

WQHA Board Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2024

Approved at the Annual WQHA Board Meeting held October 5, 2024

Due to weather and road conditions the scheduled Cheyenne meeting was canceled. It was rescheduled on Google Meets for the same day. The meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm by Vice President Sharon Bailey.

Attendees: Sharon Bailey (Vice President), Nicole Ballenger (Secretary), Susan Nelson (Treasurer), AnneMarie Johnson (CON Liaison), Adair Walker (Board Member), Stacy Thomas (Board Member), Terry McDowell (Board Member), Sarah Campbell (Board Member), Jennifer Ingwerson-Niemann (member), Stuart Thompson (National Director and member) joined late from side of road, and Chris Jensen (National Director emeritus) joined for a couple of minutes.

1. Approval of the Board Meeting minutes from 2022 meeting held in January 2023.

Adair moved to approve the minutes, and Susan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Terry McDowell raised a question about the part of the minutes that referred to Region 2 show approval. AnneMarie clarified that Wyoming had agreed to make Region 2 a point-counting show, but no money changes hand. Nicole amended the minutes accordingly.

Adair moves to approve amended minutes, Susan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. Treasurer's report for year ending 10-31-2023 (Susan Nelson)

The year-end report for 10-31-2023 shows a small loss of \$1,261.78. The bank account balance as of 10-31-22 was \$81,019 and the balance as of 10-31-23 was \$85,757.30. However, two checks valued at \$6,030 have not cleared; accounting for those checks results in a small loss for 2023 over 2022.

All expenses for the 2023 WQHA Cowboy Summer Classic are paid. Comparing 2023 to 2022, show scribes and announcer costs were up \$5009, room costs were up \$981, and fairground expenses were up \$1,691. (Note that in 2022 one of the scribes did not show up.) Total expenses were up \$10,108. To offset some of the increase, Lacy Cooper (show manager) and the scribes will stay at an AirBnB for \$2,111.45, for a savings of \$1,000.

For the 2024 show, the judges' contracts are signed, the show manager contract is signed, and the AirBnB is rented.

Susan noted the income includes some overlapping memberships.

Nicole moved to approve to treasurer's report. Stacy seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Susan provided copies of the written Treasurer report via email.

3. Year-end awards report (AnneMarie Johnson)

AnneMarie provided a handout summarizing the award financials. The budgeted amount for 2023 awards was \$7500. AnneMarie spent \$7515 (the \$15 overage is owed back to WQHA by awardee Sarah Campbell). Cash awards accounted for \$5057.47.

Two people (Lauren Kiyoto and Robin Klover) asked to put a portion of their award monies toward 2025 memberships. (Susan will make a note of this for the 2025 membership list). Additionally, Lauren requested \$250 of her award money go toward sponsorship of the 2024 Douglas show.

Some awards items will be sent to Bellringer and handed out there since award recipients were unable to attend the banquet. Some will be mailed.

AnneMarie noted that the awards are highly concentrated among a very small number of high point winners, who consequently receive very large awards.

She has some ideas for addressing this and will send some thoughts to the Board.

4. Ongoing business

A. Affiliate agreement

The AQHA Affiliate Agreement was approved.

B. Payment to Secretary and Treasurer

Adair moved to increase the payments to both Secretary (Susan Nelson) and Treasurer (Nicole Ballenger) to \$300.

The motion carried

C. Approval of Wrangler as official print publication and WQHA.org as official digital publication

Adair moved to approve Wrangler and WQHA as the official print and digital publications. Susan seconded the motion and the motion carried.

D. Approval of membership in lieu of payment for points secretary (currently Nicole), website administrator (currently Brittany Johnson) and awards manager (AnneMarie Johnson)

Susan moved to approve membership in lieu of payment for these services. Sarah seconded the motion and the motion carried.

E. Updated procedure manual

There were no updates by the Board to the procedure manual in 2023. This item carries over to 2024.

5. Donations

Adair moved to continue (A) the \$250 donation to Region 2, and (B) the \$50 donation to the 4H counsel
Stacy seconded the motion and the motion carried.

6. Shows

A. Cowboy Summer Classic

- a. The show is scheduled for July 10-14, 2024
- b. Lacy Cooper will be the show manager again. She has retained Judges Glen Wells, Manita DeFoor, and Margo Ball for July 10-12, and Jamison Gross, Shane Young, and Holly Hover for July 12-14. Contracts with the judges are in place.
- c. Show secretary again will be Sherri Matuska with Mary Glass assisting.
- d. Changes to schedule/format

Lacy and Sherri have requested more discretion be given to the show manager and secretary to manage and decide scheduling of classes, especially if there are indoor-outdoor arena conflicts.
Susan says she thinks we should do this, others agreed.

In discussion, a question was raised about the effects of the new facility being built at the state fairgrounds.
Susan noted we haven't yet received the contract from State Fair.
She will pester them and ask about the new facility.

e. Year end points

There was a brief discussion about the fact that at most shows the judges will not provide more than 9 placings. Consequently, it's very possible for WQHA members to receive no end-of-year points in large classes. This is especially an issue in ranch horse classes, which have become very popular.

We agreed that there is really nothing to be done about this. However, we do need to know who entered in every class at the Douglas show order to give credit to WQHA members for showing in Wyoming. Members must show to 6 judges in at least one class in order to receive end-of-year awards.

The points secretary (Nicole) needs to ask the show secretary (Sherri) for lists of the entrants by class.

We also discussed very small classes (e.g. barrels, poles, some halter classes) where 10 points needed for end-of-year awards may be difficult to earn. Are there cases where it's impossible? AnneMarie noted these classes are offered at other Wyoming-approved shows such that it is possible, assuming members attend enough shows.

As noted above, AnneMarie suggests we relook at award categories so awards aren't so bunched up among such a small number of awardees. She is going to provide some suggestions for the Board to consider. If we make changes to the award categories, we may need a rule (policy) change.

f. Fees

Adair has talked with the shavings company (Saratoga Shavings) and found that shavings prices are now set quarterly. She is trying to find out if they'll contract at current price and will let the Board know.

We can't decide if we need to raise shaving prices till we know what they'll charge. We will need to decide prior to posting the prices on the showbill. Once the prices have been announced they can't be changed.

Susan noted that last summer we did well financially with the shavings b/c we were able to sell the extras. She also noted that we do well financially on the stalls. Consequently, no changes were proposed for stall or shavings prices at this time.

7. New Business

A. Creation of show committee 2024

Discuss of the show committee membership will be discussed at the General Membership meeting.

B. Creation of convention committee

It's CON's turn to plan next year's convention and awards banquet. AnneMarie suggests moving convention to the first weekend of October. This means she would need to receive end-of-year points by September 1st in order to have enough time to order awards. She agreed to assist the points secretary (Nicole) to ensure high point calculations are accurate and completed in time. She also said the banquet will not be held again at Little America and that Josey Bailey has ideas for other venues in Cheyenne where we could have food catered in. This approach would also allow us more flexibility on numbers of attendees because a buffet meal would be an option. The Board responded favorably to these proposals.

C. Wyoming National Director for AQHA

Wyoming needs to recommend one person to represent WQHA at AQHA as a National Director. Chris Jensen, who currently holds one of these positions, is moving to emeritus status.

Jenny Ingwerson-Niemann, the equine specialist at University of Wyoming, and Mark Guynn, trainer in Sheridan, WY, and AQHA judge, both expressed their interest in being nominated for the position and discussed their qualifications. Jenny was present on the call. Mark made his presentation via a video shown by Sharon Bailey.

The Board discussed the qualifications of both candidates without the candidates present. Terry moved the Board recommend to the General Membership that WQHA forward Mark Guynn's name to AQHA.

Nicole seconded the motion and the motion carried. The recommendation will be taken to the General Membership meeting tomorrow evening.

WQHA will need to write a letter with its recommendation to AQHA by February 1.

D. Youth advisor discussion

The youth advisor position has been vacant for some time. Adair moved that Lindsey and Jan Guynn become the youth advisor co-chairs. Sharon suggest we list Lindsey as the main person and contact.

The motion was seconded by Stacy and the motion carried.

E. Officers whose terms are up

Board terms are up for Kristin Lyons, Nicole Ballenger, and Brittany Johnson. Kristin's term cannot be renewed, and Brittany has said she does not wish to have another term.

Nominations for these positions will be sought at the General Membership meeting and the members will vote on the nominees. The Board will then meet to decide on officer appointments.

Adair noted that while the Treasurer position has not needed to be held by a Board member, it might be a good idea to revisit that policy. It is possible to nominate the current treasurer for a Board position.

F. Miscellaneous business

Stuart (national director) joined the meeting from the side of the road while driving back to Pinedale. He discussed a power point that Sharon will share with the Board when she has time. It was prepared by AQHA and others and

contains a synopsis of AQHA show participation trends in levels 1, 2, and 3 by age group and division over the last ten years. There are no recommendations, but a great amount of data showing where AQHA is going. One main conclusion: participation is being driven by where there are options to win money.

Sharon brought up the possibility of adding more WQHA sponsored shows, especially focused on ranch classes because ranch has gotten so popular. She suggested shows in Riverton or Sheridan (especially now that the Guynn Training Center is there) could be a possibility. Susan mentioned that on the same weekend as our show there were ranch horse shows in Cheyenne and Powell. She wondered if these could be tied in some way to our show.

Sharon noted that we also need to discuss the website. She provided information about Pannell Enterprises and what web services they could provide for various prices. She suggested we look at Ohio Angus Association as an example. Nicole asked if as an alternative, could Lacy Cooper be a possibility since she is our show manager? Susan will reach out to Lacy to find out what the possibilities would be for working with her on the website. Terry suggested we consider payment for anyone from our membership who volunteers for this. The Board agreed it's crucial to address this since Brittany has said she can no longer be the web administrator.

Nicole moved to adjourn the meeting. Stacy seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned by Sharon Bailey at 5pm.

Reconvened Board meeting

The Board reconvened at 9:30 pm on Sunday, January 14th following the General Membership meeting. Attendees included Linda Henderson, Sharon Bailey, Nicole Ballenger, Adair Walker, Susan Nelson, BeLynn Johner, Jenny Ingwerson-Niemann, Sarah Campbell, Terry McDowell, and Stuart Thompson. Linda asked Nicole and Susan if they were willing to continue in their positions of secretary and treasurer for another year; they agreed. Adair moved to

appoint Nicole as secretary and Susan as treasurer. Stuart seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Sharon suggested we respond when something is emailed to us. Keep emails clearly around one topic.

Nicole moved to adjourn, Sarah seconded. Meeting was adjourned by Linda at 9:35pm.

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