

Wyoming Quarter Horse Association
General Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2020
(Approved at the October 30, 2021 General Meeting)

This was a Zoom meeting due to Covid-19 and the cancellation of our planned annual banquet and in-person convention.

Attendees included: Adair Walker (President), Debbie Unrein (Vice President), Nicole Ballenger (Board member), Linda Henderson (Board Member), Kristin Lyons* (Board member and Treasurer), Stuart Thompson (National Director, Show Committee), Susan Nelson (WQHA Member), Sara Campbell (WQHA member), Lynette Sibley (WQHA member), Brittany Johnson (new WQHA member), and Jenny Ingwerson (WQHA member)

*Kristin did not have audio so Debbie presented the Treasurer's report

Too few members attended the general meeting to form a quorum for the purpose of voting by the general membership. Adair reported on votes taken at the Board meeting that preceded this meeting.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Adair Walker at 1:30 pm.

2. Reading of the Minutes from 2019 Board Meeting

Nicole Ballenger read the minutes from the 2019 General meeting. Adair moved to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded and the minutes were approved with no corrections.

3. Ongoing Business

a. Treasurer's Report

Debbie Unrein presented the financial report. The Association's checking account currently has a balance of \$50,507.57. WQHA owes AnneMarie Johnson \$4,089 for award expenses. Once this amount is included there will be a checking account balance of \$46,418.12.

The Association started the year with a balance of \$22,734 and brought in \$27,773 in show income (from the combined Douglas show), resulting in the current checking account balance of \$50,507. The Douglas show was very profitable, resulting in the largest bank balance the association has ever had.

Linda Henderson moved the Treasurer's report be approved. Sara Campbell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

b. 2020 Awards Report

Adair presented the awards report (on behalf of AnnMarie Johnson). We had budgeted \$8,620 for year-end awards and AnneMarie spent \$8,608.45, for a savings of \$12. This included two memberships for Molly Adair and her mother, because they underspent their award designation.

During the Board meeting the awards report prompted a discussion of whether adult children must have a separate membership, or whether they can be included in a family/household membership. Adair noted WQHA membership rules are defined by AQHA, which requires a separate membership for adult children. We need to make sure our policy is being applied consistently.

c. Youth Advisor Report

Jill Stuckey was not present to present the Youth Advisor report.

d. Presentation of Donation to Youth Association from Heidi Erby

Adair reported that in memory of Carla Cole, Heidi and Dean Erby donated \$100 to the Youth Association.

e. Wrangler as official publication

Adair noted that the Board voted to continue using the Wrangler as the Association's official print publication. Nicole has written two articles about the Association's shows that were published in the Wrangler, and we agreed the next article might highlight exhibitors from the region who earned top placings at the AQHA World Show.

f. National Director Reports

Stuart Thompson presented the National Director's report. He reported that following the conclusion of the Oklahoma City World Show, AQHA is primarily concerned with how Covid-19 will affect next year's shows and he said it's currently a "waiting game." He also reported that although AQHA is currently financially solvent, it plans to raise fees due to the highly uncertain nature of its financial future. Additionally, some rule changes are forthcoming, but Stuart didn't think they would affect our members.

Brittany Johnson asked Stuart how well he believes AQHA is paying attention to its members and meeting their needs. Some discussion followed, a main theme being

concern that AQHA is not broadening its membership or appealing to younger exhibitors.

The other National Director, Krystal Peterson, was not able to attend the meeting.

g. Vote on clarification of rules for All-Around and High-Point Awards

In the past, WQHA considered all-around and high-point awards to be the same thing. Beginning in 2020, WQHA introduced two separate categories, the distinction being that those receiving all-around awards must also show in a halter class. [An open all-around award currently requires the exhibitor to show in a halter class and three performance categories. We agreed during the Board meeting that this should be changed to a halter class and two performance categories.] The motivation for creating two separate award categories was to provide more award opportunities for more exhibitors. However, Adair had expressed concern during the Board meeting that the same people may be winning both awards, thus defeating the purpose of having two separate categories.

One solution proposed during the Board meeting was for exhibitors to declare up front, at the time of submitting their membership, which award they are going for, all around or high point. This would require ensuring that all members have a declaration form prior to the show. Another possibility suggested was that exhibitors could choose one or the other category, following the show.

Adair explained that after considerable discussion, the Board voted to leave the rule as is for now, with the possibility of revisiting it next year.

h. Resignations of Secretary and Treasurer

Board members Lisa Young and Kristin Lyons have resigned the posts of Secretary and Treasurer due to other commitments. It was reported that during the Board meeting the Board selected Nicole Ballenger to serve as Secretary and elected Susan Nelson to serve as Treasurer during 2021. Thank you to Lisa and Kristin for their contributions!

The Board also agreed to find an “agent” in Wyoming, e.g. an attorney, who would charge only a nominal amount, e.g. \$100, to serve as the official address for the Association. The Board voted to change the bylaws from “the Secretary or Treasurer” to “the selected agent” must have a Wyoming address. This change will be handled as a housekeeping amendment for this coming year, and be addressed formally at the 2021 General Meeting.

4. Donations

WQHA has been donating \$50 to the 4H Horse Council and \$250 to the Regional Championship Show. The Board voted to continue these donations.

5. Show Dates/Changes

a. Show dates

Adair told the attendees that in 2021 WQHA will again host just one show, in July in Douglas, with six judges. This decision was previously approved by the Board and by AQHA. The shows dates are Wednesday July 14th - Sunday July 18th, which includes an additional day beyond the 2020 show in order to avoid such long and exhausting days for the judges, staff, and exhibitors.

b. Show manager

However, Mary Glass has retired and so we've lost our show secretary/manager Debbie reported that she contacted several people regarding their interest in serving as show manager, but received only one quote, from Lindsey Berbee. Lindsey would charge \$350/day plus \$35/day. As show manager she would handle most all show functions, including hiring a show secretary.

Debbie noted that RMQHA may be planning a Pueblo show for July, which could affect attendance at our Douglas show and also our ability to hire a show manager. The Board voted during its meeting to have Debbie contact Lindsey quickly and to hire her to manage the Douglas show.

c. New name for combined show

We need a new name for our July show. Nicole proposed having a contest to pick the name. The group agreed, and decided to provide a free membership in exchange for the winning name. The membership at large will be invited by email and Facebook to submit proposed names by January 15th.

d. Show committee members

It was reported that during the Board meeting, Debbie proposed that the Board serve as the show committee, plus anyone else who is interested, and Board members agreed.

e. Point secretary

Lisa Young would like to continue as point secretary, and the Board agreed. In exchange she will receive a free membership.

f. Increase show approval fees

The current fee, paid to WQHA by other shows seeking our approval, e.g. the Rock Springs show, is \$65/show, that is, per judge. (Note: no RMQHA show asks for WY

approval, but WQHA pays RMQHA for its approval.) South Dakota's fee is \$85/judge and CON's is \$75/judge. It was reported that the Board voted during its meeting to increase our show approval fee to \$75/judge.

g. Bad checks policy

WQHA received a large "bad check" from a Douglas exhibitor, and it took several months to resolve the issue and recoup the owed funds. Adair recommended during the Board meeting that we include a statement about bad checks on our show bill, indicating that anyone writing a bad check will be charged all bank processing fees, other fees reflecting other costs to WQHA, and that the exhibitor will be reported to AQHA. The Board voted in favor of adopting a "bad check" policy.

h. Memberships in exchange for assignments

As noted above, Lisa Young will receive a free membership for serving as point secretary. In addition, AnneMarie Johnson agreed to continue as awards coordinator/purchaser/distributor and she will also receive a free membership in exchange for this role.

6. New business

a. Selection of new Secretary

As noted above, the Board selected Nicole Ballenger as Secretary.

b. Election of new Treasurer

As noted above, the Board elected Susan Nelson to serve as Treasurer for a one-year term (2021)

c. Election of new Board Members

The meeting attendees put forth and discussed the following slate:

Adair Walker (2020-2022 term) agreed to continue as President for one year.
Debbie Unrein (2020-2022 term) agreed to continue as Vice President for one year.
Nicole Ballenger (2020-2020 term) agreed to a three-year term (2021-2023)
Kristin Lyons (2018-2020 term) agreed to a new three-year term (2021-2023)
Sara Campbell agreed to serve a one-year term (2021) to replace Jo Jones (2019-2021 term), who has not been active
Brittany Johnson agreed to serve a three-year term (2021-2023 term) taking Julie Campaign's (2020-2020 term) place

Continuing Board members include Linda Henderson (2020-2022), Terry McDowell (2019-2021), and Lisa Young (2019-2021).

The slate was referred to the Board for voting during a reconvened meeting to follow the General meeting.

d. Additional new business

Adair reported that John Sedgwick has offered to sell his trail poles, of which he has sixteen, to WQHA for \$20 each or \$320 total. She also noted that Linda Henderson offered to store the poles at her place if the Wyoming State Fairgrounds is unable to do so, and that Stuart offered to donate the \$320 for the purchase.

The Board voted during its meeting to move forward with the purchase, and thanked Stuart for his generous donation.

Jenny Ingwerson signed in to the meeting at 2:45 pm. She reported on the AQHA Young Horse Development Program she's involved with through her work at University of Wyoming. The program matches donated weanlings bred by AQHA Ranching Heritage members with AQHYA (youth) members. A lengthy discussion ensued about how to get these and other young people (4-H through college aged) involved with WQHA. Jenny noted that many students she interacts with have ranching backgrounds but not breed show experience. Possibilities discussed included offering internships with WQHA for college students (which would require an academic component) and hosting clinics that could build skills for and interest in showing in the classes offered by WQHA. University of Wyoming is one possible venue for clinics, though probably not until Covid-19 restrictions are behind us. Debbie asked Jenny and Brittany Johnson if they would co-chair a committee on youth involvement, for the moment focused on the idea of hosting a clinic. They agreed.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.