

**Ride and Tie Association
Board of Directors' Meeting
December 14, 2006-Teleconference, called to order 1805 hours**

Present

Board Members: Don Betts (President), Rufus Schneider (Vice President), Dawn Hartsock (Secretary), Ted Ruprecht (Treasurer), Steve Anderson, Nita Browning, Lani Newcomb, Steve Shaw, Don Strong, Mary Tiscornia (*had to leave early, so discussed her position on new business at onset of meeting)

Administration: Lisa Preston

Guest: Annie Betts

Absent

Jim Steere

Minutes were discussed and Ted Ruprecht moved to approve minutes from 9.14.06 Board meeting, Mary Tiscornia seconded, unanimous verbal vote to approve previous minutes.

Reports

President's Report-Don Betts

1. Unpaid members compete at some races and efforts to get them to join have not always been successful. Membership and rule compliance must be tightened up.
2. Rufus Schneider, Ted Ruprecht and Don Betts are up for re-election. If they wish to run, they must submit a statement of up to 500 words to Annette Parsons which will be published in the March Ride & Tie Newsletter.
3. On January 13, 2007, the AERC's Central District Convention in Henryetta, OK will include a presentation by Don Betts. A new R&T may be created at the Hog Scramble 2-day endurance ride in Texas.
4. The FEI World Championships in 2010 will be held in Lexington, KY and may be a site for that year's R&T World Championship.

Treasurer's Report-Ted Ruprecht-

1. Revenue should be kept separate (race revenue, insurance fees, merchandise income) and this needs to be tightened up. Lisa should collect better info from the Race Directors.
2. The Association has uncashed checks that need to be dealt with.
Don Betts advised that Leah sent him the Dodge & Cox information on the endowment, which stands at \$52,030.06

Sanctioning Report-Lani Newcomb, Dawn Hartsock and Lisa Preston completed revising the Sanctioning Packet. Their recommendations were distributed to the Board prior to this meeting. Discussion was saved for New Business.

Horse Hall of Fame Report- Mary Tiscornia-

She needs to call Leah, as she is unsure of the criteria. She will have the report ready in February.

Championship report- Rufus Schneider has been in contact Chris Amaral with information on early birds vs. day-of-race entries from last Championship; permit needed 30 days before event ; and numbers of T-shirts sold. Steve Shaw and George Hall took the R&T trailer to Chris Amaral. They are planning for 50 teams.

Future Race Sites Report- Nita Browning-

Steve Shaw said Nita should coordinate with Gary Zimmerman. Taylorsville is a possibility for 2008.

Sponsorship Report- Dawn Hartsock- Long Riders Gear will sponsor the new race she and Cheryl Domnitch are directing and may sponsor all races. Platinum Plus is deciding on their sponsorship. Sponsors for Pro-Am are on New Business.

Don Strong said the VP of Cashel expressed interest in sponsorship while at the Expo and he'll forward the contact info to Dawn.

BC award- Jim Steere absent, no report.

Special Awards- Ted Ruprecht-- no report.

Merchandising Report- Don Strong-

He doesn't vote on these issues but supplied pricing information for shirts, mentioned doing the water bottles for the new race and that he was soon going to a convention that would have 40-50 buckle vendors. Steve Shaw wanted visors available in merchandise and wants prices low to get the R&T name out. Don Betts suggested checking with Trish as well.

Statistics Report- Steve Anderson

The Association had 26 race days (Long and short course races)

In the long course (>20 miles), 134 competitors.

In the short course (<19 miles), 86 competitors.

Overall there were 468 Entries in all the races.

Old Business

Director's Insurance. Ted has gathered some information on this. Steve Shaw pointed out that the size and type of the Association makes Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance unnecessary. Don Strong said it would cover individual liability for Board of Director decisions. He will assist Ted Ruprecht with this report.

New Business

1. Pro-Am- Don Betts suggested eliminating this race category, as it confuses Race Directors and there is only one specific Pro-Am race. Rufus pointed out that new teams are usually two amateurs anyway, not Pro-Am. Dawn Hartsock wanted to continue to honor amateurs and offered to donate 150 water bottle prizes for amateurs, once they are identified in future races. Steve Shaw said the Pro-Am category has outlived its usefulness and motioned to eliminate the category, Don Strong seconded, unanimous.

2. Steve Shaw motioned to accept Dawn Hartsock's water bottle donation and award the top amateur, Don Strong seconded, unanimous.

3. Life Membership- Don Betts pointed out that he thought a Life membership was to apply to an individual but in some cases, multiple persons may have received benefits from one \$500 Life Membership purchase. All BOD members concurred that a Life membership applied to only one person, but people who had already been acknowledged as having Life membership should be grandfathered in without reviewing the payment history. Motion by Don Strong to define \$500 Life Membership as belonging to one individual only, seconded by Dawn Hartsock, unanimous.

4. Family Life. Don Betts suggested a category of Family Life, in which two people at the same address get Life membership for \$700. After discussion, this idea was rejected as cumbersome to manage in the event the members separate.

5. New Sanctioning Packet, as revised by the Sanctioning Committee was discussed. Dawn Hartsock suggested emailing the packet when possible and pointed out the Best Condition Award still needed to be reworked. She pointed out difficulty and redundancy in the old packet and appreciated Annie Betts making the results form computer friendly. Don Betts mentioned difficulty in getting compliance from all Race Directors to complete the Packet within two weeks of their race and invited Lisa Preston to speak. Lisa reviewed how incomplete and late information from Race Directors snowballs into an incomplete membership list for the next race. Don Betts pointed out that the existence of one-day membership creates a continuing problem in membership management. Steve Shaw motioned to drop one-day memberships, Steve Anderson seconded. Don Strong had somehow not yet received the packet and was concerned about the impact on Race Directors. He did not vote for the motion, all others did, motion carried.

6. New Rules-as the rules are included in the Sanctioning Packet, they were reviewed, with recommended changes sent to the Board members for review prior to this meeting. Dawn Hartsock identified primary changes. There was discussion about retaining the map rule, but it was recognized as a recommendation for Race Directors, not a rule for competitors and was dropped. There was some discussion about dropping the artificial ties rule, but it remained as recommended. Nita Browning moved to approve the recommended rule changes, Don Strong seconded, unanimous.

7. Losses on the Championship- discussion on whether to lower the \$1,000 prizes. Steve Shaw pointed out the money helps generate hype. Rufus motioned to keep the prizes, Lani seconded, unanimous.

Don Strong motioned to adjourn, Nita Browning seconded, unanimous.

Adjourned 2006 hours

Next Meeting scheduled for conference call 2/8/07@1800 PST

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Preston

Note: on 2/6/07, the next meeting was rescheduled for 3/15/07 by Don Betts