



USAWE Annual Member Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 6, 2021

Meeting Time: 9:00 a.m. Pacific, 10:00 a.m. Mountain, 11:00 a.m. Central, 12:00 p.m. Eastern

Meeting Modality: Zoom

Board Members Present		Board Members Absent	
President	Leslie Martien	Treasurer	Erin O'Shaughnessy
President Elect	Barbara Price	At Large Director 2	Doreen Atkinson
Secretary	Julie Alonzo	R4 Director	Kiki Pantaze
At Large Director 1	Trisha Kiefer-Reed		
R1 Director	Kristine Strasburger		
R2 Director	Robin Bond		
R3 Director	Cindy Branham		
R5 Director	Alex Tyson		
R6 Director	Kimberley Hillyer		
R7 Director	Rebecca Algar		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT

Awards Committee	Erin Long
Coaches Network	Trisha Kiefer-Reed
Competitions Committee	Jeanne Bond
Ethics Committee	Leesa Nero
Financial Oversight Committee	Claire Gosnell and Leesa Nero
Licensed Officials Committee	Christy Reich
Membership Committee	Mindy Finelli
Rules Committee	Jeanne Bond
Website Committee	Kristine Strasburger



USAWE Members in Attendance

Member Name	Region	Member Name	Region
Kathleen Adams	1	Paula Arbuthnot	5
Julie Alonzo	1	Sara Barnwell	5
Getta Bradley	1	Sky Bechdel	5
Karen Cheeke	1	Kris Blacklock	5
Wendy Deans	1	Katie Drennen	5
Susan Dudasik	1	Seana Fortune	5
Diana Harris	1	Emily Gill	5
Trisha Kiefer-Reed	1	Neale Guvenoz	5
Anne Lobeck	1	Stephani Kame	5
Donna Luoma	1	Sandy Klinkey	5
Ashley Smith	1	Michelle Lackey	5
Kristine Strasburger	1	Maja Medlen	5
BJ Young	1	Christine Righeimer	5
		Alex Tyson	5
Robin Bond	2	Cathie Yoder	5
Margit Deerman	2	Meaghan Zeiner	5
Glynn Hoekstra	2		
Marcella Kline-Green	2	Laura Beetle	6
Polly Limond	2	Jeanne Bond	6
Jessica Mosbaugh	2	Sharon Briggs	6
Barbara Price	2	Deanna Durst	6
Christy Reich	2	Mindy Finelli	6
Andrea Sullivan	2	Rebecca Stankiewicz Gabel	6
Susan Watkins	2	Laura Guillaudeu	6
		Kim Hillyer	6
Cindy Branham	3	Diane Hutchinson	6
Linda Frazier	3	Heather Herster	6
Claire Gosnell	3	Biddie Lowry	6
Leslie Martien	3	Bruce W. Menke	6
Charlotte Pinkall	3	Tamla Nichols	6
Chris Stanko	3		
		Rebecca Algar	7
		Alece Ellis	7
Sharon Miesen	4	Lori Fisher	7
		Erin Long	7
Trish Hyatt	Int	Leesa Nero	7
Linda King	Int	Petra Roden	7
		Aimee Ziller	7

There were 68 members in attendance, including Board members. This represents 10.5% of the current membership of USAWE.

President Martien called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., Mountain Standard time.



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Leslie Martien asked each Board member and Committee Chair to introduce themselves, one at a time, while R1 Director Kristine Strasburger rotated through slides displaying each director's name, position on the Board, city and state of residence, and a photo.

SUMMARY OF BOARD BUSINESS

President Martien gave a quick summary of the merger process, commending all those who worked so hard to make it happen and the many people who are continuing to do what is necessary to finalize the process. Once USA Working Equitation has received 501(c)(3) recognition, then both WE United and the Confederation will officially dissolve and transfer the remainder of their funds to the USAWE bank account. She explained that most of the committees have been appointed and are working hard to accomplish their goals, and the Board is continuing to form additional committees and appoint additional committee members.

She also reminded members that they are welcome to sit in on Board meetings, letting people know that minutes from all Board meetings can be found on the USAWE.org website, and meeting notifications can be found on the Events calendar on that website. She let people know that the Board is meeting twice a month for the next few months, to enable the group to get more done.

Committees are hard at work as well, developing, refining, and rolling out their projects.

Membership Committee Chair Mindy Finelli reported that USAWE currently has 650 members and 2522 recorded horses.

ANSWERS TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

President Leslie Martien started the process of addressing members' questions submitted previously, during the member meeting registration process. Prior to the meeting, she had organized the questions into concept areas and asked different people to take the lead on responding to the questions.

Before passing the topics to other people, though President Martien addressed the question of whether USAWE will hold a **National Championship** in 2021, as this is a question that several different people had asked. She explained that USAWE will not be holding a National Championship in 2021 due to the timing of the merger, challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the work needed to organize an event of that scale. The hope is that we will be able to hold one in 2022.

She then asked R1 Director Kristine Strasburger, to address the question, **“How do we get started?”** which had been received from a member in Region 1.

R1 Director Strasburger provided a variety of suggestions. They included: Join USAWE, organize a clinic and invite your friends, attend a clinic someone else has organized, build some obstacles



and start practicing, attend / volunteer /participate in shows. She encouraged people to jump in and begin, helping to get things going if there are not already events being planned in their area.

Another member had asked about how to find more about clinics and shows – Kristine recommended going to the USAWE.org Events calendar and searching for events in your area, as well as searching your local regions' Facebook pages

Several members attending the meeting added additional suggestions in the Chat window:

Susan Dudasik shared, "I'm the Region 8 Chair for the American Connemara Pony Society and have been actively promoting WE through that group and I also created an independent Facebook page for Connemara folks at WE Connemaras. There are several Connemaras registered."

Trish Hyatt shared, "Free and paid online courses and webinars suitable for new people too by searching Working Equitation Simplified."

Donna Luoma shared, "You could also contact the judges in your area to see how many people in your barn need to participate in order for them to come to your barn. Even just do a few obstacles."

Jessica Mosbaugh shared, "If you have obstacles, please set up a play day in your area. Great way to meet fellow WE enthusiasts near you!"

Biddie Lowry shared, "We started by just having a playday with our barn instructor for just barn boarders."

Alex Tyson shared, "Potted plant holders that are broken off and sanded down make for great rings. We got ours at Lowes."

Robin Bond shared, "Many trainers do have facilities set up. Once the Coaches Network is up, there will be more information regarding access to obstacles" [through coaches advertising their services across the country].

Sandy Klinkey shared, "Check with the AO in your area; reach out and ask about events."

Rebecca Yount shared, "There's a book by Tarrin Warren and Kelli Christ that shows obstacles and shows how to do it."

Several people also mentioned the option of using bamboo for lightweight, fairly inexpensive garrocha poles (although others pointed out that it's important to get used to carrying heavier poles as well so you're prepared if a heavier one is used at a



competition); Kristine suggested making them from hickory poles purchased at a hardware store.

Kim Hillyer, R6 Director, responded to a request for more information about **clinics** in the regions. She also suggested checking the events calendar on USAWE and the Regional Facebook page.

Rebecca Algar, R7 Director, responded to the questions received in advance from R7 members.

One of the R7 members had asked about **the process of becoming recognized** to ensure that she was teaching things correctly. Rebecca suggested the Coaches Network will be a resource for people to document and verify that they have accurate knowledge about the sport. [see the information that follows about the Coaches Network].

She also shared that she is working on offering clinics in Region 7 specifically geared for trainers – to try to get all the trainers in her area on the same page, so they understand what the judges are looking for and training approaches to build those skills. Her hope is that she might be able to hold several of these clinics in different locations to make them as accessible as possible.

Awards Committee Questions – Erin Long, Chair of the Awards Committee, responded.

Amateur and Open **will** be split for National standings.

There was another question about how points will work for 3 versus 4-phase shows. Erin Long shared a chart from the USAWE.org website that delineates the points possible at shows where there are three trials offered as well as at shows where the cattle trial is offered.

Coaches Network Questions – Trisha Kiefer-Reed, Chair of the Coaches Network, responded.

The USAWE.org website includes a page devoted to the Coaches Network, where the criteria to become a recognized coach are presented in detail.

The goal of the Coaches Network is to help with the consistency of coaching / instructing available to those interested in learning more about the sport. The goal of the Coaches Network is to be an inclusive network to help support the development of the sport in the U.S. by encouraging people to become educated, to stay current,

If you still have questions about how to become a member of the Coaches Network, you can also write directly to the committee at: Coaches@usawe.org

Rules Questions – Jeanne Bond, Chair of the Rules Committee, responded to questions received in advance of the meeting.



Yes, other members can ride horses recorded under a different person's name.

The requirements to qualify to compete at a Regional or National Championship are in the Rules – Earn 58% or higher Dressage/EOH, no DQ in speed (if offered) at a B-Rated competition within the time frame specified for the qualification period.

Rule Change Proposals are accepted online – just go to the usawe.org website and click on the button to submit a rule change proposal. They must be submitted by August 1 to be considered for the next competition season.

Competitions: Jeanne Bond, Chair of the Competitions Committee, provided an update on Competitions and responded to questions received in advance.

Currently, 62 shows have applied for a license, 2 were cancelled due to COVID, 1 Regional Championship has been licensed to date. Busiest show months so far are June (15 shows) and September (13 shows)

In terms of Series shows – these are up to show organizers to coordinate. Several are already doing so (e.g., Region 5 Buckle Series).

Judge Questions: Rebecca Algar, “S” judge and R7 Director, responded.

In response to the question, “**Is WE emphasis on stock handling or on Dressage**”, Rebecca Algar explained that the dressage in WE is about functionality (lightness, obedience, balance), with an emphasis on the functionality of the horse. Thus, “flamboyant movement that does not add to the horse’s functionality as a working animal is not rewarded.”

Clarification for the Judging standards for EOH – The specific way to perform each obstacle is described in the Obstacle section of the rulebook. If your horse is not doing his dressage correctly, he will likely not be doing the obstacles correctly. The goal is functionality. Generally speaking, the better-trained horse is the one that will be more successful in the EOH.

Licensed Officials Seminar – All currently-licensed officials have received an email about a workshop coming up in March. The LOC is about to turn their attention to organizing additional seminars. The Licensed Officials Program still needs to be approved by the Board. Stay tuned!

Rider Dispensation Certificate is available for riders with special needs. They can apply for the Dispensation Certificate under “Competitions” on the website.

President Leslie Martien adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m., Mountain Standard Time.

Minutes submitted by Julie Alonzo, USAWE Secretary



A recording of the meeting can be accessed at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/8S8D8mmM4DYL6ePHOFdH5AXRky-0XhDsLy2LDi6UV60bCX8YjIUQBPIucYbsvL1y.sHkwC3hyXYm2HD1U>

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**ANNUAL
MEMBER
MEETING**



February 6, 2021

9:00 am PST

Welcome & Introductions

- **Board Members**
- **Committee Chairs**

**PRESIDENT
LESLIE
MARTIEN**
-
BOULDER
CO



**PRESIDENT ELECT
BARBARA
MILLER-PRICE**
-
**VALLEY CENTER
CA**



SECRETARY
JULIE
ALONZO
-
EUGENE
OR



TREASURER
ERIN
O'SHAUGHNESSY
-
VANCOUVER
WA



AT LARGE DIRECTOR 1
TRISHA
KIEFER-REED
-
WOLF CREEK
MT



AT LARGE DIRECTOR 2
DOREEN
ATKINSON
-
WEST
TX



**REGION 1 DIRECTOR
KRISTINE
STRASBURGER**

-
SPIRIT LAKE
ID



REGION 2 DIRECTOR
ROBIN
BOND
-
VISTA
CA



**REGION 3 DIRECTOR
CINDY
BRANHAM**
-
TECUMSEH
KS



REGION 4 DIRECTOR
KIKI
PANTAZE
-
MCDADE
TX



**REGION 5 DIRECTOR
ALEX
TYSON
-
FENTON
MI**



REGION 6 DIRECTOR
KIM
HILLYER
-
DOVER
PA



REGION 7 DIRECTOR
REBECCA
ALGAR
-
OCALA
FL



AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

ERIN LONG

-

CONCORD, NC



COACHES NETWORK CHAIR

TRISHA KIEFER-REED

-

WOLF CREEK, MT



**COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE
CHAIR**

JEANNE BOND

-

WARWICK, MD



ETHICS COMMITTEE CHAIR

LEESA NERO

-

ODESSA, FL



FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE

CLAIRE GOSNELL & LEESA NERO

-
EVERGREEN, CO & ODESSA, FL



LICENSED OFFICIALS COMMITTEE
CO-CHAIRS

DOREEN ATKINSON & **CHRISTY REICH**

-
WEST, TX & THOUSAND OAKS, CA



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

MINDY FINELLI

-

FLEMINGTON, NJ



RULES COMMITTEE CHAIR

JEANNE BOND

-

WARWICK, MD



WEBSITE COMMITTEE CHAIR

KRISTINE STRASBURGER

-

SPIRIT LAKE, ID



Summary of Board Business

- What we've accomplished
- What's still in the works

Membership Report

- **647 Members**
- **2522 Recorded Horses**

Answers to Your Questions

- **Questions submitted in advance**
- Questions from Chat

Region 1 Questions

**Answered by
Kristine
Strasburger**

- **Getting started**
- **Clinic updates**
- **Accessing scheduled clinics and shows**
- **Regional and local obstacles for practice**

Region 6 Question

**Answered by
Kim
Hillyer**

- **Hearing more about clinics in your region**
- ✓ **Check R6 Facebook Page**
- ✓ **Check AO page on website**
- ✓ **Contact your Regional Director**

Region 7 Questions

**Answered by
Rebecca
Algar**

- **Tools and resources for teaching Working Equitation**
- **Regional training for learner judges and clinicians**

Awards

Questions

Answered by

Erin

Long

- Will Amateur and Open be split in National standings?

✓ Yes!

- How do points work for 3 Phase versus 4 Phase shows?

✓ See next slide...

Dressage & EOH Trials (L1-L7)		Speed & Cow Trial (Levels 2-7)	
Average of Dressage & EOH Score	Points Earned	Placing	Points Earned
70.000% and above	7	1	1.50
67.500% thru 69.999%	6	2	1.25
65.000% thru 67.499%	4	3	1.00
62.500% thru 64.999%	3	4	0.75
60.000% thru 62.499%	2	5	0.50
57.500% thru 59.999%	1	6 th +	0.25

3 Phase Shows

- Up to 7 points from average of Dressage and EOH score
- And up to 1.5 points from Speed placing (if applicable)
- **Max total: 8.5 points**

4 Phase Shows

Dressage & EOH Trials (L1-L7)		Speed & Cow Trial (Levels 2-7)	
Average of Dressage & EOH Score	Points Earned	Placing	Points Earned
70.000% and above	7	1	1.50
67.500% thru 69.999%	6	2	1.25
65.000% thru 67.499%	4	3	1.00
62.500% thru 64.999%	3	4	0.75
60.000% thru 62.499%	2	5	0.50
57.500% thru 59.999%	1	6 th +	0.25

- Up to 7 points from average of Dressage and EOH score
- And up to 1.5 points from Speed placing (if applicable)
- + up to 1.5 additional points based on cattle placing
- DQ in cattle does not impact points earned in other phases
- **Max total: 10 points**

Coaches Network Questions

**Answered by
Trisha
Kiefer-Reed**

- **What is the Coaches Network?**
- **How do you get recognized?**
- ✓ **Supports development of WE in the USA**
- ✓ **Expands Professional community**
- ✓ **Objective application process**

Rules

Questions

Answered by

Jeanne

Bond

- **Can other members ride our recorded horses?**
- **How to qualify for Regional Championship shows**
- **How and when to submit rule change suggestions**

- **62 Shows applied for license to date**
 - **61 Shows are B-rated**
 - **1 Regional Championship (Region 6)**
- **2 Shows cancelled due to COVID**
- **Shows by Region:**
 - **Region1 – 13**
 - **Region2 – 12**
 - **Region 3 – 8**
 - **Region 4 – 1**
 - **Region 5 – 20**
 - **Region 6 – 6**
 - **Region 7 – 2**
- **Busiest Show Months scheduled so far:**
 - **June – 15 Shows**
 - **September – 13 Shows**

Competitions Update

Reported

By

Jeanne

Bond

Competitions

Questions

Answered by

Jeanne

Bond

- **Scheduling circuit competitions**

Judges

Questions

Answered by

Rebecca

Algar

- **Is WE emphasis on stock handling or on Dressage?**
- **Judging standards for EOH**

Answers to Your Questions

- Questions submitted in advance
- **Questions from Chat**

THANK YOU FOR
ATTENDING
TODAY'S MEETING



2021 USAWE Annual Member Meeting

February 6, 2021