

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 16, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. Board members present were Lois Fox, Kathleen Ferguson, Susan Summers, Jo Weinstein, Julie Barnfather, Kathleen Pillo, Sandy Cheek, being the directors. Sandy Cheek served as Secretary. Tiffany Buob, Treasurer was also in attendance. Membership quorum achieved. Call to Order: Kathleen Ferguson, President

Treasurer Report:

Bank Balance: \$31,709

Net income for 2018: \$16,130 (\$5904 Selkirk and Trout Lake combined; Anna and Mary \$5121; other income \$5104).

Membership: Sue Summers reported that we are at a total of 145 members which is slightly higher than this time last year.

Secretary Report: The minutes from last year's AGM were read.

*Motion by Carol Giles to approve minutes as read. Darlene Anderson seconded. Motion carried*

Unfinished Business:

1. Concussion policy (Carol Giles): As stated in last year's AGM minutes, 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 presented the policy draft. There is a need for stewards, ride managers, and ideally all members to understand the protocol for addressing a potential head injury. Carol indicated there are laminated posters available for posting at ride camp. Once stewards and ride managers are trained, they need to proceed with objective criteria to determine if a rider needs to be pulled (in the event they do not want to).

*Motion by Lucia Muller, Seconded by Julie Barnfather: Ride Manager and Stewards are empowered to pull a rider from an event based on objective criteria. Motion carried.*

*Motion by Lois Fox, seconded by Julie Barnfather: Both Ride Manager and Steward must agree on this action. Motion carried.*

New Business:

1. **Elections Committee:** Moving forward, EDRA President Kathleen Ferguson stressed the importance of developing an electronic voting process for the organization. She indicated that by having the electronic voting option, there is a better chance that we have a more robust participation in the voting process when electing executive positions. Currently, only those present at the conference are able to vote. It would require advance nominations (at which we were successful this year), a process for nominating and declaring candidacy, a review by prospective nominees of the current job descriptions and ideally a third party to manage the actual election and vote counting *in advance of the conference*. The advantage to membership would be that by the time the BOD report and

AGM are conducted, the new executive would have been elected. Kathleen indicated that she has done some preliminary research, and that external companies can be employed at reasonable cost to accomplish this goal. Kathleen asked for volunteers. **Cortney Honan, Robin Leigh Burns and Sue Summers are new members of the Elections Committee.**

2. **Franchise Committee:** Kathleen Ferguson opened the discussion of options for EDRA to expand beyond the Pacific Northwest. EDRA was conceived of, and operates as, a national organization. Currently, we have one ride in Scottsdale, managed by Sue Summers, and another in Montana, managed by Julie Muscatt. There has been considerable interest from other regions about EDRA and what process would be necessary to put on an EDRA endorsed ride. However, the challenges of truly becoming a national organization are formidable. As volunteers, it is unlikely that we have the time or capability of overseeing such a vast geographic area. Kathleen introduced the idea of an EDRA franchise. This concept would mean that each region could operate somewhat independently (not dissimilar to the chapters of the Back Country Horsemen program) with their own executive leadership, but would need to adhere to the core principles, rules and structure of an EDRA event. Additionally, it was hypothesized that each EDRA franchise would have representation at an annual meeting so that if there were issues or proposals from a franchise, it could be addressed by a Board. There are clearly many processes and procedures to be worked out, so Kathleen asked for a group to serve on the Committee. She suggested that she (**Kathleen**), **Sue Summers, Sandy Cheek, Terry James, Carol Giles, Darlene Merlich, Margie Thorngren and Julie Barnfather compose the committee.** All agreed to serve.

3. **New Program Chairs:**

- Steward Committee: Gail Williams has stepped down and we thank her for her service. Tom Dean has agreed to be the new Chair of the Committee. Tom reported that **he is in need of two new stewards. He is doing to develop an open book test to review rules, policy and procedures. Also Tom will be developing draft criteria for eligibility as a steward.** Some discussion about the possibility of co-stewarding as a way of mentoring new stewards. Pros and cons were discussed. Tom will get back to the Board with a conclusion. Contact Tom if you are interested in becoming a steward.
- Mentoring Program: Jennifer Kaplan stepped down and we thank her for her service. Lois Fox has agreed to be the new Mentoring program coordinator. Lois requested that anyone who is currently a mentor please email her and let her know and also provide a list of who they are mentoring. Lois indicated we are in need of new mentors with experience with non-traditional breeds in endurance, especially Mustangs.
- Logbook Program: Kathleen shared that in its current form, the logbooks are not being utilized in the way that was originally conceived. The original intent was that the vet would see a record of the equine's performance. However, riders are losing their logbooks, vets are often ignorant of their purpose, and most do not bring them to the pre-ride vet check. They have devolved into simply grabbing a signature at the end of the ride. There was discussion of their value, and informal consensus is the need to look at better ways they can be utilized. **Margie Thorngren**

**agreed to form a committee to look at this issue.**

- Veterinarian Orientation: Lois Fox felt strongly that EDRA needs to develop a training/orientation program for new vets to help them be successful and consistent in the application of rules. She asserted that some of the vets do not know or adhere to the rules. We do not currently provide any training and have no way of knowing if they have reviewed the EDRA rules. **Lois Fox volunteered to head a committee to address this issue.**
  - Equipment Trailer Coordinator: Guy Cheek is the new Coordinator. As such, he will oversee the transport of the trailer to specific rides, monitor inventory, and conduct basic maintenance on the trailer. Guy presented a progress report on the trailer. This winter, Guy did the following or had it done: sandblasted for rust removal, painted, new lights installed, conspicuity tape inside and out, and new trim detail installed. Some minor mechanical work for safety also completed. It is a 30 year old trailer so maintenance will be ongoing but it's solid and safe for now.
4. **Program Chair Reports:** see Friday BOD report for details.
  5. **Elections:** Elections for President, Vice President, Board Members, Conflict Resolution, Youth Representative. Ballots were given to members in attendance. The results were as follows:

President: Terry James

Vice President: Jo Weinstein

Conflict Resolution: Siri Olson, Becky Osborne, and Rusty Toth as Chair

Board Members: Lois Fox, Sandy Cheek, Sue Summers, Julie Barnfather, Margie Thorngren. Sue Summers will remain as IT guru (web page, membership and results), and Kathleen Ferguson will be Past president and continue to organize the conference.

Jo Weinstein thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve EDRA as Vice President—she loves the focus on safety, mentoring and the youth development program. Her daughter grew up in PNER and she wants to be a part of an organization that celebrates bringing kids into the sport safely. She appreciates the strong support she has seen in the organization and the “get ‘er done!” attitude.

Terry James also thanked the membership for the chance to serve EDRA as the new President. 2013 was his first ride, and he shared that he never expected to be where he was when he first started the sport. Terry and his wife Julie are proud to be founding members of EDRA. His goal is to “not screw it up”—to strengthen, refine and finesse the current mentoring, steward, and concussion programs. He’s excited about participating in the franchising committee and figuring out how to grow the organization carefully and with intention.

Other Business:

1. Max Merlich shared his experience at the AERC conference. Again, they are talking about addressing the issue of short miles. He’s not sure where that will end up but feels more optimistic. He feels that the issue of co- or dual-sanctioning is pretty much dead. He feels there may possibly be more interest than in the past with previous AERC executive in the idea of Reciprocal Agreements. Kathleen stressed that reciprocity means just that—AERC rides would need to be mileage-verified, just as EDRA rides are. Both

organizations would have to develop a process by which they recognize members' miles done at other organizations. Max agreed. Kathleen and Sandy met with the AERC President at the PNER convention and found her to be open and friendly. Kathleen also contacted our new AERC Regional Directors Steph Teeter and Naomi Preston and found that in particular Naomi seemed open to exploring ways to 'mend fences' but nothing specific was suggested. **This is work for the new Executive to pursue.**

2. A discussion regarding EDRA's position vis a vis Safe Sport Training led to the conclusion that we are obligated as an amateur sports organization to have a policy in place. **The BOD needs to develop policy to determine who should take the training and how records of this training will be kept and recorded.** Carol Giles recommended that at minimum Ride Managers, Stewards and Vets take the training, and possibly lead to all junior sponsors (see minutes from Friday meeting for further discussion).