

Arabian Horse Distance Riding Association (AHDRA)

Minutes of the January 18, 2015 Meeting
Doherty Hotel, Clare, Michigan

President:	Jen Allen
Vice-President	Robyn Schadt
Secretary/Treasurer	Mo Miller
Directors:	Katie Bachhuber
	Roberta Harms
	Josh Mowrer
	Marge Dixon

Attendees:

President:	Jen Allen
Directors:	Katie Bachhuber
	Roberta Harms
	Josh Mowrer

Members and guests*:

Jim Andriakos	Barb Gardner	Sarah Mowrer
Larry Allen	Dana Gasner*	Linda Mowrer
Ruth Casserly	Laurie Henschel*	Chris Power
Tim Casserly	Linda Jacobson	Marty Power
Jonathon Davidson*	Sarah Maass*	Tony Troyer
Wes Elford, DVM	Nicole Mauser-Storer	Lori Windows
Beth Frieders*	Joyce Mocilan	Jessi Zirbel
	Aaron Mowrer	

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 19, 2014 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: On the behalf of Mo Miller, Chris Power presented the financial report for 2014.

The financial report showed income and expenses for the year. It was noted that Mo has elected to cost completion and placing awards as general club expenses, rather than to each specific ride, as this detailed accounting requires considerable effort for minimal benefit.

As of December 31, 2014, AHDRA had total assets of \$14,374.40 consisting of \$8,169.44 in its checking and savings account (with \$2,100 withdrawn in early January to purchase the fourth laddered CD) and \$6,209.96 in three laddered CDs of approximately \$2,100 each.

Income this past year included \$1,111.55 from AHA for AHDRA's management of the 2013 AHA Distance National Championship as well as a contribution of \$500 from AHA Region 11. The donation of pizza by Bureau Valley Vet Clinic for the My Backyard Ride dinner and of a hog by the Rudolphi Veterinary Clinic for the catered hog roast at the Endure ride was noted and appreciated.

In early January Mo completed the process of converting four one year CDs totaling \$8,309.96 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.

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

Membership: AHDRA membership was slightly down for 2014:

	# 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	124
2015	38	

AHDRA Memberships * by State	
California	1
Colorado	4
Iowa	1
Illinois	44
Indiana	3
Kentucky	1
Michigan	15
Minnesota	21
Missouri	4
North Dakota	1
Pennsylvania	1
South Carolina	1
Wisconsin	24

*Some are considered inactive members

Sara Maass and Dana Gasner raised the issue of impediments to registering horses that have been rescued, noting that the difficulties and expenses of securing the appropriate papers leads people to not registering their horses and, thus, not qualifying for breed awards. This limits membership in organizations such as AHDRA and AHA. Marty noted that AKC has a process for recognizing unregistered dogs for certain events, such as agility, while still requiring papers for breeding.

AHDRA Rides:

# of entries	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
MBYR	98	49	56	67	57
Endure	143	144	117	115	100
Zumbro	32	36	69	47	NA
Big River or AHA Nationals	96	100	84	111 (AHA Nationals)	60
Total	369	329	326	340	217

Marty noted in 2014 that Endure was again held at the 2013 site, Jim Edgar Fish and Wildlife Area that has additional amenities, and this site will also be used in 2015. The ride will be held the weekend after Memorial Day in 2015. Marty asked for feedback on the Saturday night catered dinner; the group recommended keeping the catered dinner.

Lori noted that the My Backyard Ride will be held the third weekend of July. This date is much better for the Allen family farm than holding the ride in the spring planting season or the fall harvest season. Lori noted that in addition to the \$5 ride entry fee discount for AHDRA members that this ride offers an additional \$5 discount for individuals who ride the second day; these discounts make it very cost effective to become an AHDRA member. Lori is considering increasing the camping fee for this ride to \$15. Ruth requested that this ride include an event for Novices, but Lori noted the increased risks to Novices due to the terrain and liabilities of holding the event on private property.

The Big River Ride will be held the fourth weekend of October in 2015. Tony noted that unless he hears otherwise he plans to continue to use the same campground for the Big River Ride.

The possibility of AHDRA increasing its ride entry fees was discussed. Chris volunteered to repeat and update an analysis of what ride entry fees are in UMECRA.

AHA Representative Report: AHDRA was entitled to 2 delegates to the AHA National Convention in Denver, CO, and Tony attended. While there he was able to distribute

AHDRA membership brochures and was able to recruit some Affiliate AHDRA members from Missouri.

Tony encouraged sanctioning of UMECRA and AHDRA rides with AHA so that riders and horses can accumulate recognition for AHA achievement awards and sweepstakes. Tony noted changes in the allocations for awards. He also noted that AHA provides a distance horse of the year award, but no one from the Midwest nominated a horse.

AHDRA had previously requested that it be recognized by AHA as a specialty club, rather than a Region 11 “local” club (UMECRA covers three or more AHA regions) to facilitate individuals joining AHDRA from outside of Region 11. No response has been received yet from AHA.

Old Business

AHDRA/UMECRA promotion at the Illinois Horse Fair: Marty reported that Nicole and Dr. Rachel Boyce presented the distance riding seminar in March 2014 and that it was well received and again resulted in some new Novice riders at subsequent UMECRA rides.

Marty recommended that AHDRA plan to do a promotional booth at the Illinois Horse Fair for March 2015. Marty noted that UMECRA has a provision to contribute \$250 to promotions of UMECRA at horse fairs, and Marty moved that AHDRA contribute the remaining amount of costs for a promotional booth at the Illinois Horse Fair. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Marty asked that anyone interested in volunteering to help staff the booth to please contact her.

AHDRA/UMECRA promotion at the Midwest Horse Fair: Katie moved that AHDRA contribute \$100 to cover electrical costs for the booth to promote UMECRA, DRAW and AHDRA. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Additional discussion on promotion: Jen noted that Keith Kibler, who promotes the use of gaited horses in distance riding, is considering holding a mock ride in Southern Illinois and may appreciate assistance from AHDRA members.

The use of Novice rides to promote entry into distance riding was discussed. Sara Maass highlighted the effectiveness of using Facebook to advertise and promote these Novice rides.

Awards: Lori noted that AHDRA has plenty of completion awards for next year and, although there is a variety of placing awards in terms of buckets and grain scoops, she believes there are also enough of these to get through this upcoming season of AHDRA rides. Donations are secured for the BC and Highpoint awards for My Backyard Ride and Big River, and there may be some available for Endure this year. Lori will be

looking at the trophy collection JoAnne Gernant is willing to donate for possible use as BC and Highpoint awards.

AHDRA as a non-profit and tax exempt entity: Chris noted that after lapsing status in Iowa, AHDRA was re-established in Illinois as a non-profit entity.

Wes reported that he was not able to talk with his attorney, but he did some research on what would be required for AHDRA to be a tax exempt entity. He discussed the complexities and difficulties in achieving this status. It was noted that Teresa reported that UMECRA found pursuing tax exempt status to be expensive and complex. There appeared to be consensus to not pursue tax exempt status for AHDRA any further at this time.

Insurance: Jen noted the need for insurance coverage for mock rides and clinics. This can be purchased through UMECRA.

New Business

Membership incentives: Katie stated she is willing to continue to arrange for the printing of the AHDRA brochure, but would like for it to look more professional. Joyce recommended the services of Vista print as being very good in this regard. Marge Dixon is planning on handing out AHDRA brochures at AHA events. Jen stated she will coordinate brochure development with Katie and Marge.

New AHDRA Ride out of Illinois: Jen reported that some members have discussed developing an AHDRA ride outside of Illinois as a means of promoting expanded membership. No one has yet volunteered to manage such a ride at this time.

AHA National and Regional: Tony attended the AHA National Convention, with AHDRA paying his delegate fee of \$225 and Tony covering his travel, lodging and other expenses.

Joyce moved that AHDRA support up to two delegates to attend this year's AHA Convention at up to \$300 each. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Rule Changes:

Board rotation: Last year the membership voted in favor of staggered terms for Board members. This year the following language change for the By Laws was offered, with deletions indicated by strikethroughs and additions by underline:

The board of directors shall consist of at least seven (7) individuals: three officers (the president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer) and at least four at-large directors. ~~The term of each director shall be one year.~~ The President and at least two at-large directors shall be elected to two year terms in even numbered years.

and the Vice President, Secretary/Treasure and at least two at-large directors shall be elected to two year terms in odd numbered years (for 2015 the term of the President and two-at-large directors will be for one year). Directors shall receive no compensation. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the president and the appointee shall serve for the remaining term of the vacated position.

Wes moved that this change in AHDRA's By Laws be approved. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Helmet rule: In last year's meeting the membership voted to require all riders to wear helmets when competing in AHDRA sponsored rides. Jen suggested a new section be added to AHDRA rules:

3. AHDRA Rides

3.1 Helmets shall be required for all riders and drivers competing in rides sponsored by AHDRA.

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. Jen provided the listing of AHA approved competitive trail ride organizations as well as a table prepared by Dr. Maureen Fehr detailing the differences in the rules of these organizations. After some discussion, Chris moved that this issue be tabled and that AHDRA members be encouraged to discuss and gauge the level of interest by members of other organizations in this matter as well as discuss the issue amongst AHDRA members. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Junior Champion and Reserve Champion: The membership was asked if it wished to provide Champion and Reserve Champion awards for juniors. Joyce noted that this is not done by AHA and moved that no change be made. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Drive Division: The membership was asked if it was interested in offering AHDRA awards for a drive division. Linda Mowrer moved that a division for driving awards be implemented for a one year trial purpose, that it would be a single division (not two, one for purebred and one for part bred) and that all horse must be AHA registered. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Elections

Jen Allen was nominated by Roberta for a one year term as President and the motion was seconded. The membership approved Jen as President by unanimous voice vote.

Robin Schadt was nominated by Roberta for a two year term as Vice-president and the motion was seconded. The membership approved Robin as Vice-president by unanimous voice vote.

Mo Miller was nominated by Linda for a two year term as Secretary/Treasurer and the motion was seconded and approved by the membership by unanimous voice vote.

For two positions for a two year term as AHDRA At-Large Director Marty nominated Jim and Roberta was nominated by Linda. Both motions were seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote by the membership.

For two positions for a one year term as AHDRA At-Large Director Barb nominated Katie, Josh was nominated by Linda, and Tony nominated Joyce. Joyce declined the nomination. The remaining two motions were seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote by the membership.

AHA Delegates: Marty moved that the term of elected AHA delegates from AHDRA remain at one year. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Marty nominated Joyce as AHDRA's AHA delegate and Linda nominated Tony. Both nominations were seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote by the membership.

Announcements and future meetings

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

Due to time constraints, Jen state she would seek a volunteer to chair the program committee for planning the AHDRA program for next year's convention.

At 9:45 am it was moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded and approved.