

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Board members present: Ralph Young, Rita Church, Ruth Gates, Barb Bouma, Nancy Ostle-Zahn, Michele McGuigan, Nancy LaCounte, Tracy Brown, Jane Ellis, Lou Ann Holt, Deb Cress, Stan Weaver, Marilyn Randall – quorum
Excused: Lisa Hamilton

Meeting called to order by President Ralph Young. Minutes from the January teleconference were distributed electronically and approved. Financial report was presented. Laura recommended the Club apply for a credit card to pay for incidentals for the Big Sky Classic judges. Marilyn felt the judges usually make their own travel arrangements. Nancy Z. reported that the contracts were already out and the judges are working with the travel agency for their travel arrangements. Tabled for new business. Marilyn made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Second to the motion by Debbie. Motion approved. Ralph will do some research concerning approval of the financial report within the meeting format to be in compliance with Parliamentary Procedures.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion about the Sunni Hecht fundraiser and final date for the event. Ruth will get ahold of Penny Uecker to see what the final date for the event will be. Barb B indicated the date was April 19, 2015 per the last meeting of the event organizers; a potato bar, evening event. Ralph has talked with the church pastor and they are very receptive of the MQHA Silent Auction items. Due to family issues, Marilyn will not be available to help Nancy L for MQHA's Silent Auction basket. Ruth will bring some items to Nancy to complete the basket(s).

Western Championship Show Qualifications. Rita would like to get together with Ralph and Nancy L in March and get the qualifications completed. Several states have their qualifications available on-line. Nancy asked the Board's opinion for those qualifications. The WC Show is not an AQHA Show; it is being run by the Arizona Association and possibly the Pacific Coast QH A. Rita suggested a qualification dealing with placing in the top 10 in any class at any MQHA show within the State. Tabled for March meeting

AQHA Affiliate Achievement Award – Laura reported the application was received by AQHA and awaiting the results. Ruth reported the winners would be reported in March. All the National Directors are attending the AQHA Convention in Fort Worth.

Scribe Clinic – Marilyn and Ruth reported there are 10 attendees. Ruth would like a few more but not an overwhelming number. The Clinic will be held at the Intermountain Equestrian Center. Time 9:00am – 4:00pm. Ruth will post a reminder on Facebook.

Website: Barb B has submitted corrections for the Youth page that have been posted. Rita suggested posting the class list for the Marty Simper Clinic and replace the existing photo. Laura will get that changed. Laura reported she needs Board member's photos for the website. Marilyn suggested historical photos posted. Ralph has been in contact with Gary Lynn about updating the MQHA Facebook page into a Business Facebook.

Other Old Business: None

Committee Reports:

2015 Convention – Stan reported the dates November 6-8, 2015 have been reserved at the Yogo Inn. Stan requested a number of attendees to report back to the Yogo for the Convention. Ralph indicated we had 55 in Great Falls, and that 75 would be a good

estimate. Stan also wanted to know if we wanted to have a Friday night meeting at the Yogo. Tracy indicated a concern for getting the awards. Ruth has some ideas for Tracy concerning the awards and they will report back to the Board in March. Stan will have more information at the March meeting.

Shows: The Big Sky Classic is getting completed. Announcer is confirmed. Rita and Laura will get together to complete the necessary help. Jane reported the August Show bill is getting compiled. All judges have been hired. The Youth are interested in participating in the Friday show as ring stewards and gate help. Announcer, stall manager are still needed. Ralph indicated there are regular concessionaires at the Keyser Creek Arena. Rita has been trying to contact them and will report back at the March meeting. Nancy O indicated the Youth would like to do an ice-cream social during the show. Nancy received a request to add weanling classes at the Big Sky Classic and the August show. Marilyn indicated the addition of the weanling classes could potentially be a liability issue due to young age of horses and timing of the shows. Lou Ann indicated the weanling classes have been added to the Corvallis shows. Marilyn made a motion not to add the Weanling classes to the MQHA sponsored shows. Second to the motion by Tracy. Motion carried.

Race – no new to report

Trail Ride – Deb has sent out the flyers. July has 18 committed participants; August has 12 commitments, including 4 new members. Deb requested some ideas for awards, tabled for March meeting.

Region 2 –Rita reported Region 2 has a request from North Dakota about having the two AQHA judged shows supply points to the 6 affiliate States to add to their year-end point. A suggested approval fee for those states would be \$100/judge. Tracy made a

motion that MQHA join the Region 2 for points to count toward year-end awards at a cost of \$200 for approval. Ruth seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tracy indicated this should be posted on the website. Rita suggested waiting for the next Region 2 meeting before being posted on the website.

Membership – Nancy L. reported that Laura emailed the Board a letter for the new AQHA members within the State to contact for MQHA membership. The Board suggested some changes to the letter, and Laura will send those letters out. Nancy talked with Jann Parker about setting up an MQHA table at the Billings Horse Sale. Rita and Nancy will man the table for the event. Rita will have flyers for the MQHA events, membership cards and applications to take for the table. The Bozeman Winterfest booth was more of a “dog fair” event. Some raffle tickets were sold and a drawing for 2 NFR tickets was held. Rita had a conversation with a Youth member parent who indicated her daughter was only competing in one show within the State and the remainder of their shows will be out-of-state. Discussion on how to encourage show participants to support MQHA shows.

Amateur –Lou Ann reported the NFR tickets are completed. Lou Ann and Jane will get them distributed. Lou Ann suggested something on the website and Facebook page. Tracy reported the Amateurs have purchased posters for NFR and membership advertising – Jane and Nancy L. have additional posters for events in their areas of the State. NFR ticket cost was slightly higher than 2014. Lou Ann requested a list of Amateur members; Laura will get a list to Lou Ann.

Marty Oak Simper Clinic – Tracy reported there are 15 participants, which fills the clinic. AQHA has supplied information to hand out. Tracy has a waiting list for anyone cancelling. Rita will contact Marty for a list of trail obstacles for the Clinic.

Youth – Barb B reported there are 22 life members and 7 annual youth members. The Youth had a meeting on February 8 and decided to leave the MQHYA owned trail obstacles at Keyser Creek. April 11, the Youth are going to have a workshop for new competitors. 9am -5pm held in Choteau, minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 participants. Open to anyone. Suggested charge of \$60 per attendee. For the Sunni Hecht benefit, the Youth are donating a Gary Carter print to the event. The Youth are trying to set-up for a clinic with at Keyser Creek Arena. Ralph suggested targeting the 4-H clubs. The August Friday afternoon Novice/Rookie show, the Youth want to help and have a gate person and ring steward. Barb also thinks she has an announcer. The Youth are going to try and have current Youth members available at the shows to help anyone needing assistance. Raffling the gift cards is again on their agenda.

Breeders – Stan reported Montana has been approved for the Ranching Heritage Breeders show at the Fall Nile in Billings. Nile wants to move the show to Wednesday to go along with “Ranch Day” at the Nile this allows more time. Rapid City or Bellefouche will also have a July Show, not one of the 6 approved by AQHA. Largest attendance at Nile is for the Ranch Rodeo. Stan felt there would be more participants and bigger than 2014. Same 2014 shows have been approved for 2015. 266 matches signed up for the program, still in the growing stages. Ruth suggested adding all the Montana participants on the website. Rita reported there was some interested expressed for an MQHA sponsored horse show back in at the Nile. Rita also talked with the Bozeman General Manager and they are looking at putting in a Convention Center for events to seat about 4,500 people, adding portable stalls and be comparable to the Majestic in Kalispell for events.

By-Laws – no report

Legislative – no report

Scholarship – Nancy L. reported that Barb Po has all the scholarship information for the Youth on the website. Due to the low balance in the MQHA account, the scholarship will not be offered for 2015 and the MQHA scholarship was pulled from the website.

2015 Directory – Ruth reported there were 88 pages in the new directory. Over half the Directory contains 47 pages of MQHA information. 2016 Ruth would like to include historical photos and articles. Directories have been printed. Printers are giving the Organization a credit due to a printing error. Laura has mailed out 101 to members, will hand deliver to Missoula members and mail out to advertisers. Ruth would like distribution around the state to support the advertisers.

Other Old Business – None

NEW BUSINESS:

Tri-State News blog was discussed. Laura reported she emailed Ralph about the “Cavy Savy” blog and they would like to include MQHA in that blog. Consensus was this was a lot of work and Laura does not feel she has time to commit. Due to lack of interest, participating in the blog was abandoned.

Credit Card was again discussed. Ruth indicated having a credit card was a necessity in order to supplement our account and get items/arrangements made in a timely manner. Rita indicated the Club has had a credit card in the past. Nancy O indicated the contracts for the judges are out, and we are already in process to get their travel arrangements taken care of. The card could be utilized for those and other obligations. Tracy indicated that the balance should be paid off so there was no carry over and accruing interest charges. Laura will check with Wells Fargo to see about

interest free or deferred interest fees. Laura will get more information to the Board and report back in March.

Laura reported there was an email sent to the Board from Lisa Hamilton about having a JD Yates roping Clinic. Lisa has not found a Wrangler Affiliate for a barrel clinician. Lisa will report to the Board in March.

Tracy reported on the 2014 awards. The Club ordered from KO Trading and a wrong buckle was sent. They sent a second buckle at no charge. A saddle pad was ordered wrong which was given to the club free, netting approximately \$200 in free products. There was also a jacket embroidered incorrectly. The member will have the stitching re-done and the cost would be approximately \$10 which will be an additional cost to the 2014 awards.

Lou Ann commented about the Region 2 Show and adding it to the MQHA's year-end awards. Ruth has some suggestions to facilitate this and will talk with Tracy and report in March for Board approval.

All agenda items have been satisfied. Nancy L. made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted
Laura Bakker
2015 Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting – Teleconference
March 25, 2015 - 7:00pm
