

NWMHC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - NOV 1, 2008 OAK TREE RESTAURANT - WOODLAND, WA

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by President, Dave Miller.

26 members were present.

Minutes of the January 28, 2008 meeting were approved.

Officers' Reports

President Dave Miller welcomed the new Secretary, Helen Halderman, who is replacing Hilary Schult due to her resignation. Dave also announced that the new Club Administrator will be LaVon Read. Many thanks to Mary Ann Lewis for her years of service as Administrator. Three people are running for the vacant Treasurer position. They are Barbara Ashby, Margaret Slape, and Annette Helgeson.

Administrator, Mary Ann Lewis, announced that the transition to LaVon as Administrator is happening. The club's non-profit status is changing to WA, LaVon is getting that license. Jessica Kimball is putting the club records on CD which will decrease the volume of papers considerably.

Membership renewals are being accepted now – please get them in to help with the transition. Also, please return the ballots in a timely manner to help with the transition also. Both renewals and ballots will be mailed to Mary Ann. Mary Ann stated there are 370-380 members counting all family members. Head of Household members = just under 200. There are more inquiries about club membership in spring, but there were fewer this year – probably due to the economy.

Club trailer – leave in OR registration since it is “Northwest” and moves between WA and OR, depending on who is pulling it. Barb Hento will pull it again this year.

AMHA Directors' Report

1. World Show entries were up this year.
2. Regional Championship Show: Western made money, Central and Eastern lost money. AMHA is thinking of giving the shows back to the local clubs to coordinate rather than having AMHA do it. Laura Mullen would still be the manager of each of the shows. There is also thought to changing the location of the Eastern show to increase entries.
3. National meeting will be in Feb in San Diego, CA.
4. Standard of Perfection – Joanne Ross is chair of the AMHA committee. Updated description and pictures are wanted. If anyone has a horse they want to be considered, please let Joanne know. The committee will probably make a picture of a composite of several horses to make the “ideal” horse and show it in silhouette.

5. LOC – is discussing how world judges are selected. This is ongoing at AMHA. The World Show will be back to 5 judges and throwing out the top and bottom scores.

MOTION by Carole Heermann – The AMHA Directors will present topics that will be at the National Meeting at our NWMHC Winter Meeting. **PASSED.**

6. Studbook program has been abandoned. AMHA has put the brakes on the computer program also. They are talking to the Paint Asso. in NY about their computer programs.

7. World Show – AMHA is considering changing the order of classes to Open, Amateur, Youth. A copy of the proposal is available. Email Dave if anyone wants to see it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ribbon & Trophy/Year-End Awards – LaVon Read/Jessica Kimball

Ribbons: Hodges price is increasing 5% for next year. There is a 10% discount if ordered Dec 1 – Feb 1. Show coordinators are asked to send their class lists to LaVon so she can get ribbons ordered to take advantage of the discount. Royal's price went from \$4.95 to \$5.65 for grand neck ribbons and from \$5.40 to \$6.15 for supreme ribbons. LaVon is looking into possible design changes to cut costs. There was general agreement to give LaVon latitude to go with Hodges for similar quality of neck sashes and supreme ribbons but to stay local if there is not a big difference. LaVon will email the BOD with the prices. Shipping to one address saves money over shipping to individual coordinators.

Grand & Supreme Awards: There are 60 silver plates left for Grand awards and 12 larger plates left for supreme awards. **RECOMMENDATION** from Show Committee to use the current inventory of Grand and Supreme awards for the 2009 season. **PASSED.**

Year End Awards: Jessica presented several potential awards. Each class sponsorship is \$40, therefore the total cost of Hi Point and Reserve cannot go over that amount. If all of the classes are not sponsored and the club has to make up the difference, the cost of the awards will have to decrease accordingly. Assuming the awards will be \$40, examples presented were: 1. 8" oval resin, \$20.70; 2. 8" resin shield, \$20.70; 3. 5"x7" etched glass, \$19.50; 4. 8"x10" plaque, \$20 or 5"x7" plaque, \$28; 5. Overall Award rosewood 8"x10" \$31.50 or 5"x7" \$26.45; 6. Use former AMHA statue, company would make mold for \$900 but we could then use it indefinitely. No decision was made at this time.

Futurity – Jill Miller

Forms are available at this meeting or online. They are **DUE BY DEC. 31**. This year there were 13 yearlings at CanAm, about the same at Emerald Valley for the 2 year olds. Many mares with foals in utero are nominated but not many are sustaining. Remember, to show in the futurity as a 2 year old a horse must be sustained as a yearling.

Gelding Incentive – Matt Davern

\$6,403.75 will be given out tonight. Centerpieces will be auctioned tonight during the banquet. Other pieces, including a comforter made by Kathy Sammons and artwork will also be auctioned.

Audit – Bill Sample

Dave read Bill's audit report. Excerpts follow:

1. Monies are deposited by the Treasurer with the exception of show income. The Administrator sends the Treasurer checks with an attached spread sheet which shows whether it is for membership, breeders list, etc.

2. Show income is deposited straight into the club account by the show manager. After each show she sends the Treasurer a copy of all of the deposit slips with a report of how much was received for stalls, open entries, amateur entries, etc. There needs to be a consistent method of getting the information to the Treasurer in a timely manner. With our financial situation next year, the Treasurer will need to know what was deposited ASAP.

3. There was confusion on how the expenses are to be paid at the show. There needs to be a procedure in place on how the checkbook/payments are to be handled at next year's shows. The BOD should reconsider their decision that no checks are written at the show.

4. The normal procedure for paying the facility is for the coordinator to be the contact person with the facility, provide them the information they need, have the bill sent to them, check to make sure it is correct, then forward it to the Treasurer for payment. Every coordinator needs to make sure this happens. It is not the Treasurer's responsibility to make sure a bill is received. Facilities need to be paid in a timely manner, thus we need a written procedure of how the invoices are to be provided to the Treasurer and a timeframe.

5. A procedure needs to be put in place concerning who receives any other monies: i.e., gelding fund, class sponsorships, futurity, etc. Overall it is not a good practice to have monies going to multiple locations just because it increases the possibility of getting lost in the shuffle. It will put more work on the Treasurer to notify each chairperson when money is received but will be safer and more efficient for monies to go to one central location.

6. All of our employees should have a signed contract as we submit 1099 forms for each. The Treasurer had only one contract, for the Announcer. Hopefully signed contracts will be provided to the Treasurer by the first of the year.

MOTION by Jessica Kimball that all funds and fees should be mailed directly to the treasurer or administrator. **PASSED.**

Barb Hento, show manager, stated that the AMHA rule is that judges cannot walk away being owed any money. She would like \$1,000 account for expenses, concession, security, etc at shows.

Finance – Barb Ashby

Income was down 20-30%. We will not have to get into the CDs if we are very careful with expenses. The NWMHC has the lowest show fees (others charge \$10/judge so \$30-\$40/entry).

The club needs to cut expenses \$8,000 minimum to be safe for next year. Examples of places that could cut expenses: Save \$3,500 if Can-Am is moved to Spanaway; save \$593 if the club does not provide donuts at shows; save \$1,500 to mail only one premium book; save \$500 to not publish show program.

Show – Nancy Rivenburgh

Nancy introduced and thanked the show coordinators.

***Schooling Clinic:** Feb 28-Mar 1. Margaret Slape, Cowlitz County Fairgrounds, Longview, WA. Margaret would like a co-chair for next year. She would appreciate any suggestions for next year's clinic. There is a possibility that we may be able to hold a judges' clinic in 2010 here during our schooling clinic. For the past two years Margaret has applied for and received a special award from AMHA for \$500 for outstanding clinic contributions to the American Miniature Horse. Not sure that this will be available in 2009.

***Schooling Show:** March 27-29. Kate Sherry, Mt Hood Equestrian Center in Boring, OR. This facility has made many improvements such as revamped stalls, security system, reroofed the

arena, drainage improvements, etc. Judge is Roger Eitel again – he was excellent last year and is excited to do it again. There will be an increase in prices over Yamhill: Arena = \$500/day, stalls = \$15/day, RV parking = \$15/day. Bedding is included and extra bales are available for \$6.50/bale.

*Sea-Tac Classic: April 17-19. Ron & Dorothy Whiteman and Greg & Tammy Osgood; Grays Harbor Fairgrounds, Elma, WA. Fees have not changed for next season. Judges: Lewis McCann from BC, Pat Hough, Judy Wright (World Judge).

*Emerald Valley Classic: May 23-25. Darrell & Cherie Smith, Gary & Sharon Dickens, Brian Reid, Sharon Bullington; Oregon Horse Center, Eugene, OR. Same charges as last year. Side note: Mario and Dennis (facility staff) came in on their day off to work the arena for us. Thank You! Brian will hold another stall decorating contest. Judges: Roger Eitel, Michael Goodwin (from New Zealand and a friend of Roger Eitel's), Ray Randall.

*Can-Am Classic: June 19-21. Dave & Lael Sandeno and Wayne & Tiffany Porter; Judges: Portia Kalinka, Richard Petty, and Sid Hutchcraft. Costs will increase due to loss of inmates cleaning the facility. The county is having a meeting to discuss Evergreen State Fairgrounds. At the show committee meeting a motion was made to have Dave Miller check into other facilities to see if there is a possibility of moving the Can-Am show. Nancy read a letter from some members in WA and Canada. Their requests will be addressed under New Business.

Dave checked the Trails in Olympia – it is nothing that we would ever consider using.

The Unit in Spanaway is available and if we sign a 3-year contract there will be perks. Moving from Monroe to Spanaway would save the club \$3,500. **MOTION** by Christina Terpenning to move Can-Am Classic to Spanaway beginning in 2009. **PASSED** with 4 no's. **MOTION** by Mark Bullington to sign a 3-year contract with The Unit in Spanaway. **PASSED** with 1 no.

*Mini-Mac Classic: July 4-5. Kathy Howard and Marvin Stucki; Yamhill County Fairgrounds. This show always falls on the 4th of July, which has been an issue with many people. With the financial issues the club is facing for the coming year, some tough decisions have to be made. Much discussion followed. **_RECOMMENDATION** from the Show Committee that we cancel MiniMac show for 2009. **PASSED** with 17 yes, 4 no, 1 abstain. **RECOMMENDATION** from Show Committee to add an extra judge to Can-AM and Emerald Valley so that the number of judges for the season remains the same. **PASSED**.

*McKenzie River Classic: August 14-16. Dave & Jill Miller; Oregon Horse Center, Eugene, OR. No increase in prices for next year. The live trail course was very successful and the facility staff was enormously helpful. **RECOMMENDATION** from Show Committee that we continue the Trail Challenge at McKenzie River Classic in 2009. **PASSED**. The Show Committee also recommended that we add another judge to the trail part of the show to move it along faster. Suggestion to find volunteers who can judge this part. **RECOMMENDATION** from Show Committee to extend the trail classes to Thursday evening before the show starts. **TABLED** until the Winter Meeting. **MOTION** by Mark Bullington that if the facility will allow, we use part of the trail challenge course for our regular obstacle course. **PASSED**.

*Oregon State Fair: date TBA. Marge Robinson; Darrell Smith and Bill Sample will join her next year; Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, OR. Members donated use of their shade pop-ups and Darrell arranged for shavings to help with mud control. Marge was pleased with the new staff this year and their efforts in getting records to her right away. The group had a beautiful display with the considerable help of Darrell Smith, there were many people going through the barn, and several horses were sold.

*Western Championship Show: July 23-26, Reno, NV. In 2008 the Regional shows lost a total of \$18,000; however the Western Show made \$10,000. AMHA is thinking of turning the shows back to the local clubs in each region in 2010 to decrease loss to AMHA. Joanne Ross is the chairman along with Mark Wilson on a new committee to look into what to do with the Championship Shows. Contact Mark Wilson, Laura Mullen, Mike Want, or Dave Miller for suggestions on the Western Championship Show.

*AMHA World Championship Show: Sept 25 – Oct 4, Fort Worth, TX. There is a proposal for 2009 to change the schedule to Open, Amateur, Youth. Currently the Youth show the first Friday and Saturday.

MOTION by Linda Dennis to put donuts out at local shows if they are sponsored (as is done at Oregon State Fair). **PASSED.**

Nancy Rivenburgh pointed out an error in this year's Premium books. It states that in order to be eligible for the Youth Rookie award the exhibitor must have shown in 3 shows. This is a mistake, as the description for Youth Rookies of the Year was revised in 2003 when Kim Schult pointed out that many of the youth could not attend 3 shows because of school. This error will be corrected in the new premium book.

Nancy received a letter from Larry Hewitt about the new regional multipurpose recreation center/arena to be built in SW Washington. This could be a potential new show site. Nancy invited Mr. Hewitt to address the club at our Winter meeting.

Show Manager's Report – Barb Hento. Barb thanked Cath Pelton for volunteering to measure at every show.

1. Show Premiums – Barb suggested cutting costs by printing one show premium booklet for the year which would have all of the show' entry forms. It will save \$1000 plus postage to mail out only once. **RECOMMENDATION** from Show Committee that one premium book be sent out to members for 2009. **PASSED.**

2. Show Program – Another cost saving idea by Barb is to use a "day sheet" with horse and sponsor information rather than printing a "program" for each show. Only about 30 entries are turned in by the printing deadline as it is now. **RECOMMENDATION** from Show Committee to print day sheets for each day of the shows rather than printing a program for each show. **PASSED.**

3. Club trailer – Barb will have an inventory of its contents at the next meeting. New shows/dates along with new club address will have to be printed on the trailer this year.

Publicity – Kate Sherry.

1. The NW Rider magazine has the best distribution and lowest cost for our ad. **RECOMMENDATION** from Show Committee to continue the ad in NW Rider for \$185/year. **PASSED.**

2. 2009 Albany Expo – March 20-22. The breed showcase package is a hospitality area and 3 horse stalls for \$300. There is also an additional fee of \$350 to the club to add it to the club's insurance policy. This insurance cost was not previously considered.

RECOMMENDATION from Show Committee to participate in the Breed Showcase at Albany Expo. **FAILED** with 5 yes.

Bylaws – Hilary Schult. Hilary was not present and no bylaws have been presented for consideration.

Elections – Next year will be President, Secretary, and 1 Director.

Rules and Regulations – Annette Helgeson. Nothing to report.

NEWS – Barb Ashby. .

As a cost-cutting measure, Barb suggested that we not print the additional copies that are taken to the Regional and National/World Shows. **MOTION** by Barb Ashby to not print extra copies of The NEWS. **FAILED** with 5 yes.

Welfare – Rozee Bird. No report.

Winter Meeting – new chair needed. Meeting will be Jan 31, Feb 1 in Centralia. Nancy Rivenburgh will chair. She will try to contact Donna Winton to work on the meeting since Donna has done it for so many years, with our thanks.

Youth – Summer Ruegger. Youth fund has \$3,000. Two \$500 scholarships were given out. Youth had a great time at the Run Center at McKenzie River show. There will be an art contest again this year at the banquet, all youth are encouraged to enter – great prizes to be given out.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **MOTION** by Mary Ann Lewis to combine the winter Show Committee meeting and Winter General Membership Meeting into 1 day. **PASSED**. The day will consist of the Show Committee meeting, other committee meetings, BOD, general membership meeting, and dinner with raffle. Jan 31, 2009.
2. Trail Competition. Linda Dennis proposed doing a trail competition circuit with a high point at the end of the season. Tiffany Porter will assist Linda in writing up a proposal which will be presented at the Winter Meeting.
3. Christina Terpenning suggested a committee to get business sponsorships for shows. Jessica Kimball volunteered to work with her on this committee.
4. Heather Ward, from Canada, asked via letter which Canadian shows count for points? Langley, B.C.
5. From the letter from folks in WA and Canada, they suggested no year-end awards. This was considered a motion, but there was no second.
6. From the letter from WA, they suggested a survey to find out club members' interests. This was considered a motion, but there was no second. Discussion that a survey had been done in the past and very few members responded.
7. From the letter, they suggested the club's balance sheet be posted on the club's website. This was considered a motion, but there was no second. The club's balance sheets are distributed and discussed at length at the Show Committee meetings and the General Membership Meetings. Members present did not feel it was appropriate to post finances on the

website. Anyone not at the meeting and desiring a copy of the balance sheet can contact Barb Ashby.

8. **MOTION** by Joanne Ross to offer one fee for futurity entry. **TABLED** until Winter Meeting.

9. Motion to drop the height rule for the futurities. No second.

10. Motion to drop the 2 year old futurity. No second.

11. **MOTION** by Jill Miller that each household get only one NEWS, regardless of how many members live there (i.e. children over age 18 living at home who hold individual memberships along with their parents). **PASSED.**

12. Motion to combine the Schooling Clinic and Schooling Show. No second.

13. **MOTION** by Barb Ashby to use a volunteer manager for the Schooling Show. **FAILED.**

14. Reminder to all show coordinators that a Vet is REQUIRED to be on call and AVAILABLE for every show. Vet's number to be posted at each show.

Meeting adjourned at 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Halderman, Secretary