

Wyoming Quarter Horse Association 2022 General Membership Meeting
January 14, 2023
Little America, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Approved at the General Membership meeting held January 14, 2024 on Google Meets

Attendees: Adair Walker, President; Debbie Unrein, Vice President; Susan Nelson, Treasurer; Nicole Ballenger, Secretary; Linda Henderson, board member; Sharon Bailey, board member; Kristin Lyons, board member; AnneMarie Johnson, CONQHA representative; Josie Bailey, Stuart Thompson, Stacy and Lindsay Thomas, Lisa Young, Dean Henderson

1. Reading of the minutes from 2021 meeting

Nicole Ballenger handed out the minutes from last year's meeting. Stacy Thomas moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion passed.

2. Treasurer's reports for 2021 and 2022

Susan Nelson gave the treasurer's report and provided handouts.

The First Interstate bank account balance on 10-29-21 was \$79,434 versus a balance of \$52,674 on 10-31-2020. A check to the Wyoming State Fairgrounds in the amount of \$15,871 had not yet cleared as of the end of October 2021. After accounting for the outstanding check, the Association realized a profit of \$10,889.

The bank account balance on 10-31-22 was \$81,019 versus a balance of \$63,563 (accounting for the outstanding check reported above) on 10-29-21, resulting in a 2022 profit of \$17,456.

All expenses for the 2022 WQHA Cowboy Summer Classic are paid. However, Susan thinks we may still owe the Hampton Inn \$5,544 for rooms, although the Hampton Inn says all our expenses have been paid. If the corporate auditors ultimately determine we owe this amount, then our 2022 profit would fall to \$11,912 (close to the 2021 profit).

Susan also provided statements detailing and comparing income sources and expenses for 2022 and 2021. Most of the income and expense items are the same or very similar in both years. Main differences include the following: in 2022 sponsorship were much higher than in 2021, \$8,901 v. \$4,603; and Wyoming State Fairground charges were lower in 2022 than in 2021, \$12,674 v. \$16,371.

Susan also provided a list of sponsors and handed out the 2022 sponsorship form, which the new show committee will need to update for 2023.

There were no bad checks received during 2022. Credit card payments for show entries worked out ok. Early payments by check also worked out well. It was a good idea to have attendees pay for stalls and shavings ahead of time.

Lastly, Susan mentioned—though there was no discussion at the time—that it could be a good idea to invest some of the association’s cash in CD’s, which are now paying 3.5% for 13 months and 3.25% for 25 months.

Linda Henderson moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Stacy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Year-end awards report for 2022

AnneMarie Johnson gave the awards report. She had been allocated \$8,000, the same amount or a tad less than for 2021. She spent \$7905.07, \$95 under budget.

A handout shows the amounts given to individuals as cash awards (\$3,845) and the amounts paid to businesses for purchases of awards requested by exhibitors and postage (\$3,577.57). Other expenses, e.g. for embroidery, came to \$482.50.

The Board thanked AnneMarie for the huge amount of work she does to contact the award recipients and to purchase and mail the many awards that exhibitors choose. She will receive a 2022 membership in lieu of payment.

4. Ongoing business

a. Approval of affiliate agreement

The Board recommended approval of the AQHA affiliate agreement. The agreement is needed in order for our youth members to attend the Youth World Show, and there’s no cost.

Stuart Thompson moved to approve signing the affiliate agreement. Linda seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

b. WQHA representative to Regional Committee

No members of the Regional committee were present and Adair noted that we do not know their terms. The issue was tabled with the assumption that we will hear from AQHA if we do not have current representatives in place.

c. Payments to secretary (Nicole Ballenger) and treasurer (Susan Nelson)

The payments have been \$200 for the secretary and \$300 for the treasurer. Stuart moved to continue payments at these same levels. Stacy seconded the motion and the motion carried.

- d. Approval of the Wrangler as official print publication and wqha.org as official digital publication

Nicole noted that the Wrangler has an improved look and feel under the Delancey's management. Susan noted that we're receiving about 50% of our memberships on line and 50% by check. She also noted that we have 40 2023 members currently.

The Board recommended approval. Linda moved to accept both and Stacy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- e. Approval of "membership in lieu of payment" for points secretary and website administrator

Nicole is serving as points secretary and Brittany Johnson is serving as website administrator. Adair added that this policy should apply to AnneMarie for handling the end-of-year awards as well.

The Board recommended approval. Linda moved to approve providing memberships in lieu of payments to all three. Stacy seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Since Nicole has already paid her 2023 membership, she will receive a reimbursement.

- f. Updated procedure manual notification

Adair and Debbie will no longer be serving as president and vice president after this meeting because their terms have expired. New officers (to be chosen by the Board after the General Membership has elected Board members) will need to review and possibly update the procedure manual. The manual provides legal obligations and timelines for required actions by the Board. It's important for keeping WQHA's 503c non-profit status. Adair and Debbie agreed to provide mentorship as needed.

During the Board meeting, Sharon had noted it would be preferable to have staggered terms for the president and vice president. This would require amending the bylaws.

Debbie had noted that it would make sense to also change the bylaws such that the vice president moves into the president position.

5. Donations

- a. Donation to Region 2 Championship show
- b. Donation to 4-H Horse Council

In the past WQHA has donated \$250 to support the Region 2 show and \$50 to support the 4-H horse council.

The Board had recommended continuing the same donations at the same levels. Stacy moved to approve the recommendation from the Board. Kristin Lyons seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

6. Cowboy Summer Classic

a. Dates

The show dates are July 12-16, 2023 with move in on the 11th. The show will have the same 6-judge format as we've had for the last two years.

Adair has received the contract from Wyoming State Fairgrounds and will sign it now that the Board has approved.

b. Show manager

We have a bid from Lacy Cooper to be the show manager. She knows the fairgrounds and the issues there and worked with Heidi Lane last year, so the Board thinks she's a good choice and recommends the contract be signed by the new (incoming) president. Lacy has already hired 4 judges (of the 6 we'll need). She hasn't expressed a preference for a show secretary.

c. Show secretary

We have three possibilities for show secretary that are still being considered and others have been mentioned. The show committee will need to move quickly on this.

d. Changes to schedule/format

We agreed to stick with our 6-judge, 5-day format but several issues were raised:

--We need to add "ranch on the rail" to our show schedule and count points toward year-end awards because AQHA has now recognized this class. Because it's a new class, all entrants will be L1.

--Linda suggested moving amateur halter before open halter to be consistent with other shows

--Debbie suggested ranch trail and regular trail be held on different days as it's extremely challenging for exhibitors who have horses in both to go back and forth between the two arenas (especially when the temperature is near 100 degrees)

e. Changes to year-end points and point secretary concerns

WQHA would like judges to place every horse/exhibitor entered in a class, but most judges won't place beyond 9th. Although there was some discussion, Board members had agreed it's not practical for the points secretary to use score cards to place the additional entrants; additionally, some classes (halter, western pleasure) don't have score cards. Consequently, the Board recommended changing our points policy to award points only through 9th place.

However, it was noted that the point secretary will need to know which members showed in every class, even beyond 9th place. That's because the number of judges shown to is one of the criteria used to determine end-of-year awards (e.g. to break a points tie). Therefore, show secretary will need to provide the list of entrants for each class.

Additionally, Adair suggested during this meeting that we revise the point system for grand and reserve champions in halter. We currently use the AQHA point system, which is obscure and time consuming to use. Since there's no requirement to use the AQHA system for WQHA points, it was agreed it would be simpler to simply award 2 points for Grand and 1 point for Reserve. [The points secretary (Nicole) will have to go back and revise the points award for the 2023 shows that have already taken place (Region 2 and Rocktoberfest)].

Sharon Bailey moved to approve these recommended changes. Stacy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Following the above discussion, Nicole mentioned that she thinks it would be important for a second person to be involved in calculating points, since there are so many opportunities for error and there are differences between shows that would benefit from discussion. Debbie has volunteered to continue to back up Nicole for this year, but this is something for consideration for the future.

f) Fees (entry, stalls, and shavings)

The Board recommended staying with the 2022 fees for stalls and entries. Shavings are priced based on the going rate.

AnneMarie Johnson moved to retain the same fees. Sharon seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

7. New business

a. New Board members

The Board members whose terms continue include: Kristin Lyons (2021-2023), Nicole Ballenger (2021-2023), Brittany Johnson (2021-2023), Terry McDowell (2022-2024), Sarah Campbell (2022-2024), and Sharon Bailey (2022-2024).

Board members whose terms have expired include: Debbie Unrein, Adair Walker, and Linda Henderson. Both Adair and Linda can be reelected. Debbie cannot be reelected.

The floor was opened for 3 nominations for 2023-2025 terms. AnneMarie nominated Linda Henderson. Kristin Lyons nominated Adair Walker. Adair Walker nominated Stacy Thomas.

Sharon moved to close the nominations. AnneMarie seconded the motion. The slate of nominees was approved by a vote of all present.

b. Creation of the show committee (2023-2024)

Several folks volunteered for the show committee, including:

Susan Nelson

Stuart Thompson (depending on what happens with the Rock Springs show)

AnneMarie Johnson

Sharon Bailey

Linda Henderson

Adair Walker (volunteered to handle shavings and motel reservations)

Debbie Unrein (volunteered to serve in an advisory role)

Discussion included:

--The need to quickly update the sponsorship form and reach out to sponsors

--The idea that we should give more credit/recognition to the sponsors. AnneMarie had a great idea to put recognition signs on the stalls of sponsors.

--The need to find a food truck. Linda said she would look into this.

c. Creation of a new convention committee for 2023-2024

The contract with Little America is up this year. The convention committee will need to decide on venues for the meetings and the banquet, which do not necessarily have to be in the same location. A block of rooms for those who stay overnights will also be needed.

However, the Board has recommended the convention stay in Cheyenne, largely because too many of the Colorado members aren't willing to drive to Scottsbluff. It also agreed that in the event of snow and poor driving conditions the meetings should be held on Zoom and awards mailed to recipients.

AnneMarie noted that CONQHA also recommends the same time frame as this year, staying in Cheyenne, using ZOOM if it snows, and keeping a week free in between our and RMQHA's banquets.

AnneMarie moved that Josie Bailey and Kristin Lyons (who both live in Cheyenne) serve on the convention committee. Susan Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The committee was given free rein to consider alternatives, keeping the recommendations above in mind.

d. Miscellaneous other business

Jill Stucky has resigned as youth advisor so a new one is needed. It was noted that the youth bylaws desperately need revision.

Stacy Thomas volunteered to serve as youth advisor if Jan Guynn is willing to co-chair with her.

AnneMarie moved to contact Jan Guynn to request she serve as co-chair with Stacy Thomas. Susan seconded the motion and the motion carried.

As a last order of business, Susan noted that we need a new mailbox for our trail class. Stuart volunteered to make one. Susan moved to pay Stuart's expenses, but Stuart declined reimbursement. Thank you Stuart!!!

Linda moved to adjourn the meeting. Stacy seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

