

**MINNESOTA DISTANCE RIDING ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING, Located at Peggy Pasillas indoor arena, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.**

MARCH 19, 2022 called to order at 12:36

**Board members present,** President, Ken Meyer, Vice President, Diane Merz, Treasurer, Jennifer Frerichs-Ramon, Secretary, Holly Egerer, Member at Large, Peggy Pasillas, and Past President, Teresa Fett

**Secretary's Minutes,** Peggy motioned to accept the minutes from the previous virtual meeting in 2021 as printed, Deb Moe seconded, all approved.

**Treasurer's report,** Jennifer Frerichs-Ramon said that all the year-end financials were sent out to all the members as an email before the meeting. Jen moved the financial records to quick books. All of the club rides in 2022 did a good profit. Another bank account was opened to enable taking stripe online credit card payments, ride fees will be able to be paid with credit card this year. Ken gave a reminder to have your 2022 dues paid by today if you are going to vote, also pay the UMECRA membership fees since it is a MnDRA requirement to belong to UMECRA as well. Motion to approve the treasurer's report made by Peggy Pasillas, seconded by Crystal Esqueda, all approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Newsletter,** Ken Meyer will be repopulating the email list next week for making the list current for sending out club emails. All currently paid members will be kept on the list. This year is the 35<sup>th</sup> year anniversary to he is going through the history of the club and will be highlighting in the newsletter. Request for members to send content on anything about your involvement in distance riding such as why you ride Endurance or Competitive.

**MnDRA web site-** Deb Moe changed to a new web company last fall to help with faster response when navigating. Deb asked for ride managers to let her know if there are any changes to their ride, or how to receive payments such as PayPal or Stripe. Deb has made the Coggins so it will be on there for the season once you upload it. Deb could create a login for people if they wanted to be able to track what rides they have registered and paid for if there is enough interest in having that available. Ken mentioned to membership that Deb has devoted a lot of time and effort into making the web site much more current and easy to use for everyone.

**Awards,** Sandy Fett, always open to any ideas for new things for awards. She doesn't get a lot of feedback but is always open to new suggestions. \$60 to \$75 is the typical amount spent on each award.

**Novice clinic and Mock ride,** Peggy Pasillas has about 50 people signed up so far. Have several members coming on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Peggy's house, to present on various topics about distance riding. Share the clinic with people on FB so the word gets spread around. Mock ride is on May 7<sup>th</sup> at Crow Hassan, looking for people to help at the mock ride coaching in camp and during the ride. There will be both a novice competitive ride and an endurance intro ride offered. The campground is reserved for the whole weekend, the event will be done by Saturday afternoon but people can come on Friday to experience camping overnight and they can stay Saturday night if they like too.

**Annual Banquet**, looking for anyone interested in planning the banquet for next year , 2023 let Ken Meyer know very soon.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**2022 Ride Schedule sanctioning membership approval**, private rides remember to pay your sanction fee by April first. Deb Moe talked about the Trade River ride campground issues and limitations for the event. Deb asked if people can double up on campsites, but only one sleeping unit and then a bumper pull non sleeping unit can double up. Also there is two off site camp areas, one is just down the road and the other is 6 miles away. There will be high ties available in camp for those horses that are at the offsite campgrounds. Deb will need 60 paid entries two weeks before the ride in order for the ride to be held. Motion for sanction, Peggy Pasillas motioned and seconded by Sarah Maass. Angie Mikkelson's ride in North Dakota will be included in the Minnesota rides. All approved

**Trail Fund award update**, Diane Merz, \$2.00 of the membership fee goes into the trail fund. Because of the last 2 years with Covid we have \$500 now available to donate this year. Requests can be put into the board by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Last year a \$500 donation was given to St. Croix state park. Question on if it can be split to several recipients, typically the board decides on giving the total to just one recipient but it has been occasionally split. A request was made to possibly put the list of previous recipient's on the MnDRA web site.

**Fun Committee**, Sharon Hahn is not present today but if you have ideas. Let her know.

**Board meeting items**, Ken Meyer presented items discussed today at the board meeting. With Covid the past two years the board has a FB page group to discuss current items, Ken offered that if a member ever wants to see what was discussed on the page he can let them on the page for a day to view it. We had discussion on the trail fund which Diane Merz presented earlier to the membership. We discussed the Veterinary supply boxes as to who would be able to keep track of where they are, supplied and organized. Ken reminded people that if you have a horse treated remember you have to pay for the supplies used and pay the veterinarian for their time also. We had discussion on the bank account to increase the minimum balance target amount to \$20,000. It was \$1,500 which is not near enough; Peggy made a motion to accept the \$20,000 bank balance minimum, seconded by Janet Sarver. All approved. The current spending cap is \$50.00 for ride managers, board asked to increase it to \$100.00 Dale Fett motioned to raise the spending cap, Crystal Esquaeda seconded and all approved. Rookie award for year end, a rider would need to nominate at the beginning of the season with UMECRA, MnDRA will follow the Minnesota riders competing the UMECRA Rookie and award the rider with the highest points, only the Minnesota rides count for end of year awards. A request was made to Ken to remind members to please have good etiquette for reserving sites; some of the electric sites are specifically needed sites for managing their ride. Please contact the manager before you select your site when booking early. Keep respect of Covid susceptibility to members who may be concerned or have risks.

**UMECRA Update**, Theresa Meyer, The meeting was held in Minnesota this year and went very well. The Web site will now be the official place for ride points, you need to check by 30 days after the event is posted for your placing, after 40 days the points will be permanent. There was discussion on putting

metabolic scores on competitive rides but that has been tabled for now. UMECRA also has a trail fund so remember you can request a grant from them as well, they didn't have any requests this March so there is still money in the fund. The year-end awards have been dropped down to the elite 8 from top 10 due to multiple years of financial loss to pay for the awards. It will stay at that number for now and it will be revisited next year, examine the finances at that time and the impact of having increased the membership fees.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Bylaws changes**, there are a few slight changes which are highlighted on the bylaws that were sent out to the membership by email. A few pronouns needed to be changed, the two year cycles to vote on board members had to be changed due to the missed year during Covid, and Vice President will be the trail liaison instead of the President. Motion was made by Diane Merz, seconded by Crystal Esquaeda, all approved.

**2021 Profit spend down**, the money that was surplus has been spent on awards, for end of year, banquet completion and a few bills so we have no extra anymore.

**SAM Award**, changing it to an end of year award for the top volunteer, Janet Sarver presented some ideas. The Veterinarians are much more willing to work rides that have a good volunteer system in place. Open to ideas for planning the volunteer system, discussion followed, Ken asked for a motion to use a spot on the MnDRA web site set up by Deb Moe to log in hours, award one person at the end of year for 2022 then evaluate the success of this program at next year's general meeting in March, seconded by Ed Hauser, discussion followed, approved.

**State of the Club**, Ken will set up a link to the club for a short zoom meeting with any current issues or concerns with it being available to all of membership to join. Ken would like to do this on possibly a bimonthly basis.

**Member concerns**, no comments were made today.

**Election of Officers for a two year term**, President, Ken Meyer, Peggy Pasillas nominated Ken for another term and seconded by Bob Egerer, no other nominations were made, all approved.

Secretary, Nomination made by Peggy Pasillas for Holly for another term, and seconded by Crystal Esquaeda, no other nominations were made, all approved.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 by Dale Fett, Crystal Esquaeda seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted by Holly Egerer, Secretary for MnDRA