

MINNESOTA DISTANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING, MAPLE LAKE, MN

FEBRUARY 17, 2018, 3:20 PM

Board members present, President, Ken Meyer, Vice President, Dale Lunde, Secretary, Holly Egerer, Treasurer, Sandy Fett, Past President, Teresa Fett, Director at Large, Carmen Steuck.

Secretary's Minutes, copies of the minutes are available at the meeting and also are posted on the web site. Peggy Pasillas motioned to approve the minutes from the 2017 general membership meeting, seconded by Ed Hauser, approved.

Treasurer's Report, copies were passed out at the meeting for members to review; Theresa Meyer motioned to approve, seconded by Peggy Pasillas, approved.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter, Ken Meyer. There were 10 issues last year and Ken is hoping for 10 issues this year. He suggested members could do a story about a horse even if it is someone else's horse you admire, or any other ideas you have would be welcome. Including a picture would be great. Ken requested to sign up for the text message program Remind, for instant messages. It is only for those last minute things that come up such as a last minute ride cancelation etc. To sign up dial 81010 text the words, @ MnDRA then when needed for short notice information you will get a message and then check your e mail for a complete message.

MnDRA website, Deb Moe, just posted the ride flyers for 2018, she can add anything that needs to be added if the managers need it. She has links for ride flyers; she has links to Bob Zimmerman's photos from 2017 and earlier, also links for DNR website for the parks and a link for maps to find directions to individual ride locations.

Awards, Sandy Fett arranged them for 2017; she is willing to continue to do it for 2018 unless someone would like to take over. If you have any ideas for suggestions of awards let her know, multiple ideas are helpful since items can be sold out, better to talk to her in the fall. She typically orders in early December.

Horse Expo, Janet Sasena, will have the same booth location as last year in the Coliseum. The booth fee cost did go up this year. UMECRA will usually help cover the cost as well. Ken will send out an email for signup volunteer time at the booth. Suggestion was made to have Draws ride schedule at our booth and put the MnDRA schedule at the Draw booth at the Midwest Horse fair in Wisconsin. Ken discussed the ride brochures briefly but will cover this year's order later in meeting during new business.

Annual Banquet, Lynda Zimmerman arranged the banquet for 2018. For next year there are several people who have ideas so instead of deciding today they can contact Ken with their ideas for next year's banquet by email. Discussion on locations and dates, all agreed February or March are best. The By-laws currently state March for the General Meeting.

Theresa Meyer presented a brief overview of the UMCRA general meeting that was held in January.

General Business:

2018 Ride Schedule, membership approval vote for sanctioning of all the MnDRA 2018 sanctioned rides, moved by Carmen Stueck, Sandy Fett seconded, approved.

Trail Fund Award, last year's fund was given to the Duluth trails. The board has not received any requests for this year's fund as of today. Discussion followed on making the fund a donation given every two years so that the amount will be a larger donation for a bigger impact to the recipient. Currently the membership fee has \$2.00 that is put into the fund but anyone can give extra to be notated it is designated for the trail fund. Ken Meyer made a motion to have the trail fund go every 2 years, starting in 2019, so we can give a larger donation to have a bigger impact, moved by Theresa Meyer and seconded by Sandy Fett, Approved .

Membership Rule Clarification, need to be a current member to accrue points for the current ride year. Ken read the clarification as follows:

MnDRA will accept checks up to April 15th, this gives the club time to be sure the check clears the bank before the first ride. Checks should be made out to MnDRA and sent to the treasurer. Do not include payment for anything else on the check. For dues paid before April 15th you will receive a confirmation email, save that email in case issues arise. If a check is returned for insufficient funds the rider will be notified immediately by email or phone call if email is not available. The rider must then either send the membership fee in cash or cashier's check to the treasurer or they may ask for the application envelope at a ride and fill out the application and pay in cash. You can pay by check but make sure you are writing on the memo line that you are paying for a ride fee and membership and that the ride manager knows that so they can note it. You will be given an envelope that has a membership form on it; this will be sealed in the envelope and passed on to the treasurer by the ride manager. There will be a receipt in the envelope, ask the ride manager to initial it and keep it for your records. Your points for that ride will be counted. A list of members in good standing will be published on the website and in the newsletter by April 25th (there is a current list at this meeting for you to take a look) riders are expected to check it and notify the board of any problems. The website list will be updated whenever changes are made and the newsletter will publish a second list in June. It is the responsibility of the rider to provide a valid email that she/he checks regularly. It is important that you write your email address carefully and clearly, MnDRA will only be using the email on file. If you do not receive the confirmation email that your dues have been received there may be a problem with your email on record and you should contact the treasurer.

Discussion followed, Sandy did mention that Joan Theil checks the members getting year end awards to be sure they are also UMECRA members as well.

Novice Clinic and Mock Ride, Peggy Pasillas, will be in two parts, one day will be the info and lecture, there will be a potluck for lunch and Peggy will provide the main dish. She has a clinician coming to talk her name is Sarah Schick but she also needs someone to come and talk about Competitive events. The following weekend will be the mock comp ride and the intro ride, the Lake Elmo equestrian area is reserved for the event. She is in need of member volunteers for both the clinic and the mock ride events.

Veterinary Supply Trailer, Dean Peterson, needs to replace fluids and IV lines are getting old. Also he would like to get some casting material. He will continue to store the trailer at his place in a heated area but if it is needed at ride events someone will need to pick up the trailer at his place. If supplies are used to treat a horse the horse owner is required to pay for the replacement of the items used. There is a \$500 vet trailer fund that Dean can utilize to cover the costs for supplies and fuel. If volunteers pull the trailer they can get a \$50 fuel card to help cover their costs. Ken has a signup sheet for people able to haul the trailer to a ride.

New Business:

By-Laws Update, Ken Meyer went over the changes to make our bylaws more current and he did send out an e mail recently and copies to view were available today on the tables. Ed Hauser moved to approve, Theresa Meyer seconded, approved.

Fun Committee, Sharon Hahn has volunteered to head up this committee to come up with fun things to do in the evenings after the rides are done to add more social time at the events. A few donated items will be auctioned this evening for money to fund the activities.

Horse expo, Ken proposed a motion for the MnDRA board to be authorized to determine and approve any supplies needed and their costs for Horse expo on a yearly basis, Ed Hauser forward the motion, seconded and approved.

Novice/intro ride fee coupons; the horse expo booth , yearly will offer 25 coupons to be given for use at the MnDRA sponsored or willing private sanctioned rides. MnDRA will reimburse the private rides if the coupon is sent to the treasurer. Theresa moved, Bev seconded and approved.

Peggy motioned to give 5 novice/intro MnDRA sanctioned ride coupons at the MnDRA clinic in April, seconded by Sheryl O'Brian these would be in addition to the horse expo coupons. A friendly amendment, any Minnesota clinic up to 5 coupons with a ratio of 1 per 10 attendees. Approved

Janet Sarver discussed the possibility of changing the MnDRA logo and Deb Moe does have a graphic designer who is willing to work on it. Ken suggested submitting ideas to Janet Sarver or Deb Moe to be presented around the time of Mosquito Run.

Election of Officers's, Positions are for a two year term, Vice President, nominations Dale Lunde, no other nominations Dale agreed to continue in office, Treasurer, Sandy Fett nominated, no other nominations, Sandy agreed to continue in office. Member at large, nomination for Carmen, and Deb Moe, Deb Moe declined, Carmen agreed to continue as member at large.

Motion to adjourn at 5PM, Respectfully submitted by Holly Egerer, Secretary for MnDRA