could/should be composed for 3-5 members with representation from ride managers, a vet or similar, stewards, the Board, and a rider. Proposed timeline: Form committee at Conference. April: review objectives and develop outline. May/June: Finalize plan. July: Deliver plan to remaining rides as appropriate. The following members volunteered to form the Crisis Communication Committee: Sue Summers, Holly Phalen, Tom Dean, Shannon Peckham, and Sophia McKee as Chair.

Additionally, Sophia presented a Proposed Editorial Calendar for News (see attached). She has already posted a Ride Preview Story for April Daze featuring an interview with Gail Williams, Ride Manager. The purpose would be to give the reader a sense of what they can expect and build anticipation for the ride. These would be followed by Ride Recap stories, featuring

human/horse interest stories on the ride itself.

The AGM supported both proposals with enthusiasm. Thank you Sophia!

V. Elections to the Board and Officers 2018

1. President/Vice President: Currently Kathleen Ferguson and Susan Summers are willing to serve ONE more term. It was stressed that others need to consider serving in these positions so that the vitality of the Association is maintained through active member participation rather than just a few members. Julie James moved that a unanimous approval of Kathleen and Susan continue to serve as President and Vice President. Ron Sproat seconded. Motion passed.

2. Board: Nine members on the Board, including President, VP, Past President, -5 adults and 1 youth. Currently the five adults who are willing to serve again are: Kathleen Pillo, Julie Barnfather, Sandy Cheek, Lois Fox, and Lori Bewza. The youth who is again willing to serve is Mackenzie Pierce. Currently there is one open position as we have no Past President. Sandy Cheek nominated Bobbi Knapp. Kathleen Dunham seconded. Carol Giles nominated Jo Weinstein. Darlene Merlich seconded. Jo Weinstein was voted as the final member of the BOD for 2018. Thank you to all who nominated.

Conflict Resolution Committee: Chairperson must have ten years of experience and a minimum of 1000 lifetime miles. Tani Bates is stepping down and Rusty Toth has indicated he is willing to serve. Additional members are Becky Osbourne and Siri Olson, who are willing to continue their service. Moved and seconded that the current slate of proposed Conflict Resolution Committee members be approved. Motion passed.

VI. Notice of BOD meetings in 2018:

- March 7, 2018 Conference Call
- June 20, 2018 Conference Call
- September 19, 2018 conference call
- January Thursday prior to PNER Convention in Portland in person

Members may attend any BOD meetings-contact Susan Summers for the call-in information and current President for date/location of January meeting.

VII. Raffle for horse trailer ambulance and equipment trailer: Details of raffle on website. Tickets will be available at all Washington rides. Drawing will be at the Loup Loup ride.

VIII. Ride calendar 2018: please see on website.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.