

**THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY, INC.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**November 21, 2016**

The Board of Directors of The American Driving Society, Inc. (“ADS”) held an open online meeting on November 21, 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 8:06 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:

Michael Arnold  
Daniel M. Rosenthal  
Margaret Grillet  
Francine Arrington  
Audrey Bostwick  
MaryAnne Boyden  
Deborah Bridges  
John Freiburger  
Marc Johnson  
Elaine Kendig  
Diane Koopman  
Esther (Boots) Wright  
Tracey Morgan  
Keith Yutzy  
Linda Yutzy

Honorary Directors, Holly Pulsifer and Hardy Zantke, and guests Debra Bridges, Ann Craig, Merridy Hance and Simon Rosenman were also present.

**1. Approval of Minutes.**

The President noted that minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on November 1, 2016 had been distributed to the directors for review. Margaret Grillet read the corrections that had been made to the circulated draft. A request was made for additional corrections or additions and since there were none, the minutes were approved as presented.

## **2. ADS/USEF Affiliate Discussion Status.**

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 and that the final wording contains only minor changes to the proposal approved by the board in September. A copy of it will be posted on the website under “ADS Matters” so that it is available for all to review. In summary, President Arnold said that one change that will be brought to the board for approval is the possibility of drug testing by 2020. The ADS agreed to continue to publish FEI and National events in *The Whip*. He expects that a formal persuasive version of what the ADS group drafted will be presented to the USEF board of directors for consideration in January.

President Arnold responded to questions to whether there are any unresolved issues. He confirmed that there is an agreement with USEF, but noted that it does not include an agreement for a single license for ADS and USEF officials. There is discomfort with this, he said, by the USEF because they are interested in a structure where all driving officials will be issued a single license by USEF. He told the board that it stands as a future discussion item but is not on the table now. He noted also that the agreement contains language that the USEF Driving Sport committee would have equal representation. Joe Mattingly, he said, is confident that the USEF board would approve that position.

He advised the board that ADS has paid the dues and submitted the paperwork to be an affiliate member of the USEF for 2017, as has been done in the past.

## **3. Rules and CDE Committee Report.**

Marc Johnson noted that the proposed rule changes have been distributed to the board for review. He then made the following motion that was seconded:

*That the Board approve the additional Rule Change Proposals written to allow VSEs and small ponies to participate in advanced cones and dressage and other related items that were added for clarity, as distributed to the board.*

President Arnold asked for comments and discussion and noted that there are more rule changes in this proposal than what was originally contemplated at the previous meeting. He added that we should try to conform to our rule change proposal process more closely. Marc advised the board that the additional changes were necessary for clarity purposes and to allow VSEs and small ponies to compete in these classes.

Linda Yutzy commented on the proposal submitted by the CDC committee and said that it does not address the rule change that was requested and noted that additional rule changes are being submitted today for consideration.

She explained that at the previous meeting, the board had agreed to accept a last minute change to allow VSE and small ponies to participate, not to rewrite the rules. It was also noted that the verbiage of one of the changes was not clear and could not be transferred into the rule book without being rewritten.

Tracey Morgan noted that the intent of the proposed rule changes presented today is genuine, but the original intent was misunderstood. The motion from the previous meeting was reviewed and the board was given the opportunity to study the proposed rule changes.

As there were no further comments, President Arnold called for a vote and the motion did not pass. Linda then offered to help Marc to draft the rule changes so that they are clear and can be adopted as soon as possible.

#### **4. ADS Only Rule Book Status.**

Marc Johnson advised the board that the project is expected to be completed next week. Linda noted that next week is not enough time for the changes to be made to the 2017 rule book. The December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline is for the red lined version, not to begin production. Linda offered to work with Marc on this project.

#### **5. Appointment of Executive Committee Members.**

President Arnold explained that, pursuant to the ADS Bylaws, officers of the ADS are members of the Executive Committee (“EC”) and that additional members, who must be board members, may be appointed by the board. He noted that there are no rules as to when appointments to the EC should be made. Francine Arrington and Elaine Kendig currently are serving on the EC and that their terms expire on December 31, 2016. He suggested that the positions can be filled at the January board meeting. One EC meeting is expected before then to review the board meeting agenda. Others agreed that members of the new board can select additional members of the EC in January.

#### **6. ADS Logo Redesign.**

Louise Rothery distributed background information regarding the proposal to redesign the ADS logo. She presented information and examples of logos from other organizations to illustrate the concept of using a logo with a forward-looking image as a marketing tool that would appeal to new members and corporate sponsors. The intent is to use a new logo to help promote the organization’s growth. Specifically, the logo should clearly

reflect the activity of the association and should have an immediate impact, especially as she begins soliciting corporate sponsorships with companies that are not familiar with horses and driving.

The cost, she said, of changing the logo would be nominal because it mostly appears on forms and documents that are on line and not pre-printed. It was noted that the logo is on the inventory of ADS clothing, as well.

In the following discussion, it was pointed out that the logo redesign concept wasn't communicated well to the board or the membership. All agreed that Louise's explanation and reasoning for a redesign is compelling. The board agreed with the proposal and approved of the reintroduction of the logo contest to the membership next year with a more detailed explanation of the intent and concept.

#### 7. **Associate Membership Category.**

John Freiburger presented a motion to offer a new membership category. He noted that there are some organizations, including Cuba's Horses, that are interested in ADS membership and do not fall into the "club membership" category. It was noted that this proposed category does not impact the breed affiliates, nor is likely to diminish individual memberships.

His initial resolution was presented as:

*The ADS shall offer an affiliation with the ADS called an affiliate membership. The cost shall be \$60 per annum and shall be managed as a club membership.*

Elaine Kendig clarified the meaning of "affiliate" and, after other discussion, the motion was changed to read:

*The ADS shall offer a new membership category called an Associate Membership. The cost shall be \$60 per annum and shall be managed as a Club Membership.*

After being seconded, the motion was passed.

#### 8. **New Business**

Linda Yutzy acknowledged the generosity of the membership to those employees and members who recently experienced family losses.

As there was no additional new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Grillet, Secretary