



USHJA Recognized Riding Academy

Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 12pm ET

Teleconference: 888-392-4560 Access Code: 85520225

Members Present: Ruthanna Bridges, Jill McGrady (Chair), Roxane Durant, Leighanne Brocki, Allie Zorn, and Suzanne Flaig (6)

Members Not Present: Sondra Makowski and Stephanie Cook (2)

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 six (6) voting members present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- *Ms. Durant motioned to approve the minutes from April 8, 2020. Ms. Brocki seconded and the motion passed.*

III. Pandemic Check-In

Ms. McGrady asked for an updated status of the committee members' facilities and lesson programs at this stage in the pandemic: were states lifting restrictions? were they getting back to lessons or showing? how have they adjusted their programs to be safe for visitors?

Most committee members indicated they were getting back to lessons in some format though lessons were held in smaller groups or individually, no rider tacking-up sessions, and lots of disinfecting. Everyone is following the guidance of their state government. A few facilities hope to get to showing in June but many are not permitted till later in the year. It was stated that the need to offer summer camps is vital to their existence so plans are in the works to modify camps to host them according to government regulations. PPP loans have been helpful for paying staff.

Ms. McGrady stated that there are a lot of resources available online and the committee has been sharing as much as possible via the RRA Facebook page; but have they missed anything and is there anything else the committee can offer?

- Advertise the "[Lunch 'N Learn](#)" program offered by US Pony Club

- Ms. Durant offered to share a publication she received via IEA that gave information about how to market your program during the pandemic. She offered to share it with Ms. Barnard for dispersal amongst the group
- Ms. Zorn pointed out that there isn't a lot of guidance on how to ensure your barn is "virus-free" so perhaps the committee can research or share tips they have observed and are following to keep their staff and students healthy
- Ms. Barnard offered to follow up with the Sponsorship Department about a program previously discussed with Stateline Tack to offer discounts for new riders. Perhaps this could be redirected to help encourage riders to purchase their own gear to reduce cross contamination

IV. Videos and FB Posts

Ms. McGrady suggested the committee get back to posting videos within the FB group to help keep it engaged and informed on helpful advice throughout the pandemic.

Topics to be shared amongst the FB group included:

- Ms. Durant to send Ms. Barnard the aforementioned publication
- Suggest within the FB group that barn owners/head trainers talk with their insurance agents and lawyers about developing and requiring a covid-19 release form to help protect them in case a rider were to get ill at the facility
- Ms. Brocki agreed to create a video talking about how to disinfect grooming kits
- Ms. McGrady offered to create a video about supplies to have on hand for cleaning and disinfecting as well as tips to disinfect commonly used items
- Ms. Zorn also agreed to create a video showing some ideas her farm uses to keep equipment safe

All videos should be shared with Ms. McGrady and/or Ms. Barnard who will post them on a schedule or assign a date for the creator to post them. If you have additional ideas, please feel free to suggest them to the group.

Finally, Ms. Barnard asked the committee if it were ok for more than two representatives per RRA to join the FB group. The limit was initially put in place to ensure Ms. Barnard could accurately and easily track attendees. The process has proven simple so the committee agreed that any trainer or owner of an RRA can have access to the FB group provided they answer the entry question.

V. Old Business

- The next call is scheduled for June 10, noon ET.

VI. New Business

- There was no new business to discuss

VII. Adjourn

- There was a motion to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 12:48pm ET.

Respectfully Submitted,

Whitney Barnard

USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Education/Committee Liaison