

**Texas Hunter and Jumper Association  
Board of Directors 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, January 11, 2020  
Omni Hotel Woodway, Houston, TX**

The meeting was called to order by Suzanne Warmack at 8:32 AM.

1. Roll call by the Secretary

- Present: Suzanne Warmack, Colleen Brombach, Robert Yaffe, Doug Brombach, Katja Kallenberger, Gustavo De Cillo, Matt Cyphert, Vicki Hunton, Katie Cox, Ellen Eakin, Angeleah Cleek, Patty Roberts, Jane Thacker, Amy Uniss-Coleman, and Brooke Brombach
- Absent/excused: Linda Moore, Lynn Walsh, Bob Brawley, Kim Cox, Kimberly Brunson, and Lindsey Black
- Absent/unexcused: Brittany Hildebrand and Megan Winborne

2. Reading of the minutes from the September 9<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting

- Colleen Brombach moved to waive the reading of the minutes. Jane Thacker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

3. Short visit from Reagan Comeaux with Equine Mastery Education System

- Reagan Comeaux presented on her Equine Mastery Education System and requested THJA's assistance in spreading the word about the program.

4. Report of the Treasurer

- Linda Moore was not in attendance, but she provided a current Profit/Loss Statement and Balance Sheet as handouts. The Profit/Loss Statement reflects improvement; there was a small profit in 2019 rather than a substantial loss as in prior years.
- Jane Thacker reported that she has been working on the 501(c)(3) status change. She reported that THJA's initial Charter filed in 1953 stated that the corporation would have a term of 50 years and that this would need to be rectified prior to submitting the 501(c)(3) application. Angeleah Cleek agreed to assist Jane in developing language for an Articles of Amendment to submit to the Secretary of State.
- Angeleah Cleek also reported that prior to submitting the paperwork for the 501(c)(3) status change, THJA would need to file another Periodic Report with the Secretary of State to ensure its active status as an entity in Texas.
- Patty Roberts stated that Directors receiving free banquet tickets may be a conflict of interest for purposes of the 501(c)(3) status. Patty moved that starting in 2020, Directors no longer receive free banquet tickets. Suzanne Warmack seconded the

motion. Ellen Eakin, Colleen Brombach, and Doug Brombach abstained. All others were in favor.

## 5. Report of the Rule Book Committee

- Jane Thacker requested a vote on a new purpose statement that she drafted for the 501(c)(3) status change. She read the drafted statement aloud, and all were in favor. Robert Yaffe agreed to update the purpose statement on the website.
- Jane Thacker confirmed that all items voted upon at the 2019 Rules Meeting had been added/modified apart from the equitation offerings, the details of which were still being finalized. She requested clarification on an updated quorum considering the number of Directors has been reduced. It was agreed that 8 was an appropriate quorum. Jane agreed to update the Bylaws accordingly.
- There was discussion surrounding the committees specified in the Bylaws. As the Bylaws allow the President to appoint committees as he or she sees fit, there was agreement that certain of the listed standing committees do not need to be identified explicitly in the Bylaws. Katja Kallenberger moved to remove the Hunter Breeding Committee and the Sponsorship and Education Committee from the list of standing committees in the Bylaws. Katie Cox seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Amy Uniss-Coleman commented that the trending decline in attendance at the Annual Meeting and the banquet appears to be related to a change in the overall atmosphere of the industry. Exhibitors are travelling further to compete, competing more often, and appear to be less focused on annual awards than in the past.
- Matt Cyphert suggested adding awards such as 'lifetime achievement', 'sportsmanship', and/or 'rising star' to the banquet in order to increase hype and engage more members. This idea was well-received.
- Amy Uniss-Coleman suggested that THJA consider hosting a 'THJA Spectacular' class (both hunter and jumper) that offered significant prize money and required participants to be THJA members. She suggested a format similar to the Texas Super Series program. It was discussed that the funds currently used for the High Point Award could potentially be repurposed for this class. The idea was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.
- Colleen Brombach requested clarification regarding whether a member was eligible to receive a year-end award if they *competed* in the division at three THJA recognized shows or *placed* in the division at three THJA recognized shows. Currently, a member must *place* in the division at three THJA recognized shows to be eligible for a year-end award. Angeleah Cleek agreed to add this issue to a list of items to discuss and consider modifying at the Rules Meeting.
- Amy Uniss-Coleman announced that without a sponsor this year, the Texas Equitation Cup (TEC) program will not continue. She reported that she, Bob Brawley, and Colleen Brombach have been working with show managers to finalize the details of THJA's new equitation offerings and medal finals. The intent is for the THJA Medal Final to

replace the TEC. Amy and Colleen presented their finalized language for the equitation and medal final offerings. They proposed to remove the 3'3" level from the specifications in order to show managers to support the program. All agreed. Jane Thacker agreed to finalize the updates to the Rule Book.

- It was noted that while THJA is now recognizing certain medals as part of the classes comprising an equitation division (to award Champion/Reserve Champion points), as USHJA does not do this, riders will not earn additional Zone equitation points. Amy Uniss-Coleman and Colleen Brombach agreed to work with USHJA in hopes of modifying the Zone specifications to align with THJA moving forward.
- Amy Uniss-Coleman agreed to utilize information from past TEC Finals to develop a proposed budget for the THJA Medal Final. She agreed to present three budget options (low cost, middle-ground, and high-end) to the Executive Committee via email by February 1, 2020.
- Amy Uniss-Coleman and Colleen Brombach agreed to speak with Patrick Rhodes to determine whether he would be willing to host the THJA Medal Final at Southwest Showdown. It was agreed that this would be an ideal show for the THJA final as riders can use it to prepare for medal finals at Indoors.
- It was agreed that March 1, 2020 will be the start date for the accumulation of additional points under the updated rules (e.g. Champion/Reserve Champion points for equitation division). Robert Yaffe agreed to send out promotional communications when the date of the Medal Final is finalized.
- After some discussion on the topic, Colleen Brombach agreed to prepare a letter to be sent from THJA to USHJA Zone 7 requesting that the specifications for Junior Equitation 14 and Under be changed such that the height is consistent with Junior Equitation 15-17.
- Suzanne Warmack moved that each Officer (President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) examine their duties as defined in the THJA By-Laws and, to the extent necessary to be consistent with current practices, prepare an updated description of the duties of their position. Patty Roberts seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## 6. Report of the Nominating Committee

- The following positions will expire at the end of 2020:
  - 3N – Linda Moore
  - 6C – Doug Brombach
  - 9S – Gustavo De Cillo
  - 12AL – Kimberly Brunson
  - 15AL – Lindsey Black
  - 18AL – Patty Roberts
- Angeleah Cleek asked that the above Directors consider whether they would like to renew their position and be prepared to announce their decision at the next meeting.

## 7. Report of the Prize List Review Committee

- The Prize List Review Committee did not have any items for discussion.

## 8. Report of the Exhibitor Show Standards Committee

- The Exhibitor Show Standards Committee did not have any items for discussion.

## 9. Report of the Sponsorship and Education Committee

- Patty Roberts presented the 2020 scholarship initiatives developed by the Sponsorship and Education Committee. Her presentation was well-received.

## 10. Report on the website and information systems

- Robert Yaffe did not have any updates to report relating to the website and information systems. However, he expressed a need for further advance notice of rule changes (including language for the Rule Book and specific details) to allow him to update the information systems accordingly in a timely fashion.
- Patty Roberts moved that, in the future, proposed rule changes be submitted for consideration to the Board (with specificity and suggested language for the Rule Book) at least two weeks in advance of the Rules Meeting. Ellen Eakin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## 11. Report on USEF and USHJA News

- Colleen Brombach reported that discussion this year at the USHJA Annual Meeting focused heavily on Safe Sport. She also stated that changes to the Trainer Certification Program were in process. She did not have additional noteworthy items to report.

## 12. Report of the Membership Committee

- Ellen Eakin reported that the planned survey for exhibitors had been developed but had not yet been circulated. She stated that the Membership Committee planned to send it out in advance of Pin Oak and to promote it at Pin Oak. Ellen agreed to send the survey to the Board for final review. After some discussion, Ellen moved that THJA send out the survey prior to Pin Oak and offer an incentive (entry into a drawing to win a THJA halter) for filling out the survey. She added that entry into the drawing would be optional depending on whether participants wanted to remain anonymous or submit their name for the drawing. Patty Roberts seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Robert Yaffe reported that membership numbers were up for 2019 compared with prior years. He noted that some of the increase appeared to be related to THJA's requirement that each horse, owner, and rider be a member to receive points. It appeared that certain owners were paying for nonmember catch riders to join THJA after realizing their horses weren't receiving points.

- After some discussion, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to promote THJA's recent addition of recognized divisions (Opportunity, Short Stirrup, etc.) to the local organizations. Patty Roberts agreed to provide the promotional material she had developed (announcing new initiatives in 2020) to individuals who could help spread the word with the various local organizations.

### 13. Report on the THJA Annual Awards Banquet

- Patty reported on the status of the 2020 Annual Awards Banquet. As discussed earlier in the meeting, while the Banquet Committee estimated attendance of 225 people, only approximately 160 people have purchased tickets.
- Patty Roberts moved that the 2021 Annual Awards Banquet be held on January 9, 2021 at a time and location TBD and that the Annual Board of Director's meeting also be held on January 9, 2021 at a time and location TBD. Colleen Brombach seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Robert Yaffe agreed to publish an ad on the website seeking volunteers to organize the 2021 banquet. Vicki Hunton and Colleen Brombach agreed to oversee the event and to organize the banquet to the extent no volunteers stepped forward by February 1, 2020.

### 14. Other agenda items:

- a. Discussion/clarification of rule regarding number of shows to receive points (e.g. place at 3 shows vs. compete at 3 shows) (Colleen Brombach)
  - Topics under this agenda item were covered earlier in the meeting.
- b. THJA Magazine report and discussion (Suzanne Warmack)
  - Suzanne Warmack reported that magazine ad sales had produced a profit for 2019. She requested permission to explore options for digital opportunities and present these options to the Board with a proposed budget. All attendees agreed to consider such a proposal.
- c. Passing of the President position and election of remaining THJA Officers and Executive Committee members
  - Katja Kallenberger, the prior Vice President, declined to advance to the President position. Bob Brawley has expressed that he is willing to accept the position of President in the future but is not currently able to do so. It was agreed that, due to extenuating circumstances, Suzanne Warmack would maintain the President position until Bob Brawley was ready to accept it.
  - Vicki Hunton called for a vote to approve the following 2020 Executive Committee slate:
    - President: Suzanne Warmack
    - First Vice President: Bob Brawley

- Second Vice President: Amy Uniss-Coleman
  - Treasurer: Linda Moore
  - Secretary: Angeleah Cleek
  - Non-Officer Member: Doug Brombach
  - Non-Officer Member: Vicki Hunton
  - Non-Officer Member: Patty Roberts
  - Non-Officer Member: Robert Yaffe
- All were in favor of the Executive Committee slate.

d. Confirmation of THJA committee members

- Rule Book Committee: Jane Thacker (chair), Stephen Lang, Bob Brawley, Jerry Converse, Gayle O'Rear, and Colleen Brombach
  - Prize List Review Committee: Linda Moore (chair) and Gayle O'Rear
  - Exhibitor Show Standards Committee: Lynn Walsh (chair), Colleen Brombach, and Amy Uniss-Coleman
  - Finance Committee: Bob Brawley (chair), Doug Brombach, Angeleah Cleek, and Linda Moore
  - Sponsorship & Education Committee: Patty Roberts (chair), Matt Cyphert, Kimberley Brunson, Kim Cox, Katie Cox, and Suzanne Warmack
  - Nominating Committee: Katja Kallenberger (chair), Suzanne Warmack, and Stephen Lang
  - Banquet Committee: Vicki Hunton (chair), Colleen Brombach, and Brooke Brombach
  - USHJA & USEF Committee: Lynn Walsh (chair) and Patty Roberts
  - Website Committee: Robert Yaffe (chair) and Lindsey Black
  - Social Media Committee: Brittany Hildebrand (chair), Melissa Osbourne, Suzanne Warmack, Brooke Brombach, and Megan Winborne
  - Membership Committee: Vicki Hunton (chair), Gustavo De Cillo, Ellen Eakin Brooke Brombach, and Meghan Winborne
- Angeleah Cleek agreed to send an updated committee list to all Directors. Robert Yaffe agreed to make updates to the website to reflect changes in Officers, Directors, and committees.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM at Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 PM.