

Arabian Horse Distance Riding Association (AHDRA)

Minutes of the January 20, 2013 Meeting
Crowne Plaza, Madison, Wisconsin

Attendees:

President:	Jen Allen
Vice-President	Joyce Mocilan
Secretary/Treasurer	Mo Miller
Directors:	Katie Bachhuber
	Roberta Harms
	Josh Mowrer

Members and guests*:

Jim Andriakos	Barb Gardner	Chris Power
Larry Allen	Linda Jacobson	Marty Power
Maxine Bernsdorf	Theresa Meyer	Victoria Robinson
Ruth Casserly	Linda Miller	Barry Saylor
Tim Casserly	Aaron Mowrer	Kathy Schauer
Pam Cotton	Sarah Mowrer	Tony Troyer
Wes Elford, DVM	Linda Mowrer	Nicole Mauser-Storer

President Jen Allen called the meeting to order at 7:00 am. Members and guests were asked to sign the attendance sheet for the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 20, 2013 Membership meeting were distributed for approval. Marty moved that the minutes be accepted, the motion was seconded and the membership approved acceptance of the minutes.

Reports

Financial: Mo Miller presented the financial report for 2013. AHDRA continues to hold four one year CDs totaling \$8,010, but since AHDRA had to change banks this past year, the CDs are in the process of again being converted to a “ladder,” 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.

The new bank for AHDRA has been very helpful, has not assessed any service charges for AHDRA, and has been providing additional services, such as extensive documentation of transactions and the provision of a debit card that has greatly facilitated business for AHDRA.

The financial report showed income and expenses for the year. It was noted that AHDRA bucket awards for the rides have been purchased not only this year, but in previous years.

As of December 31, 2013, AHDRA also had a total of \$6,354 in its checking and savings account. With an anticipated additional \$1,000 or so still expected to be received from

AHA, AHDRA garnered some income from its sponsorship of the AHA National Championship Ride in October.

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

Membership: AHDRA membership was slightly up for 2013:

	# 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	136
2014	29	

Members from outside of UMECRA's region:

California: 3
Colorado: 4
Nevada: 1
Pennsylvania: 2

It was noted that AHA is increasing its dues effective April 1st, 2014, so in addition to saving about \$5 per year if a 3 year AHA membership is purchased, about an additional \$45 can be saved if the 3 year membership is purchased before the April 1st increase. If doing your AHA membership through AHDRA be sure to get your fees to Mo by March 1st in order to ensure sufficient time for processing.

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

AHDRA Rides:

# of entries	2010	2011	2012	2013
MBYR	98	49	56	67
Endure	143	144	117	115
Zumbro	32	36	69	47
Big River or AHA National	96	100	84	111
Total	369	329	326	340

It was noted that Zumbro will not be held in 2014. Due to scheduling in the heat of the summer as well as competition with other rides Zumbro did not achieve sufficient entries

to establish the ride as an effective ride for AHDRA. Barry asked that AHDRA remain open to possibly sponsoring Zumbro again in the future if conditions change, such as Barry being successful in his efforts to secure an alternative ride date.

It was noted that no Zumbro ride in 2014 was unfortunate, as all AHDRA sponsored rides will once again only be in Illinois. AHDRA's sponsorship of a ride in Missouri was being explored, but this ride had only 10 entries this past year and will no longer be held. Members urged that AHDRA continue to explore means of sponsoring rides in other states, including consideration of ride awards that would not require such a challenge for transporting between rides and development of guidelines for managers of AHDRA sponsored rides.

Jen noted that the Backyard Ride was successful, and will be held June 28 – 29 in 2014. A scheduling problem may arise in 2015 & 2016 when there is not a fifth weekend in June; June is much better for the Allen family farm than holding the ride in the spring planting season or the fall harvest season.

Marty and Chris noted that Endure changed its ride location this past year due to flooding at the planned ride site and the opportunity to test the same ride site planned for AHA national championship scheduled for this past October. With additional amenities at the new site, the Endure ride will be held at the same site in 2014 that was used in 2013.

The date for Endure will be changed in 2014 from the second weekend in July to the weekend after Memorial Day (for 2015 the weekend before Memorial Day may be considered).

The Endure ride will no longer be a fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, as the amounts garnered for fundraising have continued to decrease and reached a point lower than the value of the donated items. Because of this, it is essential that the ride be referred to as only "Endure" as the Komen Foundation has filed suits against organizations that have used "for the Cure" without their authorization.

Tony noted that the AHA National Championship ride sponsored by AHDRA was held this past year in lieu of the Big River Ride, but the Big River ride will be held in 2014. Tony said the AHA Distance Commission expresses appreciation to AHDRA for their sponsorship of the National Championship Ride. Entries were good for the National Championship ride in general, but disappointing for the concurrently held open entries rides, especially for the Competitive Trail rides. Tony noted if the ride lost money for AHA, it anticipates it would be less than \$1,500, but the AHA office is still calculating the final financial figures. Appreciation was expressed to the several AHDRA members that provide many hours of volunteer work for the AHA Championship.

AHA Representative Report: Tony and Joyce attended the AHA Regional meeting this past year.

AHDRA is entitled to 2 delegates to the AHA National Convention in Denver, CO, and Tony indicated he is willing to attend, but would appreciate assistance in covering the

registration fee for the Convention. Theresa Meyer moved and it was seconded that AHDRA supplement Tony's AHA Convention registration up to \$300. The membership approved. Since AHDRA is entitled to two votes, Tony was asked to request that his vote count as two; if not, Linda Fisher, AHDRA member in Colorado, could be asked to serve as AHDRA's delegate and second vote at the AHA Convention.

Tony reported that AHA has again committed to more timely posting of the results from distance rides. Tony noted that the new AHA Competition staff member for distance riding is Devon Smith, who has been responsive to requests and learning about distance riding.

Old Business

AHDRA/UMECRA sponsorship of demonstration and seminar at Illinois Horse Fair: Marty reported that the seminar was well received and resulted in some new Novice riders at subsequent UMECRA rides. It was also understood that an Illinois Horse Council Board Member who thought that distance riding was "cruel" attended the seminar and heard Dr. Boyce explain how the distance events are conducted under veterinary supervision with a "fit to continue" criteria enforced throughout all events.

For next year Nicole will do the seminar presentation and request that Rachel participate again as the vet.

The demonstration also went well, with Tony, Deb Searle, Josh Mowrer, Rachel Boyce and others participating, and using the stalls made available for the demonstration as a location for a "booth" on distance riding.

The membership decided that it will not do a demonstration this year, but try to move to a schedule of doing a demonstration every other year.

Tony reported that the UMECRA board agreed to pay the fees for promotions at state horse fairs.

Katie reported she will look at promotional opportunities at the Midwest Horse Fair in future years, and Jen noted she has materials on the Iowa Horse Fair if anyone is interested in doing a promotional event there.

Petition to AHA for AHDRA to be listed as a national "specialty club" rather than a Region 11 club: Chris noted that several e-mails have been sent to AHA requesting this, including draft recommendations on how AHA by laws and rules could be changed, but no response has been received other than the matter was being referred to other AHA staff or representatives. Theresa recommended that Van Jacobsen be notified of this request, and Tony sent an e-mail to Van noting this issue.

AHA funding for club publicity: Jen noted such funding is available, and can be used to cover such costs as club pamphlet or brochure publication. Jen will explore applying for this funding.

Awards: AHDRA has been using plastic buckets as ride awards, at a cost of about \$4.48 each. Lori has located some plastic scoops at ~\$2 each that could be used in the future. Linda said she would contact the plastics manufacturer she knows to see if a discount could be obtained there. Identification arm bands, as recommended by Dr. Bachhuber, could be considered as a future completion award. Jen encouraged members to recommend awards, including best condition and high point awards for AHDRA's 2014 rides.

New Business

Insurance: Marty and Chris have requested of UMECRA that a presentation or information on insurance be arranged for ride managers, and the UMECRA secretary in charge of UMECRA insurance said she would see if the insurance company will provide a presentation or information. No additional information on these requests and plans has been received. Chris noted the information on recommended insurance he has been able to gather thus far has been shared with AHDRA board and ride managers; it was noted that this information was further shared with DRAW.

Rule Changes:

Point system: Jen asked if the group wished to change the system AHDRA uses for points from the UMECRA points table to the AERC points table. The membership recommended staying with the UMECRA points system, which is available to non-UMECRA members on the web site.

Board rotation: Katie moved that AHDRA change its by-laws and rules so that each board member is elected to a two year term, and that four of these positions (Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and two Board Members) be elected to a two year term in the odd numbered years in which the annual meeting is held, beginning in 2015, and that three of these positions (President and two Board Members) be elected to a one year term in 2015 and to a two year term in the even numbered years in which the annual meeting is held, beginning in 2016. The motion was seconded. Discussion clarified for the group that this motion did not include or imply term limits for any of these positions. The motion passed. [It should be noted that the By Laws require election by secret ballot, which perhaps should be modified to reflect AHDRA's actual practice.]

Change in the organizations sanctioning competitive rides recognized by AHDRA for points: Jen explained the AHDRA rules currently recognize rides sanctioned by AHA, AERC and UMECRA. A member requested that rides by ECTRA be recognized, and the issue of recognition of rides sanctioned by NATRC has also been raised. After some discussion, it was agreed that this will be further discussed for possible rule changes to be implemented next year.

Age of Juniors: Although this was brought up as a possible issue for AHDRA, as UMECRA identifies a junior as under age 16 for endurance events and age 18 for

competitive trail, AHDRA rules define a junior as under age 18, so all points will be calculated on this basis.

AHDRA as a non-profit and tax exempt entity: As has happened with other organizations, AHDRA's status as a non-profit entity in Iowa was not maintained due to a failure to submit the required reports annually. Iowa authorities recommended that AHDRA start the process over if it wishes to become a non-profit entity again. Due to this, AHDRA was established as a non-profit entity in Illinois this past year.

AHDRA has begun exploring the costs and benefits of becoming a tax exempt entity, which would allow it to receive donations which individuals and other entities could deduct from their taxes. This requires special wording and likely revision in AHDRA's by-laws, including an emphasis on the educational and athletic purposes of the organization.

Helmets: Chris moved that AHDRA require riders in all events at AHDRA sponsored rides to wear a helmet. The motion was seconded. The group approved the motion, noting that this requirement must be included in the ride flyers for AHDRA sponsored rides and the AHDRA rules should be so amended.

Purchase of Dr. Bachhuber's recommended first aid supplies for AHDRA: Chris moved that one set of the supplies be purchased by AHDRA and made available at each AHDRA sponsored ride. The motion was seconded. Discussion highlighted the considerable liability concerns if the organization purchased supplies that required training in its use and did not require such training. Rather, it was recommended that AHDRA continue to rely on the personal first aid supplies that riders/ride managers have available. As a result of the discussion, Chris withdrew his motion. AHDRA may consider sponsoring first aid and/or CPR training in the future.

Elections

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

Robyn Schadt and Josh Mowrer were nominated for Vice-president and the motions were seconded. The membership voted and elected Robyn Schadt as Vice-president.

Mo Miller was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer and the motion was seconded and approved by the membership by unanimous voice vote.

The following were nominated as AHDRA Directors and selected by the membership by unanimous voice vote: 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 Marge Dixon, an AHA staff member, will continue to serve as AHDRA's liaison to AHA.

Announcements and future meetings

The regular meeting of the membership will occur next January at the UMECRA Convention in Michigan.

Katie volunteered to chair the program committee for planning the AHDRA program for next year's convention, and will be assisted by Max and Linda.

At 9:20 am it was moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded and approved.

PS: the following is for Jen:



