

Board Meeting

November 19, 2009 at 6 PM Pacific Daylight Time

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Present at meeting: Don Betts, Steve Anderson, Ted Ruprecht, Mary Tiscornia, Ben Volk, Lani Newcomb, Jim Steere, Rufus Schneider, Melanie Weir, Sarah Howard

Absent: Greg Fellers, George Hall

Reports

President's Report – Don Betts

We need to change the address from the P.O. Box in Sequim, WA since Lisa Preston is no longer handling the mail.

The November newsletters were mailed.

Don and Melanie will reintroduce the budgeting process for 2010. The first budget will be drafted for the March board meeting.

Vet School Scholarship.

The Association will implement a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to the “winningest” vet school. This will be determined by the lowest average of the finishing place of the first man/man man/woman and woman/woman team from each school. If a school does not have three full teams entered, qualified individual participants from their school will count until the school has 3 men and 3 women total. In the event of a tie the highest finishing completion team will determine the winning school; if there is not a complete team, then the highest, second highest, or third highest finishing individual.

Veterinarians, vet students, vet faculty are eligible to compete for their schools.

Vice President's Report – Melanie Weir

New Horse Hall of Fame Page:

Five nominations received so far for the Horse of Distinction award. The web has been set up with a Horse Hall of Fame page. The plan is to add photographs but so far have not been able to obtain them. Mary Tiscornia confirmed that Willie is the recipient of the 2010 Horse Hall of Fame Award.

Web Statistics:

We now have a standing process to review web statistics such as the number of “hits” or unique visitors that come to the site. Currently about 1,500 unique visitors come to the site each month.

Membership Proposal:

A proposal was made by Melanie Weir to move the management of the membership to the website. The proposal was sent out to the Board via e-mail just prior to today's board meeting. The initial costs to build the database and implement the new procedures is \$1,150-\$1,450. Benefits to the Association include more secure data and more efficient processes.

Board members expressed that the information was of a more technical nature and did not feel confident in assessing whether we should proceed or not.

A question was posed regarding how much money this project would save. The only definitive dollar savings that can be attributed is for postage of approximately \$500 per year. This is a result of cleaning up the data and making it consistent in order to use bulk/non-profit rate. The new procedures will begin to streamline our procedures and make the Association more efficient, but applying a dollar value to this when most of the efforts are from volunteers is difficult. In addition, putting a dollar value on improving data security is difficult. Therefore, completing a traditional cost benefit analysis is not easy to do.

Don Betts pointed out that the sooner we can move on this the better given that renewals will be happening very shortly.

Eliminating the administrative position frees up \$4,800 to cover the costs.

Lani Newcomb motioned to have the Board review the proposal sent out by Melanie and vote on whether to approve the expenditure by November 30, 2009. Jim Steer seconded the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

Promotions – Ben Volk

Working with several event calendars to list 2010 Championship in Mt. Adams: Trail Runner, NW Runner, AERC (Don said they would likely not list our races but maybe they would include a link to our website or already included), Purple Sage Riders, Active.com, Running Times (Rachel Toor contact), Arab Horse Magazine, Competitor Magazine.

Contacting media in Trout Lake, Hood River, Yakima, Tri-Cities and areas near to Mt. Adams including radio and television.

Plan to stage a local practice, contact AERC and see if we can hold a R&T at their event in Moses Lake scheduled for April 2010.

Encouraging friends and family from 4-H, Pony Club, Quarter Horse Club, Washington State Equestrian Team, Purple Sage Riders, and others to try Ride and Tie.

Speaking at local venues when possible, including REI

Don reported also that he and Annie will be having a booth at the PNER – Pacific Northwest Endurance Riders – convention in January.

Sanctioning - Lani Newcomb

We cannot use the AERC insurance any longer. We must now use the Ride and Tie Association Insurance. It is very inexpensive. Costs \$10 per team plus \$20 for any insured over the first one (The Association covers the first insured).

Several discussions have been held about how to best handle these insurance costs, including having the association pick up the full costs, and having each race director calculate the costs. There is a lot of work to do it on a per race basis. Another option was to charge a flat \$100 sanctioning fee per race, to be paid by the race director in advance, to cover the costs. If the race cancels, then we can process a refund.

Ted posed the question on whether the insurance covers multiple days? Yes, it does.

Ted made a motion to approve the \$100 sanctioning fee to the Association to cover insurance costs. Jim Steere seconded the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

Future Race Sites – George Hall

No Report

Achievements/Special Awards – Ted Ruprecht

Ted has expressed some concerns about year-end awards and drafted a proposal. Will send to Don Betts and discuss at the March meeting.

Statistics – Steve Anderson

Here are the year-to-date race stats compared to 2007:

10/31/2009	10/31/2007
226 members	189 members
401 entries	379 entries
22 M/M	31 M/M
56 W/M	53 W/M
72 W/W	49 W/W

Treasurer's Report – Steve Anderson

Balances as of 10/31/2009:

Dodge/Cox	\$46,138
Wells Fargo	\$18,784
PayPal	\$139
Coast Central CU	\$31,000

Steve will follow-up with John Osterweis regarding the Coast Central Credit Union funds.

Hall of Fame – Mary Tiscornia

See Vice President's Report

Head Veterinarian – Greg Fellers

No report.

Youth Representative Report – Sarah Howard

Suggested invite on FaceBook to 2010 Championship.

Ted offered the idea of going back through the newsletters see who the youth participants are. See if we can find about 10 young persons who begin to talk up 2010 40th Anniversary tell them to invite all the people who are runners and horse friends.

Old Business:

Report from Committee for Future Ride & Tie Association Funding

Current members Don Betts, Steve Anderson, Don Strong, Rufus Schneider, and Melanie Weir

Don Strong made a motion to establish this as a permanent committee. Ted Ruprecht seconded the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

New Business

1. Eliminate the paid services of Administrative Director - Don Betts

Since the administrative director left we now plan to eliminate this position and have volunteers cover the functions.

Our by-laws require that we have a Chief Executive Officer and Lisa Preston was holding that position previously.

Lani Newcomb made a motion to eliminate position of Administrative Director. Ted Ruprecht seconded the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

Lani Newcomb nominated Melanie Weir become Chief Executive Officer. Don Strong seconded the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

2. Establish a \$100 ride & tie sanctioning fee and eliminate all charges for insurance - Don Betts

See Sanctioning Director's Report

3. Eliminate certain administrative tasks - Don Betts/Melanie Weir
 - A. Eliminate Voucher coupons
 - B. Eliminate Membership cards
 - C. Eliminate Pro-Am awards

To simplify and stream line our processes and reduce administrative burden there is a proposal to eliminate vouchers, membership cards and pro-am awards. The vouchers did not increase Championship participation. Membership cards are not used by members

and the pro-am awards have actually not been presented in two years (note, this does NOT refer to the Championship Pro-Am award – this will still exist).

Ben Volk made a motion to eliminate the three identified administrative tasks. Lani Newcomb seconded the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

4. Approve having a booth at the Equine Affaire in Pomona - Melanie Weir

Melanie reported on the results of the Equine Affaire booth this year. Total costs were \$953. We also raffled four memberships. The objective was to increase membership. Four members became active as a result (two from the raffled memberships and two others).

The discussion concerned whether it is worth spending the money to do these kinds of events. Should the Association expect to obtain membership directly from the event or should we figure this more as costs to create exposure for the sport? It was generally felt that we need the exposure even if membership does not immediately materialize from the effort.

Melanie Weir made a motion to have a booth at the Equine Affaire in Pomona. Mary Tiscornia seconded the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

5. Re-affirm Lifetime Membership for Lisa Preston.

Don Betts proposed that even though Lisa Preston quit that the Association honor the lifetime membership that was granted.

Lani Newcomb moved to reaffirm the lifetime membership for Lisa Preston. Jim Steere seconded the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

6. Race Director Stipend

Don expressed concern that after 2010 there is no funding mechanism for paying the championship race director. He felt it would be good for George Hall to be able to say for certain that this stipend will be available to the race director for 2011.

Ted Ruprecht made a motion to ensure \$1,000 race director stipend be included a regular item in Ride and Tie Association budget. Jim Steere seconded the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm