

Annual General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 18, 2021 6:30 – 7:30 pm via Zoom

1. Call to Order & Establish Quorum

Following a welcome greeting by President, Lauren Parker, a brief review of housekeeping reminders, the meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. Quorum was established with 34 members in attendance, including 2 guests (Guest Speaker and Recording Secretary)

- Board Members in Attendance: Lauren Parker-Holt (President), Sandra Bell (President Elect), Nicolas Brown (Treasurer), Janine Leroux (Individual), Robert Simpson (Individual), Brenda Spanier (Individual), Jason Edworthy (Individual), Alison Douglas (Individual), Sonia Dantu (Executive Director; non-voting) and Flo Scherpenisse (Recording Secretary; non-voting)
- With Regrets and Absence Accepted: Mazlie Cole (Individual)
- Absent Without Notice: Becky Taylor (Individual)
- Guest Speaker: Mikki Shatosky (Emergency Management Project at Canadian Animal Health Coalition)

2. Agenda – Motion to approve – March 18, 2021

No discussions or questions noted, prior to motion.

MOTION: Nicolas Brown moved to approve the March 18, 2021 AGM meeting agenda. Jason Edworthy 2nd. Unanimous with 100% of votes in favor. Carried.

3. Minutes – Motion to approve – March 21, 2020

No discussions, questions or corrections noted, prior to motion.

MOTION: Jackie Sargent moved to approve the March 21, 2020 AGM meeting minutes. Iris Davies 2nd. 95% of votes in favor, 0% against, 5% abstained. Carried.

4. 2020 Annual Report and Financial Statements

a. Overview of 2020 Annual Report

Lauren provided a high-level overview of the Annual Report by highlighting the following points in support of the AEF's membership, equine clubs, and partners:

- The AEF received donations of over \$85,000 for the Alberta Equine Partners for the Herd initiative.
- The AEF distributed over \$27,000 from this initiative in December 2020 and over \$35,000 in January 2021 in support of horse owners in need.
- The AEF has supported the learning needs of its membership through online workshops in partnership with Mike King.
- Moving forward in 2021, the AEF reaffirmed its commitment and ongoing support of the AEF community by maintaining strong lines of communication with its membership.

b. Overview of 2020 Financial Statements

Nicolas provided an overview of the AEF's 2020 financial statements as included in the 2020 Annual Review by focusing on the following points:

- Nicolas applauded the ongoing austerity measures implemented by the Board of Directors, under the leadership of Sonia. These cost-cutting measures in part, have allowed the AEF to conclude 2020 in a financially healthy position despite adverse conditions, secondary to the pandemic.
- Other factors that contributed to the AEF's financial position includes COVID funding from the provincial and federal government (this being the primary reason for the surplus) and donations for "*Equine Partners for the Herd*" initiative.
- Specifically, by the end of 2020, the AEF has a strong cash balance, much of which will serve as deferred revenue for 2021.

No questions or comments noted from the floor regarding the 2020 annual report and 2020 financial statements, prior to motion.

MOTION: Mary Bell moved to adopt the 2020 annual report and financial statements as previously circulated and as presented.

Nicolas 2nd. 100% (89 members) in favor, 0% against, 12 members abstained (Note: 100% of online votes, prior to the AGM were in favor). Unanimous. Carried.

5. 2021 Director Elections

Lauren thanked all nominees who had applied to stand for election to the AEF Board. The AEF Nominations committee presented a slate of 9 nominees of the 10 applications received. In accordance with AEF bylaws, all directors are voted in by the membership. Election results are recorded in item #7 to allow those that have not yet voted online, to do so.

6. Open Floor

a. Equine Codes of Practice & Economic Impact Study

Mikki Shatosky (*Equine Codes of Practice and Economic Impact Study*) (www.horsewelfare.ca) presented a brief Power Point presentation highlighting the following points:

- Mikki shared that the purpose of the project is to increase awareness and education for the care and handling of equines through a self-paced, online-based program, comprising of several educational animal care videos, reference resources as well as assessment checklists.
- The cost for participants is \$25.00 – although the program is at no-charge for sport license holders.
- There are several partnerships included in this project.
- Mikki also identified "*Enhancing Animal Health Emergency Management – (AHEM)*" (www.animalhealth.ca) as a valuable resource for Canada's Livestock Industry.
- Mikki briefly outlined the exciting, upcoming 2021 AEF project, "*Economic Impact of the Equestrian Industry in Alberta,*" and described the purpose of the project as to determine the status of Alberta's equine industry and establish economic benefits that it contributes to the Alberta economy.
- Mikki provided her contact information: Phone #: 403 870 8784 and email address: design@declercq.ca.
- No questions or comments noted from the floor.

b. AEF Strategic Goals

Sandy Bell presented an overview of the AEF's strategic plan for 2021 by emphasizing the following points:

- Over the next 2-years, the AEF's vision and core values continue to serve a guide to move towards common goals.
- Sandy reiterated the AEF's commitment to focus resources (human and financial) to benefit its membership, emphasizing the AEF's adaptability and ability to pivot in response to rapidly changing circumstances (i.e. COVID-19 pandemic).
- Sandy outlined several strategies to achieve this through maintaining communication lines with the AEF community, growing membership base, strengthening relationships with partners, continuing to be the go-to organization for equine-related information, develop programming that supports not only grassroots events and athletes, but also, stakeholders (i.e. coaches and show organizers, etc.) and actively identifying funding opportunities.
- Special appreciation was expressed and directed towards the Board of Directors, the AEF office staff and volunteers for their ongoing care and support of the AEF. Special thanks was noted for Lauren Parker as the AEF's outgoing President. Lauren thanked Sandy for her kind words.
- No further questions or comments noted from the floor.

c. Other questions/comments

The following comments from the floor included:

Jason Edworthy (Chair, Recreation Committee) shared briefly about an ongoing partnership with the Government of Alberta and Norm Spencer (Lethbridge, AB) to build a new, front country rustic equestrian campground in the Castle area with opening planned for summer of 2022. Stay tuned for developments on this exciting partnership!

Shannon Richardson inquired about what the AEF will be doing to support clubs in the upcoming 2021 show season in regards to COVID and if so, how? Sonia responded by sharing that the AEF donated over \$56,000 to clubs in need from funding received from the Government of Alberta. She expanded to highlight the following 2 notable challenges encountered: First, the AEF is not a regulatory body for imposing COVID-19 restrictions; that is the responsibility of the government. AEF has been working extremely hard on behalf of the equine community over the past year to ensure that educational and resource information is provided to the membership based on the regulations. Second, despite continued follow-up and push back by the AEF, there has been a considerable amount of misinformation, conflicting information from the government and AHS regarding reopening guidelines.

David Lawrence inquired about the Mane Event. Sonia shared that the in-person event has been postponed until April 2022 however, for 2021, the event will be on a virtual platform. The AEF does not host or run this event.

Nicolas Brown (Chair, Scholarships and Awards Committee) shared that over 100-nominations were received in all 8-categories, indicating a high degree of engagement from the equine industry. The names

of the 2020 award recipients have been shared on social media and the list of names were read aloud, during the AGM. Special thanks was extended to Mike King, CapriCMW Insurance Ltd. for his partnership and support. Finally, Nicolas also solicited and encouraged volunteers to serve on various AEF committees.

7. 2021 Director Election Results

As of 3:00 pm on March 18, 2021, 98 AEF members voted in the following Board of Directors, using an online process. All matters at the AGM require simply majority vote, the President may cast an additional vote to break a tie. Given that 98 members had already voted, more than majority votes were in place. A substantial number of members would have to vote to change the results. Voting results did not change. Results in order of last name were as follows:

- Margot Anderson (Elected)
- Sandra Bell (Elected)
- Mary Bell (Elected)
- Nicolas Brown (Elected)
- Tiara Chambers (Elected)
- Jason Edworthy (Elected)
- Shiraz Mir (Elected)
- Jackie Sargent (Elected)
- Brenda Spanier (Elected)

Congratulations to the AEF's 2021 directors!

MOTION: Janine Leroux moved to accept the 2021 Director Election Results.

Brenda Spanier 2nd. 100% in favor, 0% against, 0% abstained. Unanimous. Carried

MOTION: Mary Bell moved to destroy the 2021 Direction Election Ballots.

Nicolas Brown 2nd. 100% in favor, 0% against, 0% abstained. Unanimous. Carried.

8. Adjournment

Lauren thanked everyone for their time, attendance, and participation in the AGM. She expressed thanks for the opportunity to have worked with the Board of Directors and the AEF team. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. Members were encouraged to stay to participate in the post-meeting trivia questions.