

NATRC National BOD Minutes July 14-15, 2017, Kansas City, MO

CALL TO ORDER by President Angie Meroshnekoff, 7:00 p.m., July 14, 2017.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Shari Parys, Lori Allen, Gayle Muench, John Horne, Kay Gunckel, Alice Perryman, Bill Moore, Mary Hanson, Jamie Dieterich, Mary Jo Malone, Kim Cowart (ex-officio). Sarah Rinne, Executive Director. Beni DeMattei, R2 Alternate. Bob Insko not present due to a late flight.

RULES AND BYLAWS. Parys. See proposed bylaws and rule changes. Parys shared the bylaws adjustments first, indicating most of the changes are housekeeping, updating address, referencing and removing extensive capitalization. In addition, changing executive administrator to executive director was completed in multiple places. Additional areas were adjusted to reflect how our organization does business at present as several practices in the bylaws are now obsolete. **Moore made the motion to take the proposed bylaw changes as discussed and approved by the board for distribution to the membership, seconded by Gunckel. Motion approved.**

RULE PROPOSALS. Parys.

- Parys addressed the rule proposal to adjust mileage credit and pointed out serious flaws we didn't catch initially when it was proposed. It initially made sense to equalize them to reflect maximum mileage. "Type A" competitors in Novice currently get 40 miles for maximum mileage for 2 days, but Novice competitors in a "Type B" ride (with the current rule change proposal) would get a maximum mileage of 25 per day. If doing back to back B rides, they would get credit for 50 miles, resulting in 10 miles more than the "Type A" Novice riders. The same issue exists with the Open division. Two back to back "Type B" Open rides would garner 70 miles compared to "Type A" Open riders 60 miles. **Perryman made a motion to take mileage adjustments out of the rule proposal, seconded by Horne. Motion carried.**
- Ice Boots. The primary question is compression or non-compression. It's not to compress, but to hold the ice to the leg. Allen voiced concern that people will misconstrue the words "cooling agent" and that it could encompass many things. Wording such as "cooling packs" rather than "cooling agents" would clarify. Hanson pointed out the need to amend the drug appendices if this rule passes. **Motion made by Horne to accept with the wording change, seconded by Allen. Motion carried.**
- Division of Competitive Pleasure into Adult and Junior classes. The only identified change would be to adjust the mileage back to the original wording (to reflect the same striking of the mileage adjustment previously discussed.) Eliminate the mileage changes, but keep remaining rule proposal the same. **Motion made by Hanson to accept the amended proposal, seconded by Cowart. Motion carried.**
- Junior Competitor Proposals. Adjusting the maximum accrued points and allowing juniors to compete in the Novice Heavyweight and Lightweight classes as long as weight criteria are met held no discussion. **Motion made by Cowart to advance proposal as written, seconded by Muench. Motion carried.**
- National Champion Criteria. Dieterich stated the original wording needs to be included in it with a strikeout. The whole sentence should be included and stricken to clarify to the membership what is being changed. **Motion made by Allen to advance the proposal, seconded by Cowart. Dieterich abstained. Motion carried.**
- R1A Awards. The national championship wording in the Competitive Pleasure division in the R1A section was inadvertently omitted when the adjustments were originally made. The changes would mirror the NC award in the Open Division for R1A. **Motion made by Dieterich to accept the proposal, seconded by Gunckel. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER by President Angie Meroshnekoff, 8:00 a.m., July 15, 2017.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Shari Parys, Lori Allen, Gayle Muench, John Horne, Kay Gunckel, Alice Perryman, Bill Moore, Mary Hanson, Jamie Dieterich, Mary Jo Malone, Bob Insko, Kim Cowart (ex-officio). Sarah Rinne, Executive Director. Beni DeMattei, R2 Alternate, Patsy Conner, and Ruth Mesimer guests.

MINUTES. February 16, 2017. **Parys moved to accept the minutes as recorded, Moore seconded. Motion approved.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Meroshnekoff reminded board members that much of what is discussed in this meeting is confidential. We need to replace Terry Silver as breed liaison as she is resigning effective the end of the year. Terry is willing to help train her replacement and provide all of her documentation and contacts she has used over the years. Meroshnekoff thanked board members for their service to NATRC.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Rinne shared the status of seeking a new silversmith for the National Champion buckles. Champions Choice buckles provided the most competitive quote in terms of price and quality. We have recently lost our National Champion blanket manufacturer to retirement as well, and bids with new companies are being sought. **Muench made a motion to allow Rinne to pursue further negotiation with Champions Choice Buckles, seconded by Gunckel. Motion carried.** Rinne discussed a potential Equitrack partnership for tracking member mileage, both competitive, recreational and conditioning for future use in programs and trail advocacy. The board supported the ongoing

NATRC National BOD Minutes July 14-15, 2017, Kansas City, MO

work with Equitrack to see where it goes. Rinne addressed the need for continued work around our dangerous horse liability policy. Muench and Moore agreed to assist with the project.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Malone. See financial reports.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE. Dieterich discussed horse hall of fame changes. They have been working to keep information in one place rather than having to update multiple places, inevitably resulting in inconsistencies. The Policy and Procedures should only define the purpose of the drug policy, not contain the policy itself. The rules and appendices would be the formal implementation and definition of that policy. There is continued need to develop job descriptions for the organization and this is in progress.

PROTEST. Allen. No protests filed.

PLANNED AND CHARITABLE GIVING. Cowart/Elaine Swiss. No report.

SANCTIONS. Conner. We are working to tighten up procedures. Information is being posted and rides opened on RMS for registration before sanctions are approved. Conner requests that the board remind their regional ride managers to use the most current ride management forms.

CLINIC SANCTIONS. Linda Clayton, report filed. Meroshnekoff discussed the possibility of a "C" ride consisting of 10-12 miles. We cannot sanction a "C" ride, but if ride managers want to try it they could sanction it as a clinic. For publicity it could be addressed as an introductory ride.

MANAGEMENT. Hanson, no formal report. Hanson would like to start a ride manager Facebook page for communication and discussion.

RULES INTERPRETER. DeMattei addressed the same issues with hold ups at obstacles and other typical delays on the trail. We need to keep judges informed on expectations. There have been several accidents this year. A discussion was held regarding the role of safety riders. More consistency and a written description of the safety riders'/personnel duties are necessary so people understand their roles.

INSURANCE. Rinne, nothing to report.

SAFETY. Insko, no report.

MARKETING. Bev Roberts, report filed. Muench noted the continuing decline in ride attendance. In 2012, we had 1,800 riders to the present where we are at approximately 1,400 competitors. Muench talked about memberships. 550 new members took advantage of the free membership over the past 2 years. We need to start by defining the problem; after you understand the problem you have to focus on marketing to address that with a lot of education and communication.

Discussed the Trail Rider Ad and the future absorption of Trail Rider magazine by Horse and Rider. The ad cost goes up significantly from \$175 to \$527 per issue after December. **Moore made a motion to not extend our full year advertising in Horse and Rider, seconded by Muench. Motion carried.**

Perryman discussed Horses in the Morning and the consideration to discontinue the show. We don't appear to be gaining new members or riders through the show. The auditors did not like when we talked about NATRC too much, which makes it pointless as a marketing tool.

HOOF PRINT ADVISORY. Dieterich, report filed. The next deadline for submission is August 15. Dieterich would really like to have someone else take this on. The primary focus is soliciting, compiling and editing the articles and content for the publication. She indicated she spends approximately 40 hours on each issue.

NATIONAL AWARDS PRESENTATION AND CONVENTION. Horne reported the convention dates are set for February 9-11, 2018 in Albuquerque, NM. Most volunteer positions are filled with the exception of an awards and banquet chair.

SPONSORSHIPS. Parys has been signing some new sponsor contracts and stated it's getting easier. Riding Warehouse banners - we need to keep track of them and display them at every region ride. Each region has a banner that was provided. We continue to gain new sponsors.

RIDERS AND JUNIORS. Cindy Keen, no report filed.

FOUNDATION. Conner was able to reach Wayne Hyatt, and he indicated he would like to be replaced. An election is needed and will follow the formal business meeting.

DRUG TESTING. Kim Murphy, report filed. The new lab is working great. Membership and ride management need to be informed about increased testing fee for 2018 season. There should be a note in *Hoof Print* and E-News.

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE. Mike Peralez. No report.

TRAIL ADVOCACY AND GRANTS. Hanson reported the National Equestrian Trail Conference is November 2-4. She encourages sending some other interested members as Hanson has been there multiple times. Budgets are being

NATRC National BOD Minutes July 14-15, 2017, Kansas City, MO

slashed, and several money sources that fund local, regional and state trails are being cut. Hanson would like to partner formally with BCHA and the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource which would total \$250 for both associate memberships. There are good benefits from BCHA, and everybody should really be a member of their local chapter.

Muench made a motion, seconded by Allen, to move funds from the marketing budget to cover the cost of associate memberships. Motion carried.

EDUCATION. Dieterich stated the Riders Manual is the big project. It is currently on hold.

MEMBERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP RETENTION. Perryman stated so far most of the new memberships have come in through the free membership program. Perryman is trying to bridge the gap between members who have left and why. Some will ride one ride and not join. Meroshnekoff stated the 2016 free membership with a 17% return is not bad. Muench believes we should continue the free memberships into 2018 to really test it and gather more data. **Motion made by Allen, seconded by Muench to continue free memberships for 2018. Motion carried.**

JUDGES COMMITTEE. Cowart, report filed. Several judging applicants in the mix. Esther Diaguila was advanced to provisional status. Horsemanship judges must take a test, and the test is out of date. We need to make it more relevant and applicable to what we do today, including adding ethical situations (Cowart, Dieterich and Rinne). Working to create a horsemanship judge's academy (Cowart and Rinne) in an effort to bring consistency and authenticity to our judging. The plan is to have something to present to the board by November. Several veterinary judge applicants in the pike.

CRI. Dieterich/Dr. Greg Fellers, report filed. The report gives the history of the CRI in NATRC and the most recent actions with the CRI. The moratorium on scoring for 2017 remains in effect. The committee wants one official protocol. Cowart clarified the reasoning behind the development of CRI protocol. Judges CAN use it per our rules, however it could be used in any fashion and scored in any way a judge sees fit with no standard protocol. This protocol would make a standard for all veterinary judges and management should they choose to implement the CRI. **Motion by Hanson, seconded by Cowart to accept the current protocol as presented by the committee. In favor Insko, Parys, Dieterich, Cowart, Malone, Gunckel, Hanson. Against Allen, Muench, Horne, Moore, Perryman. Motion carried.**

This is strictly for protocol, not scoring. The scoring moratorium is still in place. The scoring moratorium was originally put into place in 2016, but extended through 2017. Scoring questions and discussion will be taken back to the committee.

HALL OF FAME. Rinne. One applicant was received, and the information will be shared at the November board meeting.

STUDENT LOAN & SCHOLARSHIP. Horne. Report filed. There were no applicants for loans or scholarships at this time. Horne suggested revising the *Hoof Print* notification to read that an application must be received by Horne no later than 30 days prior to the board meeting. They have come last minute with no time to gather important information about the applicant for the board to make an informed decision. Scholarships must be applied for by January for consideration for the following fall semester.

BREED & ORGANIZATION LIAISON.

- AHA. Insko stated there is not much to report. AHA distance nationals are held at various locations around the nation and are now done in conjunction with an open AERC ride. It might be possible to incorporate an NATRC ride.
- BREED LIAISON. Terry Silver has announced her desire to resign from the position at the end of the year. She will help train and mentor the replacement.

HONORARY AND APPRECIATION AWARDS. Ruth Mesimer (present for report) requested a vote to adjust wording for the Jim Menefee Lifetime Achievement Award. **Motion by Moore to accept the proposed changes, seconded by Horne. Motion carried.** It is time for regions to start submitting nominations to Mesimer in Word format for honorary and appreciation awards.

RMS. Dieterich is still working to get more specific on RMS change needs and prioritizing based on most critical parts. A committee was established to create flowcharts including Paula Riley, Andrea Rogers, Bob Insko, Jean Green, and Beni DeMattei. Meroshnekoff believes the priority should revolve around rider ease of use, as opposed to management function.

HISTORIAN. Conner met with Joan Throgmorton to collect more NATRC history. Conner was able to go through historical boxes that were very well organized and stated we no longer need to pay for a scanning service because another quality scanning option was available thanks to Denise Throgmorton Roberts. We will have to pay for shipping of the boxes to Conner.

NATRC VIDEOS. Dieterich reiterated we want quality videos available on the website and then our NATRC YouTube channel. Haley Schlerf is working on an intro video now.

REGION REPORTS. Senior Directors for each region provided a brief report of ride and clinic status for 2017 to date.

Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Horne. Meeting adjourned.