
Board of Directors
Date February 21, 2024
Zoom Meeting, 7:30pm

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Board members present: Tyrell Burklund, Josh Shengle, Julie Schumacher, Cathy Dekker, Michele McGuigan, Lesli Glen, Tracy Tiner, Michele Shaw

National Directors: Marilyn Randall, Gary Lynn Olson, Ruth Gates

Meeting called to order by President Tyrell Burklund. Josh made a motion to approve the January 17, 2024 minutes. Julie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance: Laura distributed a financial report electronically. Julie made a motion to approve the financials as distributed. Second to the motion by Cathy. Motion carried. Laura also informed the Board a second IRS letter regarding filing issue was received and is included in their packet. Laura also informed the Board that the MQHA books need to be audited. MQHA member Lorna Sheridan, CPA has volunteered to audit the books, but cannot complete that until May 2024. Board agreed to have Lorna complete the audit. Audit tabled until completed.

Old Business: Tyrell is going to re-email the Board with the suggestions for a new Kiosk was tabled until the March meeting. Pictures and format need to be compiled for the design. Discussion regarding the WSA Breed Congress Show approval that was received. Julie made a motion to waive the \$65/judge show approval fee for the 2024. This is a Standing Rule in the By-Laws and can be amended by the Board. Second to the motion by Cathy. Amended to include, the Board will re-look at the fee and By-Law amendment at the 2024 Convention. Motion carried. Laura will send a refund check to WMQHA.

Committee Reports:

Show Committee: Tyrell reported the Contract with the Cottonwood has been received and signed. 45 stalls have been sold. Cattle fee quote was \$100/head delivered. Tyrell contracted Clayton Miller at \$45/head delivered. 25-30 Thursday evening and the remainder on Friday morning. Housing contract will be received within the next few days. Tyrell is working on sponsorships with having a custom show pad from Tyler Bennett as Hi-Point awards. Discussed about having more communication about the premier indoor stalls availability to all the membership prior to sales.

Nile Committee: Marilyn Randall reported she met with Teri from the Nile. Show will start on Sunday morning with the cutting followed by the roping, making this a 4 day show. Contract is being worked on and will be received earlier than in previous years.

Marketing/Membership Services: Laura reported we have 70 regular or renewal members, 38 Lifetime members and 18 Youth members. Laura reported the Directory was mailed. Producer did extra creative work this year as well as editing ads as needed. Financial goal was met, but some of the ads did not come through. A P&L was included in the Board packet. Projected to start sales earlier to exceed sales from 2024. Laura also reported she has added a Breeders page on the website. The Directory breeder advertisers were put on the page. Suggested to partner up with Rocky Mountain Breeders to get more breeders involved. Lesli has had several

contact her. She suggested having a fee for breeders on the webpage unless they are an MQHA member. It was also suggested to have breeders commit to an ad in the Directory and their ad will also be included on the website. Julie also made a suggested to clean up the MQHA sponsorships. Making a tiered sponsorship page for the Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors in that order. Julie would like to eliminate old sponsors to encourage a current sponsorship.

Amateur: Cathy Dekker reported the Sparks Some Fun and the judge and clinician are hired. Still looking for sponsors. Clinic still has two spots to be filled. Laura would like confirmation from the Kirk's Arena for insurance certificate. Laura will make sure that is taken care of. Cathy will make sure there are shavings available for clinic participants.

Youth: Michele Shaw reported the Youth had a meeting February 7, 2024. The bank accounts have been combined at Stockman Bank. The Youth would like to help with financials at the Youth World and the Level 1 competitions for members attending. Amount to be decided. Mindi Wilson has drafted an email to the Youth wanting to compete in those two shows. Show Scholarships for members and non-members was decided. All fees will be paid directly to the Show the recipients attend. The Youth are also ordering officer hoodies. The Youth will be doing an Ice-Cream Social at the Big Sky Classic Friday evening BBQ. Additional fund raising ideas were tabled for the March meeting.

Breeders/Ranching: Lesli reported she would like to visit with Jim Hunt at Convention. She suggested looking at South Dakota's recognition of Breeders. Lesli would like to do something similar at MQHA Convention. Ruth will introduce Lesli to Debbi Stockhill at Convention about how South Dakota does their Breeder recognition. She and Michele McGuigan will visit and report back at the March meeting.

By-Laws: No report

Legislative: Britt Kissock-Robinson was not on the meeting but emailed Laura a report which is an amendment to these minutes. Laura will forward her email onto the Board.

Recreational Riding: Julie Schumacher reported she talked to Kathy at the 406 about a Poker Ride. Julie asked for a Board head count to see how many would attend. Dates to be determined. Several Board members agreed to attend. Using this as an MQHA PR event. Julie will send out some suggested dates.

Awards/Points: Michele M. would like Board input for 2024 awards.

Scholarship: Tracy T. reported this was tabled until December at Convention.

Region 2: No report.

2024 Convention: Tyrell reported the venue has been secured with a contract and a deposit. Laura reported she received a phone call from Charlene Greene. Charlene would like to make something other than centerpieces for Convention, but some unique pieces for the Auction instead. Laura will get a better idea from Charlene and report back to the Board. Ruth reported she could possibly get cowboy boots for centerpieces donated. Suggested to do auction items in moderation to encourage higher bidding on other items. Julie made a suggestion of having

bottles of wine on the tables. If the table wanted to drink the wine with supper, the table would put a monetary amount on the table for the wine. Suggested to possibly have wine with MQHA label on it. Lesli will check with Briggs Distributing about donating wine for the event. Laura will also check the Missoula distributing companies. Tabled for

Hall of Fame: Ruth reported she has some ideas. Tracy Tiner and Laura will help with this Committee. Ruth has some contacts and will talk to them at AQHA Convention.

New Business: Laura suggested the Board purchase an external hard drive. This would be backed up monthly and Laura would deliver to Tyrell. Cathy made a motion for MQHA to purchase an external hard drive. Second to the Motion by Tracy Tiner. Motion carried. Laura recommended to the Board that MQHA purchase a laminating machine because of the increased cost of laminating back numbers. Also suggested to utilize for signage at the horses shows. Cathy made a motion to purchase a laminating machine. Second by Michele M. Motion carried.

Correspondence: The Montana State 4-H Foundation sent a thank you note. IRS letter reported in the Financial report was also received.

All agenda items have been satisfied. Tracy T. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second to the motion by Cathy. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bakker
2024 Secretary/Treasurer

**Next meeting – March 20, 2024 – Zoom Meeting
Table Meeting 7:30pm**

AMENDMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Britt Kissock-Robinson

2024 AQHA CONVENTION

The 2024 AQHA Convention is March 15-18 at the South Point Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. A current AQHA membership is all that is required to register for the AQHA Convention.

Below are some Agenda items for Membership consideration that I thought might be of interest to MQHA members:

- Amateurs
 - Add DIY Amateur classes to World Show & recognize Top 10 DIY Amateurs
 - Add stand-alone Super-Select classes for exhibitors 65 and over.
 - Add Select Amateur W/T classes
 - Reduce the amount of “running” in Select Showmanship.
 - Amend SHW225.3 to allow Amateurs to give lessons to children 9 and under.
 - Amend SHW225.3 re the look-back period for amateur membership based on age of exhibitor.
 - Amend SHW225.7 to allow high school graduates & college students participating in internships to maintain amateur eligibility.
- Show
 - Amend SHW552 to add a Level 1 Horse Amateur VRH division.
 - Add Ranch Conformation as an approved AQHA class outside VRH division.
 - Amendments to allow the following cross-entering:
 - Reining and VRH Ranch Reining
 - Western Pleasure and Ranch Riding or VRH Ranch Riding
 - Trail and Ranch Trail or VRH Ranch Trail
 - Amendment to disallow the following cross-entering:
 - Ranch Riding and Western Horsemanship
 - Amend SHW422.6(6) & SHW561.7(6) to permit a drag obstacle in Rookie/L1 Am Ranch Trail & VRH Ranch Trail.
 - Change the qualifying period for the VRH World Show to January 1-December 31 of the prior year.
 - Amend SWH422.7 to remove swing rope or throw rope as an optional obstacle in Select Amateur Ranch Trail.
 - Amend SWH601 to change the name of Hunter Under Saddle to English Pleasure.
 - Many proposals re leveling.
 - Many proposals re World Show entries.
 - Amend SHW225.7 to allow youth to show any horse owned by any current AQHA member in youth classes.

<https://www.aqha.com/committee-reports>

The AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations is now available online as a free PDF at www.aqha.com/aqha-rulebook. The printed rulebook can be purchased for \$10 at www.aqha.com/rulebook-request-form. However, because the online version of the AQHA Rulebook can be updated throughout the year, it should be considered the most-current version of the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations.

SAVING RODEO IN LOS ANGELES UPDATE

February 17: In response to the rodeo setting up at the Crypto.com Arena in LA, activist groups such as Last Chance for Animals staged protests outside the venue, criticizing the city of LA for “dragging their feet” on a rodeo ban effort that was moved forward in December. LCA, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Animal Defenders International, PETA Latino, spcaLA and others back the ban.

The Los Angeles Times has reported injuries of animals participating in rodeos ranging from minor maladies to crushed skulls, broken legs, gored flanks and snapped spines suffered as panicked animals rush out of their chutes. Andrew Giangola, a PBR representative refuted the claims, noting, “These marvelous animal athletes love what they do and live a great, long life.” He notes that a 150-pound cowboy is not going to hurt a 1,800-pound bull, and PBR data from a full year of shows show bulls are injured in 0.0002% of their outs. Giangola also notes that PBR bulls live to be 12-15 year old, passing of natural causes.

<https://www.foxla.com/news/rodeo-show-kicks-off-2-day-event-in-downtown-la-as-city-drafts-ban>

Review: On Dec 5, 2023, in a 14-0 vote, LAQQ City Council members instructed the city attorney to oupdate an ordinance that would define and prohibit rodeos as well as “harmful practices, techniques and devices or rodeo-related events.” Councilman Bob Blumenfield (who has been spearheading the effort to ban rodeos since 2021) says the ordinance could take a few months.

2024 MONTANA ELECTIONS

June 4, 2024: Primary Election

November 5, 2024: General Election

Montana Offices on the Ballot:

- 9 Executive Offices
 - Governor
 - Lieutenant Governor
 - Attorney General
 - Secretary of State

 - Auditor
 - Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - Public Service Commissioner (3 seats)
- US Senate
- US House
- State Senate
- State House
- State Supreme Court

https://ballotpedia.org/Montana_elections,_2024

MONTANA PROPERTY TAX TASK FORCE UPDATE

February 14: At the first meeting of the task force, Gov. Gianforte reaffirmed, “We must do all of this without imposing a statewide sales tax. Period.” While Gianforte says most counties are good stewards of taxpayer resources (e.g., Flathead Co. cut is spending by more than 2% between fiscal years 2023 and 2024), he cautioned that some counties are spending out of control. According to the Legislative Fiscal Division (nonpartisan), between 2001 and 2022, inflation grew at an average annual rate of 2.42%, while between tax years 2001 and 2022, the annual average property tax growth rate for counties was 6.19%, cities 6.13%, local schools 4.40%, and countywide schools 3.60%. https://news.mt.gov/Governors-Office/Governor_Gianforte_Convenes_First_Meeting_of_His_Property_Tax_Task_Force

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Review: Established in January through [Executive Order 1-2024](#), Gov. Gianforte charged the task force with providing him “with recommendations and strategies for the State of Montana...to reform the property tax system and reduce the burden of property taxes on taxpayers.” (Task force members were listed in last month’s report).

GOV GIANFORTE RESPONDS TO USDA & USFS NOTICE OF INTENT

February 6: Governor Greg Gianforte led a coalition of six governors in criticizing federal agencies for plans to adopt new forest management rules without addressing state concerns. In a letter to President Biden and U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Vilsack, the governors wrote in response to a notice of intent (NOI) by the USDA and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to prepare an environmental impact statement amending all land management systems to include old-growth forest conditions without engaging with states.

“We have watched this effort unfold over the course of nearly two years,” the governors wrote. “During this time, USDA and USFS leadership have failed to engage with us as leaders of our states to address any of the challenges and flaws we have identified. While the NOI seems to suggest that there were areas of consensus, we clearly do not agree with that assessment. Our concerns remain ignored.” In addition to criticizing the agencies for their disregard for state interests, the governors noted that the proposed amendment would run counter to State Forest Action Plans adopted to address forest health and wildfires.

https://governor.mt.gov/Governor_Comments_for_Old_Growth_and_Mature_Forests_EIS_final.pdf

MONTANA AG DEMANDS HALT ON UNCONSTITUTIONAL IRS PROGRAM

January 30: Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen led a coalition of 13 attorneys general in demanding the Biden administration stop attempts to sidestep Congress by giving the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) the sweeping authority to prepare and file tax returns for all taxpayers.

The Constitution gives Congress – not administrative agencies – the power to make laws and appropriate funds. However, Congress has not passed legislation granting the Treasury Department the authority or allocated any additional funds for the program. “Congress has never granted the Department of the Treasury authority to create a Direct File program. And for good reason: the American taxpayers do not want to invite the proverbial fox into the hen house,” Attorney General Knudsen wrote.

While Congress commissioned a study from an “independent third party” to report on “the overall feasibility, approach, schedule, cost, organization, and design” of the system, the IRS chose New American – a liberal think tank – to complete the study. The IRS’s study was found to be deeply flawed. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) found that the IRS may have overstated taxpayer interest in the system and that the \$78 million cost to taxpayers “could not be substantiated.” One organization estimated the cost for a potential IRS-run “free” filing system would be comparable to the costs of Healthcare.gov, which cost more than \$21.2 billion in its first 11 years.

<https://dojmt.gov/attorney-general-knudsen-demands-biden-administration-halt-unconstitutional-irs-program/>
<https://dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/IRS-Direct-File-Letter-Final.pdf>

MONTANA AG SUPPORTS TEXAS EFFORTS TO SECURE SOUTHERN BORDER

January 29: In a letter sent to President Biden and Secretary of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen and a coalition attorneys general urged the Biden administration enforce the laws that secure the southern border or allow states to stop the invasion themselves.

According to Article I, section 10, clause 3 of the Constitution, Texas has a right to defend itself in a crisis, including when they are “actually invaded.” Additionally, the Constitution’s Guarantee Clause requires that the federal government must “protect each [State] against invasion,” but it has failed to do so.

To prevent illegal border crossings, Texas built physical barriers, some made with concertina wire and placed on Texas landowners’ land with their permission. While a recent Supreme Court order paused an injunction against the federal government keeping it from destroying the wire, it did not order Texas to stop repairing or replacing the wire. As a result of Texas’s efforts, in some places, illegal border crossings dropped by more than two-thirds. However, in just one month, Border Patrol agents acting on the Biden administration’s orders cut Texas’s border defense wires more than 20 times. In one case, they even used a forklift to raise the wire and usher in more than 300 illegal aliens.

“What happens at the border does not stay at the border,” the attorneys general wrote. “Encouraging further illegal immigration from Central America means encouraging a system in which people are drugged, sexually assaulted, and raped—a humanitarian disaster.” During the first three quarters of 2023, anti-drug task forces seized nearly two times more fentanyl than they did compared to all of 2022, what had obliterated previous records. Additionally, fentanyl-linked deaths have also increased 1,750% since 2017.