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**Board of Directors**  
**Date March 24, 2024**  
**Zoom Meeting, 7:30pm**

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**MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION**

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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

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

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## **AMENDMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Britt Kissock-Robinson**

### **2024 AQHA CONVENTION - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The 2024-2025 American Quarter Horse Association Executive Committee was elected at the 2024 AQHA Convention. The five-person Executive Committee is responsible for implementing important decisions and governing AQHA between the annual meetings of the membership and the board.

- President James (“Jim”) Hunt, Faith, SD
- First Vice President Jeff Tebow, Piedmont, OK
- Second Vice President Jim Brinkman, Erickson, NE
- Member Lori Bucholz, Waterloo, NE
- Member Ross Roark, Andrews, TX

Each member serves a term of one year until the selection of his/her successor. Members are eligible for re-election and may serve on the Executive Committee for up to five years.

### **2024 AQHA CONVENTION – PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

At the 2024 AQHA Convention, the Public Policy Committee made the following recommendations:

1. To establish a permanent strategic planning subcommittee to develop and implement AQHA Political Action Committee donation strategies prior to the start of new congressional sessions.
2. To distribute \$50k - \$100k of AQHAPAC funds in this election cycle.
3. Develop a strategic plan to work with AQHA affiliates in the development and communication of AQHA public policy at the federal and state level.
4. To elect Patrick Kayser as the Public Policy Committee Chair.

Other items discussed by the committee include the following:

- Communicating the data from 2024 Equine Economic Impact Study with members of legislatures to promote the impact of the equine industry.
- Reports from the American Horse Council, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, and an update on Bureau of Land Management’s Wild Horse and Burro program.
- Actively engaging on the Farm Bill process to ensure that it does not negatively impact equine welfare.

### **2024 AQHA CONVENTION – STUD BOOK & REGISTRATION COMMITTEE**

The Stud Book & Registration Committee proposed delaying the implementation of digital registration certificate until January 1, 2027. This proposal included the following:

- A “complete and comprehensive makeover” to the current website for member services,
- Assurance that the technology to support the platform must be in place to support the complexities of the program
- The committee will make a determination on December 1, 2026 if the digital platform is ready to launch January 1, 2027, or if more time is required.
- Prior to the launch a dedicated number of trained and expert staff must be in place to answer only digital certificate related questions.
- AQHA stall will develop a comprehensive educational program (videos, printed materials, articles, social media, etc) to provide confidence and assurance that the platform has been thoroughly tested.

This proposal was passed by the General Membership and the Directors Meeting at AQHA Convention.

### **2024 AQHA RULE CHANGES – CONVENTION**

It's a little early to report many (likely) rule changes from the Convention that took place last week, as everything from the committees goes to the Executive Committee for final approval. Most of what IS included in this report has come from our National Directors (THANK YOU) either via FB or direct text. I will try to report more updates that affect MT members next month.

In the meantime, remember the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations is now available online as a free PDF at [www.aqha.com/aqha-rulebook](http://www.aqha.com/aqha-rulebook). The printed rulebook can be purchased for \$10 at [www.aqha.com/rulebook-request-form](http://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.

## **2024 AQHA RACING – TATTOOS OR MICROCHIPS**

**February 28:** Beginning in 2024, AQHA's method for identifying racehorses changed and all horses that have not been tattooed will need to be microchipped before they can be verified to run at the track.

Your horse must be verified by an AQHA official identifier before starting in a race. AQHA identifiers will utilize the QH*Chip* application to verify your horse. This is exclusively used by AQHA for the identification and verification process. QH*Chip* has replaced the traditional paper form used for horse identification during tattooing. Parentage verification is still required, and the AQHA identifier will need the original Certificate of Registration during the identification and verification process.

<https://www.aqha.com/-/microchips-identify-racing-american-quarter-horses?redirect=%2Faqha-news-and-blogs>

## **2025 AQHA VRH WORLD QUALIFYING**

**February 29:** Following review and approval from the AQHA Executive Committee, the requirements to qualify for the 2025 AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse World Championship Show have been announced.

The 2025 AQHA VRH World is tentatively scheduled for June 15-21, 2025, at the Tri-State Fairgrounds in Amarillo, Texas. The AQHA VRH World combines four premiere ranch horse events into one: the **AQHA VRH World, AQHA RHC Finals, AQHA Cattle Level 1 Championships** and **NRSA National Championship Show**.

- **AQHA VRH World**

The qualifying period for the 2025 VRH World is **March 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025**.

- **AQHA RHC Finals**

To qualify for the 2025 AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals, horses must compete at one of the 2024 AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge events in the class they wish to enter. The qualifying period for the 2025 RHC Finals is **January 1 – December 31, 2024**.

- **AQHA Cattle Level 1**

To be eligible to enter the 2025 AQHA Cattle Level 1 Championships, an exhibitor need only be **Level 1 eligible** in the class they wish to enter **as of January 1, 2024**.

- **NRSA National Championships**

To be eligible to compete in the 2025 NRSHA National Championship Show, a rider must show in at least three events hosted by an NRSHA alliance partner between **March 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025**. Riders can show with the same alliance partner three times, or any combination of alliance partners three times.

<https://www.aqha.com/-/2025-aqha-vrh-world-qualifying?redirect=%2Faqha-news-and-blogs>

## **2024 WRANGLER WOMEN OF INFLUENCE NOMINATION NOW OPEN**

Nominations for the Wrangler Women of Influence Class of 2024 are now open and **will close June 17, 2024**.

In alignment with the values of Wrangler and the American Quarter Horse Association, the Wrangler Women of Influence Award is presented annually to four women whose character, vision and perseverance have impacted the industry and those around them.

2024 honorees will be celebrated in November at the Wrangler Women of Influence Reception at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Winners will be featured in The American Quarter Horse Journal, on [aqha.com](http://aqha.com) and on AQHA social platforms.

To submit a nomination, visit [www.aqha.com/wrangler-women-of-influence](http://www.aqha.com/wrangler-women-of-influence).

## **AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL SURVEY**

The findings of the 2023 Equine Economic Impact Survey have been officially released by the AHC. Key highlights of the survey include the following:

- The total value added in 2023 is \$177 billion from the equine industry, up from \$122 billion in 2017. The equine industry's ripple effect extends to agriculture and tourism to veterinary services and technology.
- 2.2 million jobs are linked both directly and indirectly to the equine sector. Not only are breeders, trainers, veterinarians, and farriers represented, but so are truck drivers, nutritionists, chemists, police officers, and journalists.

<https://horsecouncil.org/press-releases/results-from-the-2023-national-equine-economic-impact-study-released/>

## **EXPLORE ACT PASSES THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act passed the House Natural Resources Committee on January 17 by unanimous consent. The EXPLORE Act protects access for horses and packers on public lands, ensuring the next generation of horseback riders can explore and recreate safely alongside other users. The inclusion of language to identify and adopt policies to promote conflict avoidance on multiple use trails is extremely important for the welfare of all users, and especially those who are riding or packing. The inclusion of the MVP Act (Military and Veterans in Parks Act) which holds the potential to expand access for Veterans and Active-Duty military as there are proven therapeutic benefits associated with outdoor recreation and Equine assisted service/therapy.

<https://horsecouncil.org/press-releases/first-ever-outdoor-recreation-specific-bill-passes-house-committee/>

## **FAIR LABELS ACT OF 2024**

NCBA is supporting the Fair and Accurate Ingredient Representation on Labels Act of 2024 (FAIR Labels Act). This legislation would ensure that consumers know exactly what they are buying at the grocery store, requiring fake meat products to be labeled as "imitation" and lab-grown products would need to be clearly labeled as "lab-grown" with an included statement that says the product was not produced by traditional cattle production methods.

<https://www.ncba.org/policy>

## **UPDATES FROM MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**March 8:** Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, along with 23 other attorneys general, filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the Biden administration's new air quality rule that would render **30%** of all U.S. counties out of compliance, significantly impact state economies, and raise energy costs for Montana manufacturers, utilities, and

families, including requiring small businesses, **farmers**, restaurants and even homeowners to pay for costly new equipment. The United States already has some of the strictest air quality standards in the world –far more stringent than the world’s worst polluters, including China, India and Indonesia.

<https://dojmt.gov/attorney-general-knudsen-files-lawsuit-against-biden-epa-rule/>

**March 7:** In a letter to Wells Fargo’s Chief Executive Officer Charles Scharf, Attorney General Knudsen led a coalition of 16 attorneys general raising concerns with the bank’s decision to debank Republican candidates and gun industry participants. Wells Fargo has also committed to the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA), announcing targets in the oil and gas, power, automotive, steel, and aviation sectors. It must also set targets for sectors covering nearly the entire economy by the end of 2024 including **agriculture**, aluminum, cement, coal, iron, commercial and residential real estate, and transport.

<https://dojmt.gov/attorney-general-knudsen-demands-answers-from-wells-fargo-for-debanking-practices/>

**March 6:** In 2023, the six RMHIDTA Montana task forces seized a total of 398,552 dosage units of fentanyl in Montana – a **111% increase** in the total amount seized in 2022 when 188,823 dosage units were seized. It’s also a nearly **600% increase** from 2021 when 60,557 dosage units were seized, a **6,000% increase** from 2020 when 6,663 dosage units were seized, and a **20,000% increase** from 2019 when just 1,900 dosage units were seized. In addition to increasing the number of MTDOJ narcotics and major case agents, AG Knudsen has added a statewide drug intelligence officer and spearheaded a program to deploy 24 drug detecting K9s across the state.

<https://dojmt.gov/ag-knudsen-announces-another-record-breaking-year-for-fentanyl-seizures/>

## **2024 MONTANA ELECTIONS**

**May 7:** Late Registration Begins: Contact county election office to register or update your voter registration information.

**May 10:** Ballots Mailed to Absentee Voters

**June 4, 2024:** Primary Election Day: Polls close at 8:00 p.m.

<https://sosmt.gov/elections/>