

MINNESOTA DISTANCE RIDING ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING BY VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

APRIL 3, 2021

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

Secretary's minutes, Dale Lunde made a motion to wave reading of the minutes, Carmen Steuck seconded and motion approved.

Treasurer's report, Ken stated that it was sent out to the members for review and if anyone had questions they can contact any of the board members. Sandy did go over some of the expenses from the past year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Newsletter, Ken Meyer stated that a large portion of the membership is not regularly on Facebook so any announcements or information to the membership should be sent to Ken to be put into the newsletter or sent out as an email blast to be sure most of membership receives it.

MnDRA web site, Deb Moe, has moved our web site to a different hosting site. This will save the club some money as well as giving us more options such as registering for a ride also individual ride managers or Ken are able to make announcements without the assistance of Deb.

Awards, there are no awards for 2020, Sandy is happy to continue to do the end of year awards unless someone else wants to take over.

Horse Expo, We are no longer having a booth due to the very low percentage of new members and interest we received from the event.

Annual Banquet, The banquet for last year was cancelled due to Covid. The next banquet would be for next winter in February or March. We will need someone that would want to choose a date and organize it for 2022.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

2021 Ride Schedule, we will wait to vote for sanctioning until after the discussion in new business for sanctioning the North Dakota ride request.

Trail Fund, Ken reached out to all the ride managers but has not received any requests yet. We would like it to go to a venue that we use for ride events, so please contact the board with your request for a donation from the trail fund. Check with the park you want it to go to first to be sure they are in need and have a use for the donation.

Novice Clinic, Peggy Pasillas has a novice clinic set up for May 15; it will be a shorter version set up for complete beginners. The restrictions are up to 50 people for outdoor events and so far there are 30

people signed up. Peggy asked for members to post on the clinic page things you like about the sport or anything related that will help to encourage excitement about the clinic and distance riding. There will be three presenters, Ken Meyer, Sheryl O'Brian and Peggy Pasillas from 9 until 12pm. On line registration and payment is set up and going well. No mock ride is set up yet and it would depend on dates and volunteers available, Lake Elmo has been a good location and Crow Hassan park managers have offered the Blue Stem campground for hosting a mock ride also. Ken mentioned that offering a mock ride will need to depend on how things loosen up with Covid rules.

Fun Committee, There is about \$200 in the fund to use and plan some fun activities at rides to help people to socialize a bit and add extra "fun". If you have ideas let Ken or Sharon Hahn know and they can help out with planning or whatever is needed.

UMECRA update, Ken did a brief overview of several of the changes that happened at the annual meeting. Several members had some questions on a few of the proposals and Ken suggested that the minutes are on the UMECRA web site to view.

NEW BUSINESS:

North Dakota ride sanction request, Angie Mikkelson has made a request to have her event, The Maah Daah Hey ride sanctioned by MnDRA. Our by-laws do require that out of state rides that do not have a state ride organization can be MnDRA sanctioned if the General membership votes approval. A motion was made by Deb Moe for MnDRA to sanction the Maah Daah Hey ride, seconded and discussion followed. The vote was taken on the UMECRA vote web site and Deb Moe monitored the results online, majority approved to sanction Maa Daah Hey ride in North Dakota for 2021 ride season.

Proposal for End of Year award divisions change to be the same as the UMECRA change to have weight divisions for Limited Distance awards. It should also be known that UMECRA is going to revisit this change at next winter's general meeting. Leaving it at top 10 in each division will create more awards to be given and also add more expense to the MnDRA awards budget. The board has proposed to the General Membership to drop down to an elite 8 from top 10 to help defray some of the extra cost of year end awards. Deb Moe made a motion to award the year end prizes to the top 8 point earners in the divisions of Endurance, Heavy weight, lightweight and Junior, Limited Distance, Heavyweight, Lightweight and Junior, and Competitive trail Heavyweight, lightweight and Junior to align with UMECRA. Seconded by Dale Lunde and discussion followed on keeping the top 10 as is. The motion was amended to keep the top 10 in each division, adding the divisions for Limited distance of Heavy weight, lightweight and Junior and adjust the amount of cost/value according to that year's budget, Maria Enge seconded. Ballots were set up again on the UMECRA web voting site and a vote was made on this amended motion. Motion was passed.

Members concerns was queried by Ken and no concerns were voiced. 0

2021 Ride Schedule was voted on since we have approved the Maah Daah Hey ride, a voice vote for any Nay votes was taken, and there was none so the schedule was approved.

Maplewood ride update, currently the park cannot allow doubling and tripling of campsites and there are only 25 reservable sites so this would severely limit ride participation. Due to that the ride may either be moved to a new location or cancelled.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021 FOR A 2 YEAR TERM

Positions open are Vice President, Treasurer and Director at Large

Vice President, Diane Merz self-nominated, there were no other nominations, and Dale Lunde is stepping down so Diane is elected for Vice President. Thank you to Dale Lunde for all his years of service to the club.

Treasurer, Sandy Fett self-nominated to the board and Jenny Frerichs-Ramon self-nominated to the board and there were no other nominations. Vote was done on the UMECRA voting ballot web site to be voted by the membership; Jenny Frerichs-Ramon was elected. Thank you to Sandy Fett for her many years of service to the club. Ken stated that the Treasurer's position probably requires the most time and effort all year long.

Director at Large, Peggy Pasillas self-nominated to the board, there were no other nominations. Carman Steuck is stepping down so Peggy is elected for Director at large.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 am by Peggy Pasillas and seconded by Dale Lunde, all agreed

Respectfully submitted by Holly Egerer, Secretary for MnDRA