

**Arabian Horse Distance Riding Association (AHDRA)**

Minutes of the January 20, 2013 Meeting  
Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

**Attendees:**

President:	Lori Windows
Vice-President	Jen Allen
Secretary/Treasurer	Chris Power
Directors:	Katie Bachhuber
	Roberta Harms
	Kathy Schauer
	Tony Troyer

**Members and guests\*:**

Jean Allen	Barb Gardner	Josh Mowrer
Larry Allen	Marianne Guilfoyle*	Sarah Mowrer
Maxine Bernsdorf	Katie Krueger*	Linda Mowrer
Ruth Casserly	Joyce Mocilan	Marty Power
Tim Casserly	Linda Miller	Olivia Rudolphi
Marge Dixon	Mo Miller	Barry Saylor
Wes Elford, DVM	Aaron Mowrer	Deb Searle
Pamela Fullerton		Jessi Zirbel

President Lori Windows called the meeting to order at 7:08 am. Members and guests were asked to sign the attendance sheet for the meeting.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the January 22, 2012 Membership meeting were distributed for approval. It was noted the location of the meeting needed to be corrected to the Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, Illinois. Barry moved that the minutes be accepted, his motion was seconded and the membership approved.

**Reports**

Financial: Chris Power presented the financial report for 2012. AHDRA continues to hold four “laddered” one year CDs totaling \$6,750, with one of these CD’s maturing every 3 months, should AHDRA need to access these “rainy day” funds without having to wait an entire year for a CD to mature.

Chris noted that an error was discovered in the financial report for 2011, and the correct number for 2011 can now be seen and is noted on the 2012 financial report.

For future reference and planning, AHDRA contributes to the annual UMECRA Convention by paying for hors d’oeuvres for the Friday night AHDRA awards ceremony. This year we planned for 80 attendees and the resort recommended assuming that each attendee would eat 6 pieces of hors d’oeuvres. Thus, 200 meatballs, 100 bruschetta, 50 cheese and sausage, and 75 artichoke dip was ordered for a total cost of \$757. It was

estimated that there were actually about 75 attendees, but we had plenty of artichoke dip leftover. So next year the amount should be reduced.

Kathy moved that the financial report be accepted, her motion was seconded and the membership approved.

Membership: AHDRA membership was slightly down for 2012:

	# by mid January	Year Total #
2007	98	131
2008	94	116
2009	75	117
2010	57	144
2011	36	134
2012	40	132
2013	35	

Members from outside of UMECRA's region:

California: 3  
Colorado: 4  
New Mexico: 1  
Nevada: 1  
Pennsylvania: 1

Members from UMECRA's region, but low numbers:

Iowa: 1  
Missouri: 2

Katie will update the AHDRA brochure and share with Jen for placement on AHDRA's website. Printed copies will be distributed to AHDRA ride managers and members for distribution at rides and other occasions where members may be recruited.

Barry moved that the membership report be accepted, his motion was seconded and the membership approved.

Novice Clinic: AHDRA hosted a Novice Clinic at Julie Jackson-Biegert's farm on April 7, 2012. About 25 potential novices attended, some of which rode in several UMECRA rides during this past season. Participants were charged \$25, but provided with lunch and a "goody bag." For the next clinic more time should be planned to allow participants some hands on experience with horses, vet checks, etc.

Lori announced that AHDRA would not be hosting a Novice Clinic in 2013.

AHDRA Rides:

# of entries	2010	2011	2012
MBYR	98	49	56
Endure	143	144	117
Zumbro	32	36	69

<b>Big River</b>	96	100	84
<b>Total</b>	369	329	326

It was noted that total number of entries to AHDRA rides was down slightly, but with Zumbro and My Backyard showing an increase from the previous year.

Lori noted that the new date for My Backyard Ride, the 5<sup>th</sup> weekend of June, was much better for the Allen family farm than holding the ride early in the spring during planting season. This date will be problematic in 2015 & 2016, when there is no 5<sup>th</sup> weekend in June, but Lori stated this will be worked out later. Lori noted that at My Backyard and Big River a “team” competition with awards is also arranged.

Marty noted the Endure will again offer a saddle (thanks to the Casserlys) as an award in 2013 for the highest fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation.

Barry noted that Zumbro had an increase in entries this past year. Barry modified the trail to be not as rigorous as in previous years. Each year Barry changes the trail to make it interesting for the riders, and for the upcoming year he will not use the bottom lands trails as it becomes very difficult with just minor precipitation.

Tony noted that the Big River ride will not be held in 2013 as the AHA National Championship ride sponsored by AHDRA will be held that last weekend in October.

Wes, as veterinarian for all AHDRA sponsored rides, offered comments on assuring the well being of the horses as well as the riders.

AHA Representative Report: Tony reported he attended the AHA Regional meeting in St. Louis this past year. AHA has committed to more timely posting of the results from distance rides. Tony noted that the new AHA President, Cynthia Richardson, is a former distance rider. Tony and Marge reported that there is considerable support and excitement being expressed by AHA on the upcoming AHA National Championship to be held the end of October 2013.

## **Old Business**

AHDRA sponsorship of the AHA 2013 National Championship Ride: Jen distributed a two page handout highlighting information about the ride as well as volunteers and other issues that still need to be decided. Jen noted the Wes will be head control judge, assisted by Rae Birr and Rachel Boyce as treatment vet. Jen also distributed a card that people can use to volunteer at the ride, noting when they are available and what tasks they would like to assist with.

Jen reported that for sponsoring the ride and providing a significant number of volunteers, AHDRA will receive \$1,000 plus \$2 for each entry into all rides (Championship as well as open rides).

Barry suggested AHDRA ensure it includes AHDRA brochures and other items (e.g., AHDRA pens with flashlight) in the “goody bag” to be provided to entering riders.

AHDRA should also ensure it has an ad as well as a membership application in the Program Book for the National Ride.

Jen reported a press release has been prepared for distribution and the ride is expected to be publicized in Endurance News as well as AHA's Modern Arabian Horse magazine. Marge suggested also placing an AHDRA ad in AHA's Modern Arabian Horse magazine.

The membership agreed AHDRA will spend up to \$300 for awards for the top AHDRA member finisher in the 100, 50 and two-day competitive rides. Marge volunteered to arrange for these awards.

The need for numerous volunteers for the National Championship Ride was discussed, including someone to coordinate the provision of meals for vets, staff and volunteers. It was noted that Bill Suskey may be a good resource for this.

### **New Business**

AHDRA sanction rides for a fee: Lori asked if the membership would be interested in charging a fee for AHDRA's sanctioning of a ride with a provision that AHDRA sanctioned rides could be eligible for enhanced AHDRA points (similar to the enhancement for AHDRA sponsored rides and AHA Regional and National Championship rides). The consensus of the membership was to not pursue this option at this time.

AHDRA ride season: The issue of AHDRA's ride season not corresponding to AERC's was brought up. It was explained that AHDRA's ride season parallels that of UMECRA's, going from November 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on October 31<sup>st</sup> (versus AERC's from December 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>). This is necessary in order to have sufficient time to finalize points, order awards and have the awards delivered prior to the UMECRA Convention in mid January (whereas the AERC Convention isn't until March). Otherwise AHDRA or members would incur considerable expense in the mailing of the awards. It was noted that in previous year's, as well as in the upcoming year, a ride spanning October and November will have points accruing in two different ride seasons for AHDRA.

AHDRA Sponsorship of a Novice Clinic for Spring 2013: Although AHDRA will not sponsor a Novice Clinic in 2013, it was announced that ApDRA will hold a clinic at Barb Gardner's farm in Wisconsin on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

UMECRA/AHDRA presentation at Illinois Horse Fair March 1 -3: Marty reported that we been invited to hold a seminar/presentation on distance riding at the Illinois Horse Fair. In previous years the Mowrer's have participated in a "demonstration" of distance riding, which included having a few stalls at the Fair where tables were set up to display information, pictures and other artifacts of distance riding. It is unclear if this is still the best option or if an exhibitor booth should be secured for the \$360 fee. UMECRA has committed to \$250 for the Illinois Horse Fair demonstration or exhibit. The AHDRA membership agreed that AHDRA will cover any remaining costs.

Petition AHA to make AHDRA a “specialty” rather than a “local” AHA Club: Chris presented a draft letter to AHA requesting that AHA permit “specialty” clubs that aren’t restricted to an AHA Region on the AHA website, thus allowing AHA members to more easily find clubs sporting a specific interest, like distance riding. Chris noted he had modified this letter from the draft of last January to go to the AHA Regional Director, rather than AHA staff. It was suggested the letter be directed to the AHA President of the Board. Pam moved that AHDRA send the letter, her motion was seconded and the membership approved.

AHA “publicity” funding: Jen noted that AHA makes available funding for publicizing local clubs and their activities, and that these funds are not to be used to promote the AHA National Championship (which has its own advertising and promotional fund source). The membership agreed Jen should request funding from AHA, which could then be used to underwrite the cost of printing the AHDRA brochures as well as a large banner for AHDRA to post at rides and other events. Joyce volunteered to get the banner. It was emphasized that AHDRA should be spelled out as the “Arabian Horse Distance Riding Association” in such promotional material.

## **Elections**

Jen Allen was nominated for President and the motion was seconded. The membership approved Jen as President by unanimous voice vote.

Joyce Mocilan was nominated for Vice-president and the motion was seconded. The membership approved Joyce as Vice-president by unanimous voice vote.

Josh Mowrer was nominated for Secretary-Treasurer. Josh said he was reluctant to accept at this time, but willing to learn how to perform the duties of this position. Mo Miller was nominated and selected by the membership by unanimous voice vote.

The following were nominated as AHDRA Directors: Tony Troyer, Katie Bachhuber, Kathy Schauer, Jessi Zirbel, Roberta Harms, Marge Dixon, and Josh Mowrer. By written ballot, the following were selected: Katie Bachhuber, Marge Dixon, Roberta Harms and Josh Mowrer.

AHA Delegates: It was moved that Tony Troyer and Joyce Mocilan be nominated to serve as AHDRA’s AHA delegates. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership by unanimous voice vote.

It was noted that all Board members are elected for only one year terms, and that perhaps AHDRA should consider staggered two year terms to ensure a degree of continuity, similar to what UMECRA does. [It should be noted that the By Laws require election by secret ballot, which perhaps should be modified to reflect AHDRA’s actual practice.]

## **Announcements and future meetings**

The regular meeting of the membership will occur next January at the UMECRA Convention in Madison, Wisconsin.

At 9:15 am it was moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded and approved.