



## United States Mondio Ring Association Board of Directors Meeting

### Minutes from the June 27, 2016 Board Meeting

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Donald Lee at 2104 (or 9:04 P.M. CST). A quorum was present.

#### Members Present:

President	Donald Lee	Director	Jake Schneider
Vice President	Jill Fryling - absent	Director	Jennifer Marshall – 2112 hrs.
Secretary	Michon Mills	Director	Lisa Lucero
Treasurer	David Broderick		

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** - May minutes will be approved via Facebook

#### Officer Reports

**President** – Don discussed that he still has not heard anything about decisions with mixed breed dogs competing in USMRA related to FCI rules. Don discussed that he has contacted most club contact individuals to discuss possible survey questions regarding creating regions for Regional Championships and the World Team Criteria. Don further discussed also having a survey to make changes to the By-Laws regarding splitting the election years so that the entire board was not changed every two years. There was discussion whether the day of the board meetings needed to be changed. It was decided that Monday’s would remain the best but the time would be 9:00 CST.

**Vice President** – No report

**Treasurer** – David reported that the Wells Fargo account balance is \$30927.01; PayPal balance is \$2985.58 totaling \$33,912.59. It was stated that there are no outstanding payments due. Taxes have been completed and just need to be paid when the bill comes due. There was discussion about a concern Aida had with California being listed as the state USMRA originated in for tax purposes.

**Secretary** – nothing to report

**Director at Large** – No reports

#### Committee Reports

**Judge’s Committee** – Don reported that the Committee is looking at the current criteria for the Judges Apprentice Program and is considering making some changes.

**Decoy Committee** – Jake reported that the Committee has completed the Decoy Grant Criteria. Rogue Ringsport had a decoy certification. Chad Byerly received his level one. Otto recertified at level one. Jake Faas decoyed his first trial and did very well. There was discussion that there are 3 decoys that want to attend the selective at the World Cup, Carlos Aguirre, Francois Massart and Jimmy Vanhove. It was further discussed that Francois is not a current USMRA member or decoy. It was further discussed that John Lugo may also want to go. Decoys must be a level two and have done ten trials to qualify to attend the selective.

**Education Committee** – The approval recommendations from the Committee were sent to the BOD for the Educational Grants.

**Membership Committee** – No report

**Auditing Committee** – No report

**AWDF Update** – No report

**Sociability Committee** – No report

**Nationals Committee** – Jake reported that the Committee is working on selecting the 2017 National Championships hosting club. The Committee is also looking at instituting rules for National's such as having multiple clubs bring retrieve items, object guard items, competing with multiple dogs, capping how many dogs can compete per day, having access to training fields, etc.

### **Unfinished Business**

**World Team Criteria** – Based on membership input, there was discussion about changing the World Team criteria to specifically define the meaning of two fields. Discussion ensued that adding a specific number of miles separating the fields would be best to meet the intention of trialing on two different fields. The Board of Directors discussed and decided that 250 miles would be a reasonable amount to separate the fields. There was also discussion about the use of the same decoy in multiple trials. The Board of Directors discussed and agreed to add to the criteria that the same decoy(s) cannot be used for the two trial scores submitted. Michon will get the new criteria on Facebook for Board approval. The Board of Directors agreed unanimously that these additions should be made.

### **Discuss a process for a By-Law change, to stagger the elections of USMRA BOD Officers**

- Don discussed that we will need to develop a survey to send to all members various options on changing the current By-Laws. There would also be an option not to change anything. This will need to be done using a program such as Survey Monkey.
  - Brief discussion about a process where half of the BOD is elected on even years and half elected on odd years
  - There was discussion that USMRA would need to fund any Regional Championships which may not be sustainable for the organization. It was further discussed using two USMRA Judges for Regionals instead of using European Judges if Regional Championships were instituted.

- Possibly creating three regions within USMRA and changing the By-laws to allow the three (3) BOD Directors at Large to be replaced with three (3) Regional Directors

**Discuss and vote on Sociability Test** – Discussed that the reason for changing the sociability test is because our current test requires 5 of 7 areas passed, but FCI does not want a test that allows areas of failure. There was discussion that whatever test is used, such as CGC or the USMRA Sociability Test, all areas must be pass/fail with a passing score required in all sections. This will be further discussed at the July meeting.

**Discuss Club Insurance – Should USMRA pay for membership club insurance to defray costs to make club trials more affordable?**

There was discussion about providing insurance for clubs for trials. It was further discussed that if a club desires to have additionally insured, there is an additional fee due to Sportsman's in the amount of \$50.00.

There was discussion about the appropriate use of the educational grants and the importance of the events benefiting USMRA. It was further discussed that changing the money from the educational grants to instead pay for club insurance may be a better option. Additionally insured would need to be paid for by the clubs. Currently clubs are required to pay \$75.00 for insurance to defer the cost of the entire policy that covers the clubs. It was discussed that if educational grants are to continue, the criteria may need to be adjusted to make sure that the event actually does benefit USMRA.

It was decided that this will need to be discussed further during the July meeting.

### **Evaluate the Status of USMRA Clubs**

**Discuss / Approve new Clubs** – None to discuss

### **New Business**

**Discuss and vote on criteria for Grant funding through the Decoy Committee**

Jake reported that the criterion includes opportunities two times a year; one in January and one in July. Clubs/individuals will only be eligible to receive one grant per calendar year. Priority will be given to clubs that need trials and do not have certified decoys. Decoy certifications will have \$1200 (\$400 per grant) available and getting decoys to trials will have \$1800.00 (\$300.00 per grant) available. Random draw of decoys will occur; the same decoy cannot be used twice in a year for a grant opportunity.

This is a Decoy Committee recommendation that needs to be approved by the BOD. The recommendation passed unanimously by the Board of Directors.

**Discuss and vote on Recommendations from Educational Committee for Educational Grants**

Five clubs submitted for the current grants.

The recommendation from the Educational Committee to approve Prestige Ringsport was not approved unanimously by the Board of Directors. There was discussion that the Francois Massart seminar held by Prestige Ringsport did not truly benefit USMRA.

The recommendation from the Educational Committee to approve Santa Clarita Mondioring Club was approved unanimously by the Board of Directors. There was discussion that this seminar was free of charge and assisted multiple USMRA decoys and benefited USMRA.

The recommendation from the Educational Committee to approve Rogue Ringsport was tabled until September until after the event occurs in August. There was discussion that the Dominic Piton decoy and handler seminar will be free of charge and will include Mondioring and French Ring participants since it is conjunction with a Mondioring trial and French Ring trial.

The Texas K9 request was rejected by the Education Committee because there was not enough information submitted for the request and all attempts to communicate with the contact person went unanswered.

The recommendation from the Educational Committee to approve Midwest All Breed Working Dogs was approved unanimously by the Board of Directors. There was discussion that the Jimmy Foster seminar assisted multiple USMRA decoys, multiple handlers and benefited USMRA.

It was discussed that if events are recommended for grants that have not occurred, there may be a delay in approval from the BOD until after the event occurs. Jake stated that it made sense to wait to vote on his request until after the event.

**Member's Concerns** – Any concerns that USMRA Members may have.

None discussed

**Announcements**

There was discussion about whether the Monday dates for the meetings will worked for the Board of Directors. Everyone agreed that Monday's still worked.

Next Regular BOD Meeting – July 18, 2016 at 9:00 PM Central Time

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Lisa, second by Jake to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2354 hours (11:34 P.M. CST)

Michon M. Mills,  
USMRA Secretary

**Approved (Approved as Corrected)  
BOD Electronic approval**

Michon M. Mills  
USMRA Secretary  
July 20, 2016