

NATRC National BOD Minutes December 6, 2022 Zoom Monthly

CALL TO ORDER by President John Zelif, 6:30 p.m. CST December 6, 2022.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich, Bob Insko, Lory Walls, Cathy Cumberworth, Bill Wingle, Fran Muench, R4 Alternate Cara Liebman, Esther Diaguila, Kris Gray, R6 Alternate Margaret Reynolds, John Zelif and Executive Director Sarah J. Smith. Guests H & A Chair Ruth Mesimer and R1 Alternate Donna Stidolph attended.

HONORARY AND APPRECIATION AWARDS. Jim Menefee Lifetime Achievement Award, Workers Hall of Fame and National Appreciation Award recipients were announced to the board. **Motion by Wingle, second by Meroshnekoff to approve the regions' appreciation award nominees at the national level. Motion carried.**

VETERINARY PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE. Walls. Judges are being educated on the program. The video link is being provided to judges who are judging the early rides. The lead judges want to do a gradual roll out. Zelif has asked Dr. Porter and Dr. Riddick to attend our January board meeting to discuss the program status.

JUDGES. Zelif wanted to discuss continuing the coverage of Fan memberships for veterinary judges in 2023. The board is in favor; however, Gray stated it is best to go back to the regional boards before the January meeting to gain support and consensus first since they split the expense.

RIDE STATISTICS. Wingle addressed rider and ride statistics over the past several years. While ridership has somewhat stabilized, rides and ride venues are dropping. O/N/CP is very low, but LeD is looking good. Tracking trends. Reynolds asked what the implications are from the data. Wingle stated he likes to see that things are at least stabilizing, but it is hard to break even. LeD is accounting for over half of our entries, and we are going to have to focus more on that.

NATIONAL CONVENTION. Meroshnekoff provided an update. Morning speaker for Friday is a 2022 Mongol Derby competitor who will be giving a presentation on her experience. Tours are lined up for the afternoon for anyone interested. On Saturday there is a rider and judges round table and speakers; one will be on internal medicine. General membership meeting will be on Saturday and awards dinner Saturday evening. Board members will need to email flight itineraries to Meroshnekoff to help coordinate transportation to and from hotel/airport as an airport shuttle is not available. Registration should be available this week.

RAFFLE. Zelif reminded everyone to keep selling.

HOOF PRINT. Dieterich said the editorial team has been discussing the pros and cons of going to three issues as opposed to four.

BUDGET. Gray. The biggest items that are open on the budget are whether we need to increase rider fees and where we stand with *Hoof Print*. We need to figure out at what point we want to do that so we can notify ride managers accordingly. It was agreed a conservative approach is best. Wingle believes we need to increase fees based on inflation, but we should give managers at least six months' notice. At a minimum we should do it in 2024. Dieterich believes it should be done in 2024 with advance publicity for everyone's awareness. **Motion by Meroshnekoff, second by Muench to approve the budget. Motion carried.**

ELECTRONIC SCORECARDS. Gray said she'd try to compile an Excel based scorecard as a test template; however, she wondered if the regions would even have a way to utilize it technology-wise. Wingle said he and his wife have a system they've used for LeD that works well as long as a manager has a printer and laptop and technology doesn't fail you. Reynolds likes the idea of electronic scorecards as that is the way of the future. Riders could get on the road much earlier. We may not have all of the details figured out, but we can have the big things figured out. If we always wait for things to be just right,

we may never start. Dieterich stated she has the Texas Trail Challenge electronic scorecard as an example. Discussion about shifting everything to a positive scoring system.

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL PROCESS. Diaguila had some feedback from members that they didn't have enough time to give opinions before the board voted on initial proposals. Meroshnekoff explained the proposal process and the purpose of the board as elected representatives of the membership to vet the initial proposals. Wingle stated his thoughts on giving due process to the membership when they share a proposal if it is not carried beyond the first meeting. The only option is to wait a year and introduce it again.

Next monthly meeting will be January 10, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. CST.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. CST.