



These minutes were approved at the  
Annual Meeting November 4, 2016,  
in Williamsburg, VA.

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**Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International  
Annual Meeting  
Friday, November 6, 2015  
Cleveland, Ohio  
7:30am – 8:30am**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Jim Harlan, Board of Trustees President

7:35am PATH Intl. Board of Trustees President Jim Harlan welcomed the meeting attendees and called the meeting to order.

Mr. Harlan introduced Michael Richardson, brand ambassador from Purina Animal Nutrition who spoke briefly about the partnership between the two organizations. Harlan acknowledged Mr. Richardson and Purina for all of their support of PATH Intl. over the years. Meeting attendees applauded.

**Approval of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Miyako Kinoshita, Secretary

October 31, 2014 minutes

Motion to approve: Margaret Powers

Seconded: Martha Dubensky

A request for changes or modifications was made. None were proffered.

The October 31, 2014 minutes were approved

**Treasurer's Report**

Ross Braun, Board of Trustees Treasurer

Ross Braun, Board of Trustees Treasurer, gave the fiscal year 2014-2015 finance report. He reported that all local, state, and federal filings are up to date. This finance report was based on the recently completed audit. In addition, Braun reported that PATH Intl. uses an independent auditor. The audit indicates that all PATH Intl. financial records are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and financial statements present fairly in all respects. Braun noted that the 2014/2015 audit and IRS 990 will be posted on the PATH Intl. website when the 990 form is completed by the auditor and approved by the PATH Intl. Board of Trustees.

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Total Support and Revenue . . . . \$2,138,291

Total Expenses . . . . . \$2,099,299

Starting this year and continuing in the future, the PATH Intl. Board of Trustees will annually budget a small percent for a Contingency Reserve Fund which can be used for emergencies and long-term opportunities, such as updating the association's technology in order to offer current and progressive technologies to the membership.

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## **President's Report**

Jim Harlan, PATH Intl. Board of Trustees President

Mr. Harlan reported on the association's current strategic plan, stating that the goals and objectives are progressing and that the Board of Trustees is updated with a dashboard on a bi-monthly basis. He reported that deadlines are being met and forward momentum continues. Noting that it will be three years in 2016 since the beginning of the plan's implementation, there is a need for the plan to be refreshed. This upcoming process will include;

- Formation of a committee
- Environmental scan
- Hiring a facilitator
- Feedback from membership and
- Board approving updated goals/objectives at the spring 2017 retreat

A new process for the recruitment of new board members was noted. The Board of Trustees is very pleased with the new process that utilizes LinkedIn and PATH Intl. membership. There has also been success with a new procedure of placing prospective board members on a PATH Intl. committee first. The PATH Intl. Boards will see four trustees who will reach the end of their terms next year and two the following year. Thanks to the PATH Intl. Governance Committee, chaired by Arlene Alen, there is a solid plan in place to ensure that the number of trustees and appropriate levels of expertise are maintained.

## **Governance Report and Election Results**

Arlene Alen, PATH Intl. Board of Trustees Governance  
Committee Chair

Arlene Alen PATH Intl. Board of Trustees Governance Committee Chair stated election ballots were distributed to the membership by August 30, 2015 with a return deadline to the office by September 30, 2015. Kathy Alm, PATH Intl. CEO, and two members of the staff, Kim Hall and Karen Province counted the ballots on October 2, 2015. The following results were certified to the existing trustees within ten days of the count. Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Elected PATH Intl. Board of Trustees:

Susan Becklenberg  
Richard Loomis  
Patti Coyle

### Elected PATH Intl. Membership Oversight Committee Region Representatives

Leanne Hatch	Region 1
Carol Petitto	Region 3
Audrey Adamson	Region 5
Erin Bevington	Region 7
Annie Mabry	Region 9

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Region 11 is currently vacant with no candidate on the ballot.

**Chief Executive Officer Report**

Kathy Alm, PATH Intl Chief Executive Officer

Kathy Alm stated that the PATH Intl. annual meeting and conference held last time in Cleveland, OH was her first conference, At that conference in 1999, she looked around at the attendees and hoped to one day feel a part of the connections she saw happening all around her. Ms. Alm said, “Never did I dream that not only would I connect with hundreds of wonderful people in this industry, but I would return as CEO with the opportunity to work even more closely with all of the people I have met over the years. Joining forces like this is a dream come true”.

Alm reported that in the past year, she had the opportunity to:

- Visit region conferences and hear directly from the membership
- Travel to destinations all over the world where people working in the human-animal interaction field gathered to share best practices and information that strengthens the work, and
- She has been honored to represent PATH Intl. to numerous groups whose interests align with those of the association or that want education about equine-assisted activities and therapies.

Alm indicated that she has begun to share the information she has acquired by electronic quarterly CEO updates. She encouraged attendees to watch for these e-blasts of information that will hopefully provide a window to human animal interaction from around the world.

**Strategic Plan Update:**

Alm reported a continued focus on working with the staff and volunteer leadership to realize the association’s vision of being a premiere credentialing organization.

The priority areas continue to be credentialing, quality assurance and education.

**Credentialing**

- The trek, project outline and timeline to achieving an accreditation for the PATH Intl. Certified Registered Therapeutic Riding instructor certification and to the implications of this goal to the association and the membership have been communicated to the board of trustees as well as volunteer leadership. The next steps will be to communicate details to the membership at large which will take place soon.. Alm noted that in the meantime, the PATH Intl. Board of Trustees and Staff are always happy to answer any questions.
- It was reported that the first professional job task analysis on the PATH Intl. Certified Registered Instructor is in process. The results of the analysis will provide a roadmap for what it required to be a qualified registered instructor.

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### Continuing Education & Knowledge Management

- The association created an education coordinator position to provide quality, affordable education with special emphasis on online delivery methods.
- The first multi-session (10 weeks) course – Instructor Training for PATH International Equine Services for Heroes was launched. As of the Annual Meeting there have been 122 registrants.
- External education opportunities for instructors looking to meet their continuing education requirements have been compiled and posted on the website.
- Recordings of conference sessions have been very popular. 525 have been ordered. A new How to Start an EAAT Program has been developed and is for sale. 25 copies have sold since July.

### Quality Assurance

- The comprehensive report from the Quality Assurance Task force on credentialing quality issues is in the process of implementation by staff. Two examples are the strengthening of the CEU requirements related to PATH Intl. certifications and the new Grievance Review Panel structure. Other recommendations are being analyzed for future implementation.
- This year, the Quality Assurance task Force will focus on accreditation and ensuring that centers are well educated on standards.

### Organizational Systems – Capacity building

- Charters have been completed for each committee, task force, and advisory group.
- PATH Intl. has contracted for a technology assessment to help address the various challenges the association has that, once resolved, should simplify and enhance the member experience.
- The staff structure was reviewed and the development manager position was eliminated last year to better reflect the structure needed to support the membership.
- Representatives from the board (Ross Braun & Julie Broadway) and Alm met with Membership Oversight Committee Region Representatives and region conference planners to discuss the best way to deliver education and networking in a resource responsible way. More information will soon be available as the good information gathered at that meeting is processed.

### Community Engagement – Strategic Partnerships

- There is a new PATH Intl. Higher Education membership designed to better support our Higher Education members.
- The association has established new and renewed media partnership with Equine Network and Ride TV. PATH Intl. is increasingly being recognized as a media resource for publications doing fact checking.

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- This year Purina became the Official Feed of PATH Intl. and Title Sponsor of the association. By renewing and solidifying a solid partnership, it is important to Purina to support the industry at the national level in this way.
- There are updated partnership agreements with American Hippotherapy Association and Certified Horsemanship Association in place. The organizations continue to collaborate and discuss the bigger issues and remain committed to finding ways to work together for the betterment of the industry.
- We're happy to report here is an established relationship between PATH intl. and the new Temple Grandin Equine Center at Colorado State University.
- Association staff is in regular communication with the Department of Human Animal Interaction at Denver University on industry happenings at the global level

Alm updated attendees on the association partners serving centers and veteran participants. . She said, "The Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) partnership continues to be a huge success, reaching the milestone this year of serving the 1,000 veterans. The current initiative is so successful , in fact, that demand for service far exceeded the granted allocation. Because the process used by the association for reimbursing centers did not make it apparent, this overage was not discovered until after services had been rendered. Upon learning of the overage, participating centers were immediately notified that services would need to be suspended until further notice. It was reported that association leadership is working diligently with the Wounded Warrior Project to devise a solution. There is a new accounting process in place that will prevent this situation in the future. PATH Intl. is working with WWP to devise a long-term strategy that will serve veterans participating at PATH Intl. member centers for years to come".

Alm said, "Last year, we received a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The outcomes of this grant included: funding for direct service to 100 veterans; a PATH Intl. in-person workshop provided veteran specific training for 26 PATH Intl. Certified instructors; the association developed and offered a veteran-specific online certificate course which has already sold out twice; funding to participating centers for saddles, lifts and ramps; and an Informational mailing highlighting the benefits of EAAT and importance of PATH Intl. was sent to 150 Veterans affairs medical staff at centers/hospitals. This year, PATH Intl. will receive a grant in the amount of \$176,275 from the Department of veterans Affairs affording an increase in the number of the direct service grants, provide another in-person training and more relationship building with Veterans Affairs medical centers and hospitals"

#### **Board Officers**

Jim Harlan PATH Intl. Board of Trustees President for Jody  
Enget, PATH Intl. Nominating Committee Chair

The 2015-2016 Board Officers were announced are as follows:

Julie Broadway

President



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Ross Braun	Vice President
Miyako Kinoshita	Secretary
Susan Becklenberg	Treasurer
Jim Harlan	Past President

**President's Award**

Jim Harlan, PATH Intl. Board of Trustees President

Mr. Harlan related that this year's President's Award is given to an individual who has been instrumental in utilizing her outstanding leadership abilities over the last six years to the great benefit of PATH Intl., its members and the EAAT Industry. Harlan said, "I'd like to recognize and thank Jody Enget. Although Jody is unable to be with us this year, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge all of her amazing gifts to PATH Intl. She was instrumental in 2009 in the integration of the Equine-facilitated mental Health Association (EFMHA) and PATH Intl. She went on to join the PATH Intl. Board of Trustees and quickly demonstrated her ability and willingness to lead. She was key in the Membership Oversight Committee reorganization, served as board president and then past president, all while leading a therapeutic riding center and raising a family. She was the person I relied on, as I got my feet on the ground as PATH Intl. President. I have great appreciation for all of her time and effort. Please join me in thanking and honoring, Jody Enget".

**Old Business**

Jim Harlan, PATH Intl. Board of Trustees President

None

**New Business**

Jim Harlan, PATH Intl. Board of Trustees President

None

**Adjournment**

Jim Harlan, PATH Intl. Board of Trustees President

Motion to adjourn: Jacqueline Tiley

Meeting adjourned: 8:38am