

Equestrians Institute Annual Meeting 2023

Held December 6, 2023, via Zoom Conference Call

Call to order: 7:07 PM

Attendees: 12

Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion passed to waive the reading of the minutes and accept as written.

EI 2023 Statistics

EI Community

The EI community statistics have been steady over the past 10 years. In 2023, there are 294 members, and the EI Facebook page continues to have 12K followers.

Member Interests

Members interests data was not updated in 2023 due to issues getting the latest membership roster. As this data rarely changes, it was reported that Dressage continues to be the primary interest of members followed by Driving, Eventing, and then Sport Horse. Dressage and Driving offer year-end awards as well as discounts to select events/clinics to EI members. Eventing has the largest shows in terms of number of entries but cannot offer show entry discounts to members. Eventers also belong to other area organizations that focus on young or adult riders.

Financial Statement

EI reported the following financial data based on year-to-date figures as of 11/30/2023:

	Cash 1/1/23	Income / Loss	Prepays Expensed	Capital Investment	Cash 11/30/23
Dressage	\$3,097	\$(3,038)			\$59
Driving	\$6,070	\$10,775	\$4,700		\$21,545
Eventing	\$71,654	\$22,053		\$(5,000)	\$88,707
Sport Horse Breeding	\$4,476				\$4,476
General	\$27,652	\$(1,740)			\$25,912
Total Cash	\$112,949	\$28,050	\$4,700	\$(5,000)	\$140,699
Prepays	\$9,000		\$(4,700)		\$4,300
Fixed Assets	\$50,075			\$5,000	\$55,075
Total Assets	\$172,024				\$200,074
Equity	\$172,024	\$28,050			\$200,074

This statement shows that EI stayed financially healthy. As a non-profit, EI's financial goal is to keep sufficient money in reserve to cover costs due to a cancelled show or event.

Additional details were provided or called out for attention:

- Fixed assets include jumps, dressage courts, storage trailers, and other assets owned outright.

- Capital investment for Eventing was a storage trailer for \$5,000.
- Combined net income for the year was \$28,050.
- Combined cash (checking accounts) increased from \$112,949 to \$140,699.
- Assets increased from \$172,024 to \$200,074.

General Accounting

EI reported the following General Fund income and expenses report based on year-to-date figures as of 11/30/2023:

	11 Months Actual	12 Months Projected	12 Months Budget
Income:			
Membership	\$9,821	\$13,168	\$16,000
Division support	\$-	\$-	\$-
Donations	\$-	\$-	\$-
Total Income	\$9,821	\$13,168	\$16,000
Expenses:			
Dues - USDF, USEF, USEA, ADS	\$3,763	\$7,195	\$7,900
Insurance - Directors & Officers	\$2,065	\$2,065	\$2,000
Convention		\$2,000	\$3,000
Storage	\$841	\$841	\$800
New Website design	-	-	-
Postage and office expenses	\$230	\$230	\$274
Other - website, QuickBooks, member processing	\$2,377	\$2,577	\$2,650
Total Expenses	\$9,276	\$14,908	\$16,624
Net Loss	\$545	\$(1,740)	\$(624)

The General Fund is the budget that covers all expenses and income that is not division specific. The following details were provided or called out for attention:

- Membership income totaled \$9,821. There is a \$3,000 difference between the projected and budgeted amounts due to using the 2022 membership numbers without adjusting for the number of people that renewed in 2022 with lifetime memberships.
- Expenses amounted to \$9,276.
- In December, EI will continue to incur expenses for more dues (as there are more members) plus the inclusion of the convention stipend for EI Division participation at governing body conventions.
- YTD net income was \$545.
- Net loss is projected at \$1,740.
- To keep the General Fund funded, the board will bring back the division support “tax” where each division contributes to the general fund for non-members participating in shows and clinics. This will generate \$3,000 and result in a balanced 2024 budget.

2024 Organization Goals

EI will recognize its 50th year of serving the PNW equestrian community. EI will continue to offer shows and clinics, build community, and continue with cross-disciplinary events such as horse camp.

To continue to support EI, divisions need to add volunteers, look for potential new board members, and fundraise.

Division Recaps & Plans

Sport Horse Breeding

The division's primary activity involved education and hosting the shows held by the division. Spokane Sport Horse Farm is once again licensed to organize the shows in 2024, continuing their efforts from 2023. In terms of sport horse breeding, younger horses are typically shown in hand. The Materiale classes feature horses aged three, four, and five showing under saddle, demonstrating walk, trot, and canter in a group setting in the ring.

Regarding the education program, there are plans to collaborate with USDF to host a USDF Sport Horse Judges Seminar. Although this was not achieved in 2023, efforts will continue towards this goal in 2024.

Dressage

The division held the following shows and clinics:

- Learn to Scribe Clinics: Taught scribing basics as well as paperless scoring.
- Dressage Schooling Shows: Attendance was back up and the shows ended up as "two ring" shows.
- Recognized Shows: Held for the first time at the Washington State Horse Park.
 - Beaujolais - The May show was well received but attendance was low. Dressage incurred a \$4,000 loss on the show.
 - Champagne Classic – Attendance was up, and the show had two full rings. Dressage broke even on the show.
- Clinic series: The 8th year of the Anne Gribbons Dressage Clinic Series for Open and FEI riders and the fourth year of the Back-to-Basics Dressage Clinic series for Adult Amateurs.

Dressage 2024 plans are to continue hosting the dressage schooling shows and both clinic series; running two "three ring" recognized shows at the Washington State Horse Park; and working on the application to host the 2025 Region 6 Dressage Championships.

Eventing

The division hosted its two events (held in May and September respectively) and had 550 competitors between the two shows. The division embraced holding "friendly" events by adding (popular) schooling rounds and the introductory division.

Horse Camp was held in both spring and fall. People love horse camp! The camp was open to all riding disciplines and encouraged cross-training, community building, and the chance to try something new. Classes include dressage, caveletti, prix caprilli, pas de deux, show jumping, cross country jumping, working equitation, trail riding, and horsemanship. There is a community dinner and social activity each evening.

Eventing plans for 2024 include holding the standard Fall and Spring Horse Trials as well as Horse Camp in the Spring. Fall Horse Camp will be canceled due to conflicts with an equitation event and resulting lack of valued clinicians. Michelle Martin was welcomed to the board with her primary focus being Horse Camp.

Additionally, Eventing will pursue creating a new course for the Modified Division with the goal of offering that division in its 2025 shows. A new course entails new tracks and jumps. The Eventing division will donate funding for this as well as ask competitors to donate.

Driving

The division hosted four events at Donida Farms: CDE Clinic, Everything but the Kitchen Sink, and a driving trial. Two new events were held in Beavercreek Oregon. The division also held two educational clinics, one being an introduction to driving and the other being an introduction to combined driving. Both were well attended and attracted more volunteers and drivers at the other events. For those too old or for the horse being too young or not ready, the division added combined tests at all its shows. In total, there were thirteen scored events in 2023.

The division reported that entries were low for most shows and events. The division planned show budgets expecting this to occur and the division performed better to budget plan in 2023 than it did in 2022. The division's sponsorship goal was \$20K and it raised \$20,600 – primarily due to the support from the North Valley events.

Driving 2024 plans are to host the usual slate of clinics and events – all with combined tests. A spring fling series (arena trial and derby) will be added as well as a mini clinic to allow drivers to get “tuned up” for the shows and events.

Driving faces a challenge of securing venues for its shows and clinics in 2024. Donida Farms is pending sale, and the division will need to meet with the new owners to see if the facility will continue to host driving events and clinics. The Beavercreek venue will not be available, and the search is on for an Oregon venue. One suggestion was the Oregon State Horse Park in Eugene. Driving is also working with the Washington State Horse Park about holding an event there in 2024.

EI Board

The EI Board hosts regional shows, clinics, and educational programs in dressage, driving, eventing, sport horse, and cross-discipline. It is accountable for these tasks:

- Budgets/Events planning, review & approval
- Policies and procedures updates & approvals
- Maintain USDF, USEF, USEA, ADS affiliations
- Contracts with organizers and venues
- Sponsors/donors
- Insurance
- Member communications via the EI website, email direct to members, and Facebook posts on various Facebook group pages
- Grants
- Tax Form 990 compliance

- Membership

Retiring Board Members

The board expressed its thanks and gratitude to the following board members who are leaving the board:

- Sarah Johnson (10 years serving EI)
- Sara Mackenzie (served since 2021 and a force for camp)
- Laurie McLaughlin (served since 2024 and served with NW Sport Horse board prior to the merger with EI)

Election of 2024 Board

The following slate of board nominations was presented:

- Diana Axness – returning board member, Driving
- Chris Bredeson – returning board member, Sport Horse
- Trish Camozzi-Ekberg – returning board member, Driving
- Gunn Cooper – returning board member, Dressage
- Meika Decher – returning board member, Eventing
- Penny Leggott – returning board member, Eventing
- Michelle Martin – new board member, Dressage, Eventing & WSHP
- Krista Tanner – new board member, Driving

It was noted that Michelle Martin and Krista Tanner will be new to the board. There were no nominations on the floor.

Motion passed to accept the 2024 board slate.

Other Business

El's 50th Anniversary

El's turns 50th in 2024. There was discussion about how to commemorate and publicize the event. Suggestions mentioned included new logo artwork, banners on the website, commemorative pins sent to each member, logo wear for sale, and logo prizes. The board will discuss the ideas at its January meeting.

Motion passed to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourned: 8:26PM