

## NATRC National BOD Minutes November 12, 2022, Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER by President John Zelif, 9:04 a.m. CST November 12, 2022.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich, R2 Alternate Beni DeMattei, Lory Walls, Cathy Cumberworth, Bill Wingle, Fran Muench, R4 Alternate Cara Liebman, Esther Diaguila, Kris Gray, Marla Stucky, John Zelif and Sarah J. Smith, Executive Director. Guests Sanction Co-Chair Patsy Conner, H & A Chair Ruth Mesimer, and R1 Alternate Donna Stidolph attended.

MINUTES. July 16, 2022. **Motion by Wingle, second by Muench to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Zelif. Change the national convention date to February 17-18. Working with Sandy Pegram on organization of sponsors and partners. Continuing to push clinics and would like to see at least two clinics per region. In R6 we are seeing a good return on them and are looking at doing some advanced clinics. R5 did one for ride management.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Smith. Membership is still down. We are consistently under 1,000 members (approximately 900) with 204 being lifetime members and only a fraction of those actively participating in the sport. Annual contract/membership for ARG group was renewed to continue the member benefit for platinum member upgrades to add the optional liability policy. The Directors & Officers (D & O) liability policy will be renewing in December as well.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Gray. Membership income is down. Rider fees are up. Virtual challenge income is at \$3,700. Convention award costs were pretty well offset by donations and sponsors. Our budget is currently headed in the right direction. Wingle inquired if we need to increase rider fees for 2023 to keep up with inflation. We are in a tight financial situation. Gray stated we haven't had an increase in a long time and we are due for it. Wingle stated we should look at a membership dues increase as well. Will look at increases for 2024.

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE. Dr. Tamara Gull. A rule proposal was introduced to allow the preventive dose of omeprazole for horses in NATRC competition. Dr. Gull collaborated with multiple parties including AERC and the other committee members. The vet drug committee is divided on a recommendation. We really lack evidence whether the use of omeprazole long term in horses is safe and if it is at all performance enhancing. One of the best natural preventive measures is keeping food in the horse's stomach as it keeps the pH levels up.

BY-LAWS & RULES. Wingle.

RP1 – Combine weight classes into adult class (extend for one year). This is for the purposes of extension rather than permanency. **Motion by Wingle, second by Diaguila to carry proposal forward. Motion carried.**

RP2 – Membership year matches ride year. **Motion by Wingle, second by Walls to carry proposal forward. In favor: Walls, DeMattei, Wingle, Gray, and Diaguila. Opposed: Dieterich, Meroshnekoff, Cumberworth, Muench, Stucky, Liebman, and Zelif. Motion failed.**

RP3 – Remove splint boot, bell boot and wrap restrictions. **Motion by Wingle, second by Gray to carry proposal forward. In favor: Wingle, Gray, Stucky and Zelif. Opposed: Diaguila, Liebman, Meroshnekoff, Walls, DeMattei, Cumberworth and Muench. Dieterich abstained. Motion failed.**

RP4 – Allow basic injury care during ride. **Motion by Wingle, second by Diaguila to carry proposal forward. Motion carried.**

RP5 – Allow preventive ulcer treatment during ride. **Motion by Wingle, second by Diaguila to carry proposal forward. Motion carried.**

RP6 – Clarify rule book appendices to state changes may be made administratively. **Motion by Wingle, second by Muench to carry proposal forward. Motion carried.**

RP7 – Standardize scoring approach of LeD with O/N/CP – point deductions from 100%. **Motion by Wingle, second by Walls to carry proposal forward. All opposed. Motion failed.**

RP8 – National Leisure awards. **Motion by Wingle, second by Gray to carry proposal forward. Diaguila and Meroshnekoff opposed. Motion carried.**

RP9 – Award language corrections. **Dropped from proposals – editorial.**

RP10 – Electric fences. **Motion by Wingle, no second for the motion. Motion failed.**

RP11 – Completion Only. Adjustments to the proposal and language for clarification. **Motion by Wingle, second by Dieterich to carry proposal forward. Motion carried.**

Recommendation by the Veterinary Drug Committee to add Phenibut as a prohibited substance to the drug appendices. **Motion by Wingle, second by Stucky to add it to the appendices. Motion carried.**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES. Dieterich. No actionable items at this time.

PROTEST. Stucky. One protest since our July meeting, and the report was submitted to the board. Stucky does believe we should have an actual maximum time in our rules for disqualification. Wingle stated we can adjust some language in one of the current rule proposals if needed. Dieterich stated management does have discretion so that may not be necessary.

PLANNED AND CHARITABLE GIVING. Elaine Swiss and Kim Cowart. No report.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN. Patsy Conner. No report.

RIDE SANCTIONS. Cumberworth. We are starting to see a lot of the early 2023 ride sanction applications come in. The report summary contains the 2022 ride data to date for reference.

CLINIC SANCTIONS. Linda Clayton. Report filed. One clinic in R5 since July.

RIDE MANAGEMENT. Diaguila. Nothing to report.

RULES INTERPRETER. Wingle. We had 52 completed events, 39 LeD events and 35 Type A events. Eight events were cancelled due to various issues. Some were shortened to one day due to weather. A few accidents were reported. Some accidents occurred but were not reported to NATRC which is concerning. Questions arose at one ride about obstacles that aren't allowed including a rope gate and jumping a log. Wingle inquired where management and judges can go to find out what obstacles are or are not allowed. Dieterich referred Wingle to our Judges Forum digest, however expanded on jumping in particular as it is a concern with our insurance. The rope gate is prohibited if set up or contrived because it is not natural to the trail. The CRI was used twice this year.

MARKETING/PUBLICITY/E-NEWS. Murphy/Gray. No update. Still not doing any paid marketing. Zelif has been reposting past tips and tricks that were circulated in 2020. Gray said they haven't been solicited by managers or others about marketing of rides and events. Meroshnekoff stated maybe should target some of our marketing to horse people doing trail trials, challenges and other judged events of that nature to draw them towards LeD.

VIRTUAL CHALLENGES. Zelif/Murphy. Mileage challenge has gone really well and we are set up to do it again in 2023. We will discontinue the obstacle challenges.

SPONSORSHIPS. Sandy Pegram/Zeliff. Pegram and Zeliff have met and will continue to meet to work on developing the program and get it running well.

HOOF PRINT ADVISORY. Dieterich. Two people seem motivated to take over *Hoof Print* and the work Dieterich has been doing with it. We needed a board liaison for *Hoof Print*, and Zeliff agreed to fulfill that role. Dieterich brought up the suggestion of reducing the number of issues we produce each year since it is expensive and a lot of work and we have fewer people to do the work. Zeliff requested that Dieterich put together a proposal.

JUNIORS. Meroshnekoff. Nothing to report.

FOUNDATION. Conner. No update.

NATIONAL DRUG TESTING. Murphy. Discussed difficulty obtaining the vials due to supply chain issues in 2022. Murphy is working on other leads.

TRAIL ADVOCACY AND GRANTS. Insko. Nothing at this time.

EDUCATION. Dieterich. Most of the education has been focused on the Leisure Division. One of the biggest issues is P & R scoring. Looking at a possible revision to the P & R cards to make them easier to use and understand.

MEMBERSHIP. Zeliff. Discussed membership renewal incentive and asked when we started it last year. Wingle stated he would donate \$50 toward it. Stucky and Cumberworth also stated they would donate \$50.

JUDGES COMMITTEE. Walls. Pilot scorecards are ready and will be sent out to rides for 2023.

HALL OF FAME. Smith. No applicants.

STUDENT LOAN/SCHOLARSHIPS. Marilyn Marston. No new applicants.

BREED & ORGANIZATION LIASON. Stucky. The work is about to begin for year-end awards once the final reports are available.

A.H.A. Insko. No report.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION. Mesimer. Report filed. Requesting nominations and reminding directors to submit them by the deadline.

TECHNOLOGY/WEBSITE. Smith. Merchant processing is officially under the same roof as the website with Coreware now and will not only be more convenient but also cheaper. It is no longer external. There were server issues, so the website was down briefly but was fixed quickly. Coreware improved their helpdesk response time and work, so that is good and has been a much better experience.

WEBINARS. Wingle/Muench. Working to line up the first 2023 webinar. The question was raised whether this is a worthwhile project to continue. Attendance has fluctuated with each webinar, and it isn't easy getting speakers. Discussion about timing and costs. It costs \$400 a year for the webinar package on our Zoom account, but it is also used for national board meetings in addition to the webinars. Smith suggested a possible attendance incentive like a small gift card drawing.

CONVENTION & NATIONAL AWARDS. Meroshnekoff said planning is going okay. It has been a little awkward with the hotel but they are getting there. There are some side trips planned for Friday which should be fun.

REGIONAL REPORTS. R1. Meroshnekoff – ended up with five rides. LeD made up over half of the rides. One clinic. Jamie is leaving the board, and their alternate will step into the chair. R2. Walls – only LeD rides were held this year, however next year there are Type A rides planned. R3. Wingle –eight rides held. Ridership up by 30%. Cathy stepping down and Linda Johnson-Conne filling out term (2024). R4. Muench – several rides and decent attendance. New ride and new ride managers in 2023. R5. Diaguila – 13 rides this year. Ride manager clinic that went well and a management Zoom meeting. Healthy schedule planned for next year. R6. Stucky – seven or eight rides planned for next year. Our big one is Indian Caves 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Regional convention will be at the same hotel as 2022 national convention. Will have booths at NE Trail Expo and KS Equifest.

SHARED BOARD – NA

OLD BUSINESS.

1. Judging Consistency Task Force – pilot program scorecards have been received and will be sent out to all 2023 rides.

NEW BUSINESS.

1. 2023 Rule Change Proposals
2. Election of NBOD
  - R1: No one ran; R1 Alternate Donna Stidolph appointed (2025)
  - R2: Lory Walls (2025)
  - R3 (Alt): Kay Gunckel (2025)
  - R4 (Alt): Cara Liebman (2025)
  - R5: Kris Gray (2025)
  - R6: Marla Stucky (2025)
3. Election of Officers

**PRESIDENT. Wingle made a nomination for Zelif, Diaguila seconded. No other nominations. Zelif appointed by acclamation.**

**VICE PRESIDENT. Gray made a nomination for Wingle, Diaguila seconded. No other nominations. Wingle appointed by acclamation.**

**TREASURER. Diaguila made a nomination for Gray, Wingle seconded. No other nominations. Gray appointed by acclamation.**

Next monthly meeting will be December 6, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. CST.

**Meeting adjourned.**