

Reining Horse Association of the Northwest Annual Meeting Minutes



Date: November 14, 2009
Time: 10:13 am Meeting called to order
Location: Lydig Construction, 11001 E. Montgomery, Spokane, WA

Call to Order 10:13 AM

Attendance: Joanne Pettit, Sara Leshner, Cyndee Hall, Debbie McKinlay, Norm Poser, Marv Lagerway, Tish Lagerway, Renate Biegler, Mary Kaplan, Trina Olson, Mike Stokes, Katrina Foltz, Cathy Frank

1. Review & approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - a. August Meeting minutes:
 - Check has been received from Hal McCormick to pay for Erin Doss training package.
 - NRHA has not provided us a response to Mary Kaplan's protest.
 - b. September General Meeting minutes, approved as is.
2. Treasurers Report provided by Trina Olson with budget comparison to 2008. Financial statements are available to current members upon written request.
 - a. Year end buckle invoice, \$3155, w/total of approx. \$4000 remaining to be paid out.
 - b. Banquet cost also still need to be paid out.
 - c. Projected cash balance for year end is approximately \$30,000.
 - d. Discussed need to have at least \$20,000 at the beginning of each year to cover contract commitments for show facilities, judges, etc.
 - e. Survey results indicate members want more class awards rather than increased added money.
3. Correspondence (if any).
 - a. none
4. Election of Officers – submit ballots to be counted
 - a. Debbie McKinlay and Cyndee Hall tallied.
5. Reviewed results of Member Survey. 47 members replied. (9 more than the previous year.)
 - a. Freestyle will be jackpot/buckle class
 - b. Discussion around ½ day clinics before May and July shows
 - Use club and local trainers
 - Could have 2 trainers per show
 - Chair will be Sara Leshner and Katrena Foltz

- c. No longer will use Horse Previews and switch to NW Horse Source
- Capitol Press, Exchange and Reiner magazine are options to be considered
 - Norm Poser to review where we should advertise and how it affects our sponsorship
 - Norm Poser to be put as NRHA contact for Horse Preview magazine

d. Over all comments LOVE THE PEOPLE

- Look for ways to further educate members on how to get in classes that they qualify for. Can accomplish this by making changes to the class list and emphasizing "know the rules".
- Create a SHOW SEASON FOR DUMMIES checklist.
 1. Talk to trainers,
 2. Money earnings
 3. Sara volunteered to draft one for review.

- e. All comments to question #10, What would you like to change? 19 members ignored this question and 28 responses, all are listed here.,

1. More shows closer to Montana :) Sat, Sep 26, 2009 7:48 AM

Per survey results, Moses Lake won as the overall location members want to show at. Over 50% of members who took the survey don't want us to change anything in regards to our shows and where we have been holding them.

2. Encourage more Open trainers to compete. NP's improve from spectating and club benefit by trainers bringing their NP's. The other item I would like to change may seem contradictory considering my comments re what I like most about RHANW but I am highly respectful of those who volunteer but becoming increasingly disrespectful of those members who understand what makes this club successful but still contribute nothing. My analogy pertaining to this is they know it is a pot luck dinner and they eat but turn up barehanded.
Sat, Sep 26, 2009 6:38 AM

3.1. I would like to see the program schedule kept uniform each show not changed from one show to the next.

3.2. I believe the RHANW is losing funds by not charging more for Stalls. 20 years ago I paid \$40 per night for a tie stall for my horses at one show. If the contract for Moses Lake does not include the stall funds going to the RHANW then the contract should be set up on a flat rate for the use of the facility. Where as the RHANW could charge more for stalls, haul ins should pay a day us fee. AQHA shows &

cowhorse shows both reap the benefit of charging more for stalls, enabling the sponsoring show to realize more profit from the show.

We are happy to report we are not losing any funds on stall fees. And we are even more proud to say that we are not raising any of our show fees for the 2010 season.

3.3. I believe one of the shows should be held in the Spokane area, Spokane Fairgrounds, since Spokane is the target market for advertising & sponsors. Fri, Sep 25, 2009 5:06 PM

Unfortunately, the Spokane Fairgrounds is one of the most expensive venues, has poor ground for reining and no dates available that fit our current annual show schedule. As we've grown over the years we no longer fit at facilities that can only hold less than 100 horses or that do not offer stalls like Spokane Falls Equestrian or FAB Quarterhorses.

4. Wow.....that's a hard one. It's a group of folks with a reputation of knowing how to have a good time while striving to improve their riding skills, and making new comers feel welcomed! Stay the same! Thu, Sep 24, 2009 8:23 PM

5. Offer a 4,5,6 yo class at each show instead of Jr Horse class. At the Derby show you would either not offer this class or run it concurrent w/ the NRHA Derby class. Otherwise I don't think there's an NRHA problem w/ this at the rest of the shows. Thu, Sep 24, 2009 7:12 PM

6. I would like the reps to pay attention to the amount of abuse we all see some of the horses taking. Thu, Sep 24, 2009 11:20 AM

7. I feel that the show committees have been too harsh on volunteers, hence the huge drop in volunteering this year. Announcing, for example, has been a great way to volunteer and used to be a blast to do and listen to, but after several announcers being "taken on" by various members of the show committee, announcer participation and enthusiasm really drop, and enthusiasm for the club suffered. Thu, Sep 24, 2009 9:21 AM

We will take this under advisement. Show committee members are volunteers as well. That is neither our intent nor part of our mission. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

8. Have Junior Horse a separate class. Mon, Sep 21, 2009 9:39 PM

This has come across loud and clear from many avenues in the survey. This will be a separate class in the future.

9. We have got to get the ML people to drag the warm up arena more often! Mon, Sep 21, 2009 9:41 AM

10. Combining so many classes, especially futurities and derbies, makes it difficult to watch the competition and spectators get bored. If necessary, drop some of the newly added classes to keep the very special classes separate - more exciting for spectators, and more fair to riders. Sun, Sep 20, 2009 12:06 PM

We will not be combining futurities and derby classes, but many others must be combined or we would never get through the show in 2 days and we don't have resources to expand to a 3 day event.

11. More lower level classes. Green as Grass has very little participation. Fri, Sep 18, 2009 7:09 AM

This comment has sparked the creation of a "reining for dummies" checklist. We want to further educate folks on what classes they do qualify to ride in plus look at potentially creating other club level classes.

12. With the ever increasing expenses of travel and lodging. I would like to see a decrease in the cost of entry fees. Make it less expensive to attend all of the shows not just 1 or 2. As it is right now only a few of the very top pros can afford to attend every show. Beginners and green horse have no chance if they place out of the money in the first show or two and become discouraged from spending more money for the rest of the season. Thu, Sep 17, 2009 5:23 PM

RHANW has not raised costs in over the last 3 years, and actually we couldn't remember when the last time was prior to that. For 2010 all costs will remain the same making it 4 years running with no increases. We are not making enormous profits, just enough to keep the club healthy.

13. I think we need to increase the incentives (money???) for trainers and general non-pros. I like the idea of increasing the added money. One of the things that draws many to the club is that the shows are small enough (not three day shows) yet competitive. I think that we need to increase the added money in the bigger classes if we want to keep the club competitive. Thu, Sep 17, 2009 5:10 PM

Per the survey results, the majority of the members wish to have class prizes rather than more added money. At this time we are not making plans to change the added money, but will be adding nicer class prizes.

14. Let's find more ways of keeping the youth involved during the shows. More youth contests and paying jobs might be the ticket. Set up youth saddle cleanings and youth truck washes. Thu, Sep 17, 2009 5:03 PM

We have a new Youth Director as a board member. I am certain she will be looking for volunteers to help coordinate these types of youth activities 😊

15. More beginner classes - not all the last class of the day. Thu, Sep 17, 2009 3:54 PM

See above #11

16. Not much. Thu, Sep 17, 2009 1:13 PM

17. Do not think the nonpro, open, and junior horse classes should be combined for the Futuries or Derbies. Feel both non-pro and open Futuries and Derbies should run on Saturday evening as the highlighted classes of the weekend. Running Junior Horse earlier in day at these shows may prompt more people to enter that class as a warm-up to their Derby or Futurity class. Thu, Sep 17, 2009 11:10 AM

See #8 and #10 above.

18. Nothing. Too new a member to constructively critique club. I'm happy. Thu, Sep 17, 2009 11:09 AM

19. 1. Do not combine so many classes. I would like to have the option of doing more than one run.

See #8 and #10 above.

2. Offer more incentive for helping. One stall fee for 5 hours is not going to encourage anyone to help who wouldn't be helping anyway.

Offering the stall credits this year was a first. No volunteers = no shows = no RHANW. I hope you understand that we are offering what we can afford at this time.

3. Schedule runs in blocks so that people who are eligible for lower level classes could help with upper level classes and vice versa.

4. Don't use the most difficult patterns for junior horse, green horse, novice, and beginners. Thu, Sep 17, 2009 9:00 AM

20. Every year my biggest request is to have shows in SPOKANE. So many of us (most of us?) live closest to Spokane. Can anyone talk to FAB Quarterhorses-they have a great facility (they hosted the "Ride the West" this year). This is my same request every year, and yet the shows get pushed farther and farther away, or are scheduled exclusively outside of Spokane. If I personally can help in any way, I will. But I hope the club will listen to my request! Best Regards Thu, Sep 17, 2009 8:47 AM

See #3.3 above.

21. Like to see some different judges than we have had in the past. Have shown to many of the same judges several times. Thu, Sep 17, 2009 8:13 AM

22. Better balance of schedule between Saturday and Sunday. I am eligible for Limited Non Pro and up. I can show 4x on Saturday but only once on Sunday. Thu, Sep 17, 2009 6:30 AM

We will be looking at this for 2010. Thank you for the comments.

23. Grow the derby, keep the futurity for three year olds. Thu, Sep 17, 2009 5:56 AM

24. Drop down to 3 shows. Have 2-3 quality fund raisers. Continue the May, June and Sept. or make it a late Aug. show and drop the July show. I love this club but I'm burning out! Katrena Thu, Sep 17, 2009 4:59 AM

25. Like to have one show not in Moses Lake. Wed, Sep 16, 2009 9:04 PM

See #1 and #3.3 above.

26. Costs. It appears that RHANW has been moving towards catering to NRHA members & professionals. The increased membership (esp. NRHA), class & stall fees, added to the problems with the economy & higher fuel/hay/feed prices, makes it less likely someone who is just competing for the enjoyment will continue to attend the shows. Some folks don't join NRHA for a variety of reasons, the main one probably due to having a horse that although has ability is not professionally trained or they don't have a trainer to work with. Cost is a big factor -- at either the first or second show, Brett Christensen had a bill of over \$1,000 for himself and his 2 kids; I'm not sure if that included his stall & RV charges. That is a LOT of money to be spending for a weekend of showing. Although it has been nice having the shows in one location, it is also nice to go to other facilities once in a while. Wed, Sep 16, 2009 8:55 PM

See #12 above. Additionally, some riders also pay their NRHA dues (\$95 per rider) and club dues at the time our first show or second show each year, and in the case of the Christensen's for example, RV and stalls for 3+ horses also may be a factor in overall calculations..

27. Not running the Derby and Futurity concurrent with another class. They are supposed to be a larger more prestigious class. The entry fees are more and they should be run separate. Wed, Sep 16, 2009 8:37 PM

See #8 and #10 above.

28. Get more than the "usuals" helping at each show in the volunteer roles. Wed, Sep 16, 2009 8:18 PM

Amen. See #2 above.

6. Committee Reports / Recruit Committee Chairs & members for 2010

a. Advertising – Norm Poser

b. Year End Awards – Renate Biegler-Phelps, needs budget so she can shop throughout the year, and the date of the year end banquet asap.

Motion made by Cyndee Hall to approve \$6000 for 2010 year end awards (1st – 4th place).

1. Trina Olson, made second.

2. All in favor, motion carries.

- Roxy Bernbaum has some suggestions for items, buckle w/picture frame.
 - c. Banquet - Renate Biegler-Phelps, Cyndee Hall
 - d. Clinic – Sara Leshar and Katrina Foltz
 - e. Sponsorship /Fundraising – Katrena Foltz, Cathy Frank, Lola Sample
 - f. Newsletter/E-newsletter -- Sarah Widdop, Norm Poser
 - g. Show Committee – responsibilities include finalizing class lists, ordering trophies, contract & rooms for judges & secretary, scheduling volunteers. Chair: Joanne Pettit. Committee Members: Amber McDowell, Audry Calicoat, Norm Poser, Cathy Frank, Debbie McKinlay, Sara Leshar, Lola Sample, Katrena Foltz
 - h. Show Awards – Sue Stark
 - i. Website – Cyndee Hall
7. 2010 Shows. Proposed dates, locations and Show Chairs.
- a. Spin Out – May 14-16. Show Managers: Audry Calicoat, Norm Poser
 - b. Summerslide Derby – June 11-13. Show Managers: Cathy Frank, Debbie McKinlay
 - c. Washington Trust Slide – July 16-18. Show Managers: Sara Leshar, Lola Sample
 - d. Spin Out & All Star Futurity – Sept 10-12. Show Managers: Katrena Foltz, Joanne Pettit
 - e. Grant County contract review
 - Ardell pavilion \$500/day
 - Stall first day \$14
 - Stall additional day \$7
 - Shavings per bag, market value
 - Motion made by Norm Poser to sign contracts with Grant County Fairgrounds for 2010 show season
 1. Cathy Frank seconded motion
 2. All approved, no opposed.
 - f. Proposed dates or 2011 shows: May 13-15, June 10-12, July 15-17, Sept 9-11
 - g. Review proposal from Barbara Williams to be 2010 Show Secretary
 - Can do all 4 shows
 - \$300 per day
 - 1 meal per day on show days
 - \$.50 per mile round trip
 - Room for 1 person for 2 nights
 - Motion made by Cyndee Hal, second by Sara Leshar
 - All approved, no opposed.
 - h. Discussion of potential judges
 - Cyndee Hall to hire judges.
8. Unfinished Business from prior meeting (if any).
- a. NRHA ruling on the M. Kaplan protest – no decision from NRHA yet.

9. New Business

a. Election results – Effective December 1st, 2009.

- President, Norm Poser
- Treasurer, Trina Olson
- Board Position #1, Audry Calicoat
- Board Position #2, Katrena Foltz
- Youth Director, Cathy Frank
 - 1. Motion made to appoint Cathy Frank to Youth Director, second by Cyndee Hall and place Katrena Foltz to board position #2.
- Vice President, Marv Lagerway
 - 1. Motion made by Cyndee Hall, second by Joanne Pettit, to appoint Marv Lagerway as VP
- Proposed bylaw change, Article III. Directors Section 7, Meetings via Conference Call.
 - 1. passed

b. 2010 Membership dues

- Remain the same as 2009 and noted they have not been increased for several years standing.

c. NRHA invoicing.

- Trina Olson mentioned conversation w/NRHA and how they've assigned her NRHA number to a club invoice.
- Suggesting RHANW join as a member of the NRHA so that all our invoicing are assigned directly to the club, not the Treasurer, or any other board member.
- Joanne to call NRHA and find out why this is being done this way and resolve with the completion of the annual affiliate paperwork.

Unfinished Business for next meeting:

- Class list discussions.
- Never won a buckle class.
- High point awards at each show, make a ruling can only win once.

Set Time and Place for Next Meeting: January 23rd, 10 AM, Lydig building

Adjournment 12:30 PM