

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF  
EQUINE DISTANCE RIDING ASSOCIATION  
Conference Call February 27, 2020**

Pursuant to notice, the quarterly meeting of Equine Distance Riding Association was held via conference call on February 27, 2020. At 7:05 pm PST President Terry James called the meeting to order. Directors present were Vice President Jo Weinstein, Past President Kathleen Ferguson, Lois Fox, Julie Barnfather, Margie Thorngren and Sandy Cheek. Margie Thorngren joined the meeting at approximately 8:45 pm. Absent were Georgia Glidden, Kathleen Pillo and Susan Summers. Quorum was achieved. Guests were Sue McLain, Cortney Honan and Carol Giles. Treasurer Tiffany Buob was also in attendance.

**Secretary Report:**

The minutes of the October 10th, 2019 BOD meeting were posted on the web prior to the meeting. *Moved by Kathleen Ferguson and seconded by Jo Weinstein to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried.*

**Treasurer Report:**

Tiffany Buob, Treasurer presented the following information for Year to Date:

Bank Balance \$31,157.07

Memorial fund current balance: \$6,565.77

All endorsement fees for 2019 have been paid. Ride the Loup, Don't Fence Me In, Grizzly and the Mary and Anna Memorial Ride have all paid endorsement fees for 2020. *Motion to accept Treasurer's report as read made by Jo Weinstein. Seconded by Kathleen Ferguson. Motion carried.*

**Membership report:**

Sue Summers reported that membership is up from same time last year. We currently have 91 members; last year we were at 79 at this time. There have been thus far twelve new members, and most are from the Seattle area.

Quickbooks Update: Julie Barnfather, CPA, opened the discussion with a proposal to move the EDRA books to Quickbooks Online. It would solve several issues: it provides easy access to anyone who is authorized to view the pages; it allows for easy exchanges of information and data between the treasurer and Julie for review and monitoring purposes. Any questions that the treasurer may have would be easily accessed. PNER has already adopted Quickbooks and Julie reported that Margie Thorngren, former treasurer for PNER, was able to easily transfer the books to the new PNER treasurer. Additionally, she recognized Margie for finding a company that will allow non-profits to purchase the program for \$75. Ordinarily, this program costs \$50 a month. Tiffany Buob, EDRA treasurer, indicated she was very much in support of using this program.

*Moved by Sandy Cheek to approve the purchase Quickbooks Online for EDRA books. Seconded by Tiffany Buob. Motion carried.*

**Programs Reports (as needed)**

Mentors: Lois Fox indicated that there had been a "few" mentor requests. She expressed a need for some additional mentors in the Seattle area as that is where the requests are coming from. Julie

Barnfather and Cortney Honan indicated they would be willing to become mentors. Lois asked them to please submit their bio to her so she can get it on the Mentors page.

Service: Terry James announced that the Service report form is now on the web and very easy to use as it is now a Jotform. He encouraged all who had donated their time to submit a report. All those who accrued sufficient hours will receive a pin to recognize their efforts.

Elections: Cortney Honan reported that there was a 72% participation rate. 64 out of 91 current members voted. One person complained that he/she was forced to vote for people he didn't want to vote for; Cortney explained she had set the minimum allowable to 5 candidates for the Board but that next year there was an easy fix to remedy. She reported that the raffle for free entry to the conference boosted membership. Terry James thanked Cortney on behalf of the Board for her work on this new endeavor.

Safety/Concussion Protocol: Carol Giles reported that the first aid kit for the trailer is ready. There is a laminated supply sheet that comes with the kit so that a record of supplies can be kept up to date. The Drugs cooler is also re-supplied and has the current forms and information in it for reference. She also suggested that one of the laminated Concussion Protocol sheets be sent to Oregon and kept there as the trailer is not needed.

Social Media(Facebook): Cortney Honan is taking over as the new admin for the Facebook page. As such, she will monitor the requests for access to the page, determine eligibility, and inform those who are not eligible what the criteria are.

Mary and Anna Memorial Fund: Sue McLain is the administrator of this fund. She reported that there is \$6500.00 in the Fund at present. We got a big donation (\$2800.00) from the sale of the Team baskets at the PNER Convention. Sue has sent letters of thanks to every person who had the high bid on the baskets as well as to PNER executive. The Mary and Anna Memorial Ride was the other significant contributor with funds raised from the Ride (\$2816.79). WinCo also donated \$400. Sue reported that in 2020 if we have the same quantity of youth riders and all Ride Managers apply for the funds, we will need \$7500.00 to cover all requests. Sue will be sending information to all Ride Managers regarding the process for applying for support from the Mary and Anna Fund. Sue pointed out that we may need to consider some options for ensuring that all rides have equal opportunity to utilize the funds. If we run short, it will be the rides at the end of the season that will suffer. Sue will put together a couple of proposals as to how this issue might be addressed. Her recommendation is to NOT change the procedure or policy in this current year but if changes are made, make them effective 2021 so ride managers are not caught unawares.

Awards: Sue McLain reported that she has checked all the formulas for the awards and that all are working properly. Sarah and Kyle Hockett have indicated they would like to sponsor a new award stressing "success at moving up" in some fashion. She will continue to work with them to develop some criteria for this. Sue also indicated that there has been a suggestion to review the way in which points are calculated. At this time, additional points are added for longer distances as well as placing. Through the 2020 season, Sue will evaluate this and determine if the points are consistent with the values of EDRA competition and if changes are warranted.

Nothing to report from Steward Chair, Education Chair, or Equipment Trailer Program Chair.

**New Business:**

2020 Rules Review: The BOD has received a detailed description of the changes to the 2020 Rules as suggested by the Rules committee. The addition of Appendices H, *Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies* and Appendix I, *Best in Class Protocol*, were the only major changes. The recommendation by the Rules Committee was to address the adoption of Appendix H as a separate motion to be presented by Carol Giles for discussion with the Board.

*Kathleen Ferguson moved to accept all edits and additions to the Rules and Appendices except for Appendix H. Seconded by Tiffany Buob. Motion carried.*

Appendix H: Carol Giles presented a brief history of the evolution of the Safe Sport policy to protect against minor abuse which was adopted by the Federal government. The consensus of legal opinion is that the SafeSport policies apply to all sports organizations regardless of size. If any issue arises where sexual or physical abuse is reported, if an organization does not have a written policy and procedures in place for addressing these reports, they may be liable. She contacted USEF to get some guidance on their policy, and what they would require if we were to become affiliated with USEF. As she wrote the EDRA draft policy, she used the information acquired from USEF to guide the requirements. One additional piece that we do not require at this time is background checks on adults who interact with our youth; this would present a financial burden and Carol felt at this time it was unnecessary. Question: how do we enforce this? Answer: any time there is a report of sexual abuse or harassment, we must go directly to the police. Question: what if we don't have SafeSport trained adults available to sponsor our youth? Answer: on the new consent form, parents will have a choice to indicate what they give permission for as a sponsor's qualifications. The gold standard is two sponsors, both SafeSport qualified. Then one, then none. Parents can indicate what they are ok with. As described in Appendix H, EDRA is asking all Board members, all veterinarians, all Ride Managers, and anyone who might sponsor a youth to take the online training and report that they are currently SafeSport Trained. Discussion ensued about where the list of SS qualified individuals can be housed. Terry James will work with IT to determine if a separate tab can be developed on the EDRA homepage. The possibility of a Program Coordinator was discussed. Terry James will address this at the EDRA conference.

*Kathleen Ferguson moved to accept Appendix H as written. Jo Weinstein seconded. Motion carried.*

Communication with AERC: Terry James reported that he had communicated with the AERC President Monica Chapman to indicate he would like further conversation and guidance regarding development of a reciprocal miles proposal. She has asked him to submit the proposal so she can send it to the appropriate committees. The EDRA Board has been sent a copy of the draft letter. Discussion ensued, and the suggestion was to not include the last paragraph requesting that EDRA be able to count AERC miles completed by their members regardless of AERC's interest in reciprocating.

*Julie Barnfather moved to send the proposal for developing a reciprocal miles policy to AERC without the last paragraph. Tiffany Buob seconded. Motion carried.*

Margie Thorngren joined the meeting.

Acceptance of WDRA miles by EDRA: The WDRA is a new umbrella organization started by "The Duck" which is holding rides with AERC sanctioning and WDRA sanctioning. It claims that for its members it will count any and all distance miles from AERC, EDRA, or any other distance organization and track them for

members. To date there have been several WDRA rides and the results are reported by sanctioning body: AERC or WDRA. The question is whether or not we want to reciprocate by accepting WDRA miles completed by EDRA members. Discussion of how miles would be verified; tracks would be required. Statement that the agreement should be a written one and signed by both parties. *Moved and seconded that EDRA work to develop a plan for accepting WDRA miles completed by EDRA members. 5 yays 1 nay.*

Conference Update: Kathleen Ferguson reported that there is catering for Friday and Saturday night. Five clinicians will be in attendance. Hotel is set up. There will be an indoor arena and two small outdoor arenas available for our use. 31 people so far have signed up and 17 horses. She hopes that more people sign up.

*Sandy Cheek moved to adjourn. Margie Thorngren seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.*