

Wyoming Quarter Horse Association General Membership Meeting
October 30, 2021
Little America, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Read and approved at the 2022 convention held January 14, 2023

Attendees: Adair Walker, President; Debbie Unrein, Vice President; Nicole Ballenger, Secretary; Susan Nelson, Treasurer; Kristin Lyons, board member; Lisa Young, board member; Brittany Johnson, board member; Linda Henderson, board member; Terry McDowell, board member; Sara Campbell, board member; AnneMarie Johnson, CONQHA representative; Diane Pilant, Sharon Bailey, Josey Bailey, Stacey and Lindsey Thomas, and Josie Waite. Attendees constituted a quorum for voting.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Adair Walker at 1pm.

2. Reading of the minutes from 2020 General Membership Meeting

Nicole Ballenger read the minutes from the 2020 Board Meeting. AnneMarie Johnson moved to approve the minutes, Stacey Thomas seconded, and the motion carried.

3. Ongoing Business

- a) Treasurer's report. Susan Nelson presented the treasurer's report. The current checking account balance is \$63,443.63, which accounts for all outstanding bills with the exception of the payments owed to AnneMarie Johnson for awards (\$8,984.71) and the bill we'll receive from Little American for the banquet and meeting room (anticipated to be about \$5,000). When these two items are paid, the checking account balance will be approximately \$50k, slightly higher than last year's (historically high) end-of-year balance.

Susan also reported that the Douglas show earnings (income – expenses) were \$18,313.45. This amount is somewhat less than last year's show earnings for several reasons: we had fewer entries, an additional show day, and a more expensive show manager.

Terry McDowell moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Sara Campbell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

b) 2020 awards report

AnneMarie Johnson presented the awards report. She had an awards budget allocated by the Board of \$8,875 and a total of \$9,010 to spend after accounting for cash received

from those who overspent their award amounts. She spent \$8,984.71 for a “savings” of \$25.

Awards were split between those who requested cash and those who received an item (or items) they selected and AnneMarie purchased. There was general discussion of the recognition by members that WQHA awards are really great, and appreciation for how much of the show receipts go directly back to the members.

Brittany Johnson moved to approve the awards report. Linda Henderson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

c) Youth advisor report

There was no youth advisor report as the advisor was unable to attend.

d) *Wrangler* as official print publication

Adair reported that the Board has voted to continue using the *Wrangler* as the official publication. She noted that \$8 of each membership is paid to *Wrangler* for publishing our WQHA show calendar and listing our officers, contact info, and our website link, plus publishing periodic articles about our shows and members. In addition, each WQHA member should receive a subscription for both the print and digital versions. Nicole agreed to check to make sure *Wrangler* has an up-to-date membership list.

e) Approval of AQHA affiliate agreement

Adair reported that the Board voted during its meeting to continue the affiliate agreement with AQHA. In order to be the state affiliate for Wyoming, WQHA must follow AQHA rules.

AnneMarie moved to approve the continuation of the affiliate agreement. Sharon Bailey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

f) Approval of payment for Secretary and Treasurer

Currently the Secretary receives an annual stipend of \$200 and the Treasurer receives \$300. A discussion ensued about the possibility of increasing these payments down the road. Susan offered the suggestion that we consider adding a stipend for the website administrator, currently Brittany Johnson, as well. (Payments in kind, in the form of memberships, for the website administrator are discussed below.)

Stacey Thomas moved to keep the payments as they are for now. Debbie seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

- g) Continuation of membership in lieu of payments for Points Secretary (Lisa Young) and Awards coordinator (AnneMarie Johnson)

Terry moved to continue providing memberships in lieu of cash payments for these services in 2022. Kristin Lyons seconded the motion and the motion carried.

- h) National Director reports

Chris Jensen and Krystal Peterson, who have been our National Director representatives, were not in attendance. However, Chris Jensen, Region 2 Show Committee chair, sent a report to Adair which included a thank you for WQHA's Region 2 sponsorship, and information on some of the activities underway that he's involved with. He's been serving on the AQHA ranching committee as well as a task force considering new classes for the ranch heritage challenges. Last summer he was asked to serve on a blue ribbon task force that is looking into the pros and cons of developing a digital registration paper system. His committee will make a recommendation to the AQHA Executive Committee prior to the association's 2022 convention. He reported that Region 2 is also very busy working toward the 2022 show, and that he also serves on the horse committee for the Black Hills Summer Circuit (?) helping set up horse shows and two horse sales per year. Lastly, he reported he is now a certified horse show manager through AQHA.

4. Donations

- a) In the past WQHA has provided a bronze level sponsorship in the amount of \$250 for the AQHA Region 2 show. As noted above, Adair received a thank you from Chris Jensen for this sponsorship.
- b) We have also contributed a donation of \$50 to the 4H Horse Council.

The Board had approved continuing both of these contributions at its meeting. Linda moved that we continue these two contributions in the same amounts for 2022. Sara seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

5. Show changes and dates

- a) The 2022 Cowboy Summer Classic show dates are July 12th – 17th, with classes starting on the 13th. RMQHA has already asked for the dates for its calendar. Adair reported that she has already received the contract for the Douglas fairgrounds, but hasn't yet had a chance to see if it's changed in any way from the 2021 contract. We have been paying about \$3,000/day for the facility minus a 10% discount. We paid more in 2021 than 2020 because of the extra day.
- b) Show manager contract and personnel

Debbie reported she has been working on soliciting bids for show manager and personnel for the 2022 show. She just recently received two preliminary bids, from Doug Hammack (which would include booking through the EZ Horse Show system) and Heidi Lane. In both cases, the manager would provide or hire a show secretary. Some discussion ensued about what we need in a show manager and what responsibilities they'd take on versus the show committee.

There will be follow-up zoom meetings with the bidders. During discussion we agreed that whomever is hired as manager must hire the show judges, and that we need to ensure the signed contract gets to the treasurer for the purpose of verifying requests for payment from the contractors.

c) Selection of 2022 show committee members

Debbie said she'd be willing to continue serving on the show committee and encouraged others to participate. Nicole volunteered to serve on the committee.

d) Increase show approval fees—revisit

Last year the Board voted to increase show approval fees from \$65/judge to \$75/judge. This affects the CONQHA, RMQHA, and Rock Springs shows. The change was approved but not put in place during 2021. This year we need to make sure it is, and that this as well as other rule changes are announced to all members.

At the Board meeting earlier, the Board agreed to present the proposed (revisited) increase to \$75 plus a "small exhibitor fee" at the General Meeting. A discussion ensued regarding tiering the exhibitor fees based on the number of entries, i.e. the approval fee would be higher for larger shows.

Terry moved the show approval fee be changed from a \$65 flat fee to \$75 for shows with 250 or fewer entries, and to \$75 plus \$.25 per entry for shows with more than 250 entries. The motion was seconded by Brittany, and the motion carried.

e) Bad check policy--revisit

Last year the Board had agreed to a policy for handling bad checks, including charging the writer of the check a minimum of \$50 to cover bank processing fees, and other fees reflecting any other costs to WQHA, and reporting the writer to AQHA. We had also agreed to put this information on our show bill but it did not appear there in 2021. At this year's meeting the Board agreed to continue this policy—though quickly resolved issues need not be reported to AQHA—and to make sure the policy appears on the show bill for 2022.

f) Late cancellation of stalls/shavings orders by exhibitors

The Board at its meeting agreed we do need to select a date by which cancellations of stall and shavings orders would have to be received in order for the cancelling person to not be charged. Cancellations are costly for WQHA as the Douglas fairground charges WQHA according to numbers of stalls used and shavings are purchased ahead of the start of the show.

A discussion ensued about adopting a 7-day prior-to-move-in-day policy, after which exhibitors would have to pay for their stalls and shavings, or have a veterinary statement of injury or illness preventing attendance by the exhibitor's horse.

Brittany moved to adopt the 7-day policy but the motion died in discussion and the members agreed to leave the development of the policy to the show committee.

g) Vote on clarification of rules for approved shows held after September 15th

In 2021 points earned at the fall RMQHA Rocktoberfest show were applied toward the 2022 show year. In addition, new year memberships must have been paid prior to the start of the Rocktoberfest show in order for points to count toward the new year total.

Debbie introduced a proposal adopted by the Board to change the WQHA show qualifying year from the calendar year to September 1st through August 31st. This would make it clear in which year points earned at a WQHA-approved show held in the fall, more specifically at RMQHA's Rocktoberfest show, would be counted, i.e. in the following calendar year.

Debbie also proposed another change to the rules, that is, that in the event of an end-of-year high-point tie that the "number of judges shown to" be the tie breaker.

These rule changes were approved and will be posted on the website.

During the discussion it was suggested we also report these rule changes in the *Wrangler* or advertise them somehow.

Brittany suggested we add a membership payment form to the WQHA website in order to facilitate timely submission of membership fees. She is going to explore this option as well as the possible use of PayPal for paying membership fees.

h) Vote on membership date coverage—applies to item g above

See above.

Before continuing on to new business, Adair reported that the membership needs to vote on a proposed change to the bylaws for 2022 (implemented as a housekeeping change during 2021). Currently the bylaws state that either the secretary or the treasurer of WQHA must live in Wyoming. (However, neither Nicole nor Susan does.) Last year the Board had agreed to change the requirement to the “selected agent” must live in Wyoming, and the Board is now asking for the membership’s approval. Adair agreed to serve as the “selected agent” for the time being.

AnneMarie moved to change the bylaws from “the Secretary or Treasurer must live in Wyoming” to “the selected agent must live in Wyoming.” Stacey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

6. New business

a) Vote on adding a permanent section for CONQHA on the WQHA website

Board members had previously agreed to do this temporarily because CONQHA’s site was not functional. At its meeting, the Board discussed permanently combining the sites and to compensate the website administrator given the significant amount of time and work involved.

At the Board meeting Brittany (the current website administrator) had noted that we pay GoDaddy \$160/year for the site. She had suggested CONQHA pay half.

The Board voted to combine the websites permanently and to request CONQHA pay half the annual GoDaddy website fee.

b) Discussion of payment for website manager

The Board had also discussed and approved the suggestion that Brittany receive memberships in both CONQHA and WQHA as payment for her work creating and maintaining the combined site.

Linda Henderson moved to combine the two sites permanently and to compensate Brittany with memberships in both organizations. Lisa seconded the motion and the motion carried.

c) Election of new Board members

Lisa Young (2019-2021) indicated she’d like to take a break from serving on the Board. She will continue on as point secretary.

Sara Campbell (2021) agreed to extend her one-year appointment to a 3-year term (2022-2024).

Terry McDowell (2019-2021) agreed to serve a new 3-year term (2022-2024).

Sharon Bailey expressed an interest in serving on the Board.

There were no other nominations.

A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. As there were no other nominations, Sara, Terry, and Sharon were selected as Board members with 2022-2024 terms.

Continuing Board members include the following: Adair Walker (2020-2022) to continue as President; Debbie Unrein (2020-2022) to continue as Vice President; Nicole Ballenger (2021-2023) to continue as Secretary; Kristin Lyons (2021-2023); Brittany Johnson (2021-2023); and Linda Henderson (2020-2022).

Additionally, in a reconvened Board meeting following this General Meeting, the Board reappointed Susan Nelson to serve as Treasurer again in 2022.

Other new business

AnneMarie discussed the future of the Rapid City Black Hills Summer Circuit show to be held in June 2022. She said the decision has been made to change the format to include only halter, ranch riding, and reining. It will be a 3-day show with four judges.

Nicole asked if there had been any follow up on last year's discussion among members of involving more youth in the association. This led to some discussion of the potential to participate in State 4-H clinics, but no specific actions were proposed. Josie Bailey expressed an interest in taking a role in youth leadership for WQHA. The Board asked her to serve as co-youth leader along with Jill Stucky, who is extremely busy coaching youth competitive volleyball.

Lastly, there was a discussion of 2022 convention dates. The convention will be held at Little America in Cheyenne again next year due to an existing contract. However, we could potentially change the date and meet one week earlier on October 22nd. Moving to an even earlier date would conflict with the 2022 RMQHA Rocktoberfest show, which is already scheduled for October 13th-16th. Any later than the 29th would conflict with the AQHA World Show.

To close the meeting, Susan read the 2021 show sponsorship list and thanked the many individuals and businesses that made the show a huge success.

7. Adjournment

President Adair Walker adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.