

The American Driving Society, Inc
Annual Members Meeting
October 15, 2011, Happ's Inc., Ethel, Washington

President John Freiburger called the annual members meeting to order at 7:00PM PDT.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Ann Davis reported that in accordance with the law of the State of New York, the state in which The American Driving Society, Inc. is incorporated, the ADS annual membership meeting must have at least 100 voting members present, in person or by proxy, in order to conduct business. She reported that there were 99 properly signed in ADS members present plus 61 signed proxy votes. With a total of 160, she announced that this meeting met the requirements for conducting legally binding business.

Approval of the Minutes

Boots Wright moved approval of The American Driving Society, Inc. Annual Membership Meeting, October 8, 2010. Larry Brinker seconded the motion. President Freiburger asked three times for any correction. Hearing none, the minutes were approved with unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lawson addressed these areas:

- *The 2011-year is proving to be both promising and challenging. It is promising because we continue to promote the sport of carriage driving through less than ideal economic times and challenging because we continue to fall short of projected revenue. In response to shortfall, the ADS has curtailed expenses to remain close to budget.
- *The budget process for 2012 is underway
- *The ADS contracted for and had prepared fully audited financial statements for the year ended 2010.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Susie Koss Acker's report concentrated on membership. She said that membership, as of this week, is 2593, translates into approximately 3000 actual members with all members of family memberships counted. She also stated that the office had conducted a membership study and found that only 37% of ADS members compete. This emphasizes the need to have value added memberships to insure that non-competing members continue their membership.

The Executive Director then asked for ideas from the members. These ideas were presented:

- *Put together a complete calendar of events, including the United States and Canada, and non-recognized as well as recognized events
- *In all communication, be sure that location of events is given
- *High School Equestrian Teams, how to get them involved in driving and the ADS
- *Focus on empty nesters who now want to drive
- *For USEF members, and perhaps other organizations including breed association, offer a \$10 modified type of ADS membership, such as receiving Wheelhorse electronically

Committee Reports

The President announced that in order to keep the meeting to one hour, there will be no verbal committee reports. Instead, written reports will be available on the ADS website, attached to the minutes when posted.

President's Comments:

President Freiburger thanked everyone in attendance for supporting the ADS.

He discussed the ADS Fund and the progress in the creation of an endowment element to the fund. The purpose of the endowment will be to invest capital and use the annual dividends and interest to fund programs that currently do not exist or are not affordable in the current tight ADS budget. The focus will be on driver education, the education and promotion of ADS and USEF officials, support for clubs and their educational and recreational activities and the support of new ADS events. He noted that an endowment should be able to appeal for funds that would continue to do good for the ADS in perpetuity.

He also discussed his investigations as to how the United States Equestrian Federation can become a more vital part of ADS activities, particularly in the funds that may be unavailable. Further, he mentioned that he serves on the FEI Affiliates Committee, Driving Committee and Technical Driving Committee where being active and networking at USEF meetings are important so people know the ADS.

Business Meeting Adjournment

With no further business, Larry Brinker moved adjournment of the ADS Members Meeting. Boots Wright seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM PDT.

Awards Presented:

PRESIDENT'S AWARD: President Freiburger presented the 2011 to the ADS Treasurer Bill Lawson. The President noted Lawson's work not just as ADS Treasurer, but as an organizer, volunteer, announcer and enthusiastic DS volunteer and supporter. As Treasurer, he noted Lawson's dedication to correcting the books of the organization and the many hours and reports that Lawson generated in putting the ADS on a firm accountancy footing.

INTERMEDIATE CDE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Boots Wright made these awards:

Single Pony Champion: Paul Maye

Reserve: Janelle Marshall

Single Horse Champion: Lowell Nelson

Reserve: Jill Warren Pond

Pair Pony Champion: Boots Wright

Reserve: Sherri Dolan

Pair Horse Champion: Fritz Grupe

Pat Hastings

Team Pony Champion: Heather Schneider

Single VSE Champion: Merridy Hance

Reserve: Mandy Hood

Pair VSE Champion: Wanda Lusk

TEA CUP CHALLENGE: Merridy Hance made these awards for the VSE cones competition earlier in the day:

First Place: Keith Yutzy driving Mandy Hood's Joey

Second Place: Ruthie Graves driving Lori Hanes' Pic

Third Place: Peter Lofgren driving Helen Stroklund's Blaze

Submitted by Ann Davis, ADS Secretary

Date: October 30, 2011