



USAWE Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 12, 2022

Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m. Pacific, 6:00 p.m. Mountain, 7:00 p.m. Central, 8:00 p.m. Eastern

Meeting Modality: Zoom

Board Members Present		Board Members Absent at Roll Call	
President	Barbara Price	R1 Director	Heather Humelbaugh
President Elect	Olga Hendrickson		
Secretary	Julie Alonzo		
Treasurer	Erin O’Shaughnessy		
At Large Director 1	Trisha Kiefer-Reed		
At Large Director 2	Doreen Atkinson		
R2 Director	Robin Bond		
R3 Director	Chris Stanko		
R4 Director	Kiki Pantaze		
R5 Director	Becky Sherven		
R6 Director	Kimberley Hillyer		
R7 Director	Rebecca Algar		

Current # of Board members = 13. BOD members required for Quorum = 7. # of BOD members in attendance at roll call = 12. Quorum was established.

USAWE Board Members in Attendance After Roll Call:

Heather Humelbaugh, R1 Director

USAWE Adult Members in attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Leslie Martien, R3 Member

Jeanne Bond, R6 Member and Chair of the Rules Committee

Glynna Hoekstra, R2 Member

Bridgett Klingler, R1 Member

President Price called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM, Pacific time.

NOTATION OF EMAIL MEETING MINUTES FOR AWARDS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

In mid-September of 2022, the USAWE Board of Directors conducted an email vote on a motion to appoint Bridgett Klingler Chair of the Awards Committee and the following members to that committee: Mindy Finelli, Barb Sullivan, Erin Leal, Amie Perryman, and Pat Melton. The vote passed by unanimous consent in writing.

TRADEMARK REGISTRATION UPDATE

Trademark registration process appears to be going along smoothly. Prior to the meeting, President Barbara Price had provided the Board with a written update about the progress.



JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Prior to the Board meeting, Treasurer Erin O’Shaughnessy had provided the board with financial statements covering the first nine months of 2022 (January – September). Erin indicated that she is happy to meet with any Board members who have any questions.

LICENSED OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

Barbara Price, President, brought forward a motion from the Licensed Officials Committee, to begin charging a renewal fee for licensed officials once this current renewal cycle has passed.

Motion: Approve a license renewal fee for all licensed officials effective as of January 1, 2024. The fee will be commensurate with the existing LO fee schedule.

Motion was seconded by Doreen Atkinson, At-Large Director 2.

- **The motion passed by voice vote with all in favor and no dissenting votes.**

UPDATE ON FEDERAL TRADEMARK REGISTRATION FOR USA WORKING EQUITATION NAME

President Barbara Price updated the Board on the world with LegalZoom to register as a trademark the USA Working Equitation name.

COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE UPDATES

The USAWE Competitions Committee is recommending that USAWE rescind the planned change to require scores from a minimum of 3 judges to qualify for the Leaderboard. They do not feel our membership or organization are ready for this change given the feedback they have received on the changes to two judges in 2022. In addition, they feel there is no need to rush the change based on current growth, available shows per region, and current availability/quantity of licensed officials to meet the three-judge requirement.

Becky Sherven, R5 Director, made the following motion

Motion: Approve removal of the current slated change for the 2023 USAWE Leaderboard status to require three different judges to qualify a rider for Leaderboard standings, and retain the current requirement for scores from at least two different judges.

Motion was seconded by Kiki Pantaze, R4 Director.

- **The motion passed with 7 in favor and one abstention.**

Julie Alonzo, Secretary, made a motion to amend the motion:

Motion: Postpone until 2024 the removal of the current slated change for the 2023 USAWE Leaderboard status to require three different judges to qualify a rider for Leaderboard standings, and retain the current requirement for scores from at least two different judges.

Motion was seconded by Kim Hilyer, R6 Director.

- **The motion to amend failed with one in favor and the rest voting against.**



The Board then returned to the Main Motion:

Motion: Approve removal of the current slated change for the 2023 USAWE Leaderboard status to require three different judges to qualify a rider for Leaderboard standings, and retain the current requirement for scores from at least two different judges.

Motion was seconded by Kiki Pantaze, R4 Director.

➤ **The motion passed by voice vote with one “nay” and the rest in favor.**

RULES COMMITTEE

Prior to the Board meeting, the Rules Committee had provided the Board with their proposed changes to the rules. Several Board members provided feedback in advance of the meeting, with the Rules committee making some revisions in response to this feedback.

Jeanne Bond, Chair of the Rules Committee, shared that many of the rule changes were made in response to changes in the WAVE rules, with additional changes coming from rule change proposals, and new dressage tests for all levels except Masters created by the USAWE “S” Judges.

Barbara Price, President, made the following motion

Motion: Approve the United States Rules for Working Equitation, Revision 6, effective January 1, 2023.

The motion died for lack of a second, so the Board then moved to discussion of the rules.

Discussion included a suggestion that a picture of the bit measurement be included in the rules, clarification of gag bit versus loose-shank bit, prohibition against judges providing a clinic prior to the show, concerns about use of the word “severe” or “serious mistake” in the rules, concerns about the penalty for left-handed riders not making sure the cup is placed on the left-sided pole/right-handed riders not making sure the cup is placed on the right-sided pole in the Switch Cup obstacle, requirement for “extended trot” rather than “medium trot” in the Advanced dressage test, the proposal to allow tack to be changed within the same style, allowing spade bits to be used at the lower levels.

President Barbara Price adjourned the meeting at 6:33 PM, Pacific Time.

Minutes submitted by Julie Alonzo, USAWE Secretary.

USA Working Equitation
Federal Trademark Registration Update
[as of October 1, 2022]

SEPTEMBER 2022

- Met with our assigned Legal Zoom attorney to review documentation provided and filing details. Added some clarification verbiage to the Class 41 filing description.
- Discussed the probability of a successful federal trademark registration and the results of their national name search. It is the attorney's opinion that the USA Working Equitation name is quite generic, but could fall in the 'Descriptive' mark category, which carries fairly strong legal rights. There is a chance it also may end up in the lesser-protective 'Generic' category. We will file as a 'Descriptive' mark, but ultimately the end result will be determined by the federal trademark office. The decision was made to file the name WITH our logo in order to make it more distinctive/descriptive.
- The nationwide name search turned up one previous trademark for a similar name, but that trademark is past the renewal date and no attempt has been made to reactivate it.
- Reviewed and signed the electronic paperwork for the attorney to start the filing process. The approximate timeline is a preliminary decision 8-10 months after filing. Once that is complete there is a 30-day public notice period. Assuming a favorable outcome, the final certification would be issued within approximately 2 months.



USA Working Equitation Board of Directors Email Vote

Date: September 15, 2022

Modality: Email

The USAWE Board of Directors conducted an email vote in mid-September on a motion to appoint new members to the Awards Committee. The motion reads as follows:

Approve the appointment/re-appointment of the following members to the Awards Committee, and appoint Bridgett Klingler as committee chair:

**Bridgett Klingler
Mindy Finelli
Barb Sullivan
Erin Leal
Amie Perryman
Pat Melton**

Title	Name	Vote
President	Barbara Price	Yes
President-elect	Olga Hendrickson	Yes
Treasurer	Erin O'Shaughnessy	Yes
Secretary	Julie Alonzo	Yes
At-large Director 1	Trisha Kiefer-Reed	Yes
At-large Director 2	Doreen Atkinson	Yes
Region 1 Director	Heather Humelbaugh	Yes
Region 2 Director	Robin Bond	Yes
Region 3 Director	Chris Stanko	Yes
Region 4 Director	Kiki Pantaze	Yes
Region 5 Director	Becky Sherven	Yes
Region 6 Director	Kimberley Hillyer	Yes
Region 7 Director	Rebecca Algar	Yes

Barbara Price

Recorded September 15, 2022