

Southeast Endurance Riders Association, Inc.
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes – Zoom Meeting
January 19, 2023

Board Members Present

Lara Worden
Laurie Underwood
Amy Whelan
Patsy Gowen
Jack Price
Kathy Burnett
Shannon Thomason
Diane Connolly
Tamra Williams

Board Members - Not Present

Sudi Lenhart
Ike Nelson

Also Present:

Eric Rueter

The meeting was called to order by President Lara Worden at 7:03 p.m. on January 19, 2023.

Insurance Renewal

- Laurie Underwood informed the Board that the 2023 – 2024 renewal of SERA's liability policy was in process. The renewal premium is \$4,586, which is an increase of approximately \$200 from last year. Tamra Williams will pay the renewal invoice and the renewal will be bound.

New Awards Sponsor

- Lara Worden let the Board know that Duane and Nina Barnett have asked to sponsor the Open Junior Champion award. We are very grateful to Duane and Nina for their sponsorship and support.

Awards Discussion – Freshman Horse of the Year

- Lara Worden led a discussion regarding the 2022 Freshman Horse of the Year award. The award has been offered since 2009 and the rules/criteria governing it have been unchanged since its inception. This year's nominations revealed a conflict in the rules, which state:

“Freshman Awards – Freshman Horse of the Year

All recipients of **SERA Awards and Recognitions** must be a member of **SERA** and only the ride results achieved as an active **SERA** member apply. Ride results from years prior to the 2009 ride year do not apply. For **SERA Awards** purposes, a ride year is December 1 – November 30. For any award which requires nomination, nominations are due to the Secretary of SERA (for open and limited distance awards) or Secretary of the East Coast Ride and Tie (for Ride and Tie awards) no later than December 15 and may be made by email or by snail mail.

- Based on the horse with most consecutive miles
 - In case of a tie, AERC points break the tie
 - If at any time the horse fails to complete a ride, a new count begins at zero.
- Consecutive miles prior to pull may still be submitted
- If the horse has multiple riders, combined results of SERA member riders are used
- Based on the horse's combined Open and Limited Distance completions
- Miles from a single ride year count
- Only miles from the Horse's first full year of competition apply.
- “First full year of competition” is defined as:
 - Previous ride starts recorded in no more than one prior ride year, and
 - Ride starts in prior ride year are no more than 3
 - All previous ride history applies, regardless of region or SERA sanctioning
- Member must self-nominate to Laurie Underwood at ...”

The conflict in interpretation arose when the ride record of one nominee included non-member ride entries at SERA sanctioned rides. Two of the non-member rides resulted in non-completions while one resulted in a completion. The question then became: do the non-completions count against the nominated horse or not.

The entirety of the criteria and the ride records of the two nominees were presented and discussed at length. By vote of the Board members present and voting, it was decided that the correct interpretation of the current criteria is that “only the ride results achieved as an active SERA member apply” and therefore, the non-member rides count neither for nor against the nominated horse. The decision was unanimous with Laurie Underwood recusing, and President Lara Worden abstaining as a tie breaker was not needed.

Lara Worden will draft a revision to the criteria for Freshman Horse of the Year and send it to the Board for discussion. Tamra Williams noted that the Board needs to revisit the entirety of the awards package and criteria.

Teams Competition – Presented by Eric Rueter

- DBDR and PNER have teams competitions
- Eric’s proposal is based on PNER’s plan.
- If structured correctly, the cost to SERA from this competition should either be a wash or will possibly generate a small profit.
- The competition will be based on an entire ride season.
- Eric Rueter will be the points keeper, at least for the first year. Points will be structured based on the distances ridden by the team members and not ride times.
- Introductory rides will not count in the teams competition

The Board discussed Eric’s presentation and felt that it would encourage camaraderie with and encouragement to our members. Suggestions were made to help streamline the competition rules, including the associated fees and number of riders per team. Eric will revise the proposal and present it to the members at the Jacksonville convention.

2024 SERA Convention and Elections

- Lara Worden asked the Board for help with planning and plan execution for the 2024 Convention, and asked the Board whether we should offer a convention every other year and for suggestions on alternate venues.
- Lara Worden announced that she will not be seeking re-election in 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. by President Lara Worden.

Submitted by Laurie Underwood, Secretary