**Fall General Meeting Nov 4th, 2023**

**Location The Oak Tree Restaurant**

**Meeting Started: 1:00pm  
Quorum met**

\*\*\*\*

**AMHA Report, Sheryl Peterson**

AMHA had a good year, the association has been brought back into the black over the last few years so much so that the wonderful staff were able to be given well deserved raise. The World Show was a great success and ended well into the black. People who attended previously may remember the men who used to go around asking questions such as where they were from. These were workers from an outside company doing the survey that ties into a grant given to AMHA for holding the show where it’s held. This company charged quite a bit for this service. Val performed negotiations which allowed AMHA to perform the survey themselves which resulted in AMHA receiving $70,000 for the grant.

Sheryl would love it if everyone sent Val a thank you for all her hard work.

Western Regional Show does not have a contract signed yet, but it looks like it will be held in Rancho Murietta, CA. We already have some potential sponsorships on offer.

Kaycee Lunde has a proposal that any shows held in conjunction with a public event like a fair, the show should be a double point show for AMHA. This will be voted on at the Annual Meeting and Sheryl thinks it will pass.

The AOTE Committee will have a proposal put in for AOTE to be allowed to have another Amateur help with clipping which Sheryl was collecting signatures for at the Western Washington Show.

Elections for the AMHA Board are being held this year at the Annual Meeting.

Register of Merit (ROM) horses will start being recognized at the Annual Meetings. The studbook now has “ROM” after horses who have earned their Region of Merit in the past. You can send your registration to the office and have it reprinted with the ROM title or print the screen from the studbook.

Pay to Play has always been in place but AMHA did it slightly differently this year. It was called hardship before. The “Pay to Play” program was priced at $250. Not as many people used it as expected but it averaged out to $500 a club. The Southwestern Club in Texas is donating their winnings back; it will be divided and split among the other clubs. There will be a vote to continue the Pay to Play program, but with a higher price. It didn’t seem to affect the attendance at the local clubs, Sheryl thinks because most of the people who show locally don’t go to the World Show.

There were some issues brought up with poor sportsmanship and poor behavior, so there will be discussions on how to handle this at the shows. Meetings being held online was a rule change passed last year and there is a committee working on how to do that. However, with online meetings you risk not having the in-person meetings and all the things that go with it such as any clinics held at the meeting, the auctions for the Gelding Incentive and other funds for AMHA, the social aspects of being together aside from just the voting, etc.

**Treasurer’s Report, Sharon Bullington**

We started the year with $14,470. $4,769.27 was earmarked for Year End Awards, GIF, Class Sponsorships, Youth, etc. This earmarked money was moved into three (3) separate accounts leaving us with $9,701.11. Between shows, events, sponsorships, etc we brought in $47,351.77. For ribbons, insurance, arena/venue costs, staff, etc the club spent $47,699.72 cents leaving us with a loss of $347.95. However, due to the generosity of some members we still have $5,269.40 to start the new year with.

Current balances in the club accounts are as follows:

* CD $13,982.70
  + +$289 from interest since opened
* Gelding Incentive Fund .23₵ (post GIF checks/before new donations)
* Youth Fund Balance $1,815.12
  + Scholarship is $1,689.09
  + Balance from Regionals Youth Activities Donation $126.04
* Year End Awards $2,451.49
  + -800.00 Fox Towing Sponsorship Monies for Banquet
  + -1,200.00 High Point Series Monies
    - Total $451.49
* General Fund $5,269

Questions were asked regarding the club’s Fiscal year as it was stated it is Nov-Oct but previously it was Jan-Dec. This will be investigated. The left-over funds from the donation to the Youth that are marked as belonging to the Youth from the Youth event were questioned as the Youth fund (NOT the Scholarship) was rolled into the General Fund several years ago; those funds will be rolled into the General Fund. Questions about the CD were answered.

**Committee Reports**

**1. Show Report, Joanne Ross**

SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT 10/23/23 revised for 11/4/23

As chairperson of the committee, I challenged the show committee to a goal of recouping the 2023 loss in two years. How can we make a profit of $6000 a year @ $2000 a show? Sharon and Doug Hardt ran the numbers to figure out how we can do this.

These are the recommendations passed unanimously by the NWMHC show committee to present to the board for approval.

1. Hold three (3) shows, two (2) days, one (1) judge
2. Increase entries **per judge**: Youth ($6) to $10, Amateur ($10) & Open ($11) both to $15. With one judge entry expense for families will be significantly less for these shows
3. Have a member volunteer Show Team: show manager, ring steward, and gate manager as a cost cutting strategy.
4. Institute a member volunteer requirement as one of the qualifying factors for Year End Awards. Specific lists of volunteer opportunities at NWMHC shows and functions and record keeping requirement will be developed for the Winter Meeting approval.
5. Show Coordinators will be responsible to arrange for transport of trailer and arena set-up. Howard Stables has volunteered to transport the trailer for Can Am.
6. Volunteer Announcer costs clarification: Lunch provided at each show. Room and Transportation will be provided by Tammy and Dorothy to Western Washington. Catherine Ayers (phone number redacted) lives nearby for Can Am. Salem show will offer mileage to be determined. Joanne Ross has offered her “Bunkhouse” for housing the Announce for the Capitol City show.
7. A 2 day class list will be developed at the NOV/DEC Show Committee meeting via Zoom to be presented at the Winter Meeting.
8. We will analyze the extra time saved by only having one judge, then decide to add more classes or fun activities each day. We want to focus on making the shows a fun social time for all our members.

\*\*\*

Kathy Howard spoke up about figures she had calculated to be able to run shows with two judges while still making a profit. It was decided that Sharon Hardt and Kathy Howard would work together to create a report with both sets of numbers to provide to the Membership and Board and this issue will be discussed at the Winter Meeting.  
  
 Susan George offered to Sponsor a second judge for all three shows and Suzi Durdel offered to match Sponsorships; please thank both these wonderful ladies if you see them!

**2. Finance Committee, Joanne Ross & Sharon Hardt**

No Report: Committee has not yet been able to meet for financial reviews due to a variety of circumstances

**3. Bylaws, Rules and Regulations Committee; Sharon Hardt**

11/4/23

Bylaws/Rules & Regulations Committee Report

Chair: Sharon Hardt

Members: Linda VanFleet; Wendy Wright; Joanne Ross

The committee has been working on reviewing the Bylaws and Rules & Regulations this past year. Starting in March, we met monthly and at times weekly. The goal was to coordinate the language between both documents and clean up any inconsistencies, while making any recommendations for enhancements and/or changes to them.

In the Bylaws, we focused on cleaning up grammar and clarification of the entire document, ensuring they work with the Rules & Regulations (R&R’s).

The Rules & Regulations (R&R’s) is where we focused most of our time. We worked to make sure that the language was the same as found in the Bylaws. We clarified and expanded various segments throughout the entire document. Again, working to ensure that both documents used the same language and same meaning.

We are proposing changes in both documents, from position descriptions to clarification of responsibilities. Some of the changes are substantial and some to clarify the positions. Based on some recent Board meetings, we have a few more changes to work on.

Once the Board has reviewed and approved the proposed changes, the documents will be sent out to the membership 30 days in advance of the Winter meeting for review. At this meeting the membership will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the final documents.

I want to thank the members of this committee for all their time and conversations. We had lively conversations and good debates to find the best resolution for each situation presented, for the betterment of all. They are an amazing group, and we owe them a big thank you for all they have done.

**4. Sunshine Committee Report, Sharon Hardt**

11/4/23

Sunshine Committee Report

Chair: Sharon Hardt

Members: Lisa Abboud; Bambi Roylance; Christine Houts; Char Anderson; Charissa Alldredge

This committee is solely dependent on club members to share with any committee member or notify the Club Administrator of an illness or loss of a club member, including their immediate family.

We have set up the committee so that each month one member acts as the lead to send out well wishes from the Club to affected club members, as described above. These members have chosen to cover the expense for card and postage out of their own pocket. As Chair, I just keep track of which member is lead for a month.

I would like to thank each member for their kindness and generosity.

**5. Publicity Committee Report, Beth White**

2023-2024 Season

2023 Recap:

We started out the year strong. We put together a booth at Ag Fest during the Capital City show and it was a successful event. We had people asking questions and petting the horses. There were quite a few people we spoke to that didn’t even know there was a mini show happening at the same time. We had a lot of ideas for other events throughout the summer, however planning ahead for these events was challenging.

Overall I think we had a lot of great ideas come from the Committee. My plan for the coming year is to have meetings where we plan activities two to three months ahead. This will give time to really think through what is needed for the activity, make appropriate contacts and advertise our participation. To the main purpose of the committee is to grow our membership so we hope to do more non-horse show activities to introduce our horses to potential members.

**Ideas for the Upcoming 2024 Year:**

The goal is to start planning things 2-3 months in advance e.g. in November we will be planning events for January and February.

* The goal is to have 1-2 non-show events per month
  + This might be visiting a winery, retirement home, or school. There are also parades and other small town events that we can participate in to get exposure to potential members.
* Reaching out to the local media about upcoming shows to encourage the public to come watch and learn about our horses and club.
  + The more media coverage we have; the more opportunity to add members, acquire sponsorships, and donations.
* Sending out a newsletter monthly about all events and who to contact about each one (see proposal below)
* Last but definitely not least, we would like to have a more engaging social media presence.
  + It’s important that we draw in more youth members and they are on social media. We would like to have a presence on Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat. In addition to increasing engagement on Facebook for both current and potential members.

**Newsletter Proposal:**

We think the club can benefit from a digital newsletter. There used to be a newsletter years ago that was printed and sent out, but in this era of social media and increased cost of printing, the best option is to send out a digital copy.

Things we can put in the newsletter:

* A “get to know the members” section. One idea is to have our current youth members interview other members and post little bios and videos. These videos can be used on social media as well.
* Information about shows and events.
* A section for health topics, grooming tips, cleaning/repairing equipment, etc. The list of things is endless.
* A trivia question, or fun facts about random things submitted by members.
* Eventually we could offer marketing packages to people to buy space in the newsletter. They could advertise their farm, horses, or tack for sale. This could be an extra source of income for the club. Even if we sell spaces for $10 a spot and sell 5 per newsletter that would be an extra $600 a year to the club.

There is a lot of potential here. We can also use printouts of the newsletter at events we attend for potential members to take home for their family to read. The hope is that eventually, we can talk to local businesses and see if they want to advertise in the newsletter as well.

I would love to take the lead on the newsletter if the members are in agreement to give it a try. If approved, we would aim to send it out at the beginning of each month starting January 1st, 2024.

**6. Gelding Incentive Fund (GIF) Report, Katie Hansen**

Gelding Incentive Fund Committee report

2023 fall meeting Nov 4th

2022 carry over $51.27

Donations and sponsors raised $1,595

Show entries brought in $207

Ribbon ticket donations $35.50

Totaling $1,888.77

12 Geldings eligible

Payout $2.75/point

Top pay out $422.73

Need to come up with some ideas for fundraising in 2024 outside of member donations/sponsorships.

 Rule change recommendations:

 GELDING INCENTIVE FUND

1. Owner must be a current member of NWMHC. Points accumulate from date membership is paid.
2. Points are awarded per NWMHC points system.
3. ~~Horse must be born in the Northwest. Horses born outside of the Northwest receive one-half points. “Northwest” is defined as AMHA Region 8, British Columbia and Alberta, Canada.~~
4. Horse must compete in Gelding specific classes in at least TWO (2) NWMHC sponsored/locations/shows. Points can only be earned in Gelding specific classes.
5. A portion of each gelding class entry fee will be allocated to the Gelding Incentive Fund:

* $3.00 per horse per entry in Open gelding classes.
* $2.00 per horse per entry in Amateur gelding classes.
* $1.00 per horse per entry in Youth gelding classes.

1. All payouts will be made to the owner of the horse and distributed at the Year End Awards Banquet.
2. Only NWMHC sponsored shows are eligible for accumulation of points.  Points will be awarded based on the horse only.

\*\*\*

Proposed changes by the Gelding Incentive Committee were voted on and passed unanimously

**7. Year End Awards Committee Report, Katie Hansen**

Year End Awards Committee report

2023 fall meeting Nov 4th

This year it was decided to not make any allowances/changes to the rules with the loss of Can AM. Exhibitors were required to attend three NWMHC sponsored shows, and two shows for Youth and special needs/ COOL classes. Additional points could be earned, once qualified, from Regionals, BC classic and Oregon State Fair. Despite low show attendance and no wriggle room for hardships we are awarding 17 members with 42 Champions and 12 Reserve Champions for individual class awards, 20 Overall Champions and 8 Overall reserves. Callison inc donated $490 designated to youth awards, this was used to purchase the Youth Overall high points. Trophies were donated for the open and Amatuer Overall high points.

Rule change recommendations:

Add Carriage classes to the individual class list: Carriage Obstacle, Turnout, Reinsmanship, Working and Pleasure - these classes are now recognized as AMHA pointed classes.  Keep the Carriage Overall High point as with all other Open Driving classes.

Amend Overall performance award to a minimum of three performance classes shown for eligibility. Current rule states must show in at least one performance class at three NWMHC sponsored shows.

* Change to: must show in a minimum of three performance classes at three NWMHC sponsored shows.

Performance classes include:  Halter Obstacle, Obstacle driving, Hunter, Jumper, Versatility, and Liberty.

\*Example of need/want for rule change: this years winner only showed in liberty

Amend VSE award to a minimum of three VSE classes shown for eligibility, Current rule states must show in at least one VSE class at three NWMHC sponsored shows.

* Change to: must show in a minimum of three VSE classes at three NWMHC sponsored shows.

VSE classes include: VSE halter obstacle, VSE obstacle driving, VSE hunter, VSE halter mares, VSE halter Stallion/gelding, VSE pleasure driving, VSE ladies pleasure driving, VSE carriage driving, VSE Reinsmanship, and VSE liberty.

\*Example of need/want for rule change: This years winner only showed in Halter obstacle

 Mark Bullington Versatility award

Current dates state the program runs from February 1st to Oct 1st.

 -change dates to start Oct. 2nd - Oct. 1 the following year. A lot of volunteer opportunities can happen before February during the “off season” and should be counted.

Other potential rule changes to come after the next show committee meeting to be presented at the Winter meeting and will be dependent on the finalization of the class list and show schedule.    
  
\*\*\*

Proposed changes by the Year End Awards Committee were voted on and both passed

**8. Website Committee Report, Christine Houts**

NWMHC Administrator Report

11/04/23

We have 56 total members for 2023.

It's been a bit of a learning experience being the club administrator.

It's come together pretty well.

I'm glad everyone is patient with Sarah and myself as we worked together with Sharon Bullington and Bambi Roylance on the website, Facebook, and the email.

Doing an email blast was quite interesting to put together.

Just to let everyone know, we are keeping old members on the email blasts to encourage them to become a member again and come to the shows again or at least come to visit.

My team is looking forward to the 2024 show season and being a part of the NWMHC team.

Mary Christine Houts

NWMHC  Club Administrator

Website Report

The NWMHC website has been doing very well. We had a large surge of visitors at the start of the show year as well as before our first Western Washington Classic show. Most are visiting out site via their mobile devices at 66%, desktop visits are second at 32%, and our smallest amount of time on a device is tablets at 2%. Over the past year we have had an exciting number of visits from new people at 94% and returning viewers is at 6%. Our majority of visitors are from the USA, but Canada as well as a large portion of rest of the world have come to our website.

For the 2023 year there has been a bit of an overhaul of the website to help inform about the NWMHC, simplify finding particular information without being redundant, assist in accurately representing sponsorships. The main page underwent a large change was the Shows/Events/Clinics main page, included now is a description of the different options for handlers and what the class types mean. Our Year End Award page has had an added section to congratulate those who have received special awards/trophies with pictures and names, it gives a better idea of what the trophy is exactly and how to aim to receive one to those who wish to participate. In an effort to clean up the Club Meetings page the old meetings have been moved to the Archive page, but there is still a handy link on the Club Meetings page that sends you to those archived meetings. Lastly the Futurity page was turned into a Sponsor page to allow people to see what has been sponsored, what is open to sponsor, and showcase those who have supported the club by sponsoring.

One flaw I had noticed with the website was the reoccurrence of information. The show schedule had been posted many times over instead of giving a clear indication of our next show/event and having one clear set page with our full show schedule that included important information for the shows such as premiums and stall charts. This is just one example of the redundance of information we had on our website that was felt needed to be changed.

Creating a live sponsor page was a very helpful addition to both our members and those who were/are part of our committees. It was felt there should be a way to show what has been sponsored, what is available to sponsor, and show our appreciation as a club to those who have sponsored. Care was taken to make sure this page was updated frequently so that if there were new sponsors coming in they would be able to choose from an accurate list of what was open for sponsorship. After the Fall Banquet and Meeting the Sponsor page will be reset/updated for next year.

Another idea to promote sponsorship of the website was the addition of having a particular page feature one of the farms that had sponsored the website. This year we did a random drawing for who was featured on what page, but in the future, I'd like to be able to have people opt for what page they'd like to be featured on. How this would be done would have to be decided by the club.

In 2024 I hope to take a large overview of the website’s internal set up to help organize the website further so that it is more easily worked on in the future. Also, the sponsor page could benefit from being spread out a little instead of cramming it all onto one page, the example being the Shows/Events/Clinics drop down tab. One last thing I'd like to keep updated or fresh is the various pictures of our club, youth, and all things NWMHC.

For 2024 we hope to create online forms and payments that can be submitted though the website in cooperation with our treasurer.

As an introduction to our club and the information hub for members it is my hope to help the website be an awesome place to grow our club.

**9. Youth Committee Report, Jessie Skerjanec**

No Report given

**10. Youth Committee Report, Jessie Skerjanec**

No Report given

**11. Fall/Winter Meetings Report, Heather Curtis**

*Please note: Appendix 1 & 2 are located at the end of the minutes*

**2023 Year End Report For the Fall Meeting/Awards Banquet - Winter Meeting**

**Members:**

Committee Chair - Heather Curtis

Committee members: Sarah Houts, Sharon Bullington, Beth White, Bambi Roylance and Katie Hansen

**Statistical Information:**

1 official meeting with Bambi, Sarah, Sharon B. Katie and Heather were in attendance. Most of our “meetings” were via Facebook messenger.

Beth White was added to the Committee mid year.

Committee Chair for 2024: No chair has been selected as Heather Curtis is stepping down as of November 5th, 2023 for personal reasons. Beth White was asked to step in as interim committee chair for the rest of 2023.

**Summary of Current Yar Committee Activity:**

**Committee Purpose and responsibilities:**

* 1. Develop an Annual Banquet(s)/Event(s) plan and present it to BOD for review and determination in accordance with NWMHC.
  2. Organize Winter and Fall meetings and the annual Fall Awards Banquet in association with NWMHC by-laws and guidelines.
  3. Collect money received and submit money collected the Treasurer/Secretary.
  4. Provide a year-end report of committee activities and actions prior to the Annual Meeting.
  5. Abide by all financial processes as outlined in the bylaws.

**Actions taken for this (2023) year:**

This year was a very busy one for the committee. We brought the fall meetings and award banquet back to the Oak Tree restaurant in Washington.

A meeting was held to determine the type of meal and it was voted that a sit down meal of Filet Mignon and Alfredo would be served. 2023 brought in a new sponsorship from Fox Towing of $800. With this $800 sponsorship gratuity and sale tax was voted to be covered along with a salad bar and dessert bar.

We had a total of 37 dinners sold, 22 Filet Mignon dinners and 15 Alfredo dinners were sold for a total of $814.15 (appendix 1) for breakdown of dinners and costs. Before any of the silent auction or raffle items are added in the Banquet is $164.78 in profit. The Club has also been donated 17 items for raffle and silent auction.

Starting in January letters, emails and phone calls requests were sent out requesting donations and sponsorships. All donations acquired were noted and a record was kept via excel (Appendix 2).

**Recommendations:**

**Recommendations for the Upcoming Year (2024):**

Winter Meeting recommendations is to have the Meeting at High Rocks or look for a grange and have a potluck with a fundraiser like a silent auction.

For the fall meeting BOD, General meeting and Fall Award Banquet is recommended to return to the Oak Tree.

\*\*\*

Kathy Howard motioned to book the 1st weekend in 2024 @ the Oaktree for the 2024 Fall Meeting & Banquet. Seconded by Christine Houts; motion passed.

Jessica Kimball motioned to use High Rocks Steak & Chops for the Winter Meeting. Seconded by Charissa; motion tabled.

**Old Business**

Bottle Drop Account: Balance was suggested to be used to purchase a card reader for the club by Sheryl; BOD had previously voted on this and approved.

**New Business**

**Calendar 2025: Bambi Roylance**

The calendars will return for 2025, as usual calendar pages will be drawn at the Winter General Membership Meeting and as usual signing up for a 2024 Membership will give the member a free 2024 calendar. Extras can be bought for $7 ea.

**Elections for President, Recording Secretary, and Director Position**

Please welcome Sheryl Peterson back as our President, Katie Hansen as our Recording Secretary, and Tammy Osgood as Director.

**By-law Change Proposal: Linda VanFleet**

Bylaw Change Proposal

Currently reads:

SECTION 202 - MEMBERSHIP

Application for membership shall be in writing by completing a membership form that provides the name of applicant (s), which includes up to two (2) adults living at the same address, dependent children, and/or grandchildren (Youth as defined by AMHA). Date of birth of all dependent children/grandchildren must be provided on the application. All applications must be accompanied by the appropriate membership fee and are to be submitted to the Club Treasurer/Secretary.

Individual Youth (as defined by AMHA) may join with written approval of parent or guardian.

Membership in this organization is not transferable, non-refundable, or assignable. Failure to make payment of annual dues shall signify termination of membership.

A new member joining the organization after the Club's regular show season will automatically be considered to have paid dues for the ensuing year.

Proposed change:

Section 202 – MEMBERSHIP

A. Application for membership shall be made in writing by completing the club’s membership form, accompanied by the appropriate membership fee, and submitted to the Club Treasurer/Secretary.

B. Family Membership includes up to two (2) adults living at the same address, their dependent children, and/or grandchildren (Youth as defined by AMHA). Names and date of birth must be provided for all youth.

C. Individual Adult Membership is for one (1) adult only.

D. Individual Youth Membership is for one (1) youth (as defined by AMHA) and must have written approval by their parent or legal guardian.

E. Membership in this organization is not transferable, non-refundable, or assignable. Failure to make payment of annual dues shall signify termination of membership.

F. A new member joining the organization after the Club's regular show season will automatically be considered to have paid dues for the ensuing year.

G. All members are eligible to compete for Club Year End Awards as outlined in the Year End Award Rules. Adult members, in good standing, are entitled to 1 vote.

**Rules and Regulations Change Proposal: Linda VanFleet**

Bylaw Change Proposal

Currently reads:

MEMBERSHIP

Membership eligibility in the Northwest Miniature Horse Club (NWMHC) shall be as stated in the current club Bylaws under Article II – MEMBERS; Section 201- Eligibility. See the Bylaws for eligibility and the application process to become a member of NWMHC. Annual dues are as follows:

1. ADULT MEMBERSHIP DUES: $40.00 for 2 or fewer adults, living at the same permanent address, and includes their dependent children and/or grandchildren (see Youth as defined by AMHA). Name and date of birth of all dependent children/grandchildren must be provided on the application.

2. INDIVIDUAL YOUTH DUES: $10.00 – NWMHC will follow the definition of Youth as defined by AMHA rules. The completed application must be signed by the parent and/or legal guardian of the Youth and submitted with dues to the Treasurer/Secretary.

Proposed changes:

MEMBERSHIP

Membership eligibility in the Northwest Miniature Horse Club (NWMHC) shall be as stated in the current club Bylaws under Article II – MEMBERS; Section 201- Eligibility. See the Bylaws for eligibility and the application process to become a member of NWMHC. Annual dues are as follows:

1. FAMILY MEMBERSHIP DUES: $45.00 for up to two (2) adults, living at the same permanent address, and includes their dependent children and/or grandchildren (see Youth as defined by AMHA). Name and date of birth of all dependent children/grandchildren must be provided on the application.

2. INDIVIDUAL ADULT MEMBERSHIP DUES: $35.00 for one (1) adult only.

3. INDIVIDUAL YOUTH DUES: $10.00 – NWMHC will follow the definition of Youth as defined by AMHA rules. The completed application must be signed by the parent and/or legal guardian of the Youth and submitted with dues to the Treasurer/Secretary.

Ended at 4:21pm

Minutes recorded by Recording Secretary, Charissa Alldredge

**Year End Awards Appendix 1:**

A screenshot of a document

Description automatically generated

**Year End Awards Appendix 2:**

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated