

## **WQHA General Membership Meeting Minutes**

January 14, 2024

Approved at the Annual General Membership Meeting October 5, 2024

Due to weather and road conditions the Cheyenne meeting was canceled. It was rescheduled on Google Meets on Sunday, January 14. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Linda Henderson.

Attendees: Linda Henderson, president and board member; Sharon Bailey, vice president and board member; Susan Nelson, treasurer and member; Nicole Ballenger, secretary and board member; Jan Guynn, member; Jenny Ingwerson-Niemann, member; Josey Bailey; Marie Nida, member; AnneMarie Johnson, CON liaison and member; Adair Walker, board member; Piper Johner, member; Diane Pilant, member; Sarah Campbell, board member; Amanda Kauffmann, member; Chris Jensen, National Director emeritus; BeLynn Johner, member; Cindy Robbins, member; Stuart Thompson, National Director and member; and Terry McDowell, board member.

### **1. Approval of the Board Meeting minutes from the 2022 annual membership meeting held in January 2023.**

AnneMarie Johnson moved to approve the minutes, and Sarah 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 had not cleared at the time Susan prepared the report; 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, this year Lacy 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.

Sharon moved to approve to treasurer's report. Sarah seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### **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.

Awards items will be sent to Bellringer and handed out there since award recipients were unable to attend the banquet. Some will be mailed directly to those who won't be at Bellringer.

Adair moved to approve the report. Sharon seconded. The motion carried.

### **4. Ongoing business**

#### **A. Affiliate agreement**

The Affiliate Agreement was approved.

Linda has paperwork and will get it sent in shortly.

B. Payment to Secretary and Treasurer

Sharon moved to increase the payments to both Secretary and Treasurer to \$300. AnneMarie seconded.

The motion carried.

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

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

Cyndi Robbins, who is a judge, volunteered to write or provide ideas for Wrangler articles on judging and other topics. Nicole and she will communicate about ideas. Thank you Cyndi!

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

Cyndi suggested we recruit a website administrator from the youth membership. **BeLynn Johner noted that she has taken over Region 2's website and volunteered to do ours as well!** This offer was received enthusiastically. Susan mentioned that Brittany would work with BeLynn to get her started on the GoDaddy platform.

Additionally, Susan and Nicole will get updated information to Brittany and BeLynn for posting.

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

#### E. Updated procedure manual

There were no updates by the Board to the procedures manual in 2023. This is the manual that identifies tasks and timelines for actions by the Board.

We agreed we need a committee to take a look at the manual and update it as needed. Susan, Sharon and Adair volunteered to look it over.

### 5. Donations

Nicole moved to continue (A) the \$250 donation to Region 2, and (B) the \$50 donation to the 4H counsel

AnneMarie 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, according to Susan.
- c. The show secretary will be Sherri Matuska with Mary Glass assisting her.
- d. Changes to schedule/format

Lacy and Sherri have requested more discretion be given to the show manager and secretary to decide scheduling of classes, especially if there

are indoor-outdoor arena conflicts. We agreed our show committee will work with them. **Additionally, Susan suggested stall and RV hookup reservations go through Lacy, and that entries go through Sherri.** This way Susan won't have to be the "middle man."

Attendees agreed that generally our show format is liked, or at least we haven't had complaints and in fact have had some compliments.

However, BeLynn noted the challenges stemming from the open format for ranch trail, rather than draws, which resulted in a long drawn out session. Susan asked if announcing the open format early in advance would help. Folks agree it would.

Cyndi noted AQHA rules for logs in ranch trail have changed.

Linda says Kevin Tate will be there with his food truck. Marie Nida says he would welcome suggestions for the menu.

In discussion, a question was raised about the effects of the new facility being built at the state fairgrounds.

We haven't yet received the contract from State Fair, which seems later than usual.

Susan will pester the fairgrounds staff about the contract and also ask about the new facility.

#### e. Year end points

There was a brief discussion initiated by Linda 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, as discussed at the Board meeting, 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 Sherri for the entrants. Linda and Marie suggested we consider a “never won a buckle” award or something like this. This is what the Cutting Club does. The idea would be to pick a class like rookie ranch riding and whoever gets the highest score during the show year, and who’s never won an end-of-year award, would receive an award.

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 or even impossible to earn. There was more discussion of this topic than there had been at the Board meeting.

Linda made the point that for some classes it’s impossible to get ten points to qualify for an end-of-year award. AnneMarie noted that there is barrel racing at Region 2 and the Black Hills summer circuit. However, Marie Nida noted, as an example, that the ability to earn ten points for barrels was lost when the 3-judge Rock Springs show was not held.

There was some discussion of various options. Adair noted that WQHA used to have a rule that said when a class is not offered 10 times, and an exhibitor participates every time it’s offered, that they’re eligible for an end-of-year award. AnneMarie talked about the possibility of qualifying exhibitors based on a percentage of all shows attended. Nicole proposed we could make an exhibitor eligible if a class is not placed by 10 judges and if the exhibitor shows to all judges in Wyoming.

Sharon moved that if an exhibitor shows to six (6) judges in WY, and it is not possible to get the required 10 pts in Wyoming, then that exhibitor is eligible for end-of-year awards. Marie seconded the motion and the motion carried. This policy will be adopted starting with the 2024 Douglas show.

The show point rules will have to be amended accordingly.

f. Fees

Adair has talked with the Saratoga shavings company and found that shavings prices are now to be set quarterly. Our show is in their 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Adair 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 until we know what they'll charge. We will need to decide prior to posting prices on the show bill. Once the prices have been announced they can't be changed. Linda pointed out that we could put "market value" on the show bill. We could do that now and advertise the actual price later.

Susan noted that last summer we did well financially with the shavings because 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**

Volunteers for the show committee were: Cyndi Robbins, AnneMarie Johnson, Susan Nelson, Stuart Thompson, Terry McDowell, and Sharon Bailey. Nicole is willing to help as needed and is responsible for ads in Wrangler.

Susan made pitch for getting sponsorships. This is how prizes are funded and we need to start working on that now. Marie and Jan asked for sponsorship forms. Susan will send out forms to all of us. Linda noted, for information, that Murdochs won't sponsor our show because Boomgars is in Douglas. Susan said Jimmy Daurio has already paid a sponsorship. Cyndi Robbins said she will be a sponsor and also offered to do a clinic on July 9<sup>th</sup> in late afternoon. The attendees responded very favorably to Cyndi's offer.

### **B. Creation of convention committee**

It's CON's turn to plan the next, convention. AnneMarie suggests moving convention to the first weekend of October, i.e. October 2024. This means she would need to receive end-of-year points by September 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (who planned this year's banquet) 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.

AnneMarie would like to have a WQHA member to partner with. Linda volunteered to be the WQHA partner.

#### 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 because he's served 10 years.

Our current directors are Stuart Thompson, Krystal Peterson, and Chris Jensen. Judy Horton is a director emeritus. Our letter of recommendation is due February 1. The person has to be interviewed by the AQHA Nominations and Credential committee. Usually whoever the affiliate recommends is selected. A National Director can only miss AQHA's convention one year; if you miss two you become inactive and cannot vote.

Jenny Ingwerson-Niemann, the equine specialist at University of Wyoming, and Mark Guynn, trainer in Banner, WY, and AQHA judge, had both expressed their interest in being nominated for the position. Jenny was present at the meeting to present her interest and qualifications. Mark was represented by Jan Guynn and had prepared a short video in which he discussed his interest.

Jenny and Jan were asked to leave the meeting before discussion of the candidates and a vote. Adair read the eligibility requirements and qualifications for the National Director position as stated in the WQHA bylaws,



which include, among other things, two years of active consecutive membership in WQHA. During the discussion, it was stated that Jenny had become a member in just the last couple of weeks.

Nicole mentioned that the Board had voted at its meeting to recommend Mark to the general membership.

Stuart then moved to recommend Mark Guynn to AQHA for the National Director position. Sharon seconded the motion. There was one opposed. The motion carried.

Linda then reported that the membership had voted to nominate Mark Guynn. Sharon volunteered to write the letter of recommendation to AQHA and submit it by February 1.

#### D. Youth advisor discussion

AnneMare moved that Lindsay and Jan Guynn become the youth advisor co-chairs. She also suggested we list Lindsay as the primary contact. Diane Pilant seconded the motion and the motion carried. Thank you, Lindsay and Jan!

#### 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.

Terry nominated Nicole for another three-year term. Sharon nominated BeLynn Johner. Susan nominated Jenny Ingwersen-Niemann. AnneMarie seconded all of these nominations and moved there be no additional nominations accepted. The nominations were voted on and all were approved unanimously by those still in attendance. Welcome to the Board, BeLynn and Jenny!

The Board will have to reconvene briefly to vote on the treasurer and secretary positions.

#### F. Miscellaneous business

Stuart 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.

Linda adjourned the general membership meeting at 9:25pm.

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