

2012 Annual Meeting 11/17/12 Minutes



I. 12:03 p.m. – Welcome

The meeting was opened by Rebecca Chatfield, 2012 Equestrians Institute President. Approximately 20 members attended the Annual Meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

Alison Moss provided copies of the minutes from 2011 Annual Meeting. Members present read the minutes. BJ Higgins moved that the members waive reading of the minutes; Lori Fleming seconded the motion. The members present unanimously approved the motion to waive reading of the minutes and approve the minutes as submitted.

III. Division Reports

a. Overview

Rebecca Chatfield gave an overview of the 2012 events: 2 clinics; 8 Dressage recognized and schooling shows; 2 Eventing events; 5 Driving events; 2 general education lectures; a fundraiser tack sale; and the Annual Meeting of the membership.

b. General Division/Board

Rebecca Chatfield gave a power point presentation. The Board's work in 2012 included approval of the budget and events for each discipline; approval of the Policies & Procedures Manual and Update; maintenance of USEF, USDF, USEA and ADS affiliations; review of E.I.'s tax form 990; contracts with event organizers and venues; electronic presence through E.I.'s website, Facebook, Twitter, and e-flashes; insurance; sponsors/donors; membership; and grants.

Maren Jensen gave the IT report. E.I. developed a new website as a group effort. It won the USDF award for best overall design and layout for a GMO with 175-499 members. It addresses design issues that have arisen over the past 4 years. Maren invited members to send feedback to any Board member. Each Division is keeping Facebook updated. E.I. has a Twitter account. Posts on Facebook also go on Twitter. Sharon Hummel-Kramer thanked Maren on behalf of competitors.



c. Dressage Division Report

Lynn McGrew gave the report. She believes the lower attendance at the Chardonnay show was due in large part to its location at Bridle Trails (outdoor arenas, limited stabling and parking) as well as unpredictable weather in April. The Division made capital investments in new, faster computers and a new dressage arena that it will share with the Driving Division.

The 2013 awards system will be brought in line with other GMOs. The Division intends to put on more clinics, particularly riding clinics. Indoor arenas will be necessary. Lynn invited members to email ideas on location and clinicians to her.

d. Eventing Division Report.

Meika Decher gave the report. The Division had a good experience with the Washington State Horse Park (WSHP) and hopes to make it the EI Eventing Division "home." The Division planned 3 events for 2012; 2 were very successful; one had to be cancelled due to heavy rain which made the area for trailer parking area too soft. A derby will be held in May 2013. An unrecognized 3-day event will held in September. If it goes well, the Division will put on a USEA-recognized event in spring 2014, made possible by E.I.'s investment in WSHP infrastructure. The Eventing Division will work over the winter with the eventing community to fund jumps. Leslie Thurston thanked E.I. for the Eventing Division's work and investment in the WSHP.

e. Driving Division.

Diana Axness gave the report. The Division held 5 competitions and 1 beginning driving clinic. One of the competitions was held at the WSHP; the remainder at Happy Trails (formerly HAPPS). The clinic was held at Bridle Trails. The events were "branded," with banners and volunteers wearing E.I. T-shirts. The new web site has been very helpful. The last event filled without sending out any email or e-flash.

IV. Financial Statement

Gunn Cooper presented the 3rd quarter financial report. The General Account includes everything that is not Division specific. The \$10,000 loss year-to-date is expected to be made up from tack sales and membership renewal. The affiliate fees come from the General Account. Members present discussed whether volunteer gifts should be Division specific and concluded they should be a General Fund expense.

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V. 2013 Board of Directors

The proposed 2013 Board of Directors is comprised of:

Diana Axness
Sheila Buchanan
Rebecca Chatfield
Gunn Cooper
Meika Decher
Lori Fleming
Maren Jensen
Penny Leggott
Lynn McGrew
Alison Moss

Leslie Thurston moved that the proposed 2013 Board of Directors be approved; BJ Higgins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the members present.

IV. Life Membership

E.I. currently charges \$350.00 for a Life Membership. It costs E.I. \$30/year/member for *Flying Changes* and the USDF GMO membership. The members discussed whether E.I. should retain a life membership category, whether the cost is sufficient, the need to grandfather existing Life Members, the possibility of “e-members”. Sheila Buchanan proposed that E.I. canvas its existing 66 Life Members to determine whether they wish to remain active. Some may no longer be interested, have moved or passed away. Lifetime members keep people involved who might otherwise not renew. Penny Leggott observed that a Lifetime Member may be more inclined to donate to because don't have to make annual payment. They are loyal, “go-to” members. This issue will be explored further at future Board meetings. Members are invited to call or email with their thoughts.

The meeting adjourned at 1:18

Minutes submitted by Alison Moss, 2012 E.I. Secretary

Please note: Annual Meetings minutes are formally approved at the next year's Annual Meeting, per standard procedures.