

2009 Equestrians' Institute Annual Meeting Minutes
(held January 9th, 2010 at the Carol Edwards Center, Woodinville, WA)

1 p.m. Welcome: Rebecca Chatfield, 2009 E.I. President of the Board of Directors

Call to waive the reading of last year's annual meeting minutes, seconded and approved.

2009 EI Membership: 449 members -- Dressage 75%, Eventing 15%, Driving 4 %, Unspecified 6%
235 members already signed up for 2010.

Peter Larsen: EI is on Facebook! 327 "friends" worldwide, 311 US, 5 Canada, 3 Jordan, 1 Ireland.

EI is a Group Member Organization (GMO) of the United States Dressage Federation. E.I. is the only organization in the country which has 3 discipline divisions!

Financial Overview: Cash balances at year end are as follows: General Account \$65,522. Dressage Account \$48,896. Eventing Account \$43,048. Driving Account \$1,996.

Income to the General Account comes from Membership fees plus fund-raising (i.e. auctions, donations). General Account largest expenditures are USDF dues, Flying Changes subscription, and Insurance.

What EI offered in 2009:

9 lectures, 5 recognized Dressage shows, 11 schooling shows, 7 recreational and competitive drives, 2 Eventing HT and Derbys, 3 (other).

E.I. is an EVENT ORGANIZATION with many groups, divisions, & committees.

Town Hall: Introduction and Reports by Directors and Committees:

IT report: Peter Larsen: in the future, we will open up website for all groups to be able to log on and use, potential to bid online for EI auction.

Volunteers: Colleen Jones: April is volunteer month! Continued use of the MyVolunteer software in 2010.

Dressage Schooling shows: Kellie Larsen: 3 schooling shows instead of 4 in 2010.

Lecture Series: Possibility of Sunday Brunch Lecture Series. Steve Latimer in March, need other topics.

Membership: Polly Kranick: emailed membership renewals planned for future.

Eventing: Chriss Cardwell: Donida not available in 2010 for Horse Trials. New Equestrian Center - Rainier- to be used. Penny is working on USEA Area VII Adult Riders.

Driving: Tracy Garland: Beginner Driving Clinic at BJ's, additional recreational driving, camp out at Silver Ridge.

Education: Shelley Navarre: Freestyle Clinic February 5-7. Pacific Moon Freestyle in October, Young Riders Scribing Clinic scheduled for April 8, 2010.

Recognized Dressage Shows: Lothar Pinkers: Ran all 5 recognized dressage shows this year as usual.

Education Grants: Beth Glosten: all educational grants available by division, 2 grants per division, both Young Riders and Adults, awards are given by application process. Adult= adult amateurs and professionals, due date for application is April 1, 2010.

Insurance Report: Chriss Cardwell: all E.I. and chapter events are insured.

Report from Whatcom County Chapter: Shows: May to Sept., Scholarships available, Banquet/Auction/Dessert all benefit Horse Rescue! 42 members are on Facebook.

Social Events: Vendor Coordinators needed. Contact Sherry Littlejohn for details.

Financial Report: Gunn Cooper: Budgeting will improve financial reporting and responsibility. Gunn is working with each division to put together budgets for 2010.

Awards: Carolyn Bunch is looking for volunteers to handle awards for USDF Regional Championships.

EI Voting:

Vote # 1: Membership dues fee increase \$3.00 , triggered by same dues increase at USDF. Single membership fee increase \$52 to \$55. Jr/YR increase \$37 to \$40. Family member increase \$27 to \$30.
Vote APPROVED by E.I. general membership and will take effect for the 2011 membership year.

Vote # 2 Go Green- instead of signed paper certificate mailed to member, now a notification of membership that can be emailed. Change Bylaws wording to reflect this. ***Vote APPROVED by E.I. general membership.***

Vote #3: Delete two Board of Director Positions listed in Bylaws – Education and Promotions.

Vote #4: Delete Co-Director language in Bylaws.

Rationale for Votes #3 and #4: Edit Bylaws to eliminate vacant and superfluous titles for the Board of Directors. Streamlines recruitment and increases group effectiveness via slightly smaller Board.

After much discussion about E.I. traditions & management strategies, which resulted in diverse and strongly held opinions, there was a proposal (by Lothar Pinkers) to table decision on Votes #3 and #4 until a new committee can examine issues more thoroughly. Approved (26 yes, 8 no). Discussion & voting tabled.

Vote # 5: 2010 Board Members presented. A call from President Rebecca Chatfield for any volunteers who would like to step forward to fill the vacant Education or vacant Promotions spot on the Board. Nobody came forward from the floor to take the two vacant Board positions. Proposed 2010 Board: President: Rebecca Chatfield, Vice President Chriss Cardwell, Secretary Maren Jensen, Treasurer Gunn Cooper, Dressage Director Shelly Navarre, Eventing Director Penny Leggott, Driving Director Tracy Garland, Information Technology Peter Larsen, Volunteers Colleen Jones, Promotions (OPEN), Education (OPEN).

Unanimous approval of 2010 Board of Directors by E.I. general membership.

3:30 pm Meeting Adjourned.

End of Year Competition and Volunteer Awards presented.

Submitted by Kathleen Butler, Secretary

