

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

March 9, 2024, 3:45PM

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 Pasillas motioned to approve the minutes, Teresa Fett seconded, motion approved

Treasurer's report, Jenny gave a brief overview of the current finances and Ken had sent a copy of the report to members for review. It was good weather for rides last year and attendance was very good keeping the budget healthy. Peggy Pasillas moved to approve, and Diane Merz seconded, motion approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Newsletter, Ken is sending out 4 newsletters a year and that has been easy to work with. Ken mentioned that 80% of the members now were not members 10 years ago. He encouraged members to send in a bio about themselves to print a rider profile in the newsletter to help members to know each other better. He will put together a questionnaire to help get ideas on what to write or he will write one up for you

MnDRA web site, Deb Moe just added the newsletters to our website now. She did change how to add photos which are a change from last year, it's now the UMECRA photo.com web site. She may try to come up with a link to each ride for the future

Awards, Sandy Fett said it went very well and was much easier with the larger variety of choices. Sandy is happy to continue doing it.

Novice Clinic and Mock Ride, It will be on April 27th at the Crow Hassan River Bend campsite. It will be the same weekend as Horse Expo so that seems to have impacted the number of people signing up. It was the only weekend available without interfering with the rides starting in May

Annual Banquet, beautiful weather this year instead of the storm we had last year to cut the time short. If anyone is interested in arranging the banquet for 2025 contact any board member. Rogers, MN is the central point of membership for MnDRA so keep that in mind when finding a location. Sarah Maas mentioned that a new member did not think she should go to the meeting and banquet because she only did a few novice rides, so next year be sure to make it known its open to all members.

STATE OF THE CLUB- Ken Meyer, Our club is doing well right now with good membership numbers as well as very good ride attendance this last season. Peggy's very well run novice clinic with lots of member volunteers as well as the excellent work Deb Moe has done with our website has a lot to do with the good membership numbers we have. Ken then explained the budget sheet he has developed

to work with for the MnDRA budget surplus and using some of the excess in needed areas or if there is a financial short year where to draw from to catch up. The sanctioning fee for private run rides has changed from \$10 to \$20. Currently we have an excess of \$4000.00 the board has selected a few give backs to the club. Coupons for \$30 off a Sunday ride fee won by name draw today at the meeting. A certificate for a free junior ride fee to be passed out at a ride is the new Dr. Dean award. Private managed ride insurance fund for an unexpected financial loss that they can apply for to MnDRA board member. Just a reminder about having fun at the events, try to keep things friendly and resolve an issue quickly, not let it get worse. If it is a big problem then you need to go to UMECRA or AERC who have things in place for dealing with conflicts. The board has decided that issues brought to them will be referred to the Midwest and national distance riding organizations.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2024 Ride Schedule, Field of Dreams has requested to get MnDRA sanctioning; it's held two weeks after Charity Cup and two weeks before Huntersville so the timing is good. To reserve at the campground its 90 days before the event Carmen Steuck motioned to accept, seconded by Janet Sarver, motion approved.

Motion to accept the ride schedule including Field of dreams, Peggy motioned to accept the ride schedule and Jenny seconded, motion approved.

Trail fund award, Diane Merz, there is currently 1,400 and Janet Sarver and Deb Moe requested and were awarded \$500 for Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horseman to repair trail wash outs. Brian E suggested contacting AERC for grants because they have some funds available as well. The Silent Auction funds collected today will be put to the trail fund as well.

Board meeting items, Ken explained the Dr. Dean Award to be given to the Juniors this year, who he was and why we have it.

UMECRA update, Sarah Maas gave an overview of the UMECRA general meeting in January for those that were not able to attend.

NEW BUSINESS,

Budget surplus ideas, Ken did discuss this point earlier in the meeting when going over the board meeting topics.

UMECRA new points system, Sarah Maas explained that in the last 10 years the average entries per ride per state was looked at, Illinois was at 53, Michigan is 40, Wisconsin was at 79 and Minnesota is 79. In 2023 Minnesota had a significantly larger average number ride attendance than the other states. For this reason UMECRA changed the point system to even out the competition for all of the Midwest for end of year awards. Now it's a Point per mile with additional points for placing. With the new points system having Elevator rides will be a new advantage for rides to offer. Ken requested a motion be made for MnDRA to take on the new points system that UMECRA has adopted. Janet Sarver made the

motion to adopt the new points system that UMECRA is now using, and Carmen Steuck Seconded, discussion followed and membership approved.

Member concerns? Sarah Maas talked about Restricted Mileage award and if that award is necessary anymore. This is something that UMECRA Board has been looking at. They want membership opinion on the award. Possibly exploring other types of awards in place of the restricted mileage award.

Election of officers for 2024, two year term, Election for President of MnDRA, Nomination was made for Ken Meyer, nomination was made for Peggy Pasillas which she declined, and nomination was made for Sheryl O'Brian. Diane Merz handed out paper ballots for president. Votes were counted and Ken Meyer has won as President for two more years.

Election for Secretary of MnDRA, nomination for Holly Egerer and nomination for Maria Enge, Diane Merz handed out paper ballots for Secretary. Votes were counted and Maria Enge won as the new Secretary for a two year term.

Janet Sarver made a motion to adjourn and Sarah Maas seconded, all approved, meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Holly Egerer, Secretary for MnDRA