

# El Annual Meeting Minutes

12/13/2022

Zoom Call

Number in Attendance: 15

**Called to order: 6:31 PM**

## Annual Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion passed to waive reading the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes and accept as written.

Minutes will be posted to the El Dropbox as well as the web site.

## El Membership Recap

While some challenges still existed, most divisions held normal clinics and shows.

Membership climbed to 292 (up from 227 in 2021 and 153 in 2020), which is the highest it has been since 2013. Increased membership is attributed to El being responsive to what members want – clinics, camp, show awards, etc.

Facebook outreach continues to hold steady around 12,000. This number represents all four divisions combined. Facebook continues to be the primary method of communication to the broader equine community. Divisions also cross-post to other Facebook pages.

Division membership for Dressage, Eventing, and Driving have grown over the last couple of years whereas Sport Horse Breeding has stayed steady. There was discussion about increasing division membership by offering more shows or clinics and the impacts of competing shows by other barns and organizations, limited division resources to host more shows or clinics, as well as loss of venues (primarily for Driving.) Eventing will look at adding more clinics to bump up El membership. Sport Horse Breeding will also look at requiring membership for its clinics. Camp attendees tend to join El if they attend both spring and fall camps.

## Financial Recap

Gunn reviewed the YTD financial statement. On January 1, 2022, total cash amounted to \$123,447 (for all divisions) and dipped to \$121,347 on November 30, 2022. Overall, El is in good shape. Income and loss by division was reviewed. Prepaids and deposits are expenses paid for 2023.

	Cash 1/1/22	Income/Loss	Prepays/Expensed	Capital Investment	Cash (11/30/22)
Dressage	3,732	3,693	(800)		6,625
Driving	32,791	(19,480)	(4,700)	(3,141)	5,470
Eventing	58,978	15,203			74,181
Sport Horse Breeding	4,476				4,476
General	23,470	7,125			30,595
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>123,447</b>	<b>6,541</b>	<b>(5,500)</b>	<b>(3,141)</b>	<b>121,347</b>
Prepays	3,800		5,500		9,300
Fixed Assets	50,075			3,141	53,216
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>177,322</b>				<b>183,863</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>177,322</b>	<b>6,541</b>			<b>183,863</b>

## General Fund Review

Gunn reviewed the General Fund income statement for the eleven months ending November 30, 2022. Income was budgeted at \$10,000 but projected is \$17,000. The largest expense is USDF dues. The general fund also pays for insurance, QuickBooks fees, membership processing, etc. The projection is the general fund will make \$5,000 by the end of the year due to membership renewals (which take place in November and December.)

There was a question about the \$900 allotted to Flying Changes. This ceased publication at the start of the year and EI did not pay out the \$900.

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>11 Months Actual</b>	<b>12 Months Projected</b>	<b>12 Months Budget</b>
Membership	16,516	17,000	10,000
Division support		2,635	2,700
Donations	5	5	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>16,521</b>	<b>19,640</b>	<b>12,700</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Dues - USDF, USEF, USEA, ADS	4,391	7,800	5,800
Flying Changes Magazine		-	900
Insurance - Directors & Officers	2,011	2,011	1,800
Convention		1,500	
Storage	841	841	741
New webpage design	-	-	-
Postage and office expenses	274	274	230
Other - web site, quickbook, member processing	1,879	2,129	2,650
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>9,396</b>	<b>14,555</b>	<b>12,121</b>
<b>NET / LOSS</b>	<b>7,125</b>	<b>5,085</b>	<b>579</b>

## Goals for 2023

EI's goals have been constant over the years and will continue to do the following:

- Offer shows and clinics.
- Build community with both our members and the broader regional equine community.
- Grow resources needed to support the EI organization by adding some volunteers and new board members.

There was a discussion re: IRS reporting for EI resources spent on education. Education is the foundation of everything EI does – to teach people better horsemanship. Adding more clinics is something to consider.

## Division Recaps

### Driving

Driving hosted its usual slate of events at Donida Farm: CDE clinic, Kitchen Sink, CDE, and Driving Trial. While the clinics were popular, entry numbers were down in the shows. Costs were significantly higher than planned while entry fees stayed the same. Also, the division invested in two new portable obstacles. Sponsorships and donations were at a record high \$10,000. The net result was a significant loss, and the division will closely manage its expenses and raise entry fees in 2023.

2023 plans tentatively include the following events:

- CDE Clinic
- Kitchen Sink
- CDE
- Driving Trial
- Intro to Driving clinic
- Intro to Combined Driving clinic
- Driving event at Washington State Horse Park
- Two driving events (Portland area)

The division also added four more committee members. And instead of a trophy, year-end award winners now get their photos on a banner that wraps around the feeder marathon obstacle.



### Sport Horse Breeding

Sport Horse Breeding reported its show – the USDF Regional Breeders Championship Finals – was licensed to Spokane Sport Horse Farm for 2022. Spokane Sport Horse Farm also applied to host the finals in 2023 as well.

The division is working with USDF to host a USDF Sport Horse seminar for judges in 2023. This seminar is a requirement for judge qualification and is a big undertaking since a wide variety of horses are needed for demonstration and handling.

The division has weathered the challenge of the last few years. People stopped breeding horses and are just restarting. Also, the breeding demographics are changing from a few big farms to more small farms. The division might focus on a handler clinic to get the smaller breeders more interested in showing.

## Dressage

Dressage reported the following:

- It started the year with its Learn to Scribe clinics. This year the focus was on paper-less scribing, which ended up being popular with competitors as they learned their results much quicker.
- The division also hosted two schooling shows. The EHV scare affected show attendance.
- The Beaujolais recognized show had record attendance and the division made \$6,000 with the 2-day format. The division managed costs by hiring only two national judges and raising more sponsorships.
- The Champagne Class show lost \$600 due to low attendance.
- The Anne Gribbons Dressage clinic series is in its seventh year and continues to be great for open riders and adults/juniors riding at FEI levels.
- The Back-to-Basics clinic series is in its third year and both riders and clinicians are happy with the results riders gain from the clinics.

Plans for 2023 include a repeat of the shows and clinics. The two recognized shows will be held at Washington State Horse Park.

There was a discussion about adding a sport horse breeding show to one of the dressage shows. The Dressage division does not feel it has the resources to plan and staff an additional show.

## Eventing

Eventing hosted its Spring Horse Trials but not its Fall Horse Trials, due to National Championships being held at Rebecca Farm. Instead, it held a Combined Test and Schooling Rides in August.

Eventing also hosted the Interdisciplinary Horse Camps. These camps won USDF's national "Creative GMO-Sponsored Program Award" in 2022. Camps are open to everyone across disciplines, encouraging cross-training, community building, trying something new. People can learn pure dressage, cavaletti, prix caprilli, quadrille, show jumping, cross country jumping, working equitation, trail riding, and horsemanship.

2023 plans include both the spring and fall events, potentially a clinic or two, as well as spring and fall camps. The division will put in an offer to host the Championships in the fall.

There was discussion of how to incorporate driving into camp.

## EI Board Responsibilities

The board presented the following summary of board tasks:

- Host regional shows, clinics, and educational programs in dressage, driving, eventing, sport horse, and cross-discipline
- Budgets/Events planning, review & approval

- Policies and procedures updates & approvals
- Maintain USDF, USEF, USEA, ADS affiliations
- Contracts with organizers and venues
- Sponsors/donors
- Insurance
- Website, eFlashes, Facebook
- Grants
- Tax Form 990 compliance
- Membership

There was a discussion about division awarding of grants and the need to send W9s to Gunn via the EI mailbox.

## Member Communications

EI continues to communicate with the membership via various Facebook pages (EI and Divisions) as well as eFlashes. The EI website is the place for static content such as event information, forms, and documents.

## Election of 2023 Board

The following slate of board nominations was presented:

- Chris Bredeson – returning board member, Sport Horse
- Diana Axness – returning board member, Driving
- Gunn Cooper – returning board member, Dressage
- Laurie McLaughlin – returning board member, Sport Horse
- Meika Decher – returning board member, Eventing
- Penny Leggott – returning board member, Eventing
- Sara Mackenzie – returning board member, Dressage & Eventing
- Sarah Johnson – returning board member, Driving
- Trish Camozzi-Ekberg – returning board member, Driving

There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion passed to accept the 2023 board slate.

There was a quick discussion about adding new people to the board at any time during the year.

## Other Business

No one offered any other discussion, question, or feedback.

Motion passed to adjourn the meeting.

**Adjourned: 8:00 pm**