Notes from the October 11, 2020 WIFQHA meeting held at Al Young Park in Black River Falls

Prior to the meeting beginning, Maria Bendixen announced the winner of the Don King Memorial Reining Buckle. She announced all those who competed in our first ever virtual competition that was judged by Liz Truax, a WIFQHA judge from Texas.

Because this was our first attempt at a virtual competition, the communication from the judge led to confusion on our part. The correct placings are as follows:

1st Kaia Moseid on Meradas Hot Tip

2nd Jared Meyer on Okie Walla Whiz (Dian Svoma)

3rd Kira Lee on RNR Peppy Sug

4th Billy Yoder on Gunner

5th Jared Meyer on Conquistador Whiz (Sami Jo Crawford)

6th Korinna Johnson on Blue Drift Lena

7th Carley Gehrke on Mklilredhen

Sue King, Don King’s widow, and her family were in attendance to award the buckle. She was hopeful this could be an annual event.

Meeting called to order by Maria Bendixen

The treasurers report was handed out by Julie Anderson and explained by both Julie and Maria Bendixen. It was noted that there is a $100 show software bill that hasn’t been received yet for the 2020 show season that will be forthcoming. Financial report attached to meeting notes.

Officer Elections

Board member at large election to replace Chris DeGidio. Ed Johnson nominated Jennifer Bowman. Mike McGowan made the motion to elect Jennifer Bowman as a board member at large. Pete Oberlin seconded. All voted aye.

Treasurer election to replace Julie Anderson. Julie said she would not consider holding the treasurer position again. There were no nominations for treasurer. Todd Waldera made a motion that Maria Bendixen stand in as treasurer until the next member meeting where a treasurer could be elected. Maria said she could stand in as treasurer until spring 2021, but could not continue as treasurer past that point. No action was taken. Mike McGowan made a motion to suspend the treasurer election portion of the by laws until an election takes place by snail mail on or before May 1st, 2021. Chris Degidio seconded the motion. All voted aye. Ed Johnson said he would ask Cindy Mense, who was not at the meeting, if she would consider the treasurer position. It was noted that the association needs to advertise to all its members the need for a treasurer. Beth Krage said she would be willing to assist the treasurer in any way she can.

President election to replace Maria Bendixen. Maria said she would not consider holding the position of president again. There was extensive discussion about who to nominate with no one coming forward. Finally Cindy Koperski threw her hat in the ring. Todd Waldera made a motion to nominate Cindy Koperski as President. Mark Gehrke seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Board member at large to replace Randy Amans. In the past, the past president serves as the third board member at large. Maria Bendixen agreed to serve as past president board member at large.

Futurity Dollars – There was no 2020 WIFQHA Futurity which takes place at the September show. The question was what to do with the money since there was no show this year. Mike McGowan made a motion to return the money owed to the only 2020 futurity contestant which was Todd Waldera. Julie Anderson seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Move show location question- Maria Bendixen had inquired of Double H show arena in Mondovi, WI if they would consider holding two or more WIFQHA shows at their venue. Currently Double H has the WIFQHA portable green stalls installed at one of their barns on site in Mondovi. They rented the stalls from WIFQHA for $580. They said they could host all our shows for $2,000 per show with a total of 60 stalls available for use. They want $45/permanent stall, which are located in the same building as the arena. In addition, they want $30/green stall. All stalls would come with bedding and would be cleaned by Double H at their expense. We would need to bring our cattle pens to the facility from BRF. The $2,000 includes use of indoor arena, outdoor arena, announcing equipment, office, 1 porta potty and 1 dumpster. In contrast, the costs of BRF is approximately $2,550 per show. There was discussion about air flow and lighting in the indoor arena. Some people thought it was inadequate. No people showers or horse bathing area is available at Mondovi, nor electrical hookups for camping. Tammy Long made a motion that no 2021 shows be held at Double H in Mondovi. Pete Oberlin seconded the motion. All voted aye except Cindy Koperski who voiced concern about making an important decision without more information and discussion within the show committee.

Diane Svoma brought up the shows that were held at Viroqua Wild West Days grounds were fun rain or shine. There are cattle pens there. Stalls could be used overnight at the fairgrounds. There is only one arena and it is outside. There is room for camping but no electrical hookups. No motion was made.

Cindy Koperski asked for volunteers for a show committee to finalize the show bill and address other items necessary to secure a show location and dates for 2021 show year. Todd Waldera, Tammy Long, Richard Jinkerson, Beth Krage, Jennifer Bowman and Cindy Koperski volunteered to be the show committee.

Pete Oberlin requested that we vote on an official mode of communication for WIFQHA. Mike McGowan made a motion that we use snail mail to officially inform our members. Todd Waldera seconded the motion. All voted aye.

The next member meeting will be in March 2021 sometime with deference to the status of COVID at the time and if it is safe to have a face to face meeting.

Maria Bendixen adjourned the meeting.

Meeting notes by Cindy Koperski as Whitney Coleman-Michaels was unable to make the meeting.