

Annual General Meeting Minutes
Saturday, March 21, 2020 3 pm – 4 pm
Zoom Meeting

1. **Call to Order & Establish Quorum**

President, Lauren Parker called the Zoom webinar meeting to order at 3:07 pm. Quorum established (35 in attendance including individual, club and business members, staff members, board members and 2 non-voting guests). Lauren Parker thanked everyone for taking time out of their day to join in the meeting.

Board Members present included:

Lauren Parker, President; Sandy Bell, President Elect; Tiara Chambers, Secretary, Individual Directors: Nicolas Brown, Jason Edworthy, Brenda Spanier, Janine Leroux, Robert Simpson, Mazlie Cole and Becky Taylor.

2. **Agenda** Motion to approve the **March 21, 2020** AGM Agenda

MOTION: Nicolas Brown moved to approve the March 21, 2020 AGM agenda.

T'Lara Joy Freedom 2nd. 0- opposed, 0-abstained. Unanimous. Carried.

3. **Minutes** Motion to approve the **March 23, 2019** AGM Minutes

Victoria Forbes asked if she could add an item to the Agenda. Lauren Parker indicated that as per AEF Bylaws, agenda items may not be added, 21 days' notice is required.

MOTION: Nicolas Brown moved to approve the March 23, 2019 AGM meeting minutes.

Alison Douglas 2nd. 0- opposed, 0-abstained. Unanimous. Carried.

4. **President's Welcome**

Lauren Parker welcomed members, guests, staff and presenters. Lauren Parker reflected on the current COVID-19 conditions we find ourselves in and thanked all members for their support.

5. **2019 Annual Report and Motion to Adopt**

Eligible Voting Members received information on voting electronically. Due to the current situation, voting will remain open until 5:00 pm March 21, 2020.

a) **Overview of Annual Report**

Lauren Parker provided an overview of AEF's 2019 highlights included in the annual report:

- Introduction of the Rookie Riders Program – recognizing Ashley Bishop and Victoria Forbes who were in the meeting;
- AEF is aligned with Strategic Planning and goals;
- Signed on with a new registration partner, HorseReg, to enhance and streamline the online registration process for members;
- Offered 19 educational Clinics and Events;
- Increased social media engagement;

- Board and staff will attend a Strategic & Succession Planning Meeting in Spring 2020 (COVID-19 permitting) to evaluate the equestrian landscape into 2025 and provide more value to members.

b) 2019 Financial Statements

Nicolas Brown presented an overview of the AEF's 2019 financial statements included in the annual report. He thanked the AEF for due diligence in monitoring expenses and adhering to budget and he thanked Lawton & Co. LPP for their guidance. He highlighted several areas: AEF has continued to reinvest in membership by using portions of cash reserves, received a number of generous contributions, which help to support athlete development, clinics/events and scholarship programs. Due to 2019 core government grant funding not received until 2020, there was an increase in accounts receivable. AEF will continue to work hard in the coming weeks to ensure its strength and viability. He also pointed out that AEF set up an emergency contingency fund a few years ago which has been set aside for times such as these.

Lauren Parker opened the floor to questions and comments.

Member Victoria Forbes asked if the contingency fund would be made available to members most in need because of the issues, they are facing as a result of COVID-19. Nicolas Brown indicated that this is an operating reserve fund for the organization – example, suddenly AEF has no cash flow coming in – the emergency contingency fund would assist in the necessary operation expenses of AEF such as rent, internet, telephone, etc. Sonia Dantu indicated AEF has stopped all unnecessary spending at this time until AEF has time to review and plan for the coming months given the current situation and potential economic impact.

MOTION: Nicolas Brown moved to adopt the 2019 annual report and financial statements as presented. Jason Edworthy 2nd. 0- opposed, 0-abstained. Unanimous. Carried.

AEF members voted using the online process. As of 3 pm on March 21, 45 members voted electronically; results as follows:

- Annual Report - 42 - in favor, 3 - abstained, 0 – opposed

6. 2020 Director Elections (Electronic Voting results will be included)

Lauren Parker thanked Alison Douglas for submitting a nomination to stand for election. In accordance with AEF by laws, all directors are voted in by the membership.

MOTION: Sandy Bell moved to accept the nomination of Alison Douglas as 2020 AEF Director. Janine Leroux 2nd. Unanimous. Carried.

AEF members voted using the online process. As of 3 pm on March 21, 45 members voted electronically; results as follows:

- Alison Douglas – Elected; 43 - in favor, 2 - abstained, 0 - opposed

All matters at the AGM require simply majority vote, the President may cast an additional vote to break a tie. Given that 45 members had already voted, more than majority votes were in place,

substantial number of members would have to vote by 5 pm to change the results. Therefore, the Motions were put forth.

Online Voting Results closed at 5 pm: Voting results did not change. Results are as recorded above.

7. Open Floor

a) Strength of Community

Mike King thanked the Board and Sonia Dantu for the invitation. He looks forward to speaking to all PTSO's across the country. Mike spoke on what community means in relation to the horse community. The definition of community – *a group of people who share something in common, have a common interest*. Within the horse community, the interest is very diverse. There are breed groups and many different discipline groups; many of these groups do not talk to each other. To AEF's credit, they have built their own community with all breeds and disciplines from all corners of the province. Congratulations! AEF has a stake in all sectors – education, land use, competition, and recreation and is the voice between the government and individuals. Looking at AEF's successes – growth in membership, the Rookie Riders program, working with PTSO's and other groups, Mike King is pleased to see people are committed to the industry and remain involved. The community will change, but he hopes there will be the same interest from the new generation to support and grow the community.

There was a Q&A session with Mike King.

b) Codes of Practice Update

Mikki Shatosky from the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada (HWAC) presented on the Equine Code of Practice, which was developed by National Farm Animal Care Council. This sets out the standards of care for equine. While in some provinces this Code is law, it has not yet become law in Alberta. An update is being worked on and is scheduled to be released in 2023. Members found the presentation to be very informative. Member Doug Orr sent out kudos to Mikki and her team on this amazing job. Mikki thanked Doug Orr and Dr. Wayne Burwash for their input into this project as well.

Mikki also made mention of the Animal Health Emergency Program, which HCBC is currently working on. This program would bring an immediate “standstill” to animals if they were involved in a disease outbreak.

There was a Q&A session with Mikki Shatosky.

Lauren Parker noted that if members present would like to discuss COVID-19 and the current situation in further detail, to please stay on the call for discussion after adjournment. Lauren also noted that there are many equine related resources on the AEF website in regards to the current situation and encourages the sharing of this link and information.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm.