

MAQHA Annual Meeting Minutes – Dec. 3, 2011

The MAQHA Annual Meeting held at Canterbury Park was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Todd Morrow. Todd started the meeting by having everyone in the room stand and introduce themselves. There were 24 Amateurs present.

The Secretary's Report from the 2011 January meeting was read. Rhonda Clark made a motion to accept the report as read and it was seconded by Julie Bernick. Motion passed.

Brenda Stevermer reported that MAQHA currently has a balance of \$48,870.61. We have \$2,230.37 Payable/Outstanding. Brenda also reported that the Corporate Challenge had a net income of \$11,237.58. Darlene Gargano made a motion to accept the report as read, and Greg Booth seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Year End Awards: Julie Bernick and Brenda Stevermer reported that they shopped at Congress and everything is done!

Clothing Sales: Todd Morrow reported that we will have a new jacket for sale – Julie will bring it to the January meeting for everyone to see.

Silent Auction: Julie Bernick said she received many donations from vendors at the Congress. Roth's, Winger's, and Harris' were some that she mentioned. Julie said it was much easier to ask for a donation in person, and that many of the vendors were very gracious and willing to donate when they found out that a different vendor had donated, or that it was for the Corporate Challenge! Todd thanked the committee and reminded everyone not to stop getting donations for the Silent Auction at the upcoming Banquet. He also reminded everyone to bring a bottle of wine for the Wine/ Cork raffle. That raffle brought in about \$2300 last year.

Horse Expo: Darlene Gargano reported that Gloria has ordered the stalls for Expo. Mary Mensch is looking for riders at this time, so if you are interested – please contact her. They are also trying to reward the riders with a little something from the Amateurs – maybe pay for their stalls, or give them a sweatshirt. They both noted that Expo was a great opportunity to help the association. Last year the Youth helped and board member Anthony Kinney and his family worked all three days! Darlene extended a special Thank- You to all of them, as well as Mary Mensch. Darlene also reported that she will be sending out a letter requesting volunteers to work a 4 hour shift, with details on getting your gate pass and a schedule to follow. She also said if you can't volunteer a whole 4 hr. block that she would take whatever you can give. It was reported that MAQHA sold over \$1000 worth of their clothing during Expo, and it is a good opportunity to do a big push for memberships. Discussion about MAQHA's clothing available

ensued. Some suggestions about popular items were Baseball caps, Zip-up Hoodies, and the Hockey sweatshirts with the laces. In previous years, as incentive to sell memberships the volunteer whom sold the most memberships received \$100. Another idea suggested was give a free t-shirt to everyone that purchased a new MAQHA membership. Paige Broekema brought up the fact that a MQHA membership needed to be purchased as well, and a MAQHA membership was an add on. Would AQHA help pay for the T-shirts, or how would we keep things straight? After much discussion Rosie Hauge made a motion that everyone buying an MAQHA membership at Expo would receive a free MAQHA t-shirt. After more discussion, Rosie rescinded her original motion. Anthony Kinney made a motion to offer everyone purchasing a MQHA membership with an additional MAQHA membership, \$10 off an article of our clothing. The offer would be good for this year's Horse Expo only. Julie Gintner seconded and the motion passed. In closing, Terri Shaleen said we normally sell 12-18 memberships at Expo, and about half of them included the Amateur membership as well – so financially it shouldn't be a burden to give the discount.

Nominating Committee: Todd reported that Dave Christiansen, Daren Mitchem, and Barb Walton had been contacted and had agreed to be on the board. Rhonda Clark asked what the position entailed, and how many meetings a year there were. Todd stated that at this time there were two meetings per year. Rhonda then also volunteered to be on the Board. There being no other nominees from the floor, Rosie Hauge made a motion to accept the new Board members and Darlene Gargano seconded. Motion passed. Board members being replaced at this time were Amanda Fjerstad, Jillian Garcia, Mary Raeth-Knight, and Madelene White.

Welcoming Committee: Jane Rocheleau and Kathy Baumgartner both said they hadn't really done anything about getting this off the ground yet. They suggested having their phone numbers in the Newsletter so anyone having questions about the horse shows, MAQHA, etc. could have a point of contact. After some discussion on what the Amateurs thought this committee should entail, they agreed to have something put together to present at the January meeting in Lakeville.

Futurity Committee: Paige Broekema reported that from what she saw, the show part of the Futurity was small. Dr. Roland Wohlin said the Futurity itself was a nice size – the baby classes were better this year. Mary Nigg reported that the stall numbers were up, and the Futurity numbers were about the same. She stated the Futurity Committee is also looking for a list of judges for next year. Any suggestions or preferences should be given to Mary or anyone on the Futurity Committee.

Corporate Challenge Committee: Todd discussed what the committee has done so far. Julie Bernick reminded everyone of the new AgStar Arena being built. We will be having two arenas going at the same time, so we will need more helpers this year. Russ will be in charge of the

tunnel and will have sign-up sheets at the January meeting. We are going to try to compensate our helpers this year with either money or something to be determined. Rosie reported that there will again be a Hospitality Area this year. It will be set up inside the barn, in the area where the Youth baskets were previously. We will have Popcorn and water available. There will be chair massages, a shoe shine stand, tables and chairs for relaxing and hanging out. We are also going to try to promote the Red, White, and Blue Stall decorations this year in our ads, and ask the Fairgrounds to hang flags around the grounds during the show. The whole committee is busy getting everything finalized for the show, and at this time everyone was reminded to give of their time.

Old Business: there was no Old Business.

New Business: Anita York discusses the upcoming MQHA Banquet in Lakeville. The specifics of hotel, and meal reservations was in the Newsletter, but District 4 is trying to cover the cost of the meeting rooms and Bartender for the evening. (The extra fun things are already donated.) As a fund raiser they are offering Table Reservations for \$75! For a table of 8, you can give Anita a list of who you'd like to be seated with at the Banquet. Sounds like fun – get your reservations in early!

Other New Business: The Bi-Laws have not been updated since 2004. Copies of our current Bi-Laws were handed out for those present to look over. Anyone wanting to add to, delete, or change something should let the Board know, and the Board will go over and finalize. We will discuss any changes at the January meeting. Julie Bernick requested that a copy be put on the website once they are finalized so they are accessible to the members too. Rosie Hauge seconded and the motion passed. Minutes for the 2011 January and December meetings will also be available on the website.

There being no other business Darlene Gargano made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Roland Wohlin seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 10:25a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Patrice Thesing MAQHA Sec.