**NWHA Annual Meeting Minutes**

**January 18, 2025**

President Jim Potter called to order at \_\_3:03\_\_ PM on January 18, 2025

\_42\_\_ Members in Attendance

Introduction of NWHA Board of Directors – by President Jim Potter

Board Roll Call

**Roll call** –

C. Lamberson S. Gibbs A. Ostrum D. Mesimer

J. Finerfrock M. Head L. Snyder-Lowe J. Potter

Z. Parsons D. Kanstul M. Ranft L. Terrell

K. Elliott

Stevens

Oath of Office given to all members by NWHA Member Matt Janisch

Incoming President Shannon Gibbs took the lead with review of minutes

* Review of Minutes
* Motion by Matt Janisch
* Second by Athena Lowe
* Motion Carried

Shannon Gibbs mentioned the passing of Cindi Nixon and thank you to the departing of Board of Directors Members: Merleene Pacheco and Jackie Dean

* Board of Directors requested a bylaw change to allow electronic voting.
  + Motion by Joellen Finerfrock
  + Second by Kim Freet
  + Motion Carried
* 2024 Financial Summary
  + $85,000 in the bank; $4,000 increase over 2023
  + Membership increase of 20%
  + National Show - $37,000 profit which is a $16,000 decrease from 2023
  + For the second year in a row, we exceeded fundraising goal of $30,000
  + NWHA News – profit of $2487.28 in 2024
  + Horse Show Revenue $5,460.00 income; increase of $1,680 from 2023
* 2025 Investing in the Future
* Regional Grand Championship Paybacks at The National will continue
  + Continued and expanded industry sponsorships by giving backed to other gaited horse outlets – WHOA, The International, SSHBEA, The Maiden, The Premiere
  + Youth Scholarships – Regional Youth Scholarships for Nationals
* Financial Report by Joellen Finerfrock
* Motion by Kim Freet
* Second by Mag Ranft
* Motion Carried
* Regional Director Reports
  + Western Region – Dana Kanstul
    - 2 trainers from CA attended NWHA National in 2024
  + Northeast Region – Leah Terrell and Mag Ranft
    - Successful Ohio and Indiana shows; but no show in MI this past year; hope to have a MI show in 2025
  + Central Region – Merleene Pacheco
    - A show in TX changed from padded to flat shod; several other shows in 2025 including in TX and IL
  + Southeast Region – David Mesimer
    - SC and NC had several successful shows in 2024 and have 5 planned for 2025
* Committee Reports
  + Rules Committee – Chair Morgan Applewhite
    - Members: Landon Head, Shannon Gibbs, Kyle Elliott, Brandi Clemens, Alex Ostrum, Martie Jacobsen,
    - Liaison – Merleene Pacheco
    - Report: clarification of tail tying; finalizing SOPs for rule changes; reassured Board that leg wraps, including vet wrap is prohibited in the show ring (exceptions for versatility events); added a rule allowing borium to a keg shoe toe citing for the safety of the horse and rider plus industry standard
* Marketing – Chair Morgan Head
  + Elite AOT Program started last year and successful
  + 375% increase in social media presence in 2024
* Trail Committee – New Committee Chair – Erin Demchko
  + Liaison – Alex Ostrum
  + Members: Susan Havard, Roey Mobley, Connie Hall, Carol Carlson Kirchoff, Tina Buirch
  + Double Points were added for Sanctioned Trail Rides
  + TRAP SOP – being revised
  + High Mile Horse – 2,723
  + High Mile Rider – 2,843
* Judges Committee – Chair Ruth Ann Spinelli
  + Liaison Zach Parsons
  + Annual Judges Clinic held today with 22 participants with 2 new applicants, 2 in process and the rest are renewals
* Youth Committee – Chair David Mesimer, presented by Morgan Head
  + Painting Party held at the National in 2024
  + Plans are being made for contests in 2025 (photography, art, etc.)
* Versatility Committee - Shannon Gibbs
  + LSAP Awards for 2024 – 35 Register of Merit to be awarded, 3 Model Championships, 2 Intermediate Pleasure Championships; awards are up by 3 times from the number of awards last year
  + Participation – had 90 dressage rides for the National Show thank you to our judge for allowing this to happen; increased entries in the All Around Versatility Program
  + 2025 – versatility coordinator position to be utilized for the Nationals
* National Show Committee – Chairs Shannon Gibbs and Mag Ranft
  + Members: Merleene Pacheco, Paula Sue Swope, Cindi Nixon, Roey Mobley, Amy Spinelli, JoEllen Finerfrock, Lyn Montgomery, Aimee Edwards, Morgan Head, Cassidie Stevens, Jean Marie Degville,
  + Recap of 2024 National: made changes to showbill based on 2023 input; analyzed the data of entries and alignment of classes, continued All Around Versatility Program with increased participation, New Ranch Horse Class with 17 entries, had multiple food trucks and vendors available, DJ at the exhibitors party with great food, youth ice cream social and painting party, youth stall judging contest, 236 horses, 1301 entries, other years were:
    - 2023 – 233 horses, 1272 entries
    - 2022 – 208 horses, 1032 entries
    - 2021 – 217 horses, 1096 entries
    - 2020 – 221 horses, 1113 entries
    - 2019 – 216 horses, 1093 entries
    - 2018 – 123 horses, 676 entries
    - 2017 – 175 horses, 938 entries
    - 2016 – 208 horses, 1109 entries
* DQP Update – Peggy Moore
  + Thank you to the 2024 DQP Team
  + New reporting requirements from the USDA for 2025
  + Total inspections for 2024 = 5406 entries (both pre and post show) in 17 shows
  + USDA Update – new rules going into place in February 2025; USDA taking over inspections; details still being worked on and there are lawsuits filed to stop these new requirements
* New Program
  + Steward Program – with the changes in the USDA Horse Protection Act and the addition of using VMO’s or HPI’s, NWHA has a plan in place for the expected new regulation from the USDA that will take place on February 1, 2025; this would be a program that will have a steward at all of our shows monitoring for shoe size appropriate for the classes entered as well as monitoring for rule violations in the warm up arena. We have selected current DQP’s to fulfill this program for 2025 but they will have no authority to determine the soundness of a horse
  + Peggy answered a few questions from the floor regarding the new rules
* Membership Open Forum
  + Members
    - Kim Freet asked about the AOT Elite Program and asked about gaining points for the divisions and wants to understand the opportunities for gaining points; Morgan Head explained how the program works and how best to apply
    - Nancy Eakins asked about changing divisions – “you can show up, but not show down”; Shannon Gibbs answered questions about this movement for classes
    - Kim Freet asked about adding Spotted CP classes; Shannon explained rules are being created for this new class division
    - Matt Janisch asked about the glitches with the computer software at the National; Shannon explained a new software program is going to be used and that should eliminate future glitches; internet access was mentioned as a challenge and Matt offered to help with it
  + Committee Leaders
  + Volunteers
  + Board of Directors
  + Sound Horse Warriors
* Motion to adjourn at 4:22 PM Dennis Hills, second by Kelly Johnston; Motion Carried