

NATRC National BOD Minutes July 10, 2021, via Zoom Webinar

CALL TO ORDER by President Angie Meroshnekoff, 9:02 a.m. July 10, 2021.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich, Bob Insko, Lory Walls, Cathy Cumberworth, R3 Alternate, Laurie DiNatale, Elaine Swiss, Kim Murphy, Esther Diaguila, Kris Gray (dismissed at 10:08 a.m.), Marla Stucky, John Zeliff and Sarah J. Smith (Rinne), Executive Director. Also attending: Patsy Conner, Sanction Chair, Donna Stidolph, R1 Alternate, Sallie Kudra, R5 Alternate (assumed R5 voting duties at 10:08 a.m.) and Ruth Mesimer, Honorary and Appreciation Chair.

MINUTES. February 13, 2021. **Motion by Walls, second by Diaguila to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Meroshnekoff. Welcomed Ruth Mesimer aboard for taking on Andrea Rogers' job in the data role at the end of the 2021 season.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Smith. Membership numbers are up by 150 from July 2020 to July 2021. A lot of credit is given to the work of John Zeliff and the membership committee.

Database/Website – Andrea Rogers has made it official she is resigning her position as data and website chair at the end of the season. We can't thank her enough for all she has done over the years for us! We are pleased to announce that we are bringing Ruth Mesimer onto our team to take her place and are beginning her training.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Gray reviewed the financials. Membership and sanctioning fees are up which is good. We look decent financially right now.

BY-LAWS & RULES. Dieterich brought up our need to develop a process for replacing an officer who leaves their position mid-term.

Rule Proposal – Make date for determination of junior age consistent. **Motion by Zeliff, second by DiNatale to approve. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Allow membership in multiple regions. **Motion by Walls, second by Diaguila to approve. Stucky and Zeliff opposed. Motion carried. Motion by Walls to make the secondary membership fee 50% of the respective competing membership fee (i.e. single, family, junior), second by Diaguila. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Correcting region definitions with the Canadian territories. **Motion by Walls, second by Murphy, motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Clarify limitations for Novice Division. **Motion by Murphy, second by Stucky to approve. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Lowering the age of Junior competitors. **Motion by Murphy, second by Zeliff to approve.** Affirmative votes Cumberworth, Swiss, Murphy, Kudra, Stucky and Zeliff. Opposed Dieterich, Insko, Walls, DiNatale, and Diaguila. Meroshnekoff voted opposed to create a tie vote. **Motion failed.**

Rule Proposal – Clarify leg protection allowed in DO and Leisure. **Motion by Dieterich, second by Walls to approve. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Allowing additional leg gear during stabling. **Motion by Insko, second by Kudra to approve. All opposed. Motion failed.**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES. Dieterich. There are no action items at this time.

PROTEST. Stucky. No protests.

PLANNED AND CHARITABLE GIVING. Swiss. No update.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN. Conner. Currently going through old newsletter and *Hoof Print* editions. Thank you to Dieterich for sending the materials. Region 5 is doing a memorial ride for Helene Pritchard this year at Kings Mountain, so Conner is gathering up historical information to share at the ride.

RIDE SANCTIONS. Conner. Report filed. Meroshnekoff had a comment in regards to an email thread. If a member of management also has to double as a Leisure Division Judge, is that something that needs to be approved by the Sanction Committee, or Judges Committee? What protocol should be put in place? The Judges Manuals currently state a judge may not serve in any other official position within a ride to prevent appearance of impartiality. Meroshnekoff suggested use of something similar to an emergency judge protocol. If the Sanction Committee notices these conflicts they will take it to the Judges Committee for decision.

CLINIC SANCTIONS. Linda Clayton. Report filed. Five clinics have been held to date with more on the calendar for the fall.

MANAGEMENT. Swiss. Big issues with weather, and often managers are leaving it up to riders. It really needs to be up to managers, and it should not be up to the "majority vote" because it is not keeping safety at the forefront. Ultimately, the safety of the equines and riders is on the manager. The next big issue is unruly riders and horses. Again, the ultimate responsibility and liability falls on the manager.

RULES INTERPRETER. Wingle. Report filed. No major accidents to date this year. Meroshnekoff is concerned about hold times at some of the rides. One was 47 minutes which is extreme. Swiss and Murphy were both at that ride and stated it was a miscommunication with instructions and shouldn't have happened.

INSURANCE. Smith. Rolling into Executive Director's report on future agendas.

MARKETING/SOCIAL MEDIA. Gray/LeeAnn Dreadfulwater/Jonni Jewell. Paid marketing is placed on hold. The committee is currently using the 60th year logo on everything to really promote our 60 years as an organization. LeeAnn's job is keeping her really busy, so the committee can use additional help with the graphics if anyone is interested.

BUSINESS MODEL & MEASUREMENTS. Gray. Report rolled into the financials.

SPONSORSHIPS. Shari Parys. No report.

MEDIA/HOOF PRINT ADVISORY. Dieterich. Dieterich still needs someone to assume the duties but has not found anyone to take it on.

RIDERS AND JUNIORS. Perryman. No report.

FOUNDATION. Conner. No changes for the Foundation. The annual meeting will be at the national convention in February.

NATIONAL DRUG TESTING. Murphy. The new customized panel is being utilized for the 2021 ride season.

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE. Dr. Tamara Gull. No report.

TRAIL ADVOCACY AND GRANTS. DiNatale. No applications.

EDUCATION. Dieterich. Working on updating clinic manuals. Region 6 had independently adapted the clinic manual. Rather than each region having their own version of a clinic manual, we'd like to have one national clinic manual, and Dieterich has been working to update and adapt one to create an overarching national clinic document, consistent and current. Paula Riley compiled an LeD clinic manual that was reviewed by Dieterich and Bev Roberts; it is ready to post.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT & RETENTION. Zelif. The committee started a shared Dropbox folder to pool membership resources and documents so each region member can pick and choose what works for them. Zelif is hoping to build that resource and share best practices amongst the regions.

JUDGES COMMITTEE. Walls. Report filed. Updated a lot of the documents. The committee recommended against approval of the proposal for standing leg wraps. The committee had a discussion regarding mileage towards LeD judge's qualifications. It was agreed that 250 of the 750 miles could be LeD mileage. There are three new veterinary judge prospects with applications submitted. The committee fielded an inquiry whether heart rate monitors could be used for P & R's checks, and it was determined that there was too much variance amongst units and that they could not. Walls shared a PowerPoint about LeD judging concerns and inconsistencies that need to be addressed. Dr. Keri Riddick, Judges Committee Co-Chair, joined the meeting and shared a PowerPoint on vet judging trends on horse cards and rider concerns.

HALL OF FAME. Smith. Meroshnekoff will be submitting a nomination for her horse in November.

STUDENT LOAN/SCHOLARSHIPS. Kay Gunckel. No new applications; however, previously approved recipient Hannah Steele just obtained her student ID, and Smith will get her scholarship payment submitted to the college.

BREED & ORGANIZATION LIASONS. Stucky. She will be working to send out emails to the breed organizations in November to request support for year-end national awards. A new breed has been added to NATRC and being competed in Region 2, the Mangalarga Marchador, a Brazilian gaited breed.

AHA. Insko. No update.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION. Mesimer. Report filed. Nomination dates were provided in the report. Make sure to submit the nominations on time.

TECHNOLOGY. Smith. Update provided in Executive Director report.

CONVENTION & NATIONAL AWARDS. 2022 convention is still planned for Omaha. February 25-27, 2022. Committee meeting regularly. The convention will be held at the Embassy Suites; everything will be on one floor, and the set-up is very good. We need to really promote our attendance.

REGIONAL REPORTS. R1 – Meroshnekoff – 2 rides, well attended. Clinic in April that was over attended and had to turn people away. Eel River had to cancel second day due to hot weather. Two more rides scheduled. R2 – Insko – only having LeD rides due to uncertainty with COVID at the beginning of the year. Some date changes are happening and one new ride. R3 – DiNatale – 7 rides on the schedule. Rider numbers are down but hoping that will improve. R4 – Swiss - Attendance is interesting. It is down but not worse than last fall - mostly Open riders which is interesting. 30-34 entries average. The core riders are coming, and new riders not starting. LeD is doing well. Nine rides this season for sure. Working to bring back more managers, that is R4's challenge. R5 – Diaguila – a bunch of new ride managers. Five rides completed so far; five more rides on the schedule. R6 – Stucky – two rides – third ride had to cancel due to heat. Four more A rides and one LeD ride. Rider counts are down. Prepping for national convention.

SHARED BOARD – No shared board.

OLD BUSINESS.

1. Status of Coreware – provided in Executive Director report.
2. Webinars. Wingle provided a report. Dieterich provided a brief update on some upcoming webinars, but July is to be determined.

NEW BUSINESS.

1. Dangerous Horse Policy. Meroshnekoff looked at various other organizations dangerous horse policies and combined it with suggestions contributed by Diaguila and Wingle to develop the draft policy shared with the board for discussion. We are to a point in our sport where we need a policy of this nature. Dieterich pointed out an article she shared with the board in Dropbox provided by Denise Farris about inherent risk and to differentiate between unruly (retrainable) and truly dangerous horses. We will continue to discuss the policy going forward.
2. Junior – age of 9. Ruth Mesimer asked what the board members think of having 9 years old compete?

Next monthly meeting will be August 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Next full board meeting will be November 13, 2021 via Zoom.

Motion by Walls to adjourn, second by Diaguila. Approved. Meeting adjourned.