

**THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY, INC.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**November 1, 2016**

The Board of Directors of The American Driving Society, Inc. (“ADS”) held an open online meeting on November 1, 2016. The meeting was called by Mike Arnold, President of ADS, and proper notice was provided in accordance with Article VII of the Bylaws of the ADS.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. Eastern Time by the President.

The following Directors were present at the meeting and constituted a quorum for the purpose of conducting business:

Mike Arnold  
Daniel M. Rosenthal  
Margaret Grillet  
Bill Lawson  
Audrey Bostwick  
MaryAnne Boyden  
Deborah Bridges  
Heidi Ferguson  
Ruthie Graves  
Marc Johnson  
Elaine Kendig  
Dianne Koopman  
Tracey Morgan  
Jeffrey Morse  
Esther (Boots) Wright  
Keith Yutzy  
Linda Yutzy

Honorary Directors Holly Pulsifer, Kelly Valdes and Hardy Zantke were present, as well as staff members Stacy Carlson and Louise Rothery and guests Merridy Hance and Simon Rosenman.

**1. Approval of Minutes.**

The President noted that minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on September 25, 2016 had been posted to the ADS website for review and asked for any corrections or additions. As there were no corrections or additions the minutes were approved.

## **2. President's Report.**

President Arnold updated the board on the status of the ADS affiliation with the United States Equestrian Federation. He reported that the terms of an agreement were discussed at a conference call meeting held last week and that we are headed in a direction that we would be comfortable with. The final wording is being drafted and details, when finalized, will be presented to the Board for consideration.

President Arnold then reported that he is still working on the dispensation proposal and has contacted the Department of Justice and the North Carolina ACLU for legal guidance regarding requirements associated with the Americans with Disability Act regulations. He believes that the ADS should adopt affirmative rules, not guidelines, but is seeking legal advice and will proceed accordingly as soon as practicable.

## **3. Rules Committee Report.**

Linda Yutzy, Chair of the Rules Committee, noted that the rule change proposals had been distributed to the board members for review prior to the meeting and made the following motion:

*That the Board approve the Rule Change Proposals for the 2017 Rule Book as submitted for consideration.*

After the motion was seconded, the summary of the rule change proposals was presented for further review. President Arnold asked for comments, discussion or objections. After discussion, the President called for the vote and the motion was passed.

Marc Johnson pointed out that the rules governing the hybrid and CAC competitions offering advanced dressage and cones classes inadvertently disallow small ponies and VSEs. After discussion on how to modify the rules, it was agreed that a single clarification rule be added to the 2017 rule book.

Linda Yutzy made the following motion:

*That the Combined Driving Committee create a new rule change proposal to be included in the 2017 rule book regarding the qualifications of small ponies and VSEs in the Hybrid and CAC competitions offering advanced dressage and cones.*

After being seconded, it was agreed that a board meeting will be called within two weeks to consider this rule change proposal so that it can be integrated into the 2017 rule book in a timely fashion. After brief discussion, the President called for the vote and the motion was passed.

The Board thanked Linda for the incredible amount of work she has done as Chair of the Rules Committee. Her dedication and hard work is greatly appreciated by the board.

**4. Licensed Officials Committee Rule Changes.**

Ruth Graves, Chair of the Licensed Officials Committee, made the following motion:

*That the revised Requirements for ADS-Licensed Officials, as submitted to the Board by Linda Yutzy on October 31, 2016 be approved and included in the 2017 rule book.*

The motion was seconded and the Requirements for ADS-Licensed Officials was reviewed. After a detailed discussion, the President called for a vote and the motion was passed.

In connection with the discussion of the revised requirements for ADS-Licensed Officials, it was noted that after leaving the learning program, each official becomes responsible for tracking their work experience. It was suggested that these records be officially maintained in a central location so that they are more consistent and accessible. It was agreed that the ADS office re-institute a process for requiring, collecting and maintaining the records of the licensed officials.

**5. Report of the Combined Driving Committee.**

Marc Johnson, chair of the Combined Driving Committee, announced that the committee has received bids to host the 2017 North American Championships (“Championships”) and made the following motion:

*That the board approve the committee’s recommendation that the Preliminary Championships be held at Grand Oaks in December 2017 and the Intermediate Championships be held at Bromont International in July, 2017.*

After being seconded, discussion ensued where the accessibility and expense associated with a Canadian venue was examined. Marc assured the Board that Grand Oaks has held combined driving events in the past. After discussion, the vote was called and the motion passed.

Ruthie Graves initiated a discussion regarding the use of ADS officials for the North American Championships and explained that the Licensed Officials Committee maintains the position that ADS officials should preside at the Championships. There was agreement by the board that ADS officials should be used and it was suggested that the future Championships should not be held at FEI events.

**6. Unfinished Business.**

Kelly Valdes requested an update on the status of the annual appeal. President Arnold confirmed that the annual appeal package is being finalized and, pending receipt of certain enclosures, is expected to be mailed in November, as scheduled.

As there was no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Grillet, Secretary