

**Minnesota Distance Riding Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2003
River Station, Richmond, MN**

President, Darlene Molitor, called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM. Other officer's present were as follows: Vice President, Dale Lunde, Secretary, Holly Egerer, Board Member, Missie Schwartz. Absent was Treasurer, Karen Pruess.

Secretary's minutes from the last meeting were handed out to members to review, a motion was made from Joan Thiel and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 2002 meeting. Approved.

Treasurer's report, Karen was absent due to a recent surgery, a printed copy of the year-end figures was handed out to members. Dale Lunde read the key figures to the membership Checking account is \$4,884.62. Profits from the four MnDRA rides were up from \$904.00 to \$3,276.00 in 2002. Dues fees were down from 2001 to 2002. Newsletter postage fees went up from \$174.00 in 2001 to \$261.00 in 2002.

We still need to pay for the award jackets and also estimate \$2,000 for ride insurance fees. Motion was made, seconded and approved the treasurer's report.

Board meeting review, this year's trail fund recipient. Past years were as follows, 02/Crow Hassen, 01/St. Croix State Park, 00/Sand Dunes State Forest, 99/Pillsbury, 98/Wild River State Park. Due to State parks unable to allow us to run events there and since Crow Hassen Park has been very accommodating for us. It was requested to repeat this year a donation to Crow Hassen park. The board approved donation to be given to Crow Hassen for this year.

Committee Reports,

- ◇ *Newsletter*, Lynn Reichert. This year's membership form has a place for e mail address so that we can save postage cost and send the newsletter by e mail instead of snail mail. Also would like to get a membership directory out some time this year as well. Lynn will continue to do the newsletter unless someone else is interested.
- ◇ *Awards*, Dianne Kuhn. The 2002 awards were allowed \$60 per precipitant. Jackets were available through Ed Barbo at cost, people who wanted them did have to pay an additional fee for them. Dianne will continue to do the awards and is open to any suggestions for 2003.
- ◇ *Novice rides & clinics*, many rides are holding a novice ride along with their other events and this is becoming a very good way for new people to get a start in the sport. Lisa McDonald is trying to organize a clinic in the Marshall area. Would like some volunteers to help out if possible.
- ◇ *Horse expo*, Chip Jack will organize and set up. Dianne Kuhn will look into the cost of making a table cover and backdrop. Send around sign up sheet for the booth during the meeting and the dinner, for 1-2 hours at the booth. Ed Hauser has put together a video for display at the booth. Would like some pictures for displaying and would also be nice to have the 1000-mile book and possibly Louise Reidel's coat with all the mileage chevrons on it too,
- ◇ *Banquet*, Linda Goddard has agreed to plan the banquet for February 2004. Motion was made and approved.
- ◇ *Trail representative*, Ed Hauser. The new DNR head person is from the private sector and also has an accountant background. For many years and currently, the fees collected from all parks is put into a general fund and portioned out equally to all the parks. One individual park does not benefit from having a large function that brings in extra cash thus there is no benefit to that park to put out the extra effort. Very important to contact your senators and state representatives to encourage them to change the accounting practice to have each park benefit from having large events that generate income for that park. Also let them know we are willing to pay adequate user fees to help keep the parks running all year around. Ed and Wendy Hauser are moving to Montana in April so they will no longer be able to help with Trail Representative.

Unfinished Business, Holly Egerer, MnDRA ride insurance will need be handled by a new company this year. Equisure, the company we have used in the past is unable to carry a blanket policy as in the past, carrying insurance for each ride would be quite costly. We will shop around for a new company that can give us a better deal.

New Business, 2003 MnDRA ride managers meeting held before the general membership meeting. Would like to spend up to \$20 for Best Condition awards, up to \$10 for first place awards. Need to order more placing ribbons, also low on completion awards and the T-shirts. There are 109 of the MnDRA mugs left, and a few various completion awards left.

Suzy Warren is considering a ride at the Barrons in WI on Sept 27th and 28th, would like MnDRA to consider sponsoring. Motion made for MnDRA to sponsor, 2nd and approved.

Entry fees for the MnDRA rides were decided by the managers of those rides and will stay the same for 2003.

Due to the increase in membership fees the need for doing extra fund raising is no longer needed.

Discussion on UMECRA membership fees to increase in 2004 and also charging a \$25 fee for ride flyer to be in the annual ride book. Voice your opinions to the ride representative and any of the UMECRA board members.

Discussion on MnDRA having a "flower fund" for sending to members who suffer a loss in the family, ect. Diane Kuhn made a motion to set aside .50 of membership fee and have executive decision for distributing. Discussion, show of hands, motion denied.

Election of officers for 2003, Treasurer, Karen will not run again for 2003, nominations for treasurer, Sandy Noonan, Joan Thiel - withdrawn, Sharon Hahn, nominations closed. Paper ballot vote, Sandra Noonan will be Treasurer for 2003. Secretary, Holly Egerer unanimous vote elected for secretary again for 2003. Vice President, Dale Lunde, unanimous vote elected for vice president again in 2003. President, Darlene Molitor unanimous vote elected for president again in 2003.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:30 PM, seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Holly Egerer
Secretary for MnDRA