

**Texas Hunter and Jumper Association
Board of Directors Rules Meeting Minutes
Monday April 29, 2019
Brawley Farms, Dallas, TX**

The meeting was called to order by Suzanne Warmack at 11:10 AM.

1. Roll call by the Secretary

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

2. Reading of the meeting minutes from January 5th Annual Meeting

- Linda Moore moved to waive the reading of the minutes. Kim Cox seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Angeleah Cleek provided a handout reflecting specific follow up items from the prior meeting to be covered in the current meeting.

3. Report of the Treasurer / Finance Committee

- Linda Moore provided a handout reflecting the current Profit/Loss Statement and Balance Sheet. She reported that the sale of advertising in the THJA News has been profitable.
- Linda also reported that while we have collected approximately \$10,000 referable to the Education Fee, THJA must spend every dollar collected within the show year that it was collected on educational activities. Suzanne Warmack agreed to follow up with USEF to confirm the exact rules and restrictions on the spending and clarification on what is considered educational.
- In following up on the 501(c)(3) status change, Jane Thacker agreed to provide the following information by the September meeting: (i) what type of firm THJA should hire (i.e. legal firm and/or accounting firm) to assist with the change; (ii) the cost; and (iii) a timeline for the status change to be completed. Colleen Brombach suggested that, to the extent the aforementioned information is available sooner, Jane reach out to the Executive Committee.
- Bob Brawley suggested that providing college scholarship opportunities to members could further both the goal of spending funds collected from the Education Fee and supporting the 501(c)(3) status. This idea was well-received, and Bob agreed to

research further specifics as to how this had been accomplished in groups that he was involved with previously.

4. Report of the Rule Book Committee

- In following up with the idea discussed previously of reducing the size of the Board of Directors, Patty Roberts indicated that she believes the THJA Board is too large. She feels that meetings are not fully attended and that larger groups often accomplish less than smaller ones. She feels that the need for a larger Board was more relevant in the past when THJA had more responsibilities in terms of policing the horse shows.
- Lindsey Black moved that the THJA Board of Directors be reduced to 17 Directors. Patty Roberts seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Linda Moore moved that the eliminated positions consist of: one (1) position under each Region/Zone and four (4) At-Large positions. The resulting Board positions would be: two (2) positions under each Region/Zone and 11 At-Large positions. Jane Thacker seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- The Board agreed that in order to reduce the Board size, Suzanne Warmack would first draft a letter to Board members to determine whether any Directors wish to resign. Further decisions regarding the process for reducing the Board's size will be made following the receipt of responses to the letter, but the consensus was that the intent is not to arbitrarily remove Directors. The Board also agreed to suspend the nominating process for the current vacant positions. Katja Kallenberger agreed to notify the current applicants of the suspension.
- Jane Thacker agreed to make the necessary amendments to reflect the reduction in Board positions. She also agreed to work with the Rule Book Committee to examine the Bylaws relating to excused absences, the use of voting proxies, and the use of conference calls and suggest necessary updates at the September meeting.
- Jane Thacker also agreed to make the necessary amendments to reflect the addition of Junior Director positions. Linda Moore agreed to provide the language previously included in the Rule Book relating to Junior Director positions (such past language indicated a term of two (2) years, which the Board agreed was appropriate).
- Jane Thacker also agreed to work with the Rule Book Committee to review the section(s) relating to Board committees and confirm that the language is consistent with the current committees and/or determine whether amendments are needed.
- Jane Thacker also agreed to send updated language to Robert Yaffe relating to the correction of a previously discussed error in the sections relating to Children's Hunter Pony.

5. Report of the Nominating Committee

- Topics under this agenda item were addressed as a result of discussion and votes earlier in the meeting. As such, no items for discussion were brought forth by the Nominating Committee.

6. Report of the Prize List Review Committee

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

7. Report of the Exhibitor Show Standards Committee

- Colleen Brombach inquired about the THJA's role and the process for following up on word-of-mouth complaints when exhibitors do not fill out show review forms. The consensus was that if exhibitors aren't filling out the forms, there isn't much that can be done from the perspective of show management.
- Amy Uniss-Coleman volunteered to join the Exhibitor Show Standards Committee.

8. Report of the Sponsorship and Education Committee

- Patty Roberts reported that THJA has collected approximately \$10,000 in Education Fees. To date, THJA has used the funds to host a clinic by a sports psychologist at Pin Oak, which went well and was well-received by attendees.
- Patty reported that the next planned event will occur at the Blue Ribbon Summer Festival II. Show officials will host a session discussing new rules and answering questions. THJA will be sponsoring the food provided at the event. She also listed several shows and managers that have agreed to host educational events; the full details and plans for such events remain in process. Patty indicated she plans to work with Robert Yaffe to promote and spread awareness of these events.
- Patty Roberts also reported that THJA is accepting applications for grants to help THJA members attend events in which they may otherwise be unable to participate due to financial restraints. She reported that no applications have been received yet. Kim Cox commented that the application was difficult to locate on the THJA website. To promote the offerings and spread awareness, Suzanne Warmack agreed to (i) design informative note cards to mail out to members; (ii) feature the opportunity in the next issue of the THJA News; and (iii) speak with Robert Yaffe about driving website traffic to the grant applications.
- The group discussed whether the Education Fee should be continued. The consensus was that THJA's use of the fee proceeds will positively impact its reputation and overall awareness. Additionally, as THJA expects to use the fee in the future to offer grants, scholarships, etc. to its members, an increase in membership is anticipated. The educational programs and initiatives will also serve to further support THJA's 501(c)(3) status. Suzanne Warmack moved to continue the Education Fee for at least one more year. Lindsey Black seconded the motion. All were in favor.

9. Report on the Web Site and Information Systems

- Robert Yaffe was not in attendance and did not send any items to report under this agenda item prior to the meeting. Per discussion earlier in the meeting, Suzanne Warmack plans to speak with Robert about adding a 'button' to the website to increase awareness of and ease of access to the grant applications.

10. Report of the Social Media Committee

- The Junior Directors reported that they have created and have been active in posting to the Junior THJA Instagram and Snapchat.
- Brooke Brombach proposed that THJA work with photographers at the horse shows to acquire high quality photos to use on THJA's social media platforms. Amy Uniss-Coleman reported that GSEC receives photos from the photographers for similar purposes. She agreed to contact Jerry Mohme to determine whether this was a possibility for THJA and, if so, put Brooke in contact with him.
- Brooke also proposed potentially forming partnerships between THJA and the photographers wherein THJA shares advertising opportunities in exchange for member benefits. This sparked discussion of exploring other potential discount partners. Further discussion on this topic was tabled for a subsequent meeting.

11. Report on USEF and USHJA News

- Lynn Walsh reported that USEF/USHJA is implementing a new rule for the jumpers regarding restrictions on showing after the rider and/or horse has a fall. She also noted that USEF is developing rules to restrict motorized vehicles (e.g. Segways, hover boards, motorized scooters, etc.) at horse shows.
- Lynn also reported that the EAP Regional clinics are coming up, and there will be one at Great Southwest Equestrian Center. She also mentioned scholarships available referable to the AON USHJA Championships to be held again this year in Las Vegas.
- Lynn also reminded the Board that USEF/USHJA is making progress on developing rules for the ratings of Premier horse shows wherein shows that cannot fill 15 or more A-rated divisions in a given year will lose the Premier rating the following year. Lynn also mentioned that USEF/USHJA is considering implementing essentially a 'star' program based on subjective qualities of the horse shows.

12. Report of the Membership Committee

- In following up on the planned survey to the members, Ellen Eakin agreed to reach out to Vicki Hunton to work together on developing and administering a brief survey requesting feedback on THJA and its benefits from members.
- Patty Roberts informed the group that she had compared THJA's top three (3) 2018 year-end placings with the top three 2018 year-end USHJA Zone 7 placings in overlapping divisions. She found that 36 of the zone award winning horse/rider

combinations were Texas residents but were not THJA members. This represents approximately 30% of the Texas residents receiving the top three zone awards. She also reported that the divisions with the most non-THJA members in the top three were the jumper divisions, with the Junior Jumper division having the most non-THJA members in the top three.

13. Report on the THJA Annual Awards Banquet

- The next banquet is to be held on January 11, 2020. Brittany Hildebrand reported on the progress in planning the event. She reported that the venue will be the Omni Riverway in Houston and that THJA has a room block of 20 rooms. Brittany spoke about further event details and stated she would email the Board the full details.
- Brittany also agreed to develop a resource to aid future Banquet Committee Chairs in planning the banquet (including milestones, deadlines, contacts, other resources etc.).

14. Other agenda items:

a. Ad hoc Outreach Committee:

- Lindsey Black moved that, effective for the 2020 show year, THJA remove year-end awards for the Conformation Hunter, High Performance Hunter, and Green Conformation Hunter divisions and add year-end awards for the Short Stirrup Hunter, Medium Stirrup Hunter, and Long Stirrup Hunter divisions. Linda Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Patty Roberts moved that THJA add recognition awards effective for the 2020 show year for the Opportunity Walt/Trot and the Opportunity Cross Rails divisions. Recognition awards to be given to those who win at least five (5) blue ribbons in classes with three (3) or more exhibitors during the show year. Kim Cox seconded the motion. Linda Moore was opposed. All others were in favor.
- Bob Brawley handed out specifications that the ad hoc Outreach Committee had developed for THJA's new equitation divisions and medal offerings for the 2020 show year. Bob indicated that Patrick Rhodes had expressed interest in hosting the proposed medal finals. The group discussed certain changes to the specifications, which the committee recorded. Lynn Walsh moved to accept the proposed specifications with the discussed modifications effective for the 2020 show year. Lindsey Black seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Jane Thacker agreed to make the corresponding amendments to the Bylaws/Rule Book to reflect the items voted upon under this agenda item. Patty Roberts and Bob Brawley agreed to send their proposed language for the amendments to Jane.

b. Annie Kartsotis has not yet joined a THJA committee

- As Annie Kartsotis was not in attendance, this agenda item was tabled.

- c. Discussion of potential need for a THJA News Committee
 - The consensus was that a new committee for this purpose was not needed.
- d. Discussion and vote regarding adding an annual farm/business membership:
 - THJA currently offers only a lifetime farm/business membership. Robert Yaffe emailed a proposal that we offer an annual membership as well. Angeleah Cleek moved that THJA offer an annual farm/business membership for \$50 effective for the 2020 show season. Katja Kallenberger seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- e. Discussion regarding update to point table for Child/Adult Jumper:
 - Robert Yaffe provided a proposal via email prior to the meeting requesting to update the point table for the Children and Adult Jumper divisions such that it will be aligned with the USEF rules, effective 2020. Suzanne Warmack moved that we accept Robert's proposal to update the point table. Colleen Brombach seconded the motion. All were in favor.
 - Angeleah Cleek agreed to email Robert Yaffe to notify him that the changes could be made.

The September Special Meeting will be held on Monday, September 9th at 12:00 PM via conference call. Brittany Hildebrand agreed to send out an Outlook calendar invitation, and Lindsey Black agreed to provide a conference call number.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 PM.