

Minutes of Annual Meeting of MnQHA Board of Directors

Dec. 5, 2015

Prepared by Amy Roemhildt, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Julie Bernick, president. Those present signed in. They were: Brenda Stevermer, Ashley Peterson, Lainie DeBoer, Mary Ebnet, Julie Bernick, Amy Roemhildt, Todd Flatness, Chad Horkey, Mary Callahan, Roland Wohlin, Valerie Bostrom, Janice Madden, Greg Booth, Tom Schoepf, Bob Springer, Darleen Gargano, Patrice Thesing, Jay Thesing, Keven McGrath, Gloria Enger, Meg Sax, Mary Nig, Diane Arnold, Christine Flatness, Jason Hagberg, Dena Hagberg, Terry Snyder, Shelley Snyder, Kelly Manner, Lisa Cardelly and Mary Mensch

Secretary's report: Mary Ebnet made a motion to accept minutes from July meeting. Motion seconded by Brenda. Copies of the minutes were available, no discussion or revisions – motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Chad distributed treasurer's report for the association and reviewed with the board. His general overview reflected a profit to date, in contrast to a loss from last year. He reviewed remaining assets which included some office equipment and clothing that were depreciated out. He reported that the newsletter is breaking even, and income from the State Show and Tack Swap was up significantly from last year. Boot Camp income was similar, but expenses were up a bit, overall income was similar to last year. Membership income is about the same, show approval is up a bit from last year and donations and sponsors collected are up which is nice. Much of that is due to one donation. Money from the banquet silent auction was all distributed in scholarships. Annual election cost, hall of fame and membership expenses are similar, Web hosting costs are constant. Greg made a motion to give the depreciated computer and copier to Gloria. Butch seconded, motion carried.

Through an oversight some 2015 show fees were not paid. Chad will work with Amy to invoice and collect remaining balance. Chad proposed that show secretaries send fees when results are sent to Amy and the task of invoicing unpaid fees be added to Amy's responsibilities. Chad will review and work with Amy to determine a process before she sends out applications for 2016 shows.

Futurity income was down a bit this year, mostly due to additional expenses involving band, insurance and judges. He reported they had built up a nice fund to do something very nice with a successful year, with added benefits it was a small loss.

Chad stated that anyone with any further questions could email him. Greg made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, second by Brenda, no discussion, motion carried.

Show Points: Amy reported that the new software has worked nicely to tabulate points and all-around results, and the challenge of a lengthy conversion to computerized tabulation is complete. Unfortunate delays in posting resulted through the conversion in 2015, but point standings and all-around standings will be available for posting and sharing shortly after her receipt of updated membership forms and electronic results after each show. She also presented two documents explaining how points and all-arounds are tabulated, and requested that the board review and give direction so the information can openly be shared with exhibitors throughout the year so everyone understands exactly how all awards are tabulated. The board agreed to review and provide feedback, which Amy will collect and present at the January meeting. Approved documentation will be available for exhibitors before the first show in February.

There was much discussion about embracing the growth and interest in Rookie and Green classes. Later in the meeting, general members joined the board meeting and interest was expressed by those members in adding all-around grand and reserve awards for the Rookie Division in Open, Amateur and Youth. Discussion included the fact that there are already class awards, should all-around start for 2015 or 2016? Jay made a motion that all-around Rookie awards be given for the 2015 show season. Second by Dena, no further discussion motion carried. Amy agreed to figure the additional awards and get the results to Vickie, Greg and Brenda for communication and award purchases.

Open Show Awards: Brenda asked for direction on what to do about awards for 2015 and for direction on implementing the program next year. After discussion the group recommended she select plaques as awards. Discussion involved reaching out to AQHA to see if the journal will do a story on the program as a way to increase membership. Bootcamp would be a good place to promote the program. The group agreed to continue the program and promote it at Bootcamp. Amy would find out what is involved in managing the program.

Horse Expo: Darlene shared 2016 dates of April 21, 22, 23. She is willing to work on Friday but can't continue on Sat. or Sun. Asked to find people to help.

Greg reported that the Newsletter, Youth and Web Site report would be presented at the general meeting later in the day.

Hall of Fame: Butch reported they were doing good on nominees, have three or four for volunteer of the year but wondered if it was ok to give it to someone who had received the award before. Discussion involved the idea that good volunteers should continue to be rewarded.

Scholarship: Gloria reported that there were seven applicants, three were chosen, and chad sent checks. Letters were sent to those who did not win asking them to please apply again. Recipients were published in the newsletter. Thank you notes were shared.

State Show/Corporate Challenge: Julie reported that on Nov. 9 the two committees met. The state fairgrounds has a hip hop convention including an open beer garden during the regular date which is not a good fit with a horse show. There was no option but to move the Corporate challenge to a different date. The only state fairground date available was the state show date. Considerable negotiations with the fairgrounds resulted in a 75 percent discount to move to the CC. State show will be May 19-22 and Corporate Challenge will be July 14-17. There are no big shows in the five state area during those weekends and the committee felt it will help both shows. Mary C. made a motion to approve the date changes, seconded by Greg. Discussion followed regarding whether those dates would remain constant, but the State Fair only books one year out. They wouldn't guarantee the price and the discount was only on the facility and not on anything else like stall barns, security and housekeeping. After considerable discussion, Greg specified his motion to approve the show dates. Motion carried.

Boot Camp: Meg reported she will be taking over as chair. She worked with Mary E. before. Has two clinicians yet to confirm, has started talking to volunteers, and will be contacting them. She is looking for more volunteers. She is also developing a job description document for volunteers and will provide electronic versions to the board. They will also have folders about the youth program for all participants. The show following Bootcamp will be a fun show but no novice show will be offered.

Bylaws: Greg reported they have information on the new foundation from Jay, which identifies the changes to consider. He highlighted several topics that need editing. Discussion continued about preparing a document with revisions for Allison (501c3 lawyer) to review. Any bylaw changes must go before the general membership.

Committee should have edits and changes ready ahead of time, to Amy by Jan 8 so she can have a document for the bylaws committee meeting Jan. 14. Greg wants to have a final document to present at the annual meeting Jan. 30.

Membership Fees: After much discussion, Darlene made a motion then revised it to state that Individual MQHA membership dues would be \$40 and a family membership would be \$45 with Amateur remaining \$15 and Youth remaining \$10 effective April 1, 2016. Second by Brenda. Discussion resulted in Darlene withdrawing her motion. Tom made a new motion to raise membership by \$5 effective May first, second by Butch. Motion carried.

General membership entered and joined the board meeting. Some earlier topics were repeated.

Fundraising ideas/membership growth discussion followed. Discussed was the option of raising entry fees by \$1, securing a charitable gambling license, and finding fundraisers that appeal to non-horse people to raise money. Lanie challenged every board member to bring one fundraising idea to the next meeting so hopefully we can implement two or three of them.

Youth: Vickie reported that the youth had a good year. Fundraising was successful, had a great tack swap, and the winter thaw clinic was successful. Youth will help with Bootcamp. She is focused on reaching out to younger riders to increase membership. Youth is planning an activity to do just for fun. Lori will be co-advisor, they are working out job descriptions. Youth is planning a barrel show, not date yet.

Newsletter: Bonnie is doing her column, paper was upgraded at no additional cost. Vickie is looking for article ideas. Right now no one is heading up the partnership program and she feels it is losing momentum but is a good program and should be revived. Discussion followed about the pros and cons to publishing show results. Considerations are cost, timeliness, and interest. Members present expressed a need to publish even if they are not as current as the web site. Discussion followed regarding cost and volume of information.

501c3: Jay explained the steps taken towards creating a foundation within the organization to qualify gifts to MQHA as tax deductible. It will greatly increase the ability to acquire corporate sponsors among other kinds of support. Jay needs direction from board regarding who the five initial officers of the foundation will be. Kevin suggested the board make a recommendation, then let the board choose. Kevin made a motion to have six or seven names by January. Seconded by Todd, motion carried.

Tack Swap: Location is tentatively booked at Leatherdale Equine Center. Cost is better and arena is warm. Facility meets needs with various rooms. Discussion continued about ride the pattern and who to could/would help. Group informally agreed to check out logistics of tack swap and who would help. No motion made.

New Business: Julie explained that one board member elected last year has not been active. According to bylaws that board member should be replaced. Butch made a motion that the inactive board member be replaced with the person receiving the fourth highest votes on the recent ballot. Second made by Bob. Motion carried. The newly elected board members are Lisa Anderson Peck, Diane Arnold, Terry Snyder and Julie Gintner. Julie announced the new show dates for those general members who entered the board meeting, and Amy explained the point system update. Julie shared that we will need a chair for the nominating committee by the next meeting. Julie asked for feedback about who would host the next banquet since there are only two active districts, and facilities for the 2017 banquet should be booked in Feb. of 2016.

Julie asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made by bot, seconded by Butch, meeting adjourned.