
**Board of Directors
Date January 21, 2026
Zoom Meeting, 7:30pm**

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

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

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

Guests: Colleen Carnine

Meeting called to order by President Tyrell Burkland. Britt made a motion to approve the December 7, 2025 minutes. Cathy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance: Laura emailed the financial report and supporting documents. Cathy made a motion to approve the financials as distributed. Second to the motion by Britt. Motion carried.

Old Business: Colleen gave the Board an extensive report on purchasing tablets, internet, etc. for the scribes. Colleen talked with Jamie from Funnware as well as several organization secretaries concerning utilization of Funnware and the possible training needed for the software. Colleen is recommending the purchase of 6 tablets, 3 scribes, 1 gate person, 1 announcer and 1 for a spare. All the tablets will interact with Bonnie's computer. Additionally, 6 stylus and protective covers need to be purchased. Julie made a motion to have Colleen purchase 7 tablets and necessary software and hardware per her proposal and recommendations. Lesli seconded the motion. Motion carried. Full proposal attached as an addendum item to the minutes. Training for the scribes recommendation would be 1-2 hours for tablet and software usage. Additionally, Colleen is recommending sending Bonnie to a horse show utilizing the tablets and software per a recommendation from several show secretaries. Jamie from Funnware also said she could come to MT and do a training session. Colleen indicated the Silver Dollar Circuit would be the more financially viable. Colleen has contacted the Show Manager, Jarod Hartel and he indicated he would be amiable for Bonnie to come and observe the usage of the tablets and software. Colleen indicated the biggest hurdle for the program is the availability of internet. Colleen has talked with a lady out of Florida and their recommendation was usage of Starlink to have the ability of a stable internet connection. Nesting routers were recommended to allow the system to out outlying areas where the judges and scribes would be working. Cost for nesting Starlink would be approximately \$50/month which can be placed on hold when not in use. Hardwiring internet access is also a consideration.

Committee Reports:

Show Committee:

Big Sky Classic: 100X Equine is donating 50 half gallon jugs of product for the show. Tyrell has a sponsor proposal into the Massey Ferguson tractor dealer in Billings. Waiting to hear from Mark at Cottonwood for a contract. Cutting will be moved to Thursday and held in the outdoor arena.

Nile VRH Show: Laura reported for Marilyn, that Markel is again sponsoring for \$1,000. Lesli reported the proposal to the Nile Board for the VRH and Heritage Breeders Show have two judges, has been approved in exchange for MQHA allowing Nile to utilize the scribe tablets. Further discussion regarding a lease agreement for the tablets, etc. A contract will be provided to anyone wanting to lease the equipment.

Membership Services: Rita reported currently MQHA has 37 new or renewal members for 2026, 43 lifetime member (1 new from Convention), and 18 MQHYA members.

Marketing: Julie reported she has contacted a couple new sponsors. She has contacted Murdochs for a sponsorship. Julie is working on the calendar, has contacted someone for printing. She is getting logos for events. Julie would like to send notification to the membership for anyone wanting to purchase a page in the calendar. Discussion regarding possibly parroting the Circuit Finals Cash Calendar. Julie stated the calendars were going to be gifted to members. MQHA approved shows will be highlighted for each event encouraging more participation at the events. Laura reported that the Directory has been submitted to the production/printing team. Membership cards have been received and will be mailed out with the Directories. Laura reported she is updating the website with the 2026 information including changing the artwork donated by Steve Devenyns.

Recreational Riding: Julie reported the Backcountry Horsemen Convention will be in Bozeman at the Gran Tree Hotel. Julie will set up the booth for the event, March 27-29, 2026 in the trade show area. Julie will have membership information as well as the AQHA recreational riding program information.

Amateur: Cathy reported the Trot 250, the top 100 vests will be shipped out in March. 4 MQHA members and 3 non-members were from Montana. Sparks Some Fun approval has been submitted. Buckles are ordered, a few still in production. Needs ideas for the Reserve Hi-Point awards. AQHA website has an affiliate tab for free promotional items, Cathy will be some for the Show. Cathy will be posting member photos on Facebook. 2026 Incentive Fund has been posted on the website. The Amateur IF points are for the calendar year, not the MQHA points year.

Youth Michele S. reported the Youth are having a meeting the following week and will report at the February meeting.

Breeders: Lesli reported has an interview done with the Fredericks Ranch, editing should be done by the following week for posting on the website. She has another interview scheduled soon. Lesli would like to have a Breeders Committee meeting in early March.

Ranch: No report.

By-Laws: No report

Legislative: Britt reported she will be sending her report to Laura via email. Laura will forward onto the Board. That report will also be an addendum item to these minutes. Mainly agriculture related.

Awards: Michele M reported the remaining 2025 awards are traveling across the state to the last recipients. Michele has notes letting the recipients know the awards need to be picked up at Convention or someone to pick them up. She has several ideas for the 2026 awards.

Region 2: Tracy Brown reported she was on the Region 2 meeting. Judges are: Pete McCalister, Benny Sergeant and Buddy Fisher. Schedule will remain the same and possibly condensing the patterns for Ranch Horse to keep the days from going so long.

2026 Convention: Laura reported the Contract has been submitted and a deposit has been sent.

Hall of Fame: Ruth reported that the Birdtail Ranch were planning on coming to the Presentation, but due to scheduling did not make Convention. The trophies were well received for the HOF recipients.

New Business: Laura reported the 1099's have been submitted to the IRS. Laura is going to complete the tax filing for the organization as opposed to having an accounting complete. The Annual Report for the Montana Secretary of State has been submitted and approved. AQHA Affiliate Agreement has also been submitted with all the necessary inclusions.

Laura also reported Ginny Schuler, a programmer, is working on a point system for MQHA. As soon as it is completed, Laura will share with Michele M. for auditing the points submitted. All the work on the program has been done voluntarily. A thank you will be submitted to Ginny for all her work on the program.

Correspondence All correspondence regarding Board activities have been emailed to the Board.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bakker
2026 Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting – February 18, 2026 Zoom Meeting 7:30 pm
