

**MINNESOTA DISTANCE RIDING ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING, BLUE HERON RESTAURANT, COLD SPRING, MINNESOTA**

MARCH 11, 2023 3:35pm

**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,** Bob Egerer, moved to accept the minutes, Karrie Halbur seconded, approved.

**Treasurer's report,** Jenny said it was a break-even year, and she had Ken send out an email with the 2022 report, Crystal Esquaeda motioned to accept the report as presented, Bob Egerer seconded, approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Newsletter,** Ken Meyer, sent a survey out by e mail and it is also in the last newsletter, it is still open if you have not responded to it yet. Since 2010 we have had 50% of our membership join. He is planning on sending out member rider profile requests to add to the newsletter again this year.

**MnDRA web site,** Deb Moe, the web site is doing well and being utilized frequently. Ride entries are done online through the web site at about 80% right now. Members can upload their current coggins for the season. Deb is working on adding a photos area categorized for each ride, and people can share the pictures they take at the rides. Ken discussed the board's suggestion to be able to compensate Deb for all the time she devotes to managing the web site. Sara Maas made a motion to have the MnDRA sanction and membership fees to pay for 3 hours for each private ride for web site maintenance. Janet Cram seconded, short discussion followed and then motioned carried.

**Awards,** Sandy Fett, Ken announced that due to today's weather the awards will follow the meeting and then dinner will be served, since some may want to leave early. Sandy is willing to continue preparing year end awards and everyone expressed their appreciation for her hard work.

**Novice Clinic and Mock Ride,** Peggy Pasillas, gave the dates of the clinic, the informational meeting is April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Peggy's arena and the mock ride is May 13 at Crow Hassan Park. She is asking members to get the word out; she brought extra flyers for people to post in their areas. Peggy is looking for someone to help co-manage the mock ride; she also needs volunteers to help in the Vet area and group leaders. The campground is available for the weekend, Friday night and all day Saturday. Ken mentioned that the MnDRA Clinic and Mock ride replaced the participation at Horse Expo since we have much better response from the clinic. The promotional funds that originally were directed to horse expo have been transferred to being used for the Clinic that Peggy manages. Peggy started the first Clinic in 2010.

**Annual Banquet,** Thanks to Karin Lupu for organizing this year's event, always looking for someone to organize next year's event. Karin Lupu volunteered to organize next year's banquet as well, all in attendance agreed.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**2023 Ride Schedule,** Ken announced that there is a new ride, Dakota Dash, and Barefoot Boogie is not being held this year but will be back in 2024. Discussion on the AHA national ride that Sarah Maass is hosting at Huntersville, they will also be hosting a pioneer ride division and the ride is a Friday, Saturday and Sunday event. SE ride will be doing region 10 championship series rides for AHA. Anyone interested in riding these events needs to look at the rules and understand the membership requirements. Deb Moe made a motion and Theresa Meyer seconded, membership voted to approve the ride schedule as is currently posted.

**Trail fund award,** Diane Merz discussed the silent auction going on today is to help add to our trail fund. In 2022 we donated \$500 to Zumbro Bottoms to help with trail improvements. If you have a park or trails area to have this year's donation go to you need to submit a request by April 1<sup>st</sup> to Diane Merz. Janet Sarver mentioned that UMECRA also has a trail fund request on their web site that can be utilized as well.

**Board meeting items,** Skip over this due to those topics coming up later in the Agenda.

**UMECRA update,** Theresa Meyer went over the main topics discussed at this year's meeting that was held in January.

**Sam award revamp,** getting points submitted by volunteers did not work out so well, most people did not submit. For 2023 a request is made for Ride Managers to submit a name for each day that they had an excellent volunteer and then the person who is mentioned most often will receive a year end award. These submissions will be given to Deb Moe with the points turned in after the ride and Deb has agreed to keep a record.

## **NEW BUSINESS,**

**State of the club,** Topic that was gone over during the UMECRA update, issues of excessive swearing in common areas and there was inappropriate consumption of alcohol. It has been requested by members to please be aware of how you conduct yourself around our young members as well as others attending the ride. This behavior could compromise our ride insurance coverage should something get damaged or someone get hurt due to alcohol related accident.

**Dr. Dean's donation,** Ken went over who Dr. Dean was for those who have not met him since he hasn't been to the rides the last few year's. The board has suggested having a Vets Choice year end award for the next 10 years with the \$1000 that Dr. Dean has donated. Motion of using the money Dr. Dean donated for End of Year Veterinary Choice award for the next 10 years was made by Bob Egerer, Seconded by Carmen Steuck. Discussion followed, this will be limited to a one time to be received award. The Board will make a detailed list of qualifications that the Veterinarian can follow to make their selection at the ride. This will be a horse and rider team and have nothing to do with placing at rides or end of year placing. All favored and passed.

**Budget surplus ideas,** Ken went over how the budget gets spent over the year with most of the money moving during the season paying the ride expenses , Veterinarian's and at the year-end awards. Ken suggested a motion to bank the surplus money for this season. Move was made to bank the money for this season by Carmen S and seconded and discussion followed. Voted and all in favor, approved.

**Novice end of year awards,** Deb Juettner would like to see a year-end novice award added to our awards. Discussion followed, Deb Moe suggested that there needs to be criteria to meet to be eligible for the award. Motion was made by Dana Gasner to do the Novice award for a three year trial period of Champion and Reserve Champion following the UMECRA rules, Reactor Panel Saddle Company will pay for the awards and if embroidery is needed MnDRA will pay that fee. This award can only be received once. Seconded by Theresa Meyer, all in favor and passed.

**Member concerns?** Karrie Halbur made a suggestion for next year's consideration from the board if the surplus is still there to look at supporting the private rides as an option. Discussion followed to have MnDRA sponsor \$500 towards the AHA national ride, Deb Moe made a motion to sponsor Sarah Maass AHA ride for \$500, seconded and passed.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2023, A TWO YEAR TERM**

Current Vice President is Diane Merz, Peggy nominated and Bob Egerer Seconded. T.J.Edwards made a motion to vote all three current officers to another two year term, seconded and all favored. Vice President, Diane Merz, Treasurer, Jenny Frerichs Ramon and Director at Large, Peggy Pasillas agreed to continue in their positions for another two year term.

Meeting was adjourned at 5pm

Respectively submitted by

Holly Egerer, Secretary for MnDRA