

Arabian Horse Distance Riding Association (AHDRA)

Minutes of the January 24, 2016 Meeting
Wintergreen Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

President:	Jen Allen
Vice-President	Robin Schadt
Secretary/Treasurer	Mo Miller
Directors:	Jim Andriakos
	Katie Bachhuber
	Roberta Harms
	Josh Mowrer
AHA Delegates:	Tony Troyer
	Joyce Mocilan

Attendees:

President:	Jen Allen
Secretary/Treasurer	Mo Miller
Directors:	Jim Andriakos
	Katie Bachhuber
	Roberta Harms
	Josh Mowrer
AHA Delegate	Tony Troyer

Members and guests:

Max Bernsdorf	Sarah Maass	Sarah Mowrer
Ruth Casserly	Nicole Mauser-Storer	Chris Power
Tim Casserly	Diane Merz	Marty Power
Marge Dixon	Linda Miller	Victoria Robison
Wes Elford, DVM	Aaron Mowrer	Bev Sprecht
Barb Gardner	Linda Mowrer	Lori Windows
Dana Gasner		

President Jen Allen called the meeting to order at 7:10 am. Members and guests were asked to sign the attendance sheet for the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 18, 2015 Membership Meeting were distributed for approval. The following needed corrections were noted:

- Under Old Business, Insurance: Jen ~~noted~~ noted....
 - Under New Business, Membership incentives: ~~Katie~~ Jim stated....
 - Under New Business, New AHDRA Ride out of Illinois: ...developing and ADHRA ride outside of Illinois....
- Ruth moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected, the motion was seconded and the membership approved acceptance of the corrected minutes.

Reports

Financial: Mo Miller presented the financial report for 2014.

Mo began by thanking all volunteers who donated time and efforts to make the AHDRA rides successful, along with those who donated placing and completion awards, pizza donated by Bureau Valley Vet Clinic for the potluck at My Backyard Ride and the hog for the Saturday dinner at Endure donated by Rudolphi Veterinary Clinic.

Mo noted that the completion and placing awards for 2015 were either donated or purchased in prior years, with the only awards purchased by AHDRA in 2015 being the year end awards and gift cards for the “Triple Crown Award.”

Mo distributed a financial report showing income and expenses for the year. As of December 31, 2014, AHDRA had total assets of \$14,624.42 (+\$250.02 from last year) consisting of \$5,146.10 in its checking account, \$1,150.10 in its savings account, and \$8,328.22 in four laddered 12 month CDs of approximately \$2,100 each. Total expenses for AHDRA in 2015 were \$4,553.58.

Totaling 212 entries, the three rides sponsored by AHDRA garnered \$2,165.04, which combined with membership dues served to cover AHDRA’s expenses.

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

AHDRA Rides:

# of entries	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
MBYR	98	49	56	67	57	42
Endure	143	144	117	115	100	106
Zumbro	32	36	69	47	NA	NA

# of entries	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Big River or AHA Nationals	96	100	84	111 (AHA Nationals)	60	64
Total	369	329	326	340	217	212

Marty reported that there is already one new sponsor for the t-shirts for 2016, and she encouraged members to recruit additional sponsors as this is a source of fundraising for AHDRA. Endure will have two new events for 2016: a 75 mile endurance ride on Saturday and a 6 mile novice drive event on Sunday. Marty noted that since 2013 Endure has been held at the Jim Edgar Fish and Wildlife Area that has additional amenities, and this site will also be used again in 2016. The ride will be held the weekend after Memorial Day in 2016. Marty asked for feedback on the Saturday night catered dinner; the group recommended keeping the catered dinner.

Lori noted that the My Backyard Ride was scheduled against Grand Island North last year, but this will not happen in 2016, which may help boost ride attendance.

For the Big River Ride when one of the ride managers could not participate, Jim, Nicole, Tony and Marge pitched in to manage the ride. They changed the trails this past year to further minimize riding in deep sand, and are considering additional trail changes to avoid the deep sand.

AHA Representative Report: AHDRA is entitled to 2 delegates to the AHA National Convention in Denver, CO, and Tony attended in 2015. AHDRA will pay \$300 per delegate to help defray the costs of attending the AHA National Convention; anyone interested in attending as AHDRA's delegate should contact the AHDRA president.

Tony reported that the Distance Committee had a quorum at the Convention and were able to pass some items. The Committee is working on clarification of achievement awards and rules (e.g., use of boots for competitive trail events using UMECRA's definition of foot protection). AHA Distance Nationals will be held outside of Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2016, with Competitive Trail being held Thursday and Friday, the 50 mile Endurance on Saturday and the 100 mile Endurance on Sunday.

There has been no progress on AHA recognizing AHDRA as a "speciality club" rather than a Region 11 local AHA club (UMECRA covers three or more AHA regions) to facilitate individuals joining AHDRA from outside of Region 11.

For AHA Sweepstakes only regional and national championship rides will qualify for points, although local rides will still count towards AHA achievement awards.

Tony reported that he investigated the AHA Horsemen's Distress Fund and learned that its availability was not limited to professional horsemen only, and, thus, Tony was able to get this assistance for Guy Worthington. Tony suggested AHDRA consider making a donation to this fund in the future.

Old Business

AHDRA/UMECRA promotion at the Illinois Horse Fair: Nicole reported that although a UMECRA/AHDRA booth was done last year, this year we will do a sponsorship, which consists of an 1/8 page ad in the program, promotional banner/signage displayed during sponsored program and daily grounds-wide public announcements. UMECRA has committed \$250 to this sponsorship and Marty moved that AHDRA also contribute \$250; the motion was seconded and approved.

AHDRA/UMECRA promotion at the Midwest Horse Fair: Katie reported that last year the booth had several banners in limited space. They had lots of traffic by the booth last year but this year will be in an even better location. Roberta moved that AHDRA contribute \$100 to cover costs for an AHDRA banner along with UMECRA and DRAW. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership. Additional AHDRA brochures will be needed for the booth this year.

Awards: Lori noted that AHDRA has plenty of completion awards for next year. For the placing awards of buckets and grain scoops there are enough of these for 4th through 6th placings but additional awards will need to be purchased for placings 1st through 3rd. Lori proposed purchasing colored lead ropes for these placing awards to get through this upcoming season of AHDRA rides. Generous donations from Nutramax Cosequin will again be available this year, and Lori noted that there will be enough BC and High Point Awards for all three AHDRA rides this year.

New Business

Sponsorship of AHA National Distance Ride: Tony stated that AHA is looking for sponsorships. Katie moved that AHDRA pay \$250 for a logo on the welcome bag for competitors, and if this option is not available sponsor one of the vet checks. The motion was seconded and approved.

Membership promotion: AHDRA membership has declined slightly in the last few years and the group discussed ideas for promoting AHDRA membership:

- Marge recommended submitting and "advertorial" for AERC's Endurance News;
- Marty recommended advertising in the materials of other distance riding organizations (ECTRA, SEDRA, DBDR, PNER, etc.);
- Jim recommended focusing on recruiting more UMECRA members and to more fully articulate and possibly expand the purpose of AHDRA;
- Ruth recommended doing an article for the UMECRA newsletter explaining that all distance ride events count toward AHDRA points and year-end awards, not just AHDRA rides.

The group discussed establishing a promotion/advertising budget. Marge moved that an advertising/promotion budget of \$2,000 be established to cover promotions at horse fairs, advertising, brochures, etc. The motion was seconded and approved by the group. Chris moved that Marge be designated with authority to spend these funds for promotional purposes, and the motion was seconded and approved.

AHDRA Points for Competitive Trail Events: Although in promoting AHDRA membership it was recommended to focus first on endurance and limited distance events, Jen noted that there have been problems and misunderstandings already with AHDRA's rule for Competitive Trail, which states that the ride must be sanctioned by UMECRA. This introduces a disadvantage for any AHDRA member completing in competitive trail events not sanctioned by UMECRA (such as ECTRA, OATTS, NATRC, etc.). Although this issue has been discussed previously, no significant progress on resolution has been made. Chris volunteered to draft a document describing the issue and possible options and the advantages and disadvantages.

AHDRA Ride Outside of Illinois: Jen reported that Roxi is willing to mark the trail for an AHDRA sponsored Bushy Creek ride, but is not willing to manage it. Members can consider this an option if anyone is interested.

AHDRA Sponsored Ride: Since all three of the AHDRA rides are currently held in Illinois, Sarah suggested having AHDRA sponsor rides in various states on a rotational basis. Sarah volunteered to lead a committee that would further explore this suggestion, consisting of Victoria for Minnesota and Katie and Barb for Wisconsin. Sarah will contact Barb Kurti for representation from Michigan.

Rule Changes: Last year the membership approved a driving division for a one year trial period. After some discussion, it was agreed to suspend this trial of a driving division for the time being

An issue arose at the Big River ride this year where an individual initially considered in the lightweight division declared as a heavyweight when the results and placings were being calculated. This led Jim to recommend that perhaps all individuals who are not clearly heavyweights (e.g., by body weight alone) be asked to weigh with their tack at all AHDRA rides. It was noted that this would be an issue only for riders who are not members of AERC. Discussion noted the importance of having a rider declare their weight division on the entry form.

Catered Meals at AHDRA Rides: Jen asked if the group wished to consider increasing the ride fees and having a meal catered at every AHDRA ride. After discussion the membership agreed to allow this to remain the prerogative of the ride managers.

Strategic Plan for AHDRA: Jen suggested that AHDRA consider development of a strategic plan. After some discussion the membership considered the initial steps toward this would include the following:

- Year One:
 - Consider the issue of AHDRA points for competitive trail events sanctioned by organizations other than UMECRA;
 - Explore the suggestion of AHDRA sponsoring rides in other states on a rotating basis;
 - Execute the implementation of an advertising budget for the promotion of AHDRA.
- Year Two:
 - Finalize a decision on AHDRA points for competitive trail events sanctioned by other organizations;
 - Determine AHDRA's contribution and role relative to the AHA Horseman's Distress Fund.

Elections

Jim was nominated by Katie for a two year term as President and the motion was seconded. Marge was nominated by Max for a two year term as President and the motion was seconded. The membership voted and approved Jim as President.

Robin Schadt will continue to serve her second year as Vice-president.

Mo Miller will continue to serve his second year as Secretary/Treasurer.

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

For a one year term as AHDRA At-Large Director to replace Jim (who was elected as President) Marty nominated Victoria, the nomination was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote by the membership.

Linda nominated Tony as AHDRA's AHA delegate; the nomination was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote by the membership. Tony noted the AHA Region 11 meeting will be February 6th. A second AHA delegate position remains open for an interested member.

Marty moved that AHDRA contribute \$300 to each AHA AHDRA delegate attending the AHA convention to help defray their cost of attendance. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Announcements and future meetings

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

At 9:56 am it was moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded and approved.