

- Jim called the meeting to order at 7:10
 - Discussed the best way to get ahold of him
- Went over 2016 minutes;
 - Bev Specht's name spelled wrong
 - Diane Merz's name spelled wrong
 - Max Bernsdorf's name spelled wrong
 - Ruth Casserly made motion to accept minutes
 - Sarah Mowrer seconded
 - Motion passed
- Treasurer's report
 - Noted – no copy of the check register
 - Bank only sent a draft of income and expenses and will be better detailed at 2018 meeting
 - "2016 AHDRA Expenses" – by Mo. Very few expenses outside of rides.
 - \$225 x 2 to attend AHA convention (fee)
 - Region 11 repaid AHDRA for sending two delegates
 - Tony - \$500 deposited from Region 11 because "they like Tony" ;) For being a club in their region and supporting the Region (we put on qualifying rides to allow people to go to Nationals; and Reg 11 show made good money)
 - Savings account \$1150
 - Total as of Dec 1, 2016
 - One CD has a total of \$0.00
 - Note attendance at each ride
 - Breakdown for each ride
 - Linda Mowrer made motion to accept report
 - Roberta Harms seconded
 - Corrected "Maureen" on Big River report
 - Motion to amended report – Ruth Casserly
 - Roberta seconded
 - Motion passed
- CD S44 – coming due; cashed out to have capitol to work with. Will probably have to do this again with another CD
 - Checking account as of Jan 1 – about \$4500; paid for 2017 awards = about \$2000; As of Thursday night – about \$3000 in checking account (usable working fund)
 - Convention – Friday night room, room for Sunday meeting, appetizers, screen, microphone = \$1598 (going to double check with Jill Feller – paid for audio/visual for the weekend through UMECRA?)
 - Down to about \$14-1500 in check book

- Reason – the rides, low attendance
- 2016 rides in finances –
 - Endure usually has better attendance and don't know why it was lower.
 - Total ride numbers are lower
 - MBY – has continually gone down each year
 - Big River – significant profit; ride numbers going up; changed trail a bit
 - Need to note that money does not come from memberships – we almost lose money due to getting money back for membership. Money comes from the rides
- Jim thanked Nicole Mauser-Storer for all her work in AHDRA and UMECRA; managing two rides, all the points and website work
- Endure (Nicole) – took over Endure with Robin Schadt; vets are lined up; took 75 out; still trying to get ahold of Chef Bell to attend; Chef Bell potluck only works if Rudolphi's donate the meat.
 - Ideas on catered meal: cost comes out about even with donations (as long as hog is donated); 2016 - \$723 for catered meal; many people don't donate, though; is a perk of the ride
 - Katie Bacchuber - Northern Highland; fire department raised money through catering meals and did dinner. However, Chef Bell is there throughout the day
 - Chef Bell said he was disappointed in the amount of food he sold
 - Maybe look into better options?
 - Robin mentioned previously – the park is in the middle of nowhere; that much less volunteer food you have to account for
 - As a group – authorizing a better option, more economical option, or continue with Chef Bell. Maybe look into a local FD
 - Good trail, but not a lot around it.
 - Do they need to move the location
 - How do we feel about ride fees?
 - Discussion about is it ok for AHDRA to want to change a location or is it up to the RM's? RM's are given a lot of liberties, but they are still under the auspices of AHDRA. There are many behind the scenes things that member's don't know about. There has been discussion to move Big River but it works at that location and decided to promote it as a "party" instead of the trail. Endure is a more competitive ride; MBY is one of the nicest trails around, but Wes has to work twice as hard at MBY. We do talk about what would be best for the ride and the organization.
 - Joe Mattingley has approached Jim to have a ride back up at Scales Mound/Galena. Joe runs the riding center; he designed a paddock to park

trailers. No electricity, water is hard to get there (need big tank), people who run equestrian center haven't decided what to charge.

- Closing – check out different options for food; entertain options for different locations. Note about moving – too many rides in a central area, you don't get the outlying or new people. Getting to a ride out of the normal corridor might bring in different or new people.
- My Back Yard – it was HOT!
 - Control start having everybody start at one time – Jen liked it to helped bottle necking on trail; Wes thought it was ok.
 - Lower attendance due to heat and camping.
 - Has moving the ride date changed things?
 - Don't want to change back to May because of rain and damage to trails
 - Our pampered group still used to better camping, though Endless Valley continues to grow
 - Moving water to other side kept the roadway from getting so wet.
 - All the fees the same for all the rides – keep the fees the same
 - Break down for Mo – camping fees from ride expenses
 - Ruth had found the averages from about 15 rides do determine Iron Oak ride fees – seem to be right on average
- Big River – numbers are up
 - Changed trail a bit
 - Dropped from 55 to 50 and 30 to 25
 - Campground looks forward to having us every year; Tony has helped developed with relationship with IDNR, park, fire department
 - Farmer not happy with people using part of the field out on trail
 - 25's are not going south, just go north
 - Short first loop for 50's; went out right at daybreak
 - Adding to costume party – dress up you get preferential treatment in food line!
 - Adding a poker run aspect
 - Few other ideas/tricks/surprises brewing
 - TENS units – somebody was supposed to come out help with them; will get more for next year; can get discount if you want one
 - Marge – Boy scout group might come in as a sort of fundraiser? Maybe 4-H, volunteer FD, girl scouts, etc.
 - Max – ride up north; boy scout troop came in and for so much money they'd clean your stall for the weekend.
- AHA Delegates – voted on every year
 - Number allowed might change next year.
 - Membership done on a certain day and they changed their structure

- Tony – Not a whole lot to vote on at AHA convention. Had some input with the Distance Committee and Distance Nationals; rule changes. Region 11 helped us “make” \$350 because of how much money they gave back to us. Money comes from Regional show.
- Jim – first time going. “It’s terrible” ;) Met a lot of people, had a lot of fun. Within 2 hours of being there every time he was standing still somebody came up and talked about endurance. Going to me doing 2 seminars for clubs in Illinois. Very well received. Region is phenomenal and we should do more for them. Treats us really well.
- Going to the Regional meetings – they support us financially and emotionally. Regional show in St Louis this year – would like, as a club, to sponsor the region show with a banner and some kind of sponsorship. Would like to supply volunteers. We don’t fit the show profile. Open gates, take registration, being around horses. Don’t have dates yet. Just before the 4th of July? Region 11 show is one of the bigger Regional shows – people come from other areas.
- October 6-8 AHA Distance Nationals, Steph Teeter’s place in Idaho; 2018 – some place around Old Dominion; 2019 – maybe Oklahoma
- Awards –
 - Completion awards – don’t know amounts; will have to order something this year?
 - Barry Saylor – River Bottom Equestrians; trail hankies has been around \$1.90-1.95 plus setup
- Illinois horse Fair (passing for now)
- Non-IL rides
 - Victoria tried to get us a ride up in Minnesota; Jim went up to MN Horse Fair to talk with them; whole thing got confused. A 1/3 of members from MN and think we should still try to support this area. Jim talked to Barry over the weekend – Pt Chaser, Barry talked to RM’s, and we won’t manage or fund the ride, but on their ride flyer, we’ll authorize any AHDRA member the same point allotment as for riding one of our AHDRA sponsored rides. Don’t have 100% commitment, but would like to pursue it.
 - Votes – someone to propose that we allow Pt Chaser to give 150% of the points earned for 2017 only.
 - Sarah Mowrer – motioned
 - Barry Saylor – seconded
 - Wes – What’s in it for the club – would allow “fringe” members the benefit of the points; maybe we can get more members, open the door for dialogue. Point for

having an AHDRA ride has a benefit. This seems to just be giving away points. Taking away from giving the perk to existing AHDRA sponsored rides. Even if they get more memberships, that's not where we make money. Out of area people – CO and CA – are still doing really well and they're not getting the extra points. See this as an alternative to starting from scratch.

- With the rules – would this be a change, trial, or what? This is something that would have to be an amendment and voted on each year.
- Impact on Triple Crown award – none
- Any RMs looking to stop managing? Bob and Holly might be handing over management in the next couple years.
- Point Chaser – conflict with Big River; Jim looks to see what is best for the group and not each ride. We don't get a lot of MN people down to BR. MN does have about 1/3 of our membership. We are giving points to those who are only AHDRA members and benefiting those riders, giving back to them.
- Sarah Maass – It would give AHDRA a presence in MN and starts the ball rolling to knowing more about AHDRA in this area.
- Passed for 2017 only – to be reviewed at 2018 meeting
- At this ride – would like to give purebred and partbred placing awards to AHDRA members. Has to be an AHDRA member. Wouldn't be separated by Purebred and Partbred, lightweight or heavyweight, Jr/Sr etc. – would be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd overall. Would be given to AHDRA-member placing, even if they placed last. Would create more work for RM/Barry.
 - Which rides to give them in
 - 2 50's, 2 comps, 2 LDs
 - Linda Mowrer – 1, 2, 3rd place for 50s, LDs, and comp regardless of division or age for first year
 - Barb Gardner seconded
 - Passed
- Strategic planning – 1 yr plan

- Didn't do a lot
 - Website is a disaster
 - New Ride Committee
- 2 yr plan
 - Incorporating NATRC?
 - Linda Mowrer motioned to table discussion
 - Barry Seconded
 - Passed
- Sponsorship for AHA Nationals
 - Last year we sponsored a vet check area
 - It's getting bigger/better
 - Last year incorporated Appy distance championship
 - Morgans and Paso Finos have been included
 - Considering the current finances, should we sponsor? There is a \$250 "vet check" sponsorship
 - Motion to sponsor the AHA National Championship for \$250 – no motion so dies
- Sponsorship for Region 11 Show Championship
 - Several levels of sponsorship, would cut us a break since we are a local club even if we don't come to help.
 - Do we want to seek out opportunities?
 - Tony motioned to spend up to \$250 on Region 11 Show and be voted on by executive board
 - Ruth seconded
 - Passed
- Illinois Horse Fair
 - Should we support the fair? Have done booth, demos, announcement through show
 - Presented to UMECRA and AHDRA to supply \$250 each
 - This year, everything is down by the small arena
 - No motion to fund
 - Nicole would like ideas for good presentations to keep things new and fresh
- AHDRA-sponsored travel ride
 - A ride for the club away from the existing ride area
 - Awareness of the club – if somebody is going out of the area?
 - Many people are going to Shamrock ride in Utah
- New Business
 - AHDRA-sponsored team for AERC Nationals – Colorado (south-central)

- Website – disaster; Jim has been working on it
 - Nicole – proposal for her to do some cleanup? Can talk about who wants to maintain it from there.
- Elections:
 - Vice President
 - Tony Nominated Marge Dixon
 - Barry Seconded
 - No other nominations
 - Marge Dixon = VP
 - Secretary/Treasurer
 - Linda Mowrer nominated M
 - Barb seconded
 - Mo accepted
 - No other nominations
 - Mo Miller is S/T
 - Board Member 1 and 2 for 2-yr term (Victoria Robison):
 - Barry Nominated Victoria
 - Sarah seconded
 - Victoria accepted
 - Ruth nominated Roberta
 - Barb seconded
 - Roberta accepted
 - No other nominations
 - Roberta and Victoria are now our 2-yr board members
 - Board Member – fill 1-yr term from Marge
 - Marge nominated Jen Allen
 - Ruth seconded
 - Jen accepted
 - No other nominations
 - Jen is our 1-yr board member
 - AHA Delegate – primary delegate
 - Linda Mowrer nominated Tony
 - Roberta seconded
 - Tony accepted
 - No other nominations
 - Tony nominated Jim
 - Sherry seconded
 - No other nominations
 - Jim is 2nd/alternate delegate

- If there are more delegates allowed, the board will decide who to send.
- Jim will try to send out minutes to all AHDRA members via email asap.
 - Would like to reiterate to make the rides fun and engaging
 - Anything else to bring up?
 - Marge – Friday night potluck at rides. Always been lots of fun.
 - Let's utilize FB for that to see how we can get it to work
- Tony motioned to adjourn
- Sara seconded
- Meeting adjourned at 9:10