Northwest Miniature Horse Club

Directors' Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2026: 2:00 PM – Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by President Helen Halderman.

Roll Call

- Helen Halderman
- Dorothy Whiteman
- Becky Nicol
- Brian Smith
- Tammy Osgood
- Sheryl Peterson
- Sharon Hardt
- Lisa Brostad

A quorum of Directors was present.

Approval of July 14, 2026 Directors' Meeting Minutes

The July 14, 2026 Directors' Meeting Minutes were reviewed. No corrections or additions were requested.

Motion: Sharon Hardt moved to approve the July 14, 2026 Directors' Meeting Minutes as presented.

Second: Helen Halderman.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

President's Report – Helen Halderman

Communication and Club Culture

Helen revisited the Board's previous discussion regarding respectful and constructive communication among club members, volunteers, exhibitors, and Directors. She emphasized the importance of maintaining a welcoming and positive environment where differing opinions can be shared respectfully and discussions remain focused on solutions and the club's mission.

Helen reminded Directors that, as club leaders, they have a particular responsibility to model the communication standards and behaviors expected throughout the organization.

No formal action was taken.

Nonprofit Tax-Exempt Status

Helen presented information regarding the possibility of pursuing federal tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(7), which applies to qualifying social and recreational clubs.

The Board discussed whether this classification might be more appropriate for NWMHC than other nonprofit classifications, including 501(c)(3) charitable organizations and 501(c)(5) agricultural organizations. Discussion included the club's membership-based social and recreational purpose; requirements concerning revenue from members versus nonmembers; the potential impact of show participation and entry fees on eligibility; and whether the club's associate membership structure could support future eligibility requirements.

The Board also discussed the estimated $600 application cost and the need to bring outstanding tax filings current before pursuing an application. Sharon reported that work continues on the outstanding financial records and tax years.

The Board agreed that additional research is necessary to determine which classification is appropriate and whether the club can meet the applicable requirements. Helen will share the research materials for Directors to review.

Decision: Discussion only. No application or expenditure was authorized.

Donation of Show Ribbons

Helen reported receiving a donation of previously used NWMHC ribbons from a former club member who now lives in the Midwest and had belonged to NWMHC in 2002. The donated materials include several high-quality neck sashes and championship ribbons that may be suitable for reuse or repurposing at future club events.

The Board discussed making the ribbons available to the appropriate awards or ribbon coordinator for evaluation.

Report presented for information only.

Treasurer's Report – Sharon Hardt

Financial Balances

Sharon presented the club's current financial position and reviewed the financial tracking spreadsheet.

Current bank balance: $70,339.17

Outstanding checks: $5,316.45

Adjusted available balance: $65,022.72

Sharon reported that the club remains in a strong overall financial position. She is continuing to investigate options for separating a portion of the club's funds from the primary operating checking account, including a separate account or an interest-bearing money market account, while maintaining sufficient access to funds for regular club operations.

2026 Show Financial Results

Sharon reviewed the financial performance of the club's shows, noting that income and expenses are attributed to their respective shows even when transactions clear the bank in different months.

Schooling Clinic/Show: +$429.50

Western Washington Show: -$1,309.45

Summer Classic: +$1,488.05

Emerald Valley Classic: Pending final reconciliation

The Western Washington Show recorded a net loss of $1,309.45. Discussion included additional expenses associated with the show's format, staffing, and multi-day operations.

The Summer Classic showed a positive net result of $1,488.05, subject to any remaining adjustments.

The Emerald Valley Classic financials were not yet final. Sharon explained that outstanding facility charges and other expenses, including a payment of approximately $6,737 to Oregon Horse Center, had not yet been fully reflected in the financial reporting. The Board agreed that the Emerald Valley results should not be considered final until all transactions have been reconciled.

Show Financial Analysis and Future Planning

Brian proposed collaborating with Sharon to conduct a more detailed analysis of the club's show finances using AI-assisted tools. The proposed analysis would examine show revenue, expenses, entry fees, participation levels, and break-even points to better inform future show planning.

Discussion included identifying minimum participation levels needed to cover expenses, differences in costs and profitability between show formats, opportunities to improve entry-fee structures and financial planning, and discrepancies between show-management reports and financial records.

Sharon expressed support for the proposal, and Brian and Sharon agreed to coordinate a working session. The resulting analysis may be shared with the Show Committee to support planning for the 2027 season.

Membership and Other Revenue

Sharon reported that the club had received more than $2,000 in membership dues. She also reviewed how donations, sponsorships, and designated funds are recorded within the club's financial tracking system - making future visibility to financial details more readily available.

Tax Preparation

Sharon provided an update on efforts to complete outstanding tax records and reconcile prior financial years. Work continues with Linda Soto and the club's tax preparer. The Board emphasized the importance of completing these filings to support the club's financial reporting obligations and any future application for tax-exempt status.

Reimbursement of Ribbon Shipping Expenses

Sharon requested authorization to reimburse Lindsey Day for postage expenses incurred while shipping ribbons to the club.

Motion: Sheryl Peterson moved to reimburse Lindsey Day for the ribbon shipping expenses.

Second: Dorothy Whiteman.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

AMHA Director's Report – Sheryl Peterson

2026 AMHA World Championship Show

Sheryl provided an update on preparations for the upcoming AMHA World Championship Show. As of the meeting, entries were seven horses ahead of the previous year's total, with additional entries still being processed.

Sheryl explained that stabling arrangements will be more challenging this year because approximately 500 stalls previously located near the arena have been removed to accommodate maintenance and meeting facilities. Affected exhibitors will be reassigned to available stalls in the Burnett Building and cattle barns.

Additional World Show activities are being planned, including a $250 prize sponsored by Harry and Claire for the AMHA Proud stall decoration competition.

AMHA Legal Update

Sheryl reported that an ongoing legal proceeding involving AMHA had experienced scheduling delays. A hearing previously anticipated for October may be postponed until December due to scheduling conflicts. No action was requested of the NWMHC Board.

AMHA Annual Meeting

Sheryl reported that the AMHA Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place in Philadelphia in November 2026, with anticipated dates around November 14–16. Several Directors expressed interest in attending.

Upcoming Board Elections

The Board discussed upcoming elections and positions scheduled to be filled for the next term, including one Director position, Treasurer, and Vice President.

Sharon indicated that she is interested in continuing as Treasurer. She acknowledged the challenges of learning the club's financial systems while simultaneously managing other show responsibilities but noted that recent improvements in financial tracking have made the position more manageable.

Brian expressed interest in potentially serving as Vice President. Dorothy Whiteman and Joanne Ross were identified as valuable resources for understanding the responsibilities of the role and how it has evolved over time.

The Board discussed the importance of communicating upcoming vacancies and election opportunities to the membership so interested individuals have an opportunity to participate.

No nominations or elections were conducted during this meeting.

Show Committee – Dorothy Whiteman

2027 Show Planning Meeting

Dorothy announced that the Show Committee will hold an in-person planning meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at her home. Lunch will be provided. The meeting will focus on reviewing the 2026 show season, identifying opportunities for improvement, and developing recommendations for the 2027 season.

Summer Classic – 2027 Venue Considerations

Dorothy reported that potential dates for the 2027 Summer Classic are currently being held at a facility in Ridgefield, Washington. The facility may offer lower rental costs than the Eugene venue.

No final venue decision has been made. The Show Committee will review available options and anticipated expenses before making recommendations.

Emerald Valley Classic Recap

The Committee discussed the recently completed Emerald Valley Classic, including show operations, volunteer responsibilities, and lessons learned. Financial results were still being reconciled, as noted in the Treasurer's Report. Further evaluation will be incorporated into planning for the next season.

Newbie Classes

The Board discussed evaluating the Newbie classes introduced during the 2026 show season. The Show Committee will consider participation, exhibitor feedback, and opportunities to refine the classes for future shows.

Show Coordinator and Show Manager Responsibilities

Dorothy provided an update on the effort to document the responsibilities of the club's Show Coordinators. Written descriptions are being collected from individuals who have held these positions.

The Board discussed consolidating the information into a standardized resource to support recruitment, training, and transitions between volunteers. The discussion expanded to include the Show Manager position and the importance of clarifying responsibilities and decision-making authority among show personnel.

Brian offered to assist with consolidating the documents, with the resulting descriptions to be reviewed by individuals familiar with each role.

The Board emphasized that these descriptions should focus on responsibilities, accountability, and decision-making authority rather than duplicating detailed procedures already established by AMHA or AMHR. Discussion also included the importance of ensuring that show personnel understand applicable rules and that responsibility for addressing rule-related questions is clearly assigned.

Year-End Points and Awards

The Board confirmed that current year-end points standings have been posted on the club website and are available for members to review.

Member Suggestions for Future Shows

The Board acknowledged a Facebook post by Kathy Howard inviting members to submit suggestions for the 2027 show season. Suggestions will be considered as part of the Show Committee's planning process.

2027 Oregon State Fair

The Board discussed a preliminary proposal for miniature horse participation at the 2027 Oregon State Fair. Mary Christine Houts and Daryl, representing the draft horse community, have been exploring an arrangement that would allow miniature horses to participate in a two-day event alongside other breeds.

Under the preliminary concept, some event costs would be shared among participating breed organizations, potentially reducing NWMHC's financial responsibility to judges and show-management expenses.

Mary Christine will be asked to prepare a written summary of the proposed arrangements, including logistics and anticipated costs, for consideration by the Show Committee.

No formal commitment was made.

Fall Meeting and Awards Banquet – Member Meal Subsidy

Sharon and Sheryl presented a proposal for the club to subsidize a portion of the cost of the annual Fall Meeting and Awards Banquet. Sharon noted that the club is in a strong financial position and suggested that subsidizing the banquet would be a meaningful way to give back to members.

The estimated meal cost is approximately $40 per person, although final pricing had not yet been confirmed. The proposal would have NWMHC cover 50% of each member's banquet meal cost, with the member responsible for the remaining 50%.

Motion: Brian Smith moved that NWMHC cover 50% of the banquet meal cost per member.

Second: Sheryl Peterson.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Final meal pricing will be confirmed with the Banquet Committee before announcing the cost to members.

Year-End Belt Buckle Award – Youth Division

The Board revisited the scenario regarding the presentation of a year-end belt buckle award in the seven-and-under youth division.

Discussion focused on ensuring that awards are distributed consistently with established eligibility and points rules, and that members who have earned recognition receive the awards to which they are entitled. Rather than altering an award already presented to another youth exhibitor, the Board agreed that an additional buckle should be purchased for the Youth who was the original points winner.

Motion: Sheryl Peterson moved that NWMHC purchase an additional seven-and-under year-end belt buckle, with Lisa Brostad assisting in delivering the award if Youth is not present at fall banquet.

Second: Sharon Hardt.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Helen agreed to communicate with Linda VanFleet regarding the decision to ensure that the awards coordinator is informed and included in the process. Sharon will assist with arranging payment and ordering the additional buckle.

Future Awards Process Improvements

The Board discussed the need to review and clarify the rules governing year-end belt buckle awards. Directors emphasized the importance of consistent eligibility standards, transparent points tracking, and clear procedures for distributing awards when recipients are not present.

The possibility of using an electronic points-tracking system was raised as a way to reduce manual administration, improve transparency, and simplify future transitions between volunteers. These opportunities will be considered during planning for the next show season.

Old Business

No additional old business requiring formal action was presented.

Next Meeting

The Board agreed to skip the September Directors' Meeting due to scheduling conflicts and the upcoming AMHA World Championship Show.

The next Directors' Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 2:00 PM via Zoom. This meeting will follow the October 17 Show Committee planning session, allowing the Committee to bring forward recommendations for Board consideration.

Adjournment

Motion: Sheryl Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Sharon Hardt.

Vote: Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Nicol – Recording Secretary

Northwest Miniature Horse Club

Minutes reflect discussions and actions taken during the meeting.