



WE UNITED BOARD OF DIRECTORS Conference Call

Date:	May 30, 2018	Time:	5:30 pm PST
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President in Attendance? - Barbara Price
 Secretary? - Julie Alonzo

Members in attendance at roll call

Members Absent

Last Name	First Name	Title	Last Name	First Name	Title
Price	Barbara	President	Perez	Ruth	Director R7
Alonzo	Julie	Secretary			
O'Shaughnessy	Erin	Treasurer			
Schwartz	Cari	Director R1			
Pinney	Sarah	Director R2			
Martien	Leslie	Director R3			
Atkinson	Doreen	Director R4			

Members in attendance after roll call

Last Name	First Name	Title
Blacklock	Kris	Director R5
Da Silva	Kimberly	Director R6
Limond	Polly	President Elect

Current strength of body was 11. Minimum # for quorum was 6. Members in attendance was 10.

Quorum Achieved

President Barbara Price called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm PST

TECHNICAL DELEGATE APPROVAL

President Barbara Price shared the following information with the Board: Michael Vermaas and Wayne Hipsley of the Licensed Officials Committee (LOC) have reviewed Doreen Atkinson's TD application material and test results and have recommended she be approved by the board.

➤ President Price made a motion to:

MOTION The WE United Board of Directors hereby votes to approve the Licensed Officials Committee's recommendation that Doreen Atkinson be granted a WE United Technical Delegate (TD) license, effective May 30, 2018.

Doreen Atkinson recused herself from discussion and vote, in light of the fact that the motion directly pertained to her.

- ✓ Voting strength of the body was 9. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2017 TAX FILINGS

Treasurer Erin O'Shaughnessy has worked with HB Morris Financial Services LLC, an accounting firm in the state of Washington, to complete and file both Federal and State tax forms for WE United. President Barbara Price brought forward a motion to approve reimbursement to Erin O'Shaughnessy for expenses incurred for an accountant to prepare WE United's 2017 Federal 990 Income Tax Form and Oregon State Charitable Activities CT-12 Form. Both forms are legally required. Earlier this year when it was determined WE United was required to file a more complex 990 form for 2017, the board was polled to see if any members had the expertise to prepare and file this report, or a recommendation for a professional to do so. No responses were received, so Erin researched and hired a local CPA to do the preparation for both forms. Receipts for services rendered/payment were included with the Board agenda.

- President Price made a motion to:

MOTION The WE United Board of Directors hereby votes to approve reimbursement to Erin O'Shaughnessy in the amount of \$685 for personal payment made to HB Morris Financial Services LLC for the preparation of required 2017 tax forms 990-EZ and Oregon Form CT-12; and \$90 to the Oregon Department of Justice.

Erin O'Shaughnessy recused herself from the vote, in light of the fact that the motion directly pertained to her.

- ✓ Voting strength of the body was 9. The vote on the motion was 9 ayes, and 0 nays: Motion carried unanimously.

WE UNITED BANK ACCOUNT

On behalf of Treasurer, Erin O'Shaughnessy, President Barbara Price brought forward a motion to approve transferring WE United's US Bank checking account to a new non-profit checking account with Umpqua Bank. Erin has recommended this action based on circumstances with the current account. Most relevant, the current account is linked to Julie Alonzo's personal account with US Bank, and attempts to separate the two have been an arduous and unsuccessful process. This arrangement creates an atypical situation for both the organization and the personal account holder. Erin has recommended Umpqua Bank because she is familiar with them, and notes they are especially supportive of non-profit organizations.

➤ President Price made a motion to:

MOTION The WE United Board of Directors hereby approves of and directs Treasurer Erin O'Shaughnessy to transfer the current US Bank checking account to a new independent non-profit checking account with Umpqua Bank.

✓ Voting strength of the body was 10. The vote on the motion was 10 ayes, and 0 nays: Motion carried unanimously.

GAITED HORSES COMPETING IN WORKING EQUITATION

Region 5 Director Kris Blacklock presented information and requested feedback regarding the topic of gaited horses and working equitation; more specifically the official judging of gaited horses at licensed shows using the United States Rules for Working Equitation.

Kris shared her opinion that using 'trot or intermediate gait' in lieu of 'trot' for the lower levels of working equitation would be an improvement to the rules and make the sport more inclusive / welcoming to riders who ride gaited horses. She indicated that she knows of many people with gaited horses who are reluctant to participate in WE because of the current disadvantage experienced by gaited horses. As a member of the USDF group NEWDA, she regularly promotes gaited horses participating in all sorts of dressage (USDF/USEF, WE, Western Dressage, etc.). She is a regular contributor to publications and expos with articles and exhibitions related to gaited horses participating in dressage. She sees the benefits of dressage for gaited horses and believes that welcoming them more explicitly in the sport would be an advantage, not only for the sport and the Association, but also for the horses in general.

Barbara, who has been on the rules committee since it was initiated, indicated that this has been a much-discussed issue within the rules committee and that the current feeling of the rules committee is that changing rules away from what is accepted by WAVE and other international proponents of the sport would not be a good idea. Speaking personally, she would like to see some sort of compromise going forward in being a little more flexible. Another thought from the rules committee is that every horse that competes has some sort of a disadvantage in any sport, and that the differences would come into play in any discipline.

She said that she does think it would be nice if we could come up with some sort of opinion to share with the rules committee.

Leslie shared that this same topic has come up in Colorado, where because of the challenges with the rules, a number of riders with gaited horses have ceased showing (although they would be interested in showing if they felt that their horses were not at a disadvantage). She thinks that given there is an interest in the sport by riders of gaited horses, we need to find a way to look at that and make the sport accessible for them.

Doreen indicated that in Texas there is a gaited group that does their own series of shows and that they participate in clinics. She thinks that it's not the disadvantage against the gaiting that discourages people from participating but that they people with the gaited horses in Texas are more likely to participate in rail classes. In Texas Western Dressage, the gaited horses participate in their own classes. She thinks that it's not the rules that prohibit the people from participating.

Polly indicated that she has seen Kris on her Rocky Mountain horse, and he was not at a disadvantage compared to non-gaited horses. She thinks that maybe offering gaited classes would make more sense than changing the rules for gaited horses. She's concerned about not matching the WAVE rules.

Cari said she has a lot of people with gaited horses who want to compete. She can focus on rhythm, contact, quality, etc. but thinks that having a separate class for gaited horse makes more sense than trying to change the rules to allow Intermediate Gait or Trot.

Julie indicated that she didn't really think it was an issue to include "Trot or Intermediate Gait" as an option through some of the lower levels. She would like the group to consider being more inclusive, particularly at the lower levels.

Barbara brought up the issue of the collective mark for 'gait' and how to judge what is quality or not quality.

Polly expressed uneasiness about how to properly judge gaited horses. She said she can recognize harmony, horsemanship, rhythm, etc. but feels uneducated in terms of being able to judge that properly.

Barbara indicated that if the change were to be made, the judge preparation would also need to be changed to address how best to evaluate the different gaits.

Kimberly expressed concern about how including gaited horses might affect WAVE's perception. She is concerned that, as a judge, she might not know enough to properly judge the gaited horses. She questioned whether there is enough of a critical mass of people with gaited horses to justify the addition. Are we able to include them and do it well?

Leslie pointed out that if people with gaited horses don't feel welcome or are not really encouraged to compete, we might not have a very accurate estimate of how much interest there could be. We won't really know how many people it would effect until we were to give it a try.

Barbara suggested a survey of our membership to get input on interest / ways in which people with gaited horses might be included.

Leslie suggested that if we were to do a survey, we should also ask people if they know of others with gaited horses who would be interested in participating.

Kris thanked the Board for the discussion and encouraged people to continue to consider ways to encourage all horse people, with horses of all breeds, to participate.

2019 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

If WE United is to host a National Championship Show in 2019 as briefly discussed at our previous board meeting, we will need to get the planning started in June and appoint a Show Chair to oversee the planning and execution.

➤ Secretary Alonzo made a motion to:

***MOTION* Appoint Polly Limond and Julie Alonzo as Co-Chairs of the 2019 WE United National Championship Show Committee, effective immediately. Request that, as Chairs, Polly and Julie bring suggestions to the Board for additional appointments to the Committee by our next scheduled Board call.**

Polly Limond and Julie Alonzo recused themselves from the vote, in light of the fact that the motion directly pertained to them.

Barbara Price and Erin O'Shaughnessy both offered to help the Committee.

✓ Voting strength of the body was 8. The vote on the motion was 8 ayes, and 0 nays: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm, Pacific.