

# Equestrians Institute Board Meeting

29 September 2018

Location: Bellevue Library, Bellevue WA

Attendees: Diane, Gunn, Trish, Penny, Sarah, Laurie, Kathryn (Phone), Merridy (Phone @4:15)

Absent: Jo, Chris, Meika

**Called to order: 3:12 PM**

## Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes for the last board meeting (March 2018). Motion passed.

## Division reports

### Sporthorse Breeding

The division held one show this year and it was well attended and well run. There were compliments from breeders and the judges. Entries were up about 15 from 2017. More horses are doing the Materiale classes.

Review of the actual to budget shows the division is showing around \$600 for the good. There is one outstanding check for insufficient funds that will be resolved. The division will have dollars to contribute the non-member fee to the General Fund.

### Dressage

Dressage had an outstanding year. Reviewing YTD actual to budget figures, dressage estimates ending the year \$500 in the black. Outstanding expenses still to be accounted for include October and December clinic expenses, insurance, and the non-member fee for the General Fund.

Key factor contributing to the positive financial report was show entries were up. Show details include:

- Beaujolais had \$1,300 in sponsorships and expenses were trimmed as much as possible. The committee worked to come up with new ideas.
- Champagne made \$890. The show saw more competitors than last year but not as many as hoped. There continues to be competitions between various shows on the calendar.
- Clinics – May clinic lost about \$100. Anticipate maintaining the budget as the clinic location for October and December is being offered at no charge. There was a glowing recommendation for the clinician as a rider stated her improved scores were due to what she learned at the May clinic.
- Schooling show lost \$200. Only one schooling show was held as the other was cancelled due to the equine herpes virus outbreak. There were expenses paid for that cancelled show and a refund has been requested. If those dollars are recovered, the schooling show might make \$100 profit.

The division reported on a change to its general budget. Grant expense of \$1,050 was not budgeted.

The expense was tracked to \$700 grant to EI to participate with PNW Foundation for prize money and \$350 grant for the first clinic. The board then discussed the \$700 and decided that since it was an EI check, the amount should be recategorized as sponsorship in the budget.

## Driving

The driving community lost two key people this year. Robert Griswold, EI's course designer, passed away one night during the Kitchen Sink event. Ron Whitman, one of the Driving Committee, passed away earlier in the year. A sponsor started a scholarship to honor Ron and 3 young drivers – all under 14 – were awarded scholarships this year.

The division reported that it had a good financial year, ending about \$3,000 in the black. The result of years spent actively pushing fundraising, the division raised \$8,500 in donations. Fundraising activities included:

- Silent auction - \$3,500
- Raffle of harness donated by Chimacum Tack
- People writing checks
- Sponsorship banners sold for \$200 / each. (Details of the banners: Cost of banners is \$20 on bannersonthecheap.com. Can use the banners again next year if people buy the sponsorship again. Posted the offer to buy a banner on the Driving Facebook page. Don't pay for banners with grommets as that drives the cost up.)

All shows were full or close to full. The 4-day clinic filled at the last minute. Kitchen Sink filled on the first day it was open. CDE had 54 due to many late scratches. DT entries were down since WEG was close by.

## Eventing

The division reported that budget actuals are still being compiled. The EI Fall Horse Trials show was just a couple of weekends prior so expenses numbers are not finalized.

The fall show was a challenge. There were only 40 entries two weeks before show date and then a flurry of entries arrived in the last 10 days. The show ended up with 160 entries, but the show had not lined up enough volunteers for a show that size. Sixty volunteers turned into 120 over the course of the weekend. The volunteer group debriefed after the event and a core group is being formed.

Eventing has extra stainless-steel water bottles for volunteers. They do say "EI HT Volunteer." If interested, check with Penny.

## 2019 Board Members

Board members expressed their interest to serve on the board 2019.

Continuing		Leaving	Unknown
Chris	Penny	Jo	Meika
Diane	Sarah	Merridy	
Gunn	Trish		
Kathryn			
Laurie			

Need to hear from Meika re: her plans for 2019.

The board will need another driving person, another dressage person, and a president.

## Annual Meeting Preparation

Annual meeting will be held 10:30 AM at the Fall City Library, Room 10. The room has been reserved from 10:30-12:30. An eFlash will go out the end of October. The following actions will be completed:

- Gunn – bring projector and screen to either the October meeting or to the Annual Meeting.
- Diane – muffins and/or donuts
- Gunn & Penny – hot water (electric kettles) as well as instant coffee and tea bags.
- Diane – determine if we need a call-in number.

## 2019 EI Dues

The board discussed a USDF proposal to raise GMO dues by \$4 and the potential impact on EI dues. Options considered included:

- EI absorbs the cost.
- EI raises its dues.
- End our GMO role. (Rationale against this option: Dressage is the foundation of all disciplines and USDF has shifted some of its focus to GMs.)

Board discussed any increased to Flying Change subscriptions. The last increase was just a few pennies.

Additional discussion of a \$5 dues increases as a barrier to any division's membership.

The board agreed with the recommendation to raise dues to \$60 with the additional family members being \$25 – both increasing \$5. Diane will determine if the membership needs to vote or only be informed of this due increase at the annual meeting in November.

## Volunteer Extraordinaires for 2018

Gunn will check mail box for any submitted forms.

## Other Business

No new business.

**Adjourned 4:47 PM**