

## NATRC National BOD Minutes November 14, 2020, via Zoom Webinar

CALL TO ORDER by President Angie Meroshnekoff, 9:04 a.m. November 14, 2020.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich, Bob Insko, Lory Walls, Bill Wingle, Laurie DiNatale, Elaine Swiss, Alice Perryman, Esther Diaguila, Kris Gray, Shari Parys and Marla Stucky. Sarah Rinne, Executive Director, via Zoom. Also attending: Patsy Conner, Sanction Chair, Andrea Rogers, Technology Chair, Ruth Mesimer, Honorary and Appreciation Chair, and John Zeliff.

MINUTES. July 11, 2020. **Motion by Swiss, second by Wingle to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Meroshnekoff. Report filed. We have gotten through this shut down better than expected. We were not only able to keep members, we were able to keep funds flowing. Regional election results were announced. R1 Alternate Director – Donna Stidolph, R2 Alternate Director – Beni DeMattei, R3 Director – Bill Wingle re-elected, R3 Alternate Director – Kay Gunckel, R4 Director – Kim Murphy, R4 Alternate Director – Cara Liebman, R5 Director – Esther Diaguila re-elected, and R6 Director – John Zeliff.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Rinne. Report filed. Membership numbers are up since July's meeting which is very encouraging. Statistics of free memberships from inception to present were shared. The program has been beneficial.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT. Gray. We are actually in the positive by \$4,000 even considering the way the year has been. Believes we will be able to continue to break even. We are seeing growth again. People need what we are offering. **Motion by Diaguila, second by Wingle to approve the report. Motion carried.**

BY-LAWS & RULES. Parys. No bylaws changes.

Rule Proposal – Make date of determination of junior age consistent. More of a clarification on family memberships. **Motion by Perryman, second by Wingle. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Allow membership in multiple regions. Diaguila said some wording should be added to the awards section of the proposal that it should clarify that membership and three rides are required in each designated region to qualify. Discussion about what it should cost to add on an additional region that would be fair to members but recoup costs to national and the regions. **Motion by Wingle, second by Diaguila. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Correcting region definitions with the Canadian territories. Clarification, no discussion. **Motion by Wingle, second by Gray. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Clarify limitations for Novice Division. No discussion. **Motion by Wingle, second by Perryman. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Two proposal options for lowering the age of junior competitors. The first proposal is based strictly on age. The second proposal is minimum age differentiated by division. Parys talked about lower age minimums in most other equine organizations. Decided to change mentor to sponsor to be more consistent with other organizations and add limit of two juniors per sponsor. **Motion by Wingle to accept the first proposal with amendments, second by Diaguila. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Clarify leg protection allowed in DO and Leisure. Simply strike the additional language about temporary types of hoof protection. No significant discussion. **Motion by Wingle, second by Gray. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Allow additional leg gear during stabling. The proposal is to allow for the use of standing wraps, compression socks, and ice boots during stabling. Walls wanted to clarify if this applies to any time the horse is at the trailer, not just post ride. Parys stated ice boots are only referenced in the drug appendices and thinks it should be added into the rule so it's easier for riders to find. Walls agreed, but

suggested ice boots have its own line. **Motion by Wingle to accept the proposal with amendments, second by Walls. Motion carried.**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES. Dieterich. The main item is to be aware of the need to add a job description for Bev Roberts' role as "keeper of the forms". We have a large number of forms, and they require updating. We do need someone who would be willing to fill the role and/or be a backup, but it can't be just anyone as it is very tedious. Dieterich thinks we need to have a defined membership chair now that the previous committees are not active. Zelif was suggested and agreed to the appointment. DiNatale and Perryman will assist.

PROTEST. Lori Allen. No protests.

PLANNED AND CHARITABLE GIVING. Swiss. Because of 2020 and so many concerns around the pandemic, it didn't make sense to have a capital campaign. With our Leisure Division in full swing and our organization in a good position, we could work towards a new capital campaign if we can define a solid direction and application for the funds. We still have "in lieu of flowers".

NATIONAL HISTORIAN. Conner. Nothing new to report. Continuing to collect items and also going through boxes already collected.

RIDE SANCTIONS. Conner. Sanctions are beginning to come in, we just don't have very many yet. People may still be holding back and seeing what happens. Conner and Dieterich are working on priority dates that ride chairs had prior to COVID, not their rescheduled date becoming their new priority date. Wingle is trying to make sure rides are kept current on the website.

CLINIC SANCTIONS. Linda Clayton. Report filed. No clinics since July.

MANAGEMENT. Swiss. The challenge continues to be recruiting and training new ride management to give long standing management a break. More outreach and Zoom meetings are recommended.

RULES INTERPRETER. Wingle. Report filed. We've had about nine rides since September. We lost about 30 rides due to COVID. There have been a few accident reports in the few rides that have occurred. There were a couple of rides with hold times of 20 minutes and just over. Still need more RI's to include the maps. Had a couple of rides where several riders were getting lost and wondered if it was due to shortened (or no) ride briefings due to COVID. We may need more structure around expectations when management passes off a management role before the ride so they can compete as there have been some issues with that, and it has been problematic for competitors. Swiss addressed the fact that it is a struggle to get people to fill the management roles; therefore, a ride manager may double as the trail master as well. Gray suggested a mentor program or some other way to encourage more people to step up into management.

INSURANCE. Rinne. Equisure is working with a new accident policy carrier. Rinne is working with Diane Leshner on our policy needs.

SAFETY. Swiss. Wingle has covered the safety aspects in his Rules Interpreter report. Meroshnekoff suggested that Swiss and Wingle divide up the duties.

E-NEWS. Kim Murphy. Report filed.

MARKETING. Gray. Report filed. Busy with the virtual challenges and using free promotional avenues. If 2021 takes off, then we can reconsider spending more money on marketing. Marketing team will be pushing the new challenges and membership renewals. Everyone wants NATRC gear. Gray has been collaborating with Zelif on a fundraising option with Custom Ink to sell NATRC gear and make a little money for the organization. **Motion by Gray to initiate the fundraiser, second by Wingle. Motion carried.**

SOCIAL MEDIA. Jonni Jewell. No report. Remove this from agenda since it is rolled into Marketing.

**BUSINESS MODEL & MEASUREMENTS.** Gray. Gray would like to finalize the budget for the December meeting. She has a lot of questions that impact the budget including projected rides for ride revenue, new expenses and other income suggestions. Meroshnekoff suggested we plan for the same number of rides as was proposed for 2020. We will revisit and approve the budget in the December meeting.

**SPONSORSHIPS.** Parys. Report filed. Sponsors appreciated the extension of their sponsorships without additional payment in 2020. The sponsors' businesses have come through fairly well.

**MEDIA ADVISORY.** Dieterich. Report filed. Need to renew Laurie Knuutila's contract as *Hoof Print* editor. The contract will be addressed during the December budget review.

**RIDERS AND JUNIORS.** Perryman. No update.

**FOUNDATION.** Conner. There isn't any action at this time. Not sure about the next meeting since it is usually at national convention. Plan to do a Zoom meeting.

**NATIONAL DRUG TESTING.** Murphy. Report filed. There have been no tests to date due to ride cancellations.

**VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE.** Dr. Tamara Gull. Report filed. The committee is recommending that buffering of electrolytes be allowed and amended in our appendices. **Motion by Walls, second by Diaguila to make this amendment to the drug appendices. Motion carried.** There was a discussion last year about Magic Cushion and gels. The committee is opposed to the use of any hoof packing materials with anti-inflammatory properties in competition. Recommends that a statement about them be added into the appendices about the prohibition of these products. **Motion by Walls, second by Parys to add to the drug appendices. Motion carried.** The committee also supports the rule proposal to allow standings wraps while stabled. Meroshnekoff revisited the possible allowance of omeprazole and that it is more common in general maintenance of performance horses. Dieterich clarified if the intent was allowance of a low maintenance dose for management and will take this discussion back to the committee.

**TRAIL ADVOCACY AND GRANTS.** DiNatale. No new applications.

**EDUCATION.** Dieterich. Report filed. The Riders Manual is close to completion. Working on final editing now.

**MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT & RETENTION.** Rinne provided numbers in her report. Everyone has participated in this task. Zelif is assuming the leadership of this committee.

**JUDGES COMMITTEE.** Kim Cowart. Report filed. Pam Hess and Cowart have requested to step down as co-chairs at the end of the year. Dr. Keri Riddick and Lory Walls are proposed as the next co-chairs. Approval of members of the committee on agenda for December meeting. Existing Leisure judges and the Judges Committee are recommending mentor/apprentice/provisional rides be added to the requirements for Leisure Division judges. It is also recommending more Zoom trainings.

**HALL OF FAME.** Rinne. No applicants.

**STUDENT LOAN/SCHOLARSHIPS.** Kay Gunckel. No applications. One student loan recipient is in the process of making payments on his loan.

**BREED & ORGANIZATION LIASONS.** Stucky. Report filed. Stucky sent emails to the breed organizations thanking them for their support. No breed awards will apply for 2020.

**AHA.** Insko. There are several rule proposals that affect competitive trail within AHA but are mostly clarifications. None of them would drastically impact NATRC.

**HONORARY & APPRECIATION.** Mesimer. Report filed. **Motion by Stucky to accept all nominations, second by Wingle. Motion carried.**

TECHNOLOGY. Rogers. Report filed. Rogers is working on Novice awards eligibility criteria and will be ready to do final audits as soon as last rides are processed. Inquired if it would be acceptable to post riders' lifetime points on the website. There were no objections by the board. Coreware meeting is scheduled for November 24.

CONVENTION & NATIONAL AWARDS. No convention in 2021. The date for the hotel in Omaha is rolled forward to 2022; committee hopes it can go ahead as planned.

REGIONAL REPORTS. R1-No rides due to COVID. Since there were no rides and no awards they are going to do a mini-clinic. Might lose the Mt. Diablo ride. R2- Insko said they just had Boyd Ranch and it was converted to a LeD only ride. Due to success, one manager may only do LeD going forward. Insko is committing to two rides in 2021. Potential ride site in the works. Could possibly be six rides in R2 for 2021. R3- Wingle – one LeD ride in 2020. Anything before June 2021 may not happen. Hoping there may still be five full rides and some additional LeD. R4- Perryman – there are nine or ten rides for 2021. Still managed to have seven rides in 2020. Having a regional awards meeting at an outdoor venue. R5- Diaguila- three rides in 2020 before shut down. Six rides are confirmed in 2021. More rides being discussed. There will be no mini-convention. R6- Parys – Zelif joining the board. Only two LeD rides happened this year in R6. COVID has really ramped up in the area so not sure about a convention. Five or six standard rides on the calendar with seven Leisure rides. Still several locations that are possible but need managers.

SHARED BOARD – No shared board.

#### OLD BUSINESS.

Webinars have been going well. An average of 50 viewers. Still intend to do mini-webinars. They are posted on YouTube and linked from our website. A solid video library is being established.

#### NEW BUSINESS.

Criteria for Dissolution. NATRC is doing well financially, but Swiss stated that it is always better to have a plan for a potential crisis rather than be in a crisis with no plan. Swiss addressed seven possible criteria revolving around membership numbers, judges, finances etc. Committee appointed - Swiss, Gray and Walls – to manage this plan and review the criteria.

Code of Conduct. This is a working document and not being signed today. Swiss said a letter from the president to board members with the expectations is just as effective.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. President - Walls nominated Meroshnekoff as President. No other nominations. Meroshnekoff elected by acclamation. Vice President - Gray nominated Wingle. Meroshnekoff nominated Walls. No other nominations. Wingle elected as vice president. Treasurer – Gray nominated for treasurer by Meroshnekoff. No other nominations. Gray elected as treasurer by acclamation.

Next meeting February 13, 2021 via Zoom.

Virtual General Membership meeting will be Tuesday, March 2, 2021 in lieu of the monthly board meeting since a live convention is not being held.

**Motion by Diaguila to adjourn, second by Gray. Meeting adjourned.**