

The 2013 MAQHA annual December meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by President Russ Carlson. The Secretary and Treasurer Reports were read and approved. They are also available on the MQHA website for review.

The first order of business was to elect 3 new Board members. Those leaving the Board after their two year terms were Rhonda Clark, Darren Mitchem, and Barb Walton – Thank You for serving!! Newly elected were Dale Christiansen, Barbara Halper, and Rosie Hauge – their two year terms will end in 2015. Our other members of the Board are Janice Madden, Carah Pearson, and Kris Reuvers – they will be done in 2014. We look forward to seeing you all at the meetings and Amateur events throughout the year.

At the 2012 December meeting it was decided to set up a task force to look into giving back to our communities if the Corporate Challenge (our largest fund raiser) made any money. At this meeting, Kathy Baumgartner introduced us to Scott Engel from **Acres for Life**. He is a licensed therapist and an addiction counselor. He gave us his background and told us that helping with the Vets, was one of the most fulfilling things he's ever done. After giving us a great presentation, he opened the floor to questions. Several were interested in who paid for the care of the horses, how much each session cost the Veteran, and what was the best way to make a donation. Jan Madden stated that she had seen the process in action and it was awesome. Russ then thanked Scott for his time. After he left there was more discussion about the possibility of donating to this program. Beth Ullenberg wondered if a donation to this program would be a one-time deal, or ongoing. Brenda said it would be revisited on a yearly basis depending on the financial outcome of the Corporate Challenge from year to year. Since we are not a 501C organization, it would maybe be a wise way to get corporations to match our donation – it would be good PR for MAQHA. Barb Halper suggested we check to make sure how the monies are used before going ahead with a donation. Brenda Stevermer made a motion to check on the background of the Acres for Life, do our due diligence and find out further information about the organization and how it helps Veterans, and then have a vote at our January meeting. Mary Ebnet seconded and the motion passed.

At this point Darleen Gargano asked if we were even having a meeting in January, or if it was just the Banquet. After discussing what our January agenda might be, Brenda Stevermer made a motion to have a very brief meeting. We will vote on our findings regarding the Acres for Life, and hand out our Amateur Year-End Awards 3rd – 6th place. Paige Broekema seconded and the motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Nominating: none

Year-End Awards: Brenda reported that they were planning FUN presentations, something that would be special for the winners. Everyone is invited to the Banquet – NOT just the winners! We are going to celebrate each other! We will also be having breakfast and coffee at the morning meeting on **January 23rd at 9:00 a.m.** The Banquet is at the **Holiday Inn – Lakeville, Mn.** Bring your friends!

Silent Auction: This year's Silent Auction was given to the Scholarship Committee to earn extra monies for additional scholarships. The Amateur's will retain the Auction the following year. **MAQHA will still be having the Wine Raffle so Please bring a bottle of wine for this fund raiser.** We are also selling some left over items of Amateur clothing and thought we could set up a clothing booth with the Wine Raffle ticket sales – we are looking for a few helpers with this – perhaps a Board member or two...

Clothing Sales: Russ Carlson and Brenda Stevermer will be looking into new items for the Amateurs'. Some thoughts for Corporate Challenge clothing were a nice jean jacket with the Corporate Challenge logo. Perhaps a patch indicating a year, and the actual award. Robin Beall stated that patches end up in drawers – never getting sewn on the jackets. After more discussion Dale Christiansen will help research jean jackets and prices.

Corporate Challenge: There was no official report at this time. (Please check the MQHA/ Amateur Website and our Corporate Challenge Facebook page for a list of judges and clinics.) Julie Cain suggested we give our Amateurs and Novices incentives – perhaps do away with the stall drawings and do “give a-ways” throughout the show. Use up our extra/left-over prizes from previous years.

Old Business/ New Business: Our Old and New Business were one and the same at this meeting...Brenda Stevermer wondered why we have to separate Boards – wondered if we would benefit as one, stronger organization. Why or why not? Darleen Gargano said that some members that she had talked to were not going to pay for their Amateur membership in 2014 – they don't show, so year –end awards are not something they care about, and the additional membership is an unnecessary expense. Jay Cain wondered about the breakdown of Open/Amateur/ Youth membership within the organization. Mary Ebnet suggested a collaboration of all facets of the organization – if we all worked together as MQHA – we would be a much stronger organization. Much discussion followed with a consensus that we always have a core group of workers that serve **both** memberships and Boards. Sue Sondegard suggested a mentoring program for volunteers – have them help a committee member and then they would know what was needed in order to take over the next time. Kathy Baumgartner suggested calling members to ask to fill positions instead of waiting for them to volunteer – many members do not know what the needs are, so the likelihood of them calling to find out is little. If we call them and tell them, or ask if they could help with a particular job, it would be better received. After much discussion it was suggested by Russ to have everyone make a list of pro's and con's for combining MAQHA and MQHA again. Also, what we can do to better serve our membership, and make everyone feel welcome and involved. Bring your lists to our January meeting for more discussion. These topics are not being taken lightly, and your MAQHA Board and Officers want to hear from all of you. If you have something you want to discuss, please call them – we are here for you! At this time Russ thanked everyone for the great meeting, reminded all to come to the January meeting, and entertained a motion to adjourn. Rosie Hauge made a motion and Jay Cain seconded. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Sidenote: Julie Gintner will be taking over as MAQHA Secretary. Thank-You Julie!!