

NATRC National BOD Minutes February 16, 2023

CALL TO ORDER by President John Zelif, 8:00 a.m. PST, February 16, 2023.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Donna Stidolph, Bob Insko, Lory Walls, Linda Johnson-Conne, Bill Wingle, Fran Muench, Kim Murphy (via Zoom), Esther Diaguila, Kris Gray, Marla Stucky, John Zelif and Sarah J. Smith, Executive Director (via Zoom). Guests MaryJo Malone (Region 2), Marilyn Marston (Region 6), H & A Chair Ruth Mesimer, Jamie Dieterich, P & P and Education Chair, Patsy Conner, Sanction Chair, and Bill Cumberworth attended via Zoom.

WELCOME. Welcome new directors and introductions. New directors are Linda Johnson-Conne and Donna Stidolph.

MINUTES. November 12, 2022. **Motion to approve minutes by Walls, second by Stucky. Motion carried.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Zelif. Encouraged two clinics per region. Top Trail was sold to another person, and she has big plans and ideas for it. It is now a ten-day submission window instead of three which should help our members. USEF has gone green and using technology almost exclusively. They are incentivizing the use of electronic forms which is something we could look into promoting. Pilot project is going well.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Smith. Smith shared the current membership numbers as they are down significantly, even for this early in the year. Partnership with ELCR was renewed as well as our D & O policy.

TRESURER'S REPORT. Gray. Membership incentive drive helped with those early renewals. Ride revenue is up significantly which is good. 2022 was the final year of the \$10,000 three-year anonymous donation. Drug testing did not happen last year due to vial availability, but we will have that expense this year. Smith is maintaining the salary reduction from 2022 into 2023 which saves \$12,000 annually. Standard expenses are unchanged such as *Hoof Print* and annual memberships. We are recouping funds year by year by positive net income.

RULES & BYLAWS. Wingle. Rules were submitted at the fall meeting, and final rule wording will be discussed today.

RP1 – Combine weight classes continued into 2024. **Motion by Walls, second by Stucky. Muench opposed. Motion carried.**

RP2 – Appendices changes may be made administratively. Amending language to 30 days' notice rather than 45 days. **Motion by Meroshnekoff, second by Muench. Walls opposed. Motion carried.**

RP3 – National Leisure awards. Adjusted language around age determination of unregistered horses. **Motion by Walls, second by Stidolph. Motion carried.**

RP4 – Completion Only. Clarification of conditions for CO. **Motion by Walls, second by Muench. Motion carried.**

RP5 – Placings must be announced. Clarification. Language adjusted to add stronger wording around placing announcement. **Motion by Walls, second by Muench. Motion carried.**

DRUG APPENDIX CHANGES

A1 – Allow basic injury care. **Motion by Walls, second by Diaguila. Motion carried.**

A2 – Allow preventative dose of omeprazole during ride. **Motion by Walls, second by Gray. Motion carried.**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES. Dieterich. Worked to clarify the election of Foundation directors at large as well as protocol for the meetings, particularly with all of the online meetings we are holding. It always comes up, can the president vote? In large boards, typically no. In small boards, which ours is, the president typically can, so that is in the clarification. **Motion by Walls, second by Wingle to accept clarifications. Motion carried.**

PROTEST. Stucky. No protests.

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

NATIONAL HISTORIAN. Conner. Continues to scan and store documents. If anyone is interested in taking over as historian, please be considering it. Meroshnekoff stated that Joan Throgmorton passed away February 3.

RIDE SANCTION. Conner. Brief discussion about the ride that did not award properly according to the rules. Cathy and Patsy are sending a letter upon sanction approval regarding award stipulations and requirements.

CLINIC SANCTION. Linda Clayton. There are currently four approved clinics for 2023. One in Region 3, one in Region 5 and two in Region 6. Zelif stated the more clinics the better, and clinic managers are willing to share materials as well so reach out. Combining clinics with LeD's has been well received.

RIDE MANAGEMENT. New chair being sought for this committee.

RULES INTERPRETER/SAFETY. Wingle. Four rides completed so far. One event was cancelled. One accident resulted in a broken ankle and a hospital transport. The award situation at CIP was briefly discussed. One ride had a longer hold time, but it was attributed to rider bunching and not a judge or management issue.

MARKETING/PUBLICITY/ENEWS. Murphy. Sent 40 different E-News since July. Open and click rate has been good per the industry rate. It was suggested doing regional E-News announcing each region's next upcoming three rides to get people interested and engaged.

VIRTUAL MILEAGE CHALLENGE. Results audited and posted. Smith will be sending out the medallions after convention. At one point there were 92 entries, but not all may have entered mileage. Top Trail is working to develop their own app to make mileage upload more seamless.

SPONSORSHIPS. Zelif. Working with Debby Starr to boost sponsors. Meroshnekoff suggested Purina as they are speaking at the convention. Riding Warehouse renewed for 2023.

MEDIA ADVISORY. Dieterich. In a transition phase with *Hoof Print*. No decision made on changes to *Hoof Print*. We need to decide for next year, but will table until July for a decision.

JUNIORS. Meroshnekoff. No report. Discussion about various junior rider incentives across the regions to encourage young people and families to ride.

FOUNDATION. Conner. Foundation meeting to follow the board meeting. The board needs to elect a new member to replace Laurie Knuutila who's term as expired. Conner recommended Bill Cumberworth to fill her vacancy. Dieterich stated the board also needs to re-elect the board member positions, traditionally the senior directors from each region. **Motion by Meroshnekoff to nominate senior directors to the Foundation board, second by Walls. Motion carried. Motion by Walls to nominate Bill Cumberworth as member at large to Foundation board, second by Meroshnekoff. Motion carried.** Patsy, Mary Jo and Bill Cumberworth are the Foundation directors at large.

NATIONAL DRUG TESTING. Murphy. We have a much better testing system now that is dialed in to our needs and is much more cost effective. It will cost approximately \$990 per ride. Murphy is donating the vials. Seven samples per ride. Murphy recommended adding a seventh ride to be tested in 2023. **Motion by Wingle to test seven rides, second by Gray. Motion carried.**

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE. Tamara Gull, DVM. Report covered discussion about the use of omeprazole in NATRC.

TRAIL ADVOCACY & GRANTS. Insko. One outstanding grant in R2. No new grants. Nothing on a national level.

EDUCATION. Dieterich. There are still issues with consistency that are being addressed and will be an ongoing project. Dieterich stated this is addressing consistency within a ride, and from ride to ride. There also needs to be consistent standards within an organization.

MEMBERSHIP. Zeliff. Membership renewal incentive was successful again this year. We need more fresh ideas for recruitment and retention. Reach out to members who are no longer coming around, and remind them that they can still be involved without riding.

JUDGES COMMITTEE. Walls. Updates on people in the judging apprentice and provisional processes. Norma Newton completed the requirements for LeD judge and is recommended for approval. **Walls made a motion to approve Norma Newton as LeD judge, Wingle seconded. Motion carried. Motion by Walls to approve the appointed Judges Committee, second by Meroshnekoff. Motion carried.** Vet Judges: Tamara Gull, co-chair, Carrie Porter, Kay Gunckel. Horsemanship: Lory Walls, co-chair, Priscilla Lindsey, Esther Diaguila. Rider reps: Jonni Jewell, Angie Meroshnekoff, Shari Parys. Ex-officio: Jamie Dieterich, Education; Sarah Smith, ED; John Zeliff, President.

HALL OF FAME. Smith. No applications.

STUDENT LOAN/SCHOLARSHIPS. Marilyn Marston. Requested that board members encourage older juniors preparing for college to consider applying for loans and scholarships through NATRC.

BREED & ORGANIZATION LIASIONS. Stucky. Struggling to get responses from breed organizations. Several high point horses will not receive awards because owners are not members of the breed organization. Stucky asked that members be reminded to join their breed organizations in order to continue to build our relationships with them.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION. Mesimer. Report filed. November 19, 2023 is the deadline for nominations.

TECHNOLOGY/WEBSITE. Smith. We are pushing forward on getting ride registration and data management under one roof. Alex Braun is one of our members working on the project and putting together a proposal for our developer on what is still needed to make it all happen. Costs are not yet known and will have to be budgeted for.

WEBINARS. Wingle and Muench. Smith did the first webinar of 2023. Micah from Top Trail will be putting on the next webinar. They are seeking both topics and presenters so suggestions are welcome.

CONVENTION & NATIONAL AWARDS. Meroshnekoff. Hotel contract was lost, so dates got changed. Attendance very low. Gray talked about online participation for seminars.

REGION REPORTS. R1-Meroshnekoff. 5 rides scheduled, two LeD only. R2-Insko. RAHA was the first ride to break even in several years. This year looking at three full rides and three LeD only. R3-Wingle. Eight to ten rides planned this year. One clinic for sure. Navajo Lake is the first ride. Things are picking up for this year. R4-Murphy. One ride so far, eleven total on the schedule. All full rides. New ride near San

Antonio and some new managers. Creating a new website for the region. R5-Diaguila. Two rides have occurred. Eleven rides on the schedule. Some new ride managers as well. R6-Stucky. Three A rides, three LeD rides. Still trying to encourage people to manage rides. Regional convention is coming up. NATRC will be represented at Equifest.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SHARED BOARD AMOUNT - \$471.29 Motion by Gray to adjust mileage rate to IRS rate each year, second by Johnson-Conne. Motion carried.

Old Business

1. Pilot Project Update (Lory). Zoom meeting in December for veterinary judges and another one in January for both veterinary and horsemanship judges. The video is available for the regions now, and it is encouraged that it be shared with as many members as possible. Scorecards and rider comments are being evaluated following rides. Program will be reviewed again in July.
2. NATRC Fundraising idea – 2024 NATRC Calendar. Using photos from rides, two photos from each region for the calendar. Thought was to develop the calendar and make it a preorder item so we have an idea on how many to order.

New Business

1. Regional zoom meetings to go over 2024 rule proposals. Feedback was received about wanting more communication about rule proposals in the regions. It has been suggested that national directors host regional Zoom meetings in the coming couple of months to discuss the rule proposals, get feedback from the membership and simply be more transparent. Target months would be April and May. We could even do two in March, two in April and two in May.
2. Future National Conventions. We need to start thinking about this in a less sentimental way. Despite efforts, have conventions run their course? Young people aren't attending conventions. We need to be practical and thinking ahead.
 - a. 2024 Region 5
 - b. 2025 Region 3
 - c. 2026 Region 2
 - d. 2027 Region 4
 - e. 2028 Region 6
 - f. 2029 Region 1
3. Increasing judging pool. Discussion about ways to recruit and retain new judges. Managers are struggling to find judges for rides.

Next meeting April 4th via Zoom beginning at 6:30 p.m. CDT.