

**MINNESOTA DISTANCE RIDING ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 17, 2007
THE BLUE HERON SUPPER CLUB, COLD SPRING, MN**

President Darlene Molitor called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM. Other officer's present were as follows: Vice President, Dale Lunde, Treasurer, Sandy Noonan, Secretary, Holly Egerer. Absent was Board Member, Missie Schwartz.

Secretary's Minutes from the last meeting were published in the last newsletter and available today for members to review, motion was made to approve the minutes as printed, seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report, Sandy Noonan reported that the profits from the four MnDRA rides were down this year from \$4,481.76 in 2005, to \$2,390.74 in 2006. Membership dues in 2006 were \$1,119.00, up slightly from \$1,047.00 in 2005, a difference of \$72.00. The trail fund portion was \$146.00, adding to the remaining balance from 2005 brings a total of \$204.00 in the trail fund. We have not received any money from the Country Supply donation yet. The Checking account balance as of 12/31/06 was \$7,199.43. Ride entries were down this year, and were it not for a generous donation from Dr. Dean Peterson, we would not have had any profit from the rides. Motion was made to approve the treasurer's report, seconded and approved.

Committee Reports,

Newsletter, Ken Meyer has done a very good job putting out the newsletter on a regular basis and making it very interesting to read. He would like members to try to contribute things to the newsletter as much as possible. He is starting a new feature, profiles of a member's horse each month. Ken as agreed to continue to do the newsletter for 2007.

Awards, Dianne Schmidt, Joan Thiel and Lynn Reichert coordinated the awards for this year, they have agreed to continue to do them in 2007. As always they are open to any suggestions.

Novice Rides and Clinics, *Darlene* announced that UMECRA added a novice division for year end awards in 2007, they can ride at least 5 novice rides but only one competitive ride on that particular horse. It is a probation year and will be re evaluated at next January's UMECRA meeting. There are no clinic's planned at this time. There are novice rides being offered at many of the rides this year.

Horse Expo, *Chip* Jack has arranged for a booth again this year and has a sign up sheet for people to be at the booth for 2-hour blocks. The Expo runs 3 days the last weekend of April, 27,28 & 29.

Annual Banquet, Joan Thiel and Lynn Reichert planned this year's event. Darlene asked if there was interest by anyone else to run the banquet. Always important to try to keep costs down, and The Blue Heron does not charge for the room or any fee if we have to cancel and reschedule due to weather. A vote was taken and approved to have the banquet at The Blue Heron for 2008 banquet. Joan and Lynn have agreed to do the planning for next years banquet.

Advertising and Promotions Committee, Pat Swendson and Paula Goligowski reported that they only had one response to the advertising in the Minnesota Trail Riders newsletter, not sure the cost was worth it. Pat suggested trying to do press releases with local newspapers where rides

are being held to get information on our events out to the public. Darlene suggested Pat get the information to Ken to put in the newsletter. Also discussed sending a list of the rides to the local horse publications such as Horsein Around ECT.

Unfinished Business

Discussion on splitting the trail fund between two parks, motion was made to not split the fund and give as one total sum to one park, seconded and approved. Trail fund was awarded to Crow Hassen.

New Business

Discussion on the requirement of membership to UMECRA in order to be a member of MnDRA, was originally decided on by the founding board but was never put into the by laws. Dianne Schmidt motioned to add that to the bylaws, seconded and approved.

Discussion to have a formal rules sheet made up for new members, Holly agreed to make up a handout to have available to new members.

A request was made by Deb Kolegraf the manager for Chimney Butte ride to have MnDRA sanctioning. Membership approved to allow her sanctioning with a paid membership and the sanction fee paid.

Suzy Warren asked for the possibility of MnDRA to purchase a large water tank to fit into the back of a pickup truck to use at Minnesota rides for water transporting. Bev Specht already has one and is willing to let ride manager's use it, hers is in a trailer and is very easy to use in that mode. Just fill it and unhook leaving the trailer and tank in the area needed. Point Chaser uses it every year and it works very well. No need for MnDRA to purchase one at this time.

Ken Meyer presented the MnDRA web site on a screen for everyone to view. Discussion on the cost and value of MnDRA having this web site. Diane Mertz purchased the site and has been maintaining the site so far, a suggestion was made to get some advertisers to cover the monthly cost a motion was made for MnDRA to pay the monthly fee of \$15.00 for a 1-year trial, seconded and passed. A suggestion was made to have each ride have an e mail address, also to maybe have a chat room available.

UMECRA meeting, Theresa Meyer did an overview. This year half the ride insurance fees will be paid by UMECRA. Sharon Hahn is a rider rep and also the newsletter editor for UMECRA. Lise Lunde has forms for ride manager's interested in adding sweepstakes to their ride events, there is a \$20.00 fee for each event. Discussion for MnDRA sponsored rides to add sweepstakes and how to charge extra fee to cover costs.

Paula requested people make your reservations for Maplewood early, Diane also requested that for SE ride as well.

Sara Maas asked if there is interest in 100 mile at her ride, she has put in a request with UMECRA sanctioning director, Elinore Tonsor.

Darlene went over the 2007 Minnesota ride schedule.

Election of Officers

Motion was made to keep all officers the same for 2007, seconded and approved. A motion was made to update bylaws to state the offices of Treasurer and Secretary to be two separate positions, seconded and approved.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, meeting adjourned at 5:40PM

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Holly Egerer
Secretary for MnDRA