

NDS General Membership Minutes



Promoting the Equine Sport of Carriage Driving

Jan 12, 2025

Minutes of the NDS General Membership Meeting Jan. 12, 2025 at the U of R laser Lab

Members present Marilyn DeMeyer, Jeanne Best, Jerry Lechner, Bob Brunsdon, Jim Knauer, Susan Knauer, Tricia Anselm, Tom Barbato, Cheryl Yelle, Laurie Neubauer, Gael Orr, Suzzanna Walker, Judy Kraemer, Frank Kraemer, Dave Fanton, Reenie Romeo, and Lee Semilof.

Jerry Lechner opened the meeting at 12:19.

Jerry started by communicating the following:

- A. Is the club fulfilling its purpose- to help the sport continue?
- B. We are missing people to fill positions: Membership secretary, Show secretary, and 1 board member.

We have decided to stay with the club FOR ONE MORE YEAR, have a banquet, and have a show. As we are still in need of management help, we will be looking into merging with another club by the end of the year if no one else steps up to help.

Tricia suggested changing the focus of the club to carriage driving instead of just pleasure driving. This would expand the focus of the club. There was some discussion of this.

- Bob said the bylaws say “carriage pleasure driving” sport.
- Tricia added that most pleasure shows include a utility division (to include whips with marathon vehicles, etc.)

We talked about how to get new and/or young people interested in the sport:

- 4H clubs
- Jeanne Best added that she would be happy to approach the mini club(s) in her area to see if they are interested in driving clubs.

We need to up our digital presence:

- Tricia will do the social media, but she needs to get the FB platform opened for her to do the work. Cheryl Yelle will contact Lindsay to have her give Cheryl access.
- We need a way to renew online and pay online
- Gael would be willing to set up a PayPal account to allow members to renew and pay online. She is not able to maintain this, but will work with Dawn (our treasurer) to get it started.

Gael discussed a possible merger with her club, the Equestrian Heritage Society. There was much discussion around this.

- The club decided to examine this or other possible mergers over the next year. Meanwhile, we will keep trying to strengthen the club by increasing membership. We must have more people step up to help run the club.
- Jim moved that NDS collaborated with Equestrian Heritage Society on joint events. Motion passed.

Annual Banquet – to have or not to have, that is the question.

- Marilyn made a motion to have the brunch with an auction. Cheryl seconded. Motion carried.
- The annual banquet will be a brunch on Sunday, March 23. It will be at the Sweet Briar Lodge (formerly Lodge on the Green) on Ridgeway Ave in Greece, NY. The cost will be \$40/pp. We will have the annual auction.
- As we do not have a membership secretary, Reenie will include a membership renewal request in the annual banquet invitation. Hopefully, there will be a link in the invitation so members can pay online. People can either pay that way or send a check to Dawn.
- We will need someone to collect membership payments at the door at the banquet for those who wish to be old-fashioned. (lol)
- In the event that the club folds at the end of the year, the club funds will be donated to charity, such as a horse rescue, or be given to another horse club.

Equifest

- A table at Equifest, is \$225. Gael Orr offered to split that cost with us as she will be there representing her other horse club, Equestrian Heritage Society.
- We need more tri-fold NDS info cards. Jim will revise ours and get them printed.
- Tricia moved that we share a table with EHS March 15-16 and split the cost with them. Cheryl seconded. Motion carried.

Events for 2025 so far are

- Pleasure Show – Jerry will get help coordinating the show this year although he will remain the manager overall. The show date was tentatively set for Sunday, June 22, but, according to Jerry, Nicole would like to change it to Saturday and have Sunday as a rain date.
- Trace pace

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Jerry Lechner, President NDS- (585) 354-9551 JER2251@gmail.com