



USHJA Recognized Riding Academy

Wednesday, April 8th, 2020 12pm ET

Teleconference: 888-392-4560 Access Code: 99597

Members Present: Jill McGrady (Chair), Roxane Durant, Leighanne Brocki, Sondra Makowski and Suzanne Flaig (5)

Members Not Present: Ruthanna Bridges, Allie Zorn, and Stephanie Cook (3)

Also Present: Whitney Barnard (Committee Liaison)

I. Welcome and Roll Call

- Ms. McGrady called the meeting to order at 12:05pm ET and Whitney Barnard performed roll call. A quorum was met with five (5) voting members present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- *Ms. Durant motioned to approve the minutes from February 12, 2020. Ms. Flaig seconded and the motion passed.*

III. ~~RRA Application Process~~ Pandemic Discussion

In light of the unprecedented global pandemic, Ms. McGrady asked the committee to table the discussion about the RRA application process to discuss how equine businesses are handling the challenges associated with the outbreak and to see if the committee can offer any assistance to its RRAs in any way. The committee agreed.

Ms. Durant asked if anyone had seen the recommendations put out by the American Horse Council as some of the information they are providing connects people with small business loans and other resources. USEF also has put out a resources list for their membership. Ms. Barnard indicated that the only information she was aware of from USHJA was the email sent out regarding the CARES Act. That information was shared to TCP trainers and RRAs via email and on the FB page. Ms. McGrady encouraged people to inquire with their state to see if any other help was offered locally.

Ms. McGrady also informed the group that many insurance companies specifically do not cover riding academies in times of pandemic so it's important that RRAs check to make sure they are covered if they are still teaching. Ms. Brocki shared her schedule for how she is offering lessons during this time where most barns are closed: private lessons with intermediate and above riders, riders must own their own grooming items, visitors are not

allowed in the tack room, and staff clean all tack at the end of the day. Hand soap and sanitizer are abundant.

The committee decided it would be a good idea to hold off on some of the videos assigned to committee members as they may be hard to film if barns are closed and they may not be well received during a time when trainers can't offer lessons. It's important for the committee to still try and offer topics for discussion and to share information about the pandemic on the FB group. Ms. McGrady offered to post a "Top 5" list of things RRAs should consider during these times:

- Check with insurance to make sure they are still covered
- Turn out horses to help keep costs down for hay and bedding
- Apply to small business loans (info shared by Ms. Durant in the group)
- Check with distributors to ensure they are still offering goods
- Keep soap/hand sanitizer around for staff and practice social distancing

Other ideas to share with the group might be exercises to keep you fit while you can't ride, suggestions for online lessons or "shows", recommendation to log in and view the USEF free videos, and other fun, uplifting topics that might help keep spirits up.

VI. Old Business

- The next call is scheduled for March 13, noon ET.

VII. New Business

- There was no new business to discuss

IX. Adjourn

- There was a motion to adjourn and the call was completed at 12:49pm ET.

Respectfully Submitted,

Whitney Barnard

USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Education/Committee Liaison