

2011 Annual Meeting 11/19/11 Minutes



I. 3:15 p.m. – Welcome

The meeting was opened by Rebecca Chatfield, 2011 Equestrians' Institute President. In keeping with E.I.'s green initiative, a relatively small number of copies of the following information was available for the general membership to review:

Draft Minutes of 2010 Annual Meeting
Draft Minutes of 9/11/11 Special Meeting of the Members

In addition, Rebecca Chatfield had available for review a notebook containing E.I.'s Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, minutes of recent Board meetings, a draft Policies & Procedures Manual, and other key organizational information.

Approximately 25 members attended the Annual Meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

Alison Moss read the minutes from 2010 Annual Meeting. Maren Jensen moved that they be approved as written; Tracy Garland seconded the motion. The members present unanimously approved the minutes.

III. Division Reports

a. Dressage Division Report

Shelly Navarre gave the report. The March Schooling Show went well, with no snow. A Scribing Clinic was held in in early April. A new recognized show, Chardonnay, took place at Bridle Trails. For a new show, it did fairly well. The L'Apertif show scheduled for May was cancelled due to concerns about the EHV-1 virus which came to head in the two weeks prior to show. E.I. refunded entry fees. The Chablis Sport Horse, Beaujolais, and Champaign shows took place at Donida. Finally, there was a very well attended clinic with Gerd Heuschmann in October. Shelly expressed the Division's thanks to Jana Steffen for her superb management of clinic. The Division is considering a September schooling show to be held at Bridle Trails. It may not offer opportunity classes.

Susan Miller suggested that E.I. put on a schooling show at the Washington State Horse Park (WSHP). Penny Leggott discussed the possibility of a joint hunter

2011 Annual Meeting 11/19/11 Minutes



pace and dressage show.

b. Eventing Division Report.

Meika Decher gave the report. For first time in 20 years, the Division did not host a recognized horse trials in 2011 because E.I. Eventing is moving to a new “permanent” home at the WSHP and while adequate facilities exist for dressage and show jumping, the cross country courses are still in development. The Division will host a spring show in 2013.

In 2011, Eventing put on two events at the WSHP: Spring schooling show and Hunter Pace, and a Fall Schooling Combined Test with Hunter Pace. They went very well; everyone had fun. The Division plans to have three schooling shows at three different venues in 2012. There will be a derby and/or schooling show with a similar format as the 2011 fallschooling show. The Division is supporting the WSHP with a large investment through a lease.

c. Driving Division.

Tracy Garland gave the report. The Driving Division held one event at the WSHP. It was a success, drawing from White Salmon, Yakima, Okanagan, and Puget Sound. Diana Axness is proposed to replace Tracy on the Board.

d. General Division.

Rebecca Chatfield gave a power point presentation.

Chapters

In 2011, E.I. separated from its “chapters,” the Lower Puget Sound Dressage Club (LPSDC) and Whatcom Dressage and Eventing Association, as a result of changes in the laws governing non-profits. The 2011 Bylaws provide for the possibility of chapters in the future. LPSDC has joined the Oregon Dressage Society.

Event Management

E.I. has moved to event Management & budgeting by division. There was a discussion of the event approval process. Kelly Larsen asked if organizers need to be E.I. members. Rebecca clarified that key organizers need to be members.

New Bylaws/Minutes of September 11, 2011 Special Members Meeting

The membership approved revised Bylaws at a Special Members Meeting on September 11, 2011. Kelly Larsen moved to waive reading of the draft Minutes of

2011 Annual Meeting 11/19/11 Minutes



that meeting. Lynn McGrew seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Those present then unanimously approved the Minutes of the September 11, 2001 Special Members Meeting as written.

Policies & Procedures Manual

E.I. is developing a Policies & Procedures Manual (P&P Manual) in conjunction with the revision to the Bylaws. The draft P&P Manual is in the notebook of key organization documents and available on-line. Rebecca invited all to participate in the development of the P&P Manual. Peter Larson pointed out that the Bylaws and P&P Manual result in a subtle shift in how E.I. rules itself.

Affiliations

E.I. renews its USEF and USDF membership annually and will become an affiliate of USEA effective 2012. USDF allows us to charge a nonmember fee at recognized shows. We are a GMO of USDF.

Maren Jensen described the rationale for affiliation with USEA. There is a nominal flat fee.

The Driving Division will look into whether it would make sense to be affiliate of ADS. It also charges a flat fee. The Driving Group is member.

Membership

The 2011 Bylaws streamline membership categories to the following: life member, adult member, youth member. The definition of "youth" now falls in line with other non-profits and the age of majority. E.I. wants to get away from terms that are discipline specific. The 2011 Bylaws eliminate family and business memberships. Businesses can be sponsors. Kelly Larsen has received questions about businesses wishing to advertise on the E.I. website. Peter Larsen suggested that those interested in this topic contact him.

Polly Kranick has resigned from the position of Membership Coordinator. Gunn Cooper, Rebecca Chatfield, and Maren Jensen are working on streamlining membership and putting membership procedures in the P&P Manual so that this task can be turned over to a new Membership Coordinator.

Insurance

We are trying to adjust our insurance policies to run on the calendar year to better coordinate with the competition year.

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IV. Membership

2011 Annual Meeting 11/19/11 Minutes



E.I. had 390 members in 2011. Our Current Membership breakdown by Division is: Dressage 75%; Eventing 15%; 10% Driving. We have 64 Life members; 2 Youth members; and 61 adult members.

To date we have 127 members for 2012. Many additional members renewed at the tack sale held earlier in the day. Facebook fans have increased to 721 (up from 322). This number is greater than CDS (694) and close to ODS (819).

V. Legal & Financial Accountability - Board of Directors

The Board is responsible for approval of budgets and revisions to budgets. Key tasks accomplished in 2011 include: updating the bylaws to comply with Washington law governing non-profits; Tax Form 990 compliance; development of a Board of Directors Code of Conduct; developing a draft P&P Manual; standardizing contracts with organizers and venues; insurance. The Board also initiated an update to E.I.'s 2009 Strategic Plan, the work on which will continue in 2012.

VI. Financial Statement

Gunn Cooper gave the financial report as of September 30, 2011. The membership acknowledged the hard work Gunn has done to get the point of such detailed budgeting.

VII. Proposed 2012 Board of Directors

Diana Axness
Rebecca Chatfield
Gunn Cooper
Meika Decher
Maren Jensen
Lynn McGrew
Indra Krastins
Peter Larsen
Penny Leggott
Alison Moss

The proposed 2012 Board of Directors was unanimously approved by the E.I. general membership.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20

**2011 Annual Meeting
11/19/11 Minutes**



Minutes submitted by Alison Moss, 2011 E.I. Secretary