

NWMHC General Membership Meeting – January 27th, 2008 Centralia, Washington

Dave Miller called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

20 members were present to establish a quorum.

Minutes from the November General Membership Meeting were approved as presented.

Officer's Reports:

President's Report: Dave Miller welcomed new director, Mark Bullington and secretary, Hilary Schult. He also said farewell to Director Sheryl Peterson for her ten years of dedication (never missing one NWMHC meeting), Secretary Helen Halderman for her attention to detail and two years of service on the Board, and Director Jessica Kimball for her three years of service on the Board and assistance to the Club Administrator in organizing the club archives. The Board had the same goal to give the membership the most service for their money and therefore was able to keep fee increases to a minimum. Stall fees have been raised once since President Miller was elected to office and class entry fees have remained the same. Considering shows across the nation have lost entries due to fee increases, our shows have been extremely successful with entries rising every year.

Treasurer's Report: Carole Heerman reported that 2007 was a successful financial year, however, the predicted 2008 costs may require future recommendations of fee increases by the Finance Committee. The club has \$22,000 in committed funds and around \$5,000 is reserved for facility deposits. If the club can financially handle it, some money will be put into a savings account to earn interest.

Club Administrator's Report: Barbara Ashby reported on behalf of Maryann Lewis. All membership applications and renewals submitted at the Winter Meeting are being allowed extension on the breeders list associated membership deadline. Barbara will deliver the membership applications and renewals to Maryann. Because of a high number of leftover breeders lists, the number printed will be decreased. Jessica Kimball and Maryann are creating a compact disc of club archives (for example, breeders lists and past NEWS editions). The compact discs will be stored with the original documents. When all items have been preserved on compact discs, a purging schedule will be decided. Jessica is currently fulfilling the duties of the Keeper of the Archives.

AMHA Region 8 Director's Report: Dave Miller reported that the AMHA 2007 meeting will be held in South Carolina. Topics on the agenda include measuring guidelines and the computer system. Those interested in running for an AMHA office must now declare 30 days prior to the Association's annual meeting and are required to submit a biographical sketch. There will be a vote at the meeting to discontinue hardshipping; the club discussed the topic in November and responded against the closing of hardshipping. The Mare Stare online camera will be filming the meeting. A three day, face-to-face meeting will occur between the designer of the AMHA's computer system and AMHA Board representatives to verify understanding of what the Association needs from the new system. It was clarified by Dave that the AMHA Region 8 Directors could use the club's e-mail group to discuss important AMHA decisions with the membership. Nancy Rivenburgh stated on behalf of the membership that the club would like a report from our AMHA directors at club meetings to supplement the AMHA minutes and to inform the membership of important information regarding the Association.

Show Committee:

The following recommendations from the Show Committee, as approved by the Board of Directors, were motioned for approval by the membership:

1. Barbara Ashby recommended, "The club not become involved in the selling of shavings. Exhibitors can purchase shaving bales from the show office."

2. Barbara Ashby recommended, "The club absorb the \$6.50 per yard disposal fee." The recommendation applied to the Can-Am facility increase in disposal fees.
3. Barbara Ashby recommended, "Can-Am discontinue class splits by height for amateur classes."
4. Linda Dennis recommended, "The club permit the premium book to be posted online. Hard copies will be only be mailed by request."
5. Barbara Ashby recommended the deletion of rule 3 of the general show rules and regulations that states, "With approval of the Show Coordinators, if space is available a special section can be designated for 'sales horses.' Only horses can be placed in these stalls if the owner is participating in the show in an AMHA-approved class."
6. Barbara Ashby recommended, "No special sales area for 'sales horses' can be offered at NWMHC shows."
7. Barbara Ashby recommended that, "Foals be nominated in-utero."
8. Barbara Ashby recommended, "Mares may be nominated in-utero until March 1, 2008."

The motion for approval **PASSED**.

Since the member attending the general membership meeting were a smaller number of the same individuals at the Show Committee, the following reports were not presented during the general membership meeting. The discussion regarding the committee reports in these minutes are the reports from the Show Committee meeting minutes with added elaboration from the general membership meeting. Chairman Nancy Rivenburgh supported this decision.

Show Committee:

- Schooling Clinic: Hilary Schult reported that the clinic is moving forwards as scheduled. As of this report, 39 individuals have signed up for the Measuring Certification Clinic. The fee scale will be \$45 for full certification participation, \$25 for audits, and \$30 for Annual Schooling Clinic presenters wanting certification. Vendors are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday are Prime Design Tack, Jim Agee, and Bob Graham. The Schooling Clinic schedule will be determined this weekend and sent to presenters and posted to the website.
- Schooling Show: Kate Sherry reported that the facility for the Schooling Show is contracted. The cafe will be open and operated by Arby's. The show information is posted on the facility's website. Premium books are printed and will be labeled at this meeting. Stall prices are \$40 and classes are \$8 each. Class packages will be \$65 for 7 adult classes and \$45 for 7 youth classes. Jumping and obstacle classes are scheduled for Friday night, clinic events take place Saturday morning, and the show starts off Saturday at 12:30 p.m and continues Sunday at 8 a.m. Roger Eitel will be judging the entire show. Fliers are available now and members are encouraged to post the fliers locally. The premium book will be on the website. Three newspapers will be running the ad for the show a week before and the week of the show. Vendor booths at the show are \$25 each.
- Sea-Tac: Report given by Dorothy Whiteman. The rates for the facility are the same for 2008 and the weekend is the same as 2007. This will be the last year with the current fairground manager. Fees breaks that we receive with this manager may not carry over with the new staff (for example, we are charged \$75 for the entire weekend of heat usage in the arena instead of \$75 each time the heat is turned on). The schedule for the show has changed: youth classes have been moved away from Friday morning, junior horse classes have been shifted together, and the overall schedule is designed for spectator pull and

driver friendliness.

- Emerald Valley: Cherie Smith reported that the show is on as scheduled. Rates are not expected to rise in 2008. Shavings will be baled and placed in front of stalls. Sharon Dickens is inviting local tv and radio stations to cover the show. Bales of shavings can be purchased from the facility for \$3.50 a bale. Discussion was made regarding the club's purchasing of 100 bales to sell to exhibitors. The membership decided against this (see above: approved recommendation 1). The stall decoration may be discontinued due to low participation.
- Can-Am: Dave Sandeno reported a price increase of \$75 a day for facility rent, which raises the total to \$850. Stall fees did not increase, but shavings will be \$6.50 a bale and shaving disposal is now \$6.50 a yard. The club will absorb the increased disposal fee (see above: approved recommendation 2). The cost of shavings will not be included in the stall fee. Exhibitors will be responsible for either hauling in their own shavings or purchasing shavings from the facility. The facility charges the club \$49 per day for stalls and \$16 per day for tack stalls. To avoid disposal fees, all tack stall users are being asked to completely clean their tack stalls prior to departure (remove nails, wire, screws from walls; dispose of all trash; and remove all shavings if used in tack stalls, though shaving use in tack stalls is discouraged). A new facility may be needed in the future if costs keep increasing or the membership can vote to discontinue the show. The show's continuous profit, unique exhibitor attendance, Seattle area placement, and new yearling futurity classes were all discussed as points in support of Can-Am. The splitting of the amateur classes resulted in extremely low class numbers and limited competition. The membership approved the combining of all previously split amateur classes by height (see above: approved recommendation 3).
- Mini Mac: Coordinator Kathy Howard has submitted the show's class list. Marvin Stucki is no longer coordinating. No rate increases are expected in 2008. Shavings are included in the facility contract. One yard of shavings will be in each stall; a tractor bucket of extra shavings can be purchased for \$10 at the fair office. Entries were down for 2007 and, due to scheduling of conflicting shows, the entries are expected to be down again in 2008. A barbecue will be held on move in day, which falls on July 4th. Last year's barbecue costs were covered by the youth fund and were offset by donations at the event.
- Central Point: Coordination is a combined effort by Dave & Jill Miller, Daryl & Cherie Smith, and other club members. Local club members will be contacted and invited to serve as coordinators-in-training. The facility deposit has been paid and Sheryl Peterson will continue as our contract negotiator. The club will haul shavings into the fairgrounds and the first per bale fee is included in standard stall fee. Extra bales will be available for purchase. The AMHR portion has been discontinued in 2008.
- Oregon State Fair: Members attended a meeting with State Fair staff and our members equated to a 1/3 of the overall turnout. Show manager has not been hired for 2008. The State Parks system, now running the fair, would like a local manager that will acquire individual breed approvals, can create all class lists, and has experience in multiple breed shows. Support for the equine portion of the fair is needed. A contact needs to be established with the fairgrounds so members can send letters. The AMHR section has been dropped for 2008. An indoor/outdoor arena will be added instead of more horse stalls and the race barns will be torn down. Halter classes will be held in the morning with performance classes in the afternoon for spectator entertainment. Carole Heerman volunteered to co-chair the Oregon State Fair with Marge Robinson to assist in the preservation of the miniature horse classes.
- Show Report: Barbara Hento held a show coordinator meeting yesterday. The group went over the new financial worksheets that breakdown show costs by category for audit. All receipts must be attached to the form and forms must be submitted to Barbara Hento at the end of each show. The club trailer is stocked and inventoried. Barbara Hento will restock a hospitality bin after each event. The trailer's contents have been reorganized for easier access. Bigger, infrequently used items have been removed from the trailer and placed in storage. Bigger items will be restocked in the trailer upon request to

Barbara Hento prior to the event the item is needed. This will lower fuel costs. A reminder of the show manager's requirement to stay on site at every show for at least 30 minutes will be posted in the show office.

Year End Awards: Barbara Ashby reported that 17 classes need sponsorships for 2008. Awards for this year will be acrylic horse head plaques for high points, silver engraved plates for supreme placings, and smaller silver engraved plates for grand champion placings. Grand champion award winners can also choose a cooler or vendor coupon.

Futurity: On behalf of Jill Miller, Dave Miller reported that futurity nomination numbers are down. There has been a decrease in numbers since the yearling futurity move to Can-Am and the allowance of nominations of foals after birth. With 18 horses entered in the 2007 yearling futurity, funds were \$2,089. Around \$2,000 was in the fund for the two-year-old futurity. This year, the futurity fund for yearlings is only \$1,400 thus far and the sustained two-year-old fund is \$1,531. A recommendation was approved by the membership for mandatory foal nominations in-utero (see above: approved recommendation 7) and that nomination for this year's futurity close March 1st (see above: approved recommendation 8).

Rookie Year End Award: Barbara Ashby announced that a sponsor is needed for the youth driving rookie award. This Rookie Award needs a sponsorship by the end of this meeting; the sponsorship fee is \$75. If a sponsor is not found by this meeting, a request will go to the Youth Committee to sponsor the award.

Publicity: Sharon Bullington reported on behalf of Kate Sherry that the business card ad placed in the Northwest Rider for 2007 was missed and not published. Therefore the Northwest Rider is allowing us to publish two ads for free. This saves the club \$80 in publicity. Fliers and press releases are updated. Each show has \$250 earmarked for advertising. The club will have a stall in the barn at the Albany Expo. Volunteers will be needed for prior commitments have left our usual Expo volunteers unavailable. The big display needs to be set up. Club coordinators will be in charge of setting up the displays at the horse shows. Barbara Hento volunteered to make sure breeder's lists are available at the shows. More tri-fold club brochures and breeder's lists need to be printed for 2008. Anyone interested in joining the committee can contact Kate Sherry at equitot@aol.com. Kate is looking for a free online conference interface for the committee to meet in (the club may be able to create a chat room on the website).

Ribbons and Trophies: LaVon Read has ordered the ribbons for the 2008 show season. In past years, the club has paid up to \$6,000 for ribbons. LaVon's research and storage of ribbons at her home has reduced the cost of ribbons to only \$1,200. This huge savings has helped the club to keep show fees down.

Audit: Bill Sample submitted a report that was read by Dave Miller. The biggest issue for the club is the increase in facility rates. Financial worksheet has been created by Bill Sample and will be filled out by show coordinators immediately after every show. Worksheets must be submitted to the committee for audit after show's completion and no checks will be issued until a week after the show. The Board officially approved this new reimbursement process on January 26th, 2008.

Bylaw: No report. Dave Miller moved to, "Combine the Ribbons and Trophies Committee with the Year End Awards Committee." The motion **PASSED**. Prior to this bylaw change, Barbara Ashby was chairing both committees. Barbara Ashby will also chair the newly combined committee (Ribbons, Awards, and Trophies).

Elections and Nominating: The 2007 election results were as follows: Dave Miller, President; Hilary Schult, Secretary; and Mark Bullington, Director. Joanne Ross has been elected the new AMHA Region 8 Area Director. Barbara Ashby moved to, "Destroy the 2007 ballots." The motion **PASSED**.

Finance Committee: Carole Heerman reported that there is an estimated \$1,000 increase in show fees for 2008. The club currently has \$20,000 for start up fees. If show profits do not at least match the earnings for 2007, dipping into savings will be required. All facility contracts are back and that the judges are booked. All judges

are out of our regions this year the travel costs will be significantly higher than 2007. A specific judge can only be hired every 2 years according to club rule and this accounts for our 2008 judge situation. The increase in fees is estimated around \$2,000 to \$3,000. The finance committee recommends raising operation costs in 2009 to cover fee increases.

NEWS: Extra copies of the NEWS will be needed for AMHR and AMHA Regional Nationals and Nationals, the Albany Expo, and other NWMHC membership supported events. Mark Bullington moved to, "Print extra copies of the NEWS for the Albany Expo and the AMHA and AMHR Regional Nationals." The motion was **APPROVED**. A vote will take place this fall to approve the printing of extra NEWS copies for Nationals. Dave Miller and Barbara Ashby clarified that AMHR registered horses can be advertised in the NEWS as long as registration numbers are provided on the ad.

Rules and Regulations: Annette Helgeson is the newly appointed chair. She has recreated the premium files into pdf format. The premiums in their entirety will be posted to the web. Online forms will save the club in printing costs. When pdf files are posted on the web, postcard notifications will go out to the membership. The membership approved the printing premium books only upon requests; otherwise exhibitors will be directed to the website to print off a premium (see above: approved recommendation 4). This will save around \$150 per show in printing costs and \$1.50 per premium in postage. Request information will be provided on the postcard notifications and published in the news. Membership forms need to be amended in the future to include premium hard copy requests. The membership passed a vote in November of 2005 to post premiums on the website. Annette Helgeson reported that neither the regular rules and regulations nor those published in the premium listed a complete compilation of our club rules. She cleaned up the rules and regulations without altering the meaning and the premium now reflects all the club rules. These cleaned up rules and regulations will be sent to the club administrator. Barbara Hento pointed out that the club has a rule that allows show coordinators to establish special sales sections. The rule allowing shows to provide special sales areas has been deleted from the rules and regulations and a new rule banning special sales areas was approved by the membership (see above: approved recommendations 5 and 6).

Website: Dave Miller read the report submitted by John Sales. John would like to remind everyone that each farm that paid their membership dues is entitled to one free classified ad on the website. Ads are purged from the site every six months, but can be renewed. Send all ads to webmaster@nwmhc.com. Annette Helgeson recommended that, "Website classified ads be purged every 3 months." The recommendation passed. Notification will be sent by John Sales prior to the purge of ads so those wishing to renew can do so. Those members who paid to be on the breeders list and have not been added can send their information to the webmaster@nwmhc.com address also. John also reported that the website received 22,729 hits in 2007; 8,616 hits belonged to the United States alone. The out of country hits were reported as follows: Canada 992, Germany 222, China 147, Switzerland 144, France 78, United Kingdom 77, Uruguay 54, Netherlands 50, Ireland 37, Sweden 25, Japan 25, Brazil 16, Italy 14, India 14, Australia 14, Israel 13, and Norway 12. Amy Lacy recommended that the club create a forum on the website for the membership to discuss club business. The website committee will research the creation of a yahoo e-mail group to replace the existing e-mail group list held only by Liz McMaster.

Welfare: No report.

Winter Meeting: The next meeting will be the last weekend in January of 2009. Since the grange has the message, "If the grange were to disappear, would you miss it?" Annette Helgeson recommended the secretary compose a letter in support of the grange. Hilary Schult agreed to compose a letter.

Year End Banquet: The banquet will be held in the same room as last year at the Oak Tree in Woodland, Washington. Kate Beevers moved to, "Raise the price for dinner to \$25 to cover the full cost of dinner and decorations." The motion **FAILED**. A special fund is already designated for decorations at the banquet. Barbara Ashby moved to set the dinner prices at, "\$20 for adults and \$12 for youth." The motion **PASSED**, 2 opposed.

Youth: Summer Sales-Ruegger submitted a report to Dave Miller. The new 2008 scholarship information will be posted to the website in the near future. The deadline for applications will be in October. No scholarships were awarded in 2007 due to no on time submissions in 2007. The deadline was not extended because the information and deadline was on the website for some time. The youth members were able to participate in fun activities during Central Point; bumper boats were the event of choice. The year-end photo contest winners earned halters, sleezies, show clothing, and many other prizes. The new year-end contest will be posted on the website closer to the year-end banquet. Since the contests are on a rotating schedule, 2008 will not be another photo contest. More information will be released later. The current balance in the youth fund is \$2,029.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business:

- Many of our life-long and well-known members need the support of our membership due to health complications. If you have not seen or heard from a member, please keep in touch and show support to those experiencing hard times. The club appreciates all its members and wishes everyone absent this year well.
- Donna Winton has been organizing the Winter Meeting for well over 15 years. Without her efforts, the club would not have the outstandingly productive and fun meeting currently in existence. Her and her team is greatly appreciated.

Mark Bullington moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 p.m.

Hilary Schult
Secretary