
General Membership Meeting Date December 2, 2017

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Meeting called to order by President Barb Bouma. Board members present: Tracy Knudson-Brown, Rita Church, Nancy Ostle-Zahn, Tyrell Burklund, Julie Schumacher, Deb Jose. Quorum

National Directors Stan Weaver, Ruth McDonald-Gates, Gary Lynn Olson, Tracy Knudson-Brown, Rita Church.

General Membership present: Jane Ellis, Joani Kissock, Jeff Brown, Cali Reinke, Morgan O'Brien, Linda Bossell, Terry Olson, Leslie Lynn Cochran-Olson, Don Davis, Marci Davis, Charlene Greene, Martha Schwabel, Rhonda Hobbs, Tracy Tiner, Maria Jerome, Jerry Gereghty, Britt Kissock

Minutes from the 2016 General Membership Meeting were distributed. Jerry made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed, second to the motion by Tracy Brown. Motion carried.

Financial report – Jane Ellis, Financial Committee Chair presented a YTD financial report prepared by the Financial Committee. Stan made a motion to accept the YTD Financial Report as presented and distributed. Second to the motion by Rhonda. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Show: Tyrell reported the Show Committee met and they discussed having the MQHA/Big Sky Classic show at the Heart K Ranch in Livingston. Costs were discussed at \$1,500/day with no charges for the outdoor arena. June 15-17, 2018 were the dates discussed. Soliciting class sponsorships at \$50/class and general sponsorships at \$1,000 for an arena banner, Facebook, website recognition as well as listed in the premium book. Discussion about having fun classes – wine class, costume class, etc. Jackpotting was also discussed to encourage participation at the show. Question about having cattle classes at the show will be discussed at the next Show Committee meeting which is a definite possibility. CRCH members would be a possibility to contact for competing at the Big Sky Classic if cattle classes are offered. Question about guaranteeing participation to offset the costs of cattle, arena, etc. Discussion about having the cattle classes on the day prior to the rail classes similar to the Utah Paint Horse Show's. Discussion about the survey and the amount of Ranch Riding interest within the State.

Marketing/Membership: Ruth reported on the Nile and the success of the MQHA booth both in new memberships, Youth and Open. Pictures were posted on the website. Amateur NFR tickets were also sold. A new MQHA membership card sponsor is Jody Ryals – Town and Country and will also offer a 10% discount at their store.

Race: No report.

Amateur: Tracy Brown reported the Amateurs elected a new Chairperson Britt Kissock-Robinson, Vice Chair Tracy Brown and the new Secretary is Maria Jerome. The Amateurs met and are working on some new fund raisers for the 2018 year.

Youth: Julie Schumacher reported new officers have been elected. The MQHYA agreed to assist with MQHA operating expenses for the 2018 year. The Youth are also raffling tickets for a scooter and 50/50 tickets. A scooter will also be raffled off at the Banquet live auction.

Breeder: South Dakota breeders are honoring all their 50 year breeders in a large event in order to bring awareness to the Breeders of that state. Montana has 9 – 50 year breeders and 7 legacy breeders. Question about any financial reimbursement for the number of quarter horses registered in the state going back to the affiliates. Currently that is not an option, but could be brought to the AQHA Convention through a collaboration of any affiliates struggling financially.

Legislative –Discussion about AQHA having a lobbyist in Washington DC. Stan reported AQHA has a full time lobbyist working toward equine laws in Washington.

Scholarship: No report.

Region 2 – Rita reported the Region 2 AQHA Show dates September 20-23, 2018.

Ranching Heritage: Stan reported there are 389 members, the Billings show was a success with the addition of a barrel race. The World Show will be June 15-17, 2018 at the Lazy E Arena in Oklahoma. The Ranch Horse Versatility will also be held in conjunction with the Ranching Heritage World Show. The Breeder of the Year was from Nebraska.

National Director: Stan reported that AQHA is working on the computer modernization project which should be a total benefit to AQHA members. Goal to go live is projected at June 2018. AQHA is also working on a new website, Base 22 is redoing the website. Members are encouraged to interact on the progression of the new website. Barrel races which are standalone shows utilizing the event's own judge. Barrel races need to be AQHA approved in order for points to be awarded. AQHA is trying to get more people involved in all aspects of the breed, inclusive of the Ranch Horse program. AQHA give a horse of the year award for both boys and girls, through high school rodeo and scholarship. Stan suggested MQHA reaching out to the youth and families of youth rodeo. Youth introduction to the AQHA racing program is another outreach to the Youth interested in racing industry. Additionally, the winners of the the weaning colts for the Ranching Heritage program. The increases in fees will affect members in 2018 keeping fees competitive with other horse organizations.

Rita is now serving on the Amateur Committee. Gary Lynn reported she is now on the recreational riding committee. The Committee offers prizes for riding, showing, trail riding, ground work, etc. and log all your hours to AQHA and they keep track up to 5,000 hours calculated. The trail rides have been discontinued due to lack of participation. Currently working on an app for your cell phone to track hours of riding. Suggestion of notifying MQHA membership about this AQHA program. Ruth reported she is on the Nominations and Credentials Committee who interview potential national directors and members for the Executive Board. 2017 Tracy Knudson-Brown was selected as a National Director for the State of Montana. Ruth is in the process of nominating Marilyn Randall for Honorary Vice President. Ruth is requesting a letter of support from MQHA. Tracy reported she will be going to the Convention in January 2018 for her first year as National Director.

Directory: Ruth has resigned as the Committee Chair for the Directory. The MQHA Board will be taking suggestions for a new Chair.

2016 Convention: Nancy reported that the 2016 Convention returned to the 3 day format. Nancy also reported MQHA hired a benefit auctioneer who also was promoting a resort package MQHA purchased, to be included in the live auction.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of 2017 MQHA Officers. Laura reported the ballots were tallied and the election of Board members Deb Jose and Britt Kissock-Robinson has been approved. Amendments to the By-Laws were also approved unanimously. Laura nominated Barb Bouma for President. Stan motioned for a unanimous ballot be cast for Barb Bouma. Jane nominated Tyrell Burklund for Vice President. Morgan seconded the motion. Jane made a motion a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion carried.

2018 will show one National Director elect as well as a position available in 2019.

Discussion about changing the MQHA Standing rules to reflect the decrease in the amount of shows and the rules concerning the year end awards. Discussion about utilizing a percentage of shows being held. Suggestion of 50% plus one utilizing the next whole number if there is an uneven number of shows. Suggestion of 50% of the shows and no minimum number of shows. Another suggestion of 60% of the shows. Joani made a motion that the Standing Rules be revised to state exhibitors must attend 50% of the shows to qualify for year-end awards with no minimum number of points required Charlene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rita made a motion Section 8 be removed from the Standing Rules. Second to the motion by Jane. Motion carried.

Charlene suggested the Show Committee research having the Spokane QH Shows being MQHA approved.

All Agenda items have been discussed and completed. Rhonda made a motion to adjourn. Second to the motion by Jane. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Laura Bakker
2017 Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting
2018 MQHA Convention; Date & Location TBD
Location TBD
