

**Minnesota Distance Riding Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes, March 24, 2002
VFW, Osseo, MN**

The meeting was called to order at 3:50 PM by President, Missie Schwartz. The other officers present were as follows, Vice President, Dale Lunde, Treasurer, Karen Pruess, and Secretary, Holly Egerer.

Announcement was made that only those members that have paid their dues for 2002 can vote at the meeting today.

Secretary's minutes from the last meeting were handed out to the membership and a motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded and approved.

Treasurer's report, Karen Pruess stated that currently we have \$3,739 in the checking account. The outstanding bills still due would be for the award jackets and the ride insurance for 2002. Last years rides did not make a lot of money so the funds are low for starting 2002 ride season. Karen suggested that maybe a fund-raiser for increasing the bank account might be a good idea. Sharon Hahn agreed to help Karen with planning some sort of fundraising ideas. Motion was made to approve the treasurer's report, seconded and approved.

Board meeting review, ride fees need to increase, Dianne Kuhn made a motion to have the ride managers and treasurer's review entry fees each year, and change amount as needed. Seconded and approved. Trail fund recipient is Crow Hassen County Park. Also discussed the need for increasing membership dues, this will be reviewed by the board next December or January.

Committee Reports,

- ❖ *Newsletter*, Lynn Reichert, cost to mail out is an average of \$72.00 to \$78.00 to mail out. How often should we mail out? Ed Hauser suggested e-mail to members that would like it that way to save on postage. Suggestions were made to place a spot on the membership form to request if you would like your newsletter by e-mail and also to send e-mail to people that are on line already to request if they would like their newsletter by e-mail instead.
- ❖ *Awards*, Dianne Kuhn said that Ed Barbo sells coats at cost and the embroider is done for \$32.00 per item, Quail Creek tack gives good discounts for the tack and gift certificates, and Dianne makes the saddle pads. Dianne is willing to do the awards again for 2002 unless someone else would like to take over. She encourages helpful suggestions for year-end awards. Motion was made to have Diane continue to do awards, seconded and approved.
- ❖ *Novice Rides and Clinics*, Holly Egerer will be doing a clinic in June again and needs anyone available to come and help out.
- ❖ *Horse Expo*, Missie Schwartz has a booth reserved for MnDRA, she is sending around a sign up sheet for volunteers to work at the booth for several hours at a time.
- ❖ *Annual Banquet*, comments were made about when to hold it next year, possibly early in January. It was decided that anytime before the Ride book is to be published would be good. Darlene agreed to organize the banquet for 2003, she will look into a date in early Feb.
- ❖ *Trail Representative*, Ed Hauser has been following the recent DNR budget cuts and the fact that they will continue to get worse each year. It will have a tremendous effect on the equine trail use. Unfortunately Ed has not had much luck in finding any help with members or the MN horse council to lobby with the legislature to change the lack of funds going to DNR.

Unfinished business, MnDRA ride insurance, Holly Egerer will continue to use the same company, even though this particular company is very slow it is difficult to obtain any sort of ride insurance since the 911

incident. EMDRA is also offering ride insurance but the cost will be cheaper for MnDRA to continue to obtain their own insurance.

New Business, 2002 ride season, discussion was made about changing around dates of some of the rides to accommodate rides that have a problem going into the state parks before Memorial day or after Labor day. EMDRA would like MN rides to sanction with them so they can increase the amount of rides they have for year-end awards. Several MN rides did sanction with them this year.

Dr. Anne Christoferson did a talk on the threat of West Nile Virus in MN for 2002. There is a vaccine available now and she recommends that people vaccinate their horses.

Election of officers for 2002, Karen Pruess unanimous vote to run for treasurer again for 2002, Holly Egerer unanimous vote to run for Secretary again for 2002, Dale Lunde unanimous vote to run as Vice President again for 2002. President nominations, Karen Pruess nominated Darlene Molitor, Dale Lunde seconded, Nomination for Dianne Kuhn, she declined at this time. Unanimous vote for Darlene Molitor for president for 2002.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:00 PM, seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Holly Egerer
Secretary for MnDRA