

WQHA General Membership Meeting

October 5, 2024

LCCC, Cheyenne, Wyoming

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by President Sharon Bailey. Attendees: Sharon Bailey, president; Adair Walker, vice president; Susan Nelson, treasurer; Stacey Thomas, Terry McDowell, BeLynn Johner, board members; Stuart Thompson, Chris Jensen, Krystal Peterson, national directors; AnneMarie Johnson, CONQHA Liaison; Lindsay Thomas, Josey Bailey, Debbie Unrein, Ann Hards, Don Beard, members.

(Board members not attending: Nicole Ballenger, Linda Henderson, Sarah Campbell, Mark Guynn, and Jenny Ingwersen-Niemann (national director))

1. 2023 Meeting Minutes

AnneMarie moved to approve the 2023 Board meeting minutes with the addendum as written. Stuart seconded the motion. The minutes were approved and will be posted to the website.

2. Treasurer's report

Susan presented the treasurer's report. The bank balance as of September 30 was \$84,211.62. As of September 30, the net loss for the year to date (Nov. 1 – Sept. 30) was \$4,228.52. Outstanding checks totaling \$2,652.51 will be counted in the actual (final) end-of-year loss on October 31, 2024.

AnneMarie noted that Center of Nation (CON) should have picked up half of the loss realized on last year's convention, which was cancelled due to weather. The total loss was \$2,628.

The Cowboy Summer Classic show realized a profit of \$3,059.17. However, this amount did not cover the year-end award expenses.

The Youth fundraising activities generated a net profit after World Show costs of \$2,594.40.

Terry moved to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Stacey, and the motion carried.

3. Year End Awards report

AnneMarie presented the year-end awards report. The budgeted amount of \$6800 was exceeded by \$103.38 due to the purchase of photo frames for youth World Show participants.

4. Ongoing business

a. Affiliate agreement

The Board voted to approve the AQHA affiliate agreement when it's received in January.

b. Stipends. The Board voted to approve stipends of \$200 for the secretary (currently Nicole Ballenger) and new points secretary (Caitlyn Kauffman), and to continue the treasurer's stipend (Susan Nelson) at \$300.

- c. Memberships in lieu of payments. The Board voted to provide memberships in lieu of payments for both the website (BeLynn) and end-of-year awards (AnneMarie) administrators.
- d. Procedures manual

The procedures manual was distributed and there was a brief discussion of updating needs.

5. Shows

a. Cowboy Summer Classic

- i. Dates are July 9-13, 2025
- ii. Show manager and secretary
- iii. Schedule/format
- iv. Fees (entries, stalls, and shavings)

The Board decided to renew the contract with the show manager (Lacey Cooper) and accept bids for the show secretary from Sherri Matuska and Kelsey Rhyne.

The Board discussed whether or not we want to drop two of the six judges. After considerable debate of the pros and cons, the Board decided to retain the 5 day/ 6 judge format.

The Board agreed to continue the current charges for entries, stalls, and shavings unless Wyoming State Fair increases its fees.

6. Youth adviser report (read by Sharon Bailey)

Lindsay Guynn was unable to attend due to fires in the Sheridan area, but submitted the following notes:

Lindsay was formally appointed youth adviser in Spring 2024. She held a meeting in May 2024 with seven youth. They elected officers: Lindsay Thomas, president; Kayla Gibson, vice president; Roanin Irby, secretary/treasurer; Kristin Bullard, director .

The group discussed fundraising and the Youth World show. They plan to look at and revise their bylaws this winter as well as end-of-year award guidelines.

The Youth had a very successful fundraising year, including \$3,774 raised with the silent auction and 50/50 raffle, and private donations. After accounting for AQHY World Show costs, the youth account has a positive balance of \$2,594.40. Beginning with the 2025 fiscal year, WQHA will separate out the accounts for the Youth from the general membership account.

Eight Youth and nine horses went to the AQHA Youth World show. WQHA sponsored its first ever class at the show, Working Western Rail, thanks to the Bullard family donation. The Justus family, Wizards of Wood, and Guynn Training Center also sponsored attendance and various costs. Notable results included the following:

Level 3: Baliegh Lane and Sweet & Jazzy, World Champion Cutting; Kristin Bullard and Voodoo Doctor, 8th Ranch Riding; Cooper Justus and Rose Pistola, 9th in Working Cow Horse; Baliegh Lane and Blue Holli Ruffles, Finalist in Working Cow Horse.

Level 2: Cooper Justus and Rose Pistola, 9th in Working Cow horse; Baliegh Lane and Blue Holli Ruffles, finalist in Working Cow horse; Cooper Justus and Rose Pistola, top third finish in Ranch Riding.

Level 1: Roanin Irby and NVR Moonshine Dunnit, 8th in Ranch Riding.

In 2025 the Youth will focus on amending the ByLaws, year-end award rules, and increasing membership. They are considering hosting youth clinics or a leadership retreat in 2025 in order to attract new members.

7. New Business (report on Board decisions)

a. Donations

Region Two will be having its 20th anniversary show in 2025. The Board decided that WQHA will donate \$500 (a silver level sponsorship) to R2.

Stuart led a discussion of 4-H donations. He noted there has not been a 4-H Council meeting since 2019. Based on his recommendation, the Board decided to provide no general donation for 2025 but welcome and be open to specific 4-H club asks for judging competitions, etc.

b. Official print and digital publications

The Board discussed and decided to no longer use *Wrangler* as our official publication and to replace it with our own publication designed to highlight events and news. A committee headed by the Secretary (Nicole) will consider options. The committee members appointed are: Lindsey Thomas (representing Youth), BeLynn Johnner, Terry, and Josey Bailey (design).

c. Level 1 show

The Board decided to form a committee to explore introducing a 2- day (weekend only) Level 1 show. The committee will be composed of Adair, Terry, and Stuart, AnneMarie, and Krystal, as well as Sharon.

d. Changing membership year

The Board determined the membership year (fee year), going forward, be the same as the show points year, which is September 1 – August 31.

e. All around and high point for end-of-year awards

After some discussion, the Board decided that WQHA will keep both all around and high point awards but revise the rules to state that a horse/rider team can win only one of these awards. The members agreed: If a horse/rider team has the most points in both award categories, the exhibitor will be asked to choose which award they would like to receive, and the exhibitor with the second highest number of points toward the other award will be named the winner of the other award. The third place exhibitor would move up to reserve.

f. Virtual meeting platforms

Sharon reported that a Zoom subscription costs just \$13.30/month billed annually. The Board agreed to purchase a Zoom subscription (which means meetings will no longer be cut off after 40 minutes).

g. Voting on new Board members and officers

Board terms are expiring for Sarah Campbell, Sharon Bailey, and Terry McDowell. Nominations were offered to appoint Cyndi Robbins to the Board and to reappoint Sharon and Terry. Stuart moved to close the nominations and Stacey seconded the motion. The vote to appoint Cyndi, Sharon and Terry to the Board was approved.

h. Creation of show committee

Sharon, AnneMarie, Terry and Susan volunteered to serve on the show committee for the 2025 Cowboy Summer Classic.

i. Creation of new convention committee

Possible dates for the 2025 convention were discussed. The first weekend in October is a good possibility. In 2025 it's Wyoming's turn to organize the convention. Sharon, Adair, and Nicole will compose the convention committee.

j. Miscellaneous other business

Stuart gave a report on AQHA show committee progress.

Krystal gave a report on the activities of the AQHA marketing committee.

Adjournment

AnneMarie moved the meeting be adjourned. Susan seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned by Sharon at 3:50pm.

Follow up Board meeting to appoint officers:

The Board then reconvened to appoint the 2025 officers. Sharon will continue as president to finish Linda Henderson's term through 2025. Adair will continue as vice president, and Nicole and Susan were reappointed to serve as secretary and treasurer, respectively, for 2025.

