

Summary - National Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, CO, November 12, 2011

CALL TO ORDER by Gary Clayton, 8 a.m., November 12, 2011.

ROLL CALL. All BOD members, except Beni DeMattei, present. Ray Brezina present as Alternate for Region Two. Laurie DiNatale, Executive Administrator, and Patsy Conner, Sanction Chair, present. Guests: Susan Peters and Pam Galchutt.

MINUTES July 9, 2011. Call for corrections. **Walls moved to accept minutes, Dieterich seconded. Motion approved.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Clayton stated that the BOD needs to look at cutting costs. Committee assignments and their duties need to be reviewed. BOD members should make their interests known on which committee they want to devote their efforts to.

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT, DiNatale. In the EA report, DiNatale had raised the question of reducing her hours in an effort to cut costs. The BOD felt that the work load necessitates a full-time position.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT. Swiss distributed and reviewed documents showing a financial summary and profit and loss comparisons. Memberships and Rider Fees need to drive revenue. Sponsorships are at \$10,000, but could be increased with the help of one or two more people working in that area. Raffle has the potential to do better than last year's. Donations are down. Estate Planning is a large area that needs to be investigated. Many of our members would like to remember NATRC in their estate but have not been asked or shown the ways to accomplish that. Kim Cowart offered to spearhead that effort. Swiss reviewed expenses and reinforced that we don't have an expense problem; we have a revenue problem. Hoof Print is an unsustainable expense at 17.41%. **Motion by Weil, seconded by Brezina, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion approved.**

BY-LAWS & RULES-See Rules Report in this issue of Hoof Print.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. Dieterich is working on enabling links in document.

PROTEST, Cowart. No Protests filed.

NOMINATION, Ferris. Bylaws vote eliminated the ballot by National to elect National Directors. Clayton asked for announcements by Region on the newly elected Directors and Alternates.

Region One-Phil Young-Alternate, Region Two-Bob Insko-Alternate, Region Three-Susan Peters-Director, Region Four-Elaine Swiss-Director, Region Five-Gary Clayton-Director, and Region Six-Christine Abbott-Director.

RIDE SANCTION. Patsy Conner distributed and reviewed report. Six rides have been cancelled.

CLINIC SANCTION. Report filed by Linda Clayton. Nine clinics held in 2011. Four were reimbursed \$100 each for insurance. **Motion by Swiss, seconded by Walls, to reimburse \$100 per region to the first clinic to apply in each region. Motion approved.**

MANAGEMENT. Report filed by Jean Green. Green continues to communicate with Ride Managers via E-News and *Hoof Print* articles. Susan Peters shared her practice of having Safety Riders assigned to specific riders or groups of riders, such as juniors. Discussion on the benefits and concerns of this practice. Peters stated that this is only possible if you have a large pool of Safety Riders. BOD agreed that anyone riding with competitors needs to be either an official Safety Rider or a competitor. Walls pointed out to the BOD that our Rulebook does state that the behavior of competitors, or people associated with the competitors, can have implications for disqualification of that competitor. Dieterich stated that Patti Hicks is working with the Safety Committee on a program to encourage qualified Safety Riders.

RULES INTERPRETER, DeMattei. No Report.

INSURANCE, DiNatale. Will be meeting with Diane Leshner later this month. Encouraged BOD to send her questions for that meeting.

SAFETY. Gould stated that a serious accident had happened at Chokecherry. Peters was an eye witness and described the accident. Patti Hicks of Region Four will be an active member of Safety Committee. Hicks, Gould, and Swiss will work to create a Safety Rider Presentation on Qualified Safety Riders for National and Regional conventions.

MARKETING/ PUBLICITY, Bev Roberts. Report submitted by Roberts and reviewed by Swiss. Need to sell more raffle tickets. Branding-Roberts sent a document to the BOD with usable headers for most applications. **Motion by Dieterich, seconded by Swiss, to approve newest Branding Document. Motion approved.**

BUSINESS MODEL & MEASUREMENTS, Swiss. Cancellations of rides and decrease in number of riders affect the measurements. Ride attendance is our most important issue. Membership has stayed roughly the same as last year. Three regions did meet their membership goals. Most regions met their number of competitions goals. March 2012 meeting will be where goals are set for 2012. Swiss asked BOD to think about those goals before March. Peters shared what has helped her get more people to the rides she has managed. Clinics are a big factor. New riders need one-on-one encouragement. Peters emphasizes to prospective competitors that our sport is relatively less expensive than many other horse sports. She also emphasizes the educational aspect of NATRC. She would like to see NATRC find ways to make it easier to manage rides. She suggested a clinic teaching riders how to ride a GPS ride.

MEDIA ADVISORY. Dieterich gave report as Hoof Print Advocate. Dieterich stated that unlike in the past, we are now overloaded with content for Hoof Print. She is trying to cut down content to 32 pages. Much of the information can go on the website, like ride schedule, ride results, and information that stays the same from issue to issue. Hoof Print is not only an enormous commitment of funds, but also a large time commitment for those few that work on it. Swiss sent a Request for Quotes (RFQ) for 2012 Hoof Print in early October. Committee will report the result of the section of Hoof Print Editor and Webmaster to the BOD.

The Transition plan for *Hoof Print* (HP) was presented. The plan for Winter 2011 issue is to send the electronic link only to those who have requested it, with printed version to everyone else.

Committee suggested that the 2012 Spring HP be all electronic except that those who request the printed version pay a \$15 subscription. Clayton stated that Region Five has a lot of resistance to paying for *HoofPrint*. **Motion by Swiss, seconded by Weil, to stay with Transition Plan as presented, with Electronic version being the default unless the printed version has been requested and a \$15 subscription paid. Motion defeated. All except Smith, Abbott, Cowart and Weil opposed motion.** Wolgram stated that for non-competitors HP is the only benefit of being a member. She felt that we will lose members if a subscription is required. Cowart stated that for those who ask what else do they get, he points out that the main thing they benefit from is the continued existence of our sport. **Motion by Swiss, seconded by Ferris, that the Transition Plan for HP will be revised to say that the Electronic version will be the default. Printed version, at no charge in 2012, must be requested. Motion unanimously approved.** Swiss reported that NATRC Facebook page is popular.

DRUG TESTING, Jerry Weil DVM. Reported that testing has revealed no positives this year.

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE, Michael Peralez, DVM. No action.

TRAIL ADVOCACY & GRANTS. Report filed by Erin Glassman. No Trail Grant applications received. Glassman attended the SETC.

EDUCATION, Jamie Dieterich. Various articles submitted to *Hoof Print*. Collaborated with Mike Peralez, DVM and Jean Green on respiration counting E-News article. Committee continues to work on the updating of manuals.

MEMBERSHIP, Betty Wolgram. She has representatives in all regions.

JUDGES, M. Peralez/P. Conner.

Scorecard review. Scorecard Committee tries to encourage judges to be educational and include instructive comments on the cards. The committee would like to look at different approaches to the scorecard review. One approach may be to send the yellow copy of the scorecard to the judge with a quarterly letter directed to all judges, instead of comments directed individually.

Committee would like to develop a mentoring process for new applicants in Horsemanship judging. This mentoring program could continue through apprenticeship process.

Motion by Walls, seconded by Dieterich, to approve Boyd Emond, DVM as a Vet Judge. Motion approved.

Committee commented on the recent Protest reiterating that Judge's instructions must be clear. Conner distributed an electronic scorecard that was developed and tested at Robbers Route Ride with CP division. The test proved that it is feasible to do the scorecard electronically. Wolgram liked the positive aspect of this version. Gould asked Weil if Vet Card could be done electronically, and Weil felt that it could be done. Each judge would have their own comments stored within the program.

Conner stated that Sue Flagg has submitted her resignation as a judge.

Meeting was closed for discussion on recent Letter of Concern (LOC). Wolgram was excused since she had submitted the LOC.

Conner and Dieterich submitted a document outlining some of the Philosophies of the Co-Chairs of the Judges Committees regarding judging shown below and asked the BOD to engage in a closed discussion on that subject. Conner, Dieterich, Peters, and Galchutt excused themselves.

Document distributed:

PHILOSOPHIES OF CO-CHAIRS

1. Continue to promote the original philosophies of NATRC.
 - a. Horse judging should emphasize the importance of condition and soundness.
 - b. Horsemanship judging should emphasize the importance of the rider doing justice to the horse to help it do the miles. Equitation to help the horse do the miles is a high priority.
2. NATRC is an educational, competitive distance riding sport.
3. Promote Mike Peralez's guidelines for obstacles:
 - a. Is it safe for horse and rider?
 - b. Is it appropriate for competitive distance riding?

- c. Does it adversely affect the flow of the ride?
- d. Horsemanship: Learning occurs by doing; thus, we believe there is great value in evaluating the choices a rider makes for the horse – i.e. what is the best way to do xyz?

Control is important – i.e. being able to step over a log carefully.

Meeting reopened. Consensus by BOD that committee should quit doing individual comments to the Judges for awhile, and that more of a general review of the scorecards with a letter to all judges may be more appropriate at this time.

HALL OF FAME, Jackie Coleman. No report.

STUDENT LOAN/SCHOLARSHIPS, Christine Abbott. No applications.

FOUNDATION, No report. Foundation will meet in March.

BREED & ORGANIZATION LIAISONS.

A.H.A., Bob Insko. No report. Walls will ask Insko to write an article on AHA ride sanctioning.

BREED LIAISON, Terry Silver and Shari Naylor are working with Breed Associations on reciprocal ads.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION, Christine Abbott.

Nominations for the Jim Menefee Honorary Lifetime Award are: Bill & Judy Cumberworth, Jean Green and Shirley Sobol. Bill & Judy Cumberworth will be the recipients.

Workers Hall of Fame nominations were Bev Roberts and Randy & Lory Walls. Bev Roberts will be the recipient.

Nominations for National Appreciation were Kim Cowart, Jonni Jewell, JR Kendall, and Betty Young. Kim Cowart, Jonni Jewell, and JR Kendall will be the recipients.

Regional Appreciation Awards for National Recognition

Region 1: Maria Pilgrim, Betty Young, Region 2: Sherrie Bray, Kandace French, Katy Taylor, Region 3: Pam Galchutt, Russ and Linda Jones, Susan Peters, Region 4: Phil Brodersen, Art and Dee Byrd, Vickie Ives, Region 5: Marty Findley, and Region 6: Sarah Rinne, Mary Anna Woods.

ANNUAL POINTS/NATRC DATA, Gloria Becker/Cheri Jeffcoat/Laurie DiNatale. No report.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION, Becker/DiNatale/Abbott. No report.

CONVENTION 2012. Region Two reports that they will be in Reno, March 8-11, 2012, at the Grand Sierra.

CONVENTION 2013. Region Three. Location being investigated, probably Denver.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SHARED BOD AMOUNT: \$312.70.

REGION REPORTS

Region One - Dieterich. New webmaster. Junior rider rebate program for juniors doing at least 2 rides. Region One has Facebook page. Region helps Ride Management.

Region Two - Walls. Rides were cancelled because of EHV and rain. Region will add more clinics.

Region Three - Wolgram. Region is in good financial shape. Mini-convention will be March 23-24, 2012, in Craig, CO. No rides were cancelled by EHV outbreak. Kay Gunckel asked if High Point CP Combo can be published with ride results. DiNatale will work on that project.

Region Four - Swiss. Lots of young energy in the region. Mini-convention is February 18th, themed "Safety First". There are six people who have achieved in "100% Club" in Region, meaning they have attended every ride in Region.

Region Five - Clayton. Sallie Kudra, and Mary Britt work hard on membership recruitment. Efforts to coordinate trailer-pooling to rides. Ten rides for 2012, with possibly 2 new rides. Will lose Benefit ride site of 30 years.

Region Six - Abbott. Six rides in 2011. Six for 2012, with a possibility of 2 new rides. Region is working on mentoring new ride management. The Region lost money in 2011. Electronic newsletter has helped cut costs. Region has new Provisional Vet Judge, mentored by Kim and Jerry Weil.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Go to Webinar and Electronic meetings-Ferris will send the BOD documents on using program. He will act as Administrator. After BOD receives the documents they can call or email Ferris to set up meetings.
2. Need new webmaster. Covered earlier.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Partnerships with other associations. Consensus that AERC, ETI, State Horse Associations, TTC, Breed Associations, 4H, FFA, Ride & Tie, and Pony Club are all associations that may be good partners for NATRC to work with in co-marketing or holding rides in conjunction with.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Clayton stated that although he is open to running for President again in this election of officers, he will not pursue that office after this election.

Motion by Walls to nominate Clayton for President, Ferris seconded. Brezina called for nominations to be closed. Motion carried. Motion by Dieterich to nominate Walls for Vice-President, Ferris seconded. Brezina called for nominations to be closed. Motion carried.

Motion by Cowart to nominate Swiss for Treasurer, Gould seconded. Ferris called for nominations to be closed. Motion carried.

Clayton asked Committee Chairs to be active with their committees and to take on more responsibilities. Clayton asked each Chair to look at their committees and see if they can expand on the committee. **Motion by Walls, seconded by Ferris, to adjourn. Motion approved.**