

NWMHC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – NOVEMBER 7, 2009 Oak Tree Restaurant, Woodland, WA

Vice President Nancy Rivenburgh called the meeting to order at 10:05. President, Dave Miller, was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

There were 32 members in attendance.

Minutes of the Jan 31, 2009 General Membership Meeting were approved as presented.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President:

1. Jill Miller read Dave's report. Numbers at the shows were up and the club made a profit this year.
2. Nancy requested that each speaker may speak twice on a subject during this meeting.
3. Please sign up for committees. A sign-up sheet is being passed around during the meeting.

Treasurer – Barbara Ashby:

The current balance is \$545.90 in unrestricted funds. Total assets = \$30,724.44. Discussion about what information is made available pertaining to salaries. **MOTION** by Suzie Gunther to postpone discussion of whether salaries should be printed until Winter Meeting so the topic can be researched. **PASSED.**

Barbara stated there are only three ways to decide how money is spent:

1. The Show Manager negotiates with judges and has a limit per day that she is willing to pay. She also pays for hotels and airfare. This knowledge is not shared as different judges agree to work for different amounts.
2. The BOD develops the contracts for the show staff.
3. The membership votes on all other ways funds are spent.

Administrator LaVon Read reported that she has received 21 membership renewals so far. Sending them out with the banquet reservations seems to be successful. Ballots were sent out with the latest issue of the NEWS. She has already received some back. Please be sure to vote!

AMHA DIRECTORS' REPORT – Joanne Ross

Updates on several topics:

- Dave Miller is on the Executive Board.
- The BOD wants to hire an executive officer again. The office is in disarray and needs leadership. There is a special meeting in TX on Dec 5 to discuss specifics on the position and how to go about filling it.
- The new President is very ethical, concerned about doing a good job.
- 2010 National Meeting is Feb 17-21 in Louisville, KY.
- Allison is now the magazine editor. She is no longer involved with promotion.

Questions from the members to Joanne:

1. Is the registry closing in 2 years? YES.
2. Will horses be going permanent at 3 years beginning next year? YES.
3. Are Past Directors now not allowed to measure for hardships? CORRECT

If members have complaints or concerns the Directors will take them to the Board.

- Carole Heermann suggested that a form with members' concerns AND signatures be sent to ALL AMHA Directors. Joanne said she will personally forward to the other directors.
- Carole and others voiced concern about hiring another Executive Director based on previous history. She is strongly opposed to hiring someone without a proven track record of managing a horse association. She suggested an experienced office manager with the ability to facilitate personnel.

- Stacy Score stated the AMHA BOD needs to rein in any Executive Director and give him/her strong direction.
- Eddie Davenport suggested having written guidelines for a very specific job description.
- Matt Davern stated that he has 20 years experience recruiting executives and he volunteered his services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit - Margaret Slape

Margaret felt that a spreadsheet type report would make doing an audit more feasible. She said our system has gaps and needs revision. The committee is checking into getting outside help. What is needed is a "review of financial statements and procedures" rather than an external audit which could cost thousands of dollars. Cath Pelton has a CPA friend who will help for no charge. Jill Miller reported that Dave spoke to his CPA about the "restricted funds" and was told that a separate account was not needed as long as they are covered (by the CDs). Perhaps there is a need to change the fiscal year – this will be brought up under Bylaws.

MOTION by Jane Taylor to use a volunteer CPA (Cath's friend) to get QuickBooks set up in a way that better meets the needs of the club. **PASSED.**

MOTION by Jane Taylor that after QuickBooks is set up, Margaret Slape will report back as to what will be needed to clarify her report for the Winter Meeting. She should have the ability to look in or out of house for the skill/assistance needed and the cost. **PASSED.**

Finance – Stacy Score

The committee gathered year-end statements from past years, filled in expenses/income, and had significant differences from the Treasurer's Reports. Recommendations from the committee:

1. The club to buy a computer dedicated for the Treasurer's use.
2. Restricted funds be put into a separate account and not mingled with general funds.
3. There should be 2 written approvals prior to any check being written.
4. Freeze check writing at this point except for outstanding bills and facility payments. Put a hold on spending for now.
5. Have an audit performed by an outside agency.
6. There should be 2 signatures on any contract.
7. Increase the cost of advertising in the NEWS to \$65/page.
8. Increase the cost of membership to \$40/year.

MOTION by Jean Davenport that these financial rule changes are postponed until the CPA/audit is completed and proper information can be used to make the decisions. **PASSED.**

Barbara Ashby will send Stacy records from 2004 to present.

Futurity – Jill Miller

Jill stated that at the Show Committee meeting it was suggested that the Futurity be open to weanlings born this year. She reminded the group that the past 2 years the membership voted to have in-utero nominations only. Jill suggested that a Stakes Class might be more appropriate for foals already on the ground.

Carole Heermann gave a history of how and why the Futurity got started in the Northwest.

Discussion of pros and cons of including nominations for foals already on the ground, what other breed groups do in that case (very high "late fees").

MOTION by Joanne Anderson that starting for 2010 the Futurity rules allow weanling nominations at a substantial fee of \$100, to be nominated by Dec 31 but not later than three months after foaling. **FAILED. 1 ABSTAIN.**

Gelding Incentive – Matt Davern

At tonight's banquet \$7,261 will be given away for the Gelding Incentive Fund.

Centerpieces will be put on tables for a silent auction and some will be part of the verbal auction. Thank you to all who donated to the fund and who donated centerpieces.

Elections – Matt Davern

Ballots went out in the most recent NEWS; LaVon has already been getting some back. Our slate is:
President – Sheryl Peterson
Secretary – Annette Helgeson
Director – Brian Reid, Margaret Slape, Brad Branam

Winter Meeting – Nancy Rivenburgh

The Grange has been reserved for Jan 30 at \$150/day. Discussion of continuing to have all committees and general membership meeting in 1 day versus returning to a 2-day schedule with committee meetings and pot luck on Sat and general membership meeting, raffle, and lunch on Sunday. It was suggested to have an educational component on Sat evening.

MOTION by Helen Halderman to return to a 2-day Winter Meeting schedule. **PASSED. 4 NAYS, 3 ABSTAIN.**

Bylaws - Lisa Pichler

Lisa and Jane Taylor reviewed the committee's recommendations for Bylaw changes. A complete set of recommendations with the current Bylaw and rationale for the change was included in the latest edition of the NEWS. Jane reviewed each of the proposed changes to introduce it and answer questions. There was no discussion or debate; this was simply presenting the proposed changes to the members, to be voted on at the Winter Meeting. See Attachment.

Rules & Regs – Annette Helgeson

Nancy reported for Annette. She had added a rule that was passed in 2007 but had been missed in the previous update that a decision that was voted on at a meeting could not be changed at the next meeting unless significant new information had come to light. There was also a sentence missed in the show rules and the correction has been made for 2010.

SHOW COMMITTEE

1. **RECOMMENDATION** from the committee to have a Hospitality Committee for shows to greet and welcome visitors. **PASSED.** SueAnn Dayton volunteered to chair the new committee.

2. **RECOMMENDATION** from the committee to raise fees for Youth and Amateur by \$1/judge/show. **FAILED.**

3. **RECOMMENDATION** from the committee to make the Schooling Clinic 1 day for 2010. This would be Sunday in the arena for hands-on training. **PASSED.**

Shows:

SCHOOLING CLINIC – Margaret Slape, March 7. Cowlitz County Fairgrounds, Longview, WA.

SCHOOLING SHOW – Kate Sherry. Mt. Hood was not available on the dates we need, and the recommendation was to cancel this show for 2010. However, yesterday Nancy learned that the dates may be available. The consensus of the members was to pursue holding the show there for 2010 rather than cancelling it. Kate was not present at the meeting and Nancy will discuss the possibilities with her.

SEA-TAC CLASSIC – Ron & Dorothy Whiteman and Greg & Tammy Osgood. April 16, 17, 18 Grays Harbor Fairgrounds, Elma, WA. Judges hired so far are Diane Morgan-Stasiac* and Jim Curry * (* denotes World Show 2010 Judge)

EMERALD VALLEY CLASSIC – Darrell & Cherie Smith, Brian Reid, Gary & Sharon Dickens, Sharon Bullington. May 29, 30, 31 Oregon Horse Center, Eugene, OR. Judge hired so far is Mike McCabe*. Last year there were some issues about shavings payments. **RECOMMENDATION** from the committee to leave the stall prices at \$55/stall and all exhibitors would pay for shavings separately in the office. **PASSED.**

CAN-AM CLASSIC – Dave Sandeno and Tiffany Porter. June 25, 26, 27 The Unit, Spanaway, WA. The contract for this facility has been locked in for 3 years.

McKENZIE RIVER CLASSIC – Dave & Jill Miller and Brian Reid. Aug 13, 14, 15 Oregon Horse Center, Eugene, OR. This year the Mountain Trail course paid for itself. The horse count was up 25%. Suggestion to use the show judges for the course since they are paid for the whole day but the show doesn't start until late afternoon. This would depend on when individual judges arrive in town.

WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIP – July 22-25, Reno, NV.

OREGON STATE FAIR – Darrell Smith and Bill Sample. Unknown date, usually last week in Aug, Salem, OR.

AMHA WORLD SHOW – Sept 24 – Oct 3, Ft. Worth, TX. An extra day may be added at the beginning or the end.

Show Manager's Report – Barbara Hento. Nancy reported for Barbara, who is ill.

1. Programs were successful. This was started again per member request after it was decided at the Winter Meeting to not print programs and use Day Sheets instead. **MOTION** by Joanne Anderson to reinstate Show Programs with advertising. Revenue would be split 75% for the show, 25% for the club. **PASSED.**

2. **MOTION** by Stacy Score to print 1 Premium Book for all shows and include advertising in it. **PASSED.**

3. **MOTION** by Jessica Kimball that when swapping of handler or horse the" 5 class rule" will apply. **PASSED.**

4. There will be some trailer expenses this year. The cap will be \$200.

5. **MOTION** by Jessica Kimball to have \$1000 account for the Show Manger to pay for judges, staff, and meals. **PASSED.**

6. There will be the same number of judges/show for 2010 as there were this year.

MOTION by Sheryl Peterson that the NWMHC does not have lead line classes. **PASSED.**

Ribbons - LaVon Read

- Royal Ribbons will be the same price as last year, \$1.08 for rosettes.
- With the addition of Classic Driving classes there could possibly be an additional 7 rosettes and 1 additional Grand and Reserve neck ribbons.
- Additional 7th place ribbons for youth will be ordered.
- Approximate ribbon expense is \$2,000.

MOTION by Barbara Ashby to add Classic Driving classes to all NWMHC shows. **PASSED.**

NEWS – Joanne Anderson

The committee has updated the duties of the editor and committee and job descriptions. These will be submitted to the BOD for review and approval.

YOUTH – Summer Ruegger

Joanne Anderson read Summer's report. Donations, coupons turned in at shows, and the youth silent auction brought in \$3,745.86. The committee purchased a popcorn popper. Other expenses were the Matthew Schult scholarship, Fun Night, and the Youth Art Contest awards. Balance as of Nov 6, 2009 is \$1,637.87. Summer thanked the committee for being so supportive of our youth.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

There was not time at the end of the meeting for Jessica Kimball's report on the Year End Awards. She submitted her written report.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Halderman, Secretary
Nov. 13, 2009

BOD approved Nov. 20, 2009