

**MINNESOTA DISTANCE RIDING ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 28,2009
U OF M, LEATHERDALE EQUINE CENTER, ST. PAUL, MN**

President, Darlene Molitor called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Other officers present were as follows, Vice President, Dale Lunde, Treasurer, Sandy Noonan, and Secretary Holly Egerer.

Secretary's Minutes, from the last meeting were available for members to review: a motion was made by Dale to approve the minutes and was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report, Sandy Noonan reported that MnDRA again had a successful year in 2008. Membership dues were \$1,229.00 in 2008, down from \$1,279.00 in 2007, a decrease of \$50.00. The trail fund portion of our dues came to \$166.00. Country Supply donated \$54.34, for a total trail fund of \$220.34. When added to our remaining balance of \$75.56, it brings our trail fund to \$295.90. We had a net profit of \$4,825.08 from our five MnDRA rides. As of 12/31/2008, our checking account balance was \$10,531.40. There is one outstanding check (#1256) for \$150.00. Our net profit for the year was \$252.49. As of 2/27/2009 we have \$6,893.72 in the checking account. A motion was made by Walt Freiberg to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Dale Lunde and approved.

Committee Reports,

Newsletter, Ken Meyer will continue to do the newsletter for 2009, with the next one coming out in April. He would appreciate members sending anything newsworthy, ECT to add to the newsletter. Also Ken would like to do more Horse profiles as well as continuing to do the rider profiles each month. Make sure that your e-mail address is correct if you get it electronically.

MnDRA web site, Dianne Mertz does a great job maintaining this site and has been donating the costs of maintaining the site for MnDRA.

Awards, Joan Thiel, Lynn Reichert and Dianne Schmidt again did the year-end awards for 2008 and have agreed to continue for 2009. With the Country Supply gift certificates we get money back into the trail fund. Any ideas from members for awards they would like to see given, contact Joan, Lynn or Dianne.

Novice Rides and Clinics, there are no clinics planned at this time but there will be novice rides available at many of the rides this summer.

Horse Expo, Chip Jack has a sign up sheet that is being passed around to help at the expo this year. She is willing to organize our booth for 2010 also.

Annual Banquet, Suzy Warren did a great job organizing our banquet and the new location is very fun. Suzy agreed to organize the banquet again for 2010.

Announcements,

Angie Mikkelson would like to sponsor/ mentor new riders. Dianne Schmidt suggested she notify ride managers at the rides that she is available to help new riders. She could also make a note on her pre-entries with contact info for the ride managers to give out to new riders. It was also suggested to post her contact info on the web site as well.

Henry Gruber has a hot tub for use as a water tank at the rides; it is lightweight and will fit on its side in a horse trailer stall.

Henry, Walt and TJ funded, designed and printed MnDRA color brochures for handout to interested people. If there are people that would like to help sponsor these brochures for next year they can contact Henry. The brochures have never been funded through MnDRA, Henry is now loading all the photos taken at the rides on the web site and people can view and copy photos for printing, as they would like. He is also willing to make CD's for people that would like that or do not have a computer.

Lynn announced that AHDRA would like all their members to update their info and the info on their horses as well.

Darlene brought UMECA rider chevrons from the banquet for those that could not be there to get them, check with her to see if there one for you.

General Business

The 2009 ride schedule is complete and ride books should be out very soon.

The trail fund for 2009 had no body send in any requests. There is \$2.00 from each membership fee that is donated to the trail fund as well as the donated money from Country supply for purchases members do through out the year. Letters for request of trail fund can be sent to Darlene and she would like to receive them by April 1st, decision to be made by April 15th.

Discussion was held on possibly using the trail fund money to purchase a trailer/vet box for use at the rides for treatment of sick horses. Ken Meyer suggested that \$1.00 of each ride entry could go into a savings for the vet box, tabled at this time. Michael Powell has started a vet trailer fund-raiser; Lisa Powell has already made \$200.00 selling coupons for Papa Murphy's pizza. Trail fund money will not be used at this time for the vet trailer; membership would prefer that it continue to be used for just trail donations. Michael and Lisa will continue to work on getting the vet trailer purchased and they would appreciate any help with fund raising that people are willing to do.

Theresa Meyer gave a review of the UMECRA convention and general meeting, new elected board members, Shelly Sentyrz, sanctioning director, Angie Mickelson, points keeper, Peggy Pasillas, newsletter editor. Changes to the Novice ride division, AERC fees will go up next year, (2010) \$3.00. Due to many rider requests, UMECRA is asking that ride veterinarians use the whole lameness range and complete score sheet to judge the horses, keeping the rides from just being a P/R race. Score numbers will probably be much lower than what we have been used to.

New Business

A request was made for MnDRA sponsorship for Charity Cup ride by the new managers, Michael and Lisa Powell. Discussion followed and a motion was made by Dale Lunde, seconded by Dianne Schmidt, show of hands and motion was passed.

A request was made for MnDRA sponsorship for a new ride in 2010 to be held at Zumbro Bottoms managed by Barry Saylor. Discussion followed, Michael motioned to table a vote until the next general meeting, seconded by Dale, and all favored.

Dianne Schmidt announced that 2009 is the 40th anniversary of the SE ride; she is planning some special things. The 40th anniversary of UMECRA is in 2011 and it will be held in Rochester, Dianne will be planning the banquet. She would like to have MnDRA members help as much as possible and get some of the old members from long ago come as well.

Election of Officers for 2009, there were no new nominations for any of the positions. It was unanimously voted that all current board members stay for 2009, all excepted. Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.