

National Board of Directors Meeting Summary, Denver, CO November 9, 2013

CALL TO ORDER by Kim Cowart, 8 a.m., November 9, 2013.

ROLL CALL. Dieterich, Meroshnekoff, Walls, DeMattei, Sims, Peters, Swiss, Gould, Cowart, Clayton and Lindsey present. Rinne not present. Laurie DiNatale, Executive Administrator. Patsy Conner present as Judges Committee Co-Chair and Sanction Chair.

MINUTES. July 13, 2013. Call for corrections. **Clayton moved to accept minutes, Walls seconded. Motion approved.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Cowart stated he chooses success for our organization. We have the talent to move forward. We need to work on retention of new members and volunteers. We have some great new Apprentice Judges in process. We need to look at maintaining quality judging.

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT. DiNatale reported that the renewal process is in process. Current membership numbers will be reported in Swiss's measurements report.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT. Swiss reviewed her report. NATRC is having a very good year financially. We are presently running at an \$8,597 profit. BOD needs to think about investing in projects that will drive membership and rider numbers. We use Quickbooks online. This enables both Swiss and DiNatale to do online bookkeeping and provides added auditing capabilities with two people working on the books.

SOCIAL MEDIA. Rinne, by phone. We now have a growing Facebook Group page. That page includes both member and non-member friends. Rinne screens the Facebook page for inappropriate postings. We need a protocol on what sponsors should expect in terms of facebook exposure. This needs to be defined in the 2014 sponsor contracts.

BY-LAWS & RULES. Lory Walls (Wayne Hyatt). For approved rule changes for 2014, see the Rules Report in *Hoof Print*. Below is a rule change proposal that was discussed and voted on, but not approved.

Change Page 4-3 Section 4C to Read

C. Distance Only (DO): outside of the competition

1. **Both horse and rider must ride DO.**
2. Horses and ~~for~~ riders **s teams** participating DO for any reason will be judged in all ride activities as are other competitors but will be eligible for mileage only.
3. Horses and ~~for~~ riders **s teams** participating DO must obey all NATRC rules (except those exemptions specified in paragraphs 3-9 below) and any ride rules. The DO horse/rider team must ride in an acceptable manner and not disrupt the ride for other competitors.
4. Horses may participate with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots) and/or the use of any temporary types of hoof protection.
5. A rider may ride DO in any class or division **in horsemanship.**
- ~~5. A horse may participate DO in any class or division only if the rider also enters DO in horsemanship.~~
6. One day option: only available if both horse and rider are riding DO.
 - a. The DO team has the option of riding one or two days of an 'A' CTR. When choosing to ride one day only, the team must ride the first day. A DO rider must notify ride management of their intent not to ride a second day after post ride examination, but before 8:00p.m.
 - b. The DO team will receive the standard mileage allotments for each day ridden. If the rider chooses to ride the second day, but does not complete that day, then no mileage will be awarded for either day.
7. DO horses/riders will not count as a competitor in the Class.
8. Any person or horse excluded from competing in Section 4 D1b of the rules (family members or horses owned by family of judges or Rules Interpreters) may enter the ride DO.
9. Any rider or horse-and-rider combination excluded from competing in the Novice Division in Section 4 A2f of the rules (having five firsts, placing 3rd or higher, judges) may enter the ride DO in the Novice Division.
10. Any horse ineligible to compete for awards may enter DO if said ineligibility in the opinion of the veterinary judge does not constitute a physical abuse of the horse.
11. DO must be declared prior to the official start of the ride.

D. Horse Only

1. **Horses ~~participating competing~~ "Horse Only" will be judged in all ride activities. The horse and rider must obey all NATRC and ride rules.**
2. **A horse competing "Horse Only" will count as a competitor (horse) in the Class entered.**
3. **A rider participating "Horse Only" will not be judged, placed, or count as a competitor (rider) in the Class. The rider will receive standard mileage allotment.**
4. **"Horse Only" must be declared prior to the official start of the ride.**

Purpose: Flexible thinking- to provide a division where it is clear a rider can compete without being judged in horsemanship. Please note: there are some additions which have been suggested (in italics).

Motion by Walls, seconded by Lindsey, to approve HO section of proposal. Discussion. Dieterich felt that allowing HO with no horsemanship judging takes away from NATRC's educational aspect and is inconsistent with our strategic plan. Clayton stated that DO already provides a way to ride and not be judged. HO was brought up during a brainstorming

session in July. Swiss stated that after further thought, she felt that HO may run counter to our goals. Lindsey felt that HO riders could learn from watching others, and riders coming from other organizations may prefer HO. Meroshnekoff does not want to see HO detracting from NATRC's educational aspect. Discussion on different wording on HO proposal. Lindsey felt that there are riders that don't want to be judged on horsemanship. Dieterich stated that horsemanship judging is unique to NATRC. Peters felt that some people will not try the sport if they are going to be judged. Cowart stated that we already have DO in place which enables the rider not to be judged. Clarification on DO and HO. With HO the rider would not be judged or receive a scorecard. Meroshnekoff felt that the motion should be tabled until we clarify our strategic plan. **Motion by Meroshnekoff, seconded by Walls, to table the motion.** Dieterich asked that the rule change proposal be voted on then revisit if it is defeated. **Meroshnekoff withdrew her motion to table.** Cowart felt that we need to educate the riders better on DO and how they do not have to be judged in horsemanship or receive a scorecard. Original question called on rule change proposal as presented. **Motion defeated. Walls, Sims and Lindsey voted in favor.**

Action item. Swiss suggested that we need more education via Judges Committee, *Hoof Print* and Management Committee regarding DO. Peters suggested that DO be clarified further in the Rulebook and on entries.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. Dieterich. Added section on Bev Roberts Award to P&P. Peters will be taking over the P&P in 2014. P&P is available on our website.

PROTEST. Clayton. No current Protests. We do have a drug violation which will be reviewed by the Protest Committee.

PLANNED GIVING. Cowart and Swiss. Swiss reminded the BOD that our members need to know that NATRC is an option for donations. We need to develop the strategic plan before the planned giving plan is developed further. Swiss felt that donations were best made to Trail Development and Ride Manager Support. Other options might be CHA training and awards. Conner asked if Ride Manager Support could come in the form of monetary help in Vet Judge travel expenses. Bev Roberts is developing a card that can be sent to both the donor and the family of deceased.

RIDE SANCTION. Patsy Conner distributed and reviewed report. Government shutdown resulted in two rides being moved and one cancelled. The BOD would like to see entire ride schedule, both completed and not completed rides, posted on the website.

CLINIC SANCTION. Linda Clayton. Report filed. Dieterich commented on how great Linda Clayton is to work with.

MANAGEMENT. Jean Green. Report filed. Dieterich and Green are working on revising the Management Manual so the newest version can be posted on the website. It was suggested that Management Manual be printed and sent to all of the Ride Chairs. Walls asked if the Ride Manager Support Fund RMSF could be used in cases where rides incur losses. The RMSF committee needs to revisit the criteria. Peters suggested that loss recovery for rides may be better handled by the regions. Cowart suggested that RMSF criteria might be expanded to help experienced ride managers who incur losses.

RULES INTERPRETER. Peters. No big issues on RI reports.

INSURANCE. DiNatale. No changes to report.

SAFETY. Gould. Can't underestimate the importance of safety at our rides. Lindsey stated that at a recent R6 ride an unruly horse caused problems. Discussion on unruly horses. Consensus that if a horse is unruly or dangerous, horse and rider should be excused from the ride.

MARKETING/ PUBLICITY. Bev Roberts. Report sent. Report included many recently published articles on NATRC. Cris Ballard is taking over as Publicity Chair. Roberts has been working redesigning the website home page and page for those new to NATRC.

NATIONAL AWARDS PRESENTATION. Region 4 will handle awards presentation at next convention.

SPONSORSHIPS. Swiss remains the driving force behind sponsorships. Becky Lucht will be helping Swiss with sponsorships.

RAFFLE. The winning tickets will be drawn at the convention in Oklahoma City.

MEDIA ADVISORY. Dieterich Chair. Laurie Knuutila's contract will be included in budget discussions.

RIDERS AND JUNIORS. Meroshnekoff is exploring more ways to reach out to Juniors. Meroshnekoff takes many Juniors to the rides. Those juniors have a sponsor who pays their entry fees.

FOUNDATION. Swiss-Annuity interest of \$1500 stayed in the Foundation account. The Foundation has approximately \$82,000 in the accounts.

BUSINESS MODELS AND MEASUREMENTS. Swiss. We have lost 100 members over the past year, so membership is down by 10%. Swiss will assume that we have 1000 members for 2014. Competition projections are; R1-8, R2-7, R3-7, R4-12, R5-12, R6-7. Due to our reduced membership and number of rides, DiNatale will propose a reduction in her hours for 2014. Two clinics per region will be reimbursed \$100 for insurance costs determined by the earliest clinics to apply for sanction and request the \$100 reimbursement. Gould would like to see our National Championship awards be returned to previous levels. Swiss proposed that every National Champion receive a blanket. Consensus that we have worked hard to save money and can now improve the awards. **Motion by Walls, seconded by Clayton, to have Cowart negotiate a multi-year contract with Specialized Saddles to provide a saddle for President's Cup. Motion approved.**

Discussion on advertising. To be effective we would need to allot 20-25 K towards that effort. **Motion by Lindsey, seconded by Gould, to designate \$25,000 in the budget for advertising. Motion approved.** The budget will include \$1000 for Trail Advocacy. Cowart feels that is important work to maintain our reputation of being good trail stewards. Cowart talked about the value of the Trail Master program.

DRUG TESTING. Jerry Weil, DVM. We have a positive drug result that has been referred to the Protest Committee.

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE. Michael Peralez, DVM. The committee recommends that Pergolide, used for Cushings Disease, be allowed in NATRC. The Judges Committee agreed with that recommendation. **Motion by Dieterich, seconded by Sims, to allow the use of Pergolide in NATRC competition.**

Ice/cold therapy. Peralez, Fellers, and Ostrowski of the committee recognize the value of cold therapy in distance riding and recommend that ice boots be allowed in competition. Some on the Drug and Judges Committee were in favor of the use of ice boots, some were not. If ice boots were allowed it would mean changes to the Drug Appendices and the Rule Book. Discussion on wraps that would hold ice on the horse and whether they would be considered to be offering compression. Peters would like to see an opinion from each Vet on both the Drug and Judges Committee regarding the use of ice boots during competition. Cowart has posed several questions to the committees regarding ice boots. He will send the answers that he receives to the BOD. Consensus that since ice is allowed now, we need to define application methods. Dieterich suggested that this should be discussed again in February 2014.

EDUCATION. Dieterich has been working on the "new to NATRC" section of the website. She is also revising the Riders Manual. Format of the manual will need to be determined.

MEMBERSHIP. Jerry Sims. We have many non-members riding NATRC. Sims would like to see Regional Recruitment teams, which can provide personal contact with the non-members after they ride a ride. Those teams would be chaired by the National BOD members.

SANCTION REVISITED. Conner stated that many rides decrease their mileage because of steep and rugged terrain. Many rides are coming in at minimum mileage. The mileages vary greatly, although all of our riders are getting credit for 20 miles per day for Novice/CP and 30 miles per day for Open. Conner wanted input on how much shortening of the trail she should allow for steep and rugged terrain. Lindsey suggested a minimum of 47 miles for two days of Open. Swiss felt that a minimum of 50 miles should be maintained. Discussion on how much the trail can be shortened for steep and rugged terrain. Consensus that Conner will need to deal with each case separately.

JUDGES. M. Peralez/P. Conner.

Dieterich reviewed Apprentice and Provisional Vet Judges.

Conner reviewed Apprentice and Provisional Horsemanship judges. Becky Rogers has completed her apprentice and provisional judging. Judges Committee recommends her approval. **Motion by Swiss, seconded by Lindsey, to approve Becky Rogers as an NATRC Horsemanship Judge. Motion approved.**

Sarah Rinne is in Apprentice status, with Priscilla Lindsey acting as her Mentor. Patti Hicks is in her apprenticeship, with Jean Green acting as her Mentor. Wayne Tolbert will be mentored by Kim Cowart.

Dieterich stated that she and Walls have been looking at scorecards to see if there is a correlation between horse and horsemanship comments. Different judges have different styles, strengths and weaknesses. We have an obligation to provide quality judging.

Conner and DiNatale audited two days of a CHA clinic. Conner raised the question of judging standards for NATRC. Cowart felt that our riders have every right to expect quality judging and to be able to know what will be expected of them. Cowart, Dieterich, Walls and Conner have created a statement asking all NATRC Horsemanship Judges to come to a consensus on judging guidelines. This would be a long term project. Cowart felt that this will also promote professionalism. Swiss asked if this will happen with the Vet Judges. Cowart stated that they will be pursuing this concept first with Horsemanship Judges.

HALL OF FAME. Jackie Coleman. No report.

STUDENT LOAN/SCHOLARSHIPS. DeMattei stated that there are no applications, but plenty of funds available.

BREED & ORGANIZATION LIAISONS.

A.H.A. Bob Insko. No report.

BREED LIAISON. Lindsey stated that she will be contacting breed associations that we have reciprocal ad agreements with, asking them to renew.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION. Ruth Mesimer. Nominees for the three National Appreciation awards are AZ Triple Crown Rides, Jerry Sims, Shirley Brodersen, and Cindy Keen. A vote was taken and the three recipients will be Jerry Sims, Shirley Brodersen, and Cindy Keen.

Paula Riley was nominated for the Jim Menefee Lifetime Achievement Award. A ballot was taken. Paula Riley will be the recipient of this award.

Motion by Lindsey, seconded by DeMattei to induct Lory and Randy Walls, Susan Peters, and Elaine Swiss into the NATRC Worker Hall of Fame. Motion approved.

ANNUAL POINTS/NATRC DATA/ NATIONAL RECOGNITION. Gloria Becker/Cheri Jeffcoat/Laurie DiNatale. No report.
WEBINAR. No report.

CONVENTION 2014. Region 4. Oklahoma City, OK. The Renaissance hotel. Discounted spa rates. Music and Dining.
Committees are in place. February 20-23.

CONVENTION 2015. Region 6. Possibly Kansas City, MO.

REGIONAL REPORTS. Skipped due to time constraints.

Shared BOD amount \$298.59.

Old Business:

1. RMS Status. Linda Clayton filed report.
2. Electronic Scorecards. Cowart will test in 2014.
3. President's Cup award package. Covered previously.
4. Use of TM as pseudo trademark Consensus that Bev Roberts can do that.
5. Riders Manual revision. Covered previously.

New Business:

1. Election results. R1-Joe Pimentel Director (2014-2016), R2-Mary Jo Malone-Director (2014-2016), R3-Sharon Roper-Alternate (2014-2016) Jean Green-R4 Alternate (2014-2016), R5-Kim Cowart-Director (2014-2016) and R6-Sarah Rinne-Director (2014-2016). R4-Larry Gould-Director, serving remaining term vacated by Kim Winterrowd, ending in 2015.
2. RMSF. Previously covered.
3. Location of 2014 July 12 and November 8 meetings. **Motion by Lindsey, seconded by Swiss to hold meetings in Denver. Motion approved.**
4. Elections.

Motion by Dieterich, seconded by Meroshnekoff, to nominate Swiss for Treasurer. Motion by Walls, seconded by Lindsey, to close the nominations. Motion approved. Swiss elected by acclamation.

Motion by Dieterich, seconded by Swiss, to nominate Rinne for Vice President. Motion by Lindsey, seconded by Peters, to close the nominations. Motion approved. Rinne elected by acclamation.

Motion by Dieterich, seconded by Swiss, to nominate Cowart for President. Motion by Clayton, seconded by Walls, to close the nominations. Motion approved. Cowart elected by acclamation.

Cowart recognized and thanked Walls and Dieterich for their many years of service.

Motion by Cowart, seconded by Gould, to adjourn. Motion approved.

Full minutes on file at National Office.