
Board of Directors
Date March 18, 2026
Zoom Meeting, 7:30pm

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Board members present: Tyrell Burkland, Josh Shengle, Julie Schumacher, Cathy Dekker, Tracy Tiner, Michele Shaw, Lesli Glen, Rita Church, Britt Kissock-Robinson

National Directors: Gary Lynn Olson, Nancy Weaver, Tracy Brown, Ruth McDonald-Gates

Meeting called to order by President Board member Cathy Dekker, President Tyrell Burkland joined meeting later. Michele S. made a motion to approve the February 18, 2026 minutes. Tracy T. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance: Laura emailed the financial report and supporting documents. Tracy T. made a motion to approve the financials as distributed. Second to the motion by Michele S. Motion carried. Laura reported Kendra Walker has agreed to audit the MQHA books. Kendra will report to the Board at the June table meeting. Laura requested to Board award Kendra a membership for auditing the books. Julie made a motion to give Kendra her 2026 membership in exchange for the audit. Second to the motion by Lesli. Motion carried.

Old Business: Laura reported on the status of the Funnware tablets and software. Colleen Carnine indicated all the tablets have been received and are in working order. The Funnware software will be purchased and loaded by Colleen. Britt will pick up the tablets and get them to Billings. Laura is working on getting a Zoom training meeting for the software and will get that completed as soon as all the participants can be on the training call. Laura is asking for anyone wanting to be trained in the tablets and software to let Laura know so she can get them Zoom link information. Bonnie DeVeniero reported to Laura that she had a productive training session at the Silver Dollar Circuit. Tracy B. reported that there was a person possibly offering new software to replace Funnware. He also has a contact for renting internet equipment. Julie indicated that Colleen has been in contact with him.

Committee Reports:

Show Committee:

Big Sky Classic: No report..

Nile VRH Show: Lesli reported the Nile had a Board meeting with no new information regarding the two judge proposal. Marilyn Randall has contacted some of the sponsors and discussion regarding continuing utilizing Kimes as a sponsor. Tabled for April meeting.

Membership Services: Rita reported currently MQHA has 68 new or renewal members for 2026, 44 lifetime member (1 new), and 15 MQHYA membership.

Marketing: Julie reported that there were some suggestions at the AIM Rally at Convention regarding marketing. Most of the bullet points are already being utilized by MQHA. Calendars are done and will be mailed out. Julie will have the Kiosk at the Backcountry Horseman convention at the end of the month.

Britt would like the Board's opinion on delivering the Newsletter more frequently to keep the events and information timely. Discussion regarding a bi-monthly publication. Board agreed with Britt's suggestion to increase the frequency of the Newsletter publication.

Amateur: Cathy reported the Sparks Some Fun was third Nationaly as Level 1 shows. Entry for Level 1 Championships is April 1, 2026. Julie reported there was conversation at Convention regarding shows similar to Sparks Some Fun and the popularity of those events. Cathy reported the Wyoming Level 1 Show, which was patterned after SSF, was also in the AQHA Top 10 Level 1 Shows. Suggestion to add Small Fry classes to SSF. Ranch classes have been added to increase the SSF Show to a 2 day show.

Youth Michele S. reported the Youth their meeting is the week following this Board meeting. Youth will discuss have a pre-bed fundraiser for the Big Sky Classic. Michele will report back to the Board at the April meeting regarding this fundraiser. Laura reported the Youth CD was renewed for 6 months at 3.5%. The Youth section of the website has been revamped to be more user friendly and MQHYA would like any suggestions regarding the updates on the Youth portion of the website.

Breeders: No report.

Ranch: No report.

By-Laws: No report

Legislative: Britt emailed a legislative report to Laura for the Board and to be posted on the website. Full report is also an addendum to these minutes. Rule change in AQHA regarding the 2 year rule was discussed at Convention. Latest statistics regarding vaccinations was also discussed.

Recreational Riding: Julie reported she will inform the Board if any new members are received during the Backcountry Horseman Convention. At AQHA Convention Julie reported there were postcards on the tables regarding a discount on Loves fuel and gasoline.

Region 2: Tracy B. reported the judges and show schedule is completed. Looking for sponsorships.

Hall of Fame: Ruth reported she and Laura will be talking regarding new inductees and will report to the Board in the next couple of months..

New Business: AQHA Convention. Lesli reported she is on the marketing committee. The Committee have ideas that are turned into AQHA. Lesli also reported on a new concept regarding race horses – My Race Horse.Com. and offering minimal ownership share in race horses. “Owners” are invited to the races and part of the win process. The Committee is looking at this for AQHA race horses. Julie also talked about the Show Committee and the number of walk/trot classes being offered for approval by AQHA.

Rita is on the Amateur Committee and reported the Amateur Ambassadors has been well received. All information regarding becoming an Ambassador is available on the AQHA website. New age requirements were also discussed and sent off the the Task Force and addition the Super Select as 70 & over.

Tracy B. is on Western and Speed Events Committee. This Committee refers back to Show Committee. Proposals for Showmanship included limiting the number of turns in a pattern, removing the 5 point penalty for sliding a foot and making it a score. Proposals to make Level 1 classes a qualifying event was also discussed and its effect on show attendance. AQHA set up a Task Force to work with small horse shows including judges and AQHA staff to evaluate small show attendance.

Nancy is on the Public Policy Committee and there will be a handbook formatted to submit to the Exective Committee for approval. These would be sent out to the AQHA affiliates. Horse Protection Act has been postponed until 2027 but will need to be addressed again.

Laura reported she received an email from the Wyoming Quarter Horse Association regarding placing an in their new small publication. Ad cost are \$25/page. Discussion regarding the number of pages and information on those pages. Michele S. made a motion to place a 2 page ad in the WMQHA publication including the Big Sky Classic and Sparks Some Fun. Second to the motion by Lesli. Motion carried. Britt volunteered to create the two pages for the publication.

Correspondence: Laura reported she received a notice from SumUp, MQHA’s credit card company regarding a class action suit from Discover. MQHA has not received any Discover cards so does not apply..

All agenda items have been satisfied. Britt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second to the motion by Rita. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bakker
2026 Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting – April 15, 2026 Zoom Meeting 7:30pm
