

Board of Directors Report
OF
EQUINE DISTANCE RIDING ASSOCIATION
Meeting at Grant County Fairgrounds, March 16, 2018

The purpose of this meeting was to share with goals and accomplishments of the organization and have informal discussions on issues of interest or concern. No formal votes were taken.

Kathleen Ferguson, President, provided a report on the actions taken on goals that were established for EDRA in 2017.

GOALS REPORT 2017

I. Increase membership: Achieved. Goal was 75 members in 2017. By the end of December 2017, membership was approximately 150 members.

II. Create a ride calendar: Achieved. Goal was 4 rides on the schedule; at the end of 2017 there were 7 successful EDRA rides on the schedule.

III. Launch logbooks for equines: Achieved. Some challenges emerged with encouraging riders to submit documentation for their horses; at the end of the season, this resulted in a number of horses not showing up in the awards, and members made queries as to how that happened. A revision to the logbook rule # 18 was proposed: "EDRA Logbooks are required for all equines owned or leased by EDRA members and entered in EDRA distance riding events. Logbooks will be assigned by EDRA upon receipt of correct documentation. To be eligible for year-end awards equines must have a logbook." ***This will be voted on at the AGM.***

IV. Create a positive culture reflecting EDRA's mission: Achieved. Friday night ride meeting talking points were developed and presented consistently. Ride managers created a community gathering place and all riders were encouraged to gather and meet/greet new and old friends. Pre-ride clinics were presented at every EDRA ride. Stewards were effective in assisting riders with difficulties or concerns and continue to provide an effective outlet for potential conflicts or dangerous situation. The Facebook page (social media) has been positive.

V. Launch Steward program: Achieved. All EDRA rides had stewards. The need to recruit more stewards was discussed. All stewards completed reports which are inserted into the Steward handbook. Gail Williams has the handbook and is responsible for ensuring that the appointed Steward receives it prior to the ride. ***Gail Williams and Lois Fox volunteered to form an ad-hoc committee to develop steward qualifications, a job description, and a template for basic requirements for a steward report.***

VI. Launch TYM Relay events: Achieved. Four TYM relays were launched: Grizzly, Coyote, Sand Canyon and Scottsdale. Although small numbers of teams participated at each event, those

who did enjoyed themselves. Sue McLain presented a draft of new TYM relay rules for discussion. ***The new TYM rules will be posted to the web prior to ride season.***

VII. Provide Ride Manager support: Achieved. Susan Summers assisted ride managers with ensuring accurate mileage reporting by entering GPS tracks on a topographical map program. This ensures that altitude changes are taken into account and accurate miles.

EDRA purchased a trailer for RM use and a raffle is being conducted to raise money to fix safety issues on the trailer. Ride supplies will be stored in the trailer and available for RM use. A written inventory sheet needs to be developed and retained in the trailer. Kathleen Ferguson volunteered to develop a schedule for coordinating the delivery of the trailer to ride sites.

Ride endorsement protocols were discussed. ***Gail Williams and Susan Summers agreed to form and ad-hoc committee to develop guidelines for ride endorsement, considering locale, distances and times apart from other rides, and other criteria.***

Kathleen noted that Okanogan Conservation District can print ride maps on plotter paper (approx. 60" x 45") at reasonable cost. ***Susan Summers will put a note on the Ride Manager's page on the web.***

Kathleen Ferguson will develop a list of vets who will vet EDRA rides and their location. This will be posted on the RM web page.

VIII. Develop Education and News Programs: In progress.

IX. Develop drug testing program: In progress. Horses were tested at three rides in 2017 with no positive results. Carol Giles presented a proposal regarding logistics of how we select horses for testing. By using a new numbering system, it will ensure that all horses (including those who pull) will be included in the pool of those available for testing. *Carol Giles volunteered to create a video explaining how the drug testing procedures should be conducted.* Dr. Cassee Terry has agreed to continue to select the rides to be tested and Gail Williams will be notified so the drug kit can be sent to the appropriate person.

X. Breed recognition: Limited Achievement. We have secured agreements from the Appaloosa Association, the American Paint Horse Association, the Jockey Club, and limited support from the Arabian Horse Association.

XI. ERABC Reciprocity Agreement: Achieved. Miles and points achieved by EDRA members at ERABC rides will count towards EDRA awards and records; miles achieved by ERABC members at EDRA rides will count towards lifetime miles.

GOALS FOR 2018:

1. Continue to explore further membership growth opportunities.
2. Refine Friday night ride meetings to include introduction of the steward, review salient features of an EDRA ride, and remind riders of role of the steward. Include a Stewards report at the awards meeting.
3. Build leadership base and develop succession plan.
4. Publish 2019 ride schedule by October 2018.
5. Add steward training and include drug testing training.
6. Recruit and train additional stewards.
7. Support development of Education and News programs.
8. Set calendar of BOD meetings for next year: conference call June 20th, conference call September 19, in person at PNER convention date TBD.
9. Create PNER booth committee for 2018 PNER convention
10. Support two EDRA managed rides: Trout Lake 100 and the Anna and Mary Memorial ride.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

I. Relationship with AERC. Discussions amongst PNER, AERC and EDRA members have been occurring regarding what is variously described as “co-sanctioning” or “dual sanctioning.” Kathleen Ferguson indicated that in part thanks to social media, much misinformation was circulating regarding the relationship between EDRA and AERC. Member Max Merlich explained that at the AERC annual conference, he was approached by AERC President Paul Latiolais and asked about “co-sanctioning” EDRA rides with AERC. Max attempted to explain that he was simply a member of EDRA, and did not hold any official office. However, Paul persisted and subsequently alleged that he had conducted meetings with the EDRA executive and that we were unwilling to cooperate or work with AERC.

EDRA President Kathleen Ferguson again reiterated that much incorrect information was being circulated without having all the facts. She then shared her efforts to begin a conversation with AERC regarding the relationship with AERC going forward.

Subsequent to EDRA’s inception (roughly December 2016), Kathleen wrote a letter of introduction to then AERC President Michael Campbell indicating in broad terms our willingness to co-exist with AERC. In his response, he stated quite clearly that AERC had no interest in

developing a relationship with EDRA. Since that time, there has been no official communication from AERC through traditional channels (email, phone, snail mail) and no further proposals for discussions or meetings.

A discussion of the terms “co-sanctioning” and “dual sanctioning” followed. Co-sanctioning would require EDRA to follow AERC rules. This presents issues as EDRA has a number of requirements and rules that differ significantly from AERC. Therefore, it is the position of the current executive that co-sanctioning as defined by AERC would not be viable for EDRA. “Dual sanctioning” would entail holding two parallel events on the same day, at the same location. It would require the ride managers to track two sets of registrations, two sets of results, and manage two rides utilizing different rules depending on which organization a rider was riding under. EDRA executive feels that this presents considerable burdens for already over-taxed ride managers, and that potential conflicts on the trail would be difficult to resolve, particularly if they were between an EDRA and an AERC member. For these reasons, the EDRA executive is not in favor of “dual sanctioning” of rides.

President Kathleen Ferguson raised the possibility of the two organizations accepting one another’s miles for their members. Details and issues would need to be worked out, but the executive feels that this way forward presents the most likelihood of viability and favor with members.

At this point, members were asked if they had any issues or concerns with the stand that EDRA has made at this point, i.e., ‘no’ to co- or dual-sanctioned rides; ‘yes’ to further discussions with AERC through official channels. A straw vote on these positions was conducted. No objections to the positions were indicated.

The meeting concluded at 8:00 pm.