

**Texas Hunter and Jumper Association
Rules Meeting / Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 2nd 2014
GSWEC
Katy Texas**

#3

1. Call to order was made by Colleen Brombach at 6:10pm.

2. Roll call was taken by Claire Rock.

Present: Steve Lang, Linda Moore, Robert Yaffe, Lynn Walsh, Susie Baker, Kim Cox, Kim Brunson, Vicki Hunton, Suzanne Warmack, Colleen Brombach, Patty Roberts, Pauline Cook, Claire Rock, Carl Hansen, Lindsey Black, Ashley Hyten,

Excused: Paula Sparks, Vickie McGovern, Gayle O'Rear, Buckley Wallace, Grace Petrucciani

Unexcused: Jerry Converse, Mike McCormick, Matt Cyphert, Joan Waterman,

Resigned from Board: Lori Mathews

Claire requested a discussion regarding what constitutes an excused absence vs unexcused. At the January meeting, it was voted that a Board member must attend two of the three meetings a year to remain active. Lynn motioned that from this meeting forward, two unexcused/non-notified absences means dismissal from the Board. Kim Cox seconded that motion.

Based upon the absences and rules in place, Joan Waterman will be notified and requested to step down from the board. Colleen will send her a letter accordingly.

Based upon this information, there will two Board positions open. Joan Waterman's (Southern position) and Lori Mathew's position (At Large). Based upon the Rules, the Board must unanimously vote upon the replacements to these positions. ***Colleen has a list of interested candidates that she will make available to send out with the final meeting minutes. Robert will also post the open positions on the web***

site. The nominating committee and Board will review the candidates and vote upon them at the next meeting. They will not take their positions until January 2015.

3. Reading of the January Minutes: Lynn motioned not to read the January minutes. Kim Brunson seconded that motion. All in favor.

4. Report of the Finance Committee: Linda Moore presented the current balance sheet. We are currently in the red. Membership is down approximately 10%. Horse registrations are up but individual members are down. There is still a question as to whether this is due to the abolishing of non-member penalties/fees.

Linda noted that we need to look at investment options for current THJA funds. Steve Lang motioned that Linda and Lindsey Black discuss safe/conservative options for investing. Colleen seconded that motion. All in favor.

Colleen presented the annual budget and Linda noted some corrections to be made. At this time we are \$4500 in the red, not including paying an accounting firm.

Colleen noted that ABIP Accounting firm (John Dupre) sent us a proposal in February based upon our discussion at the January Annual Board Meeting. This proposal was sent out to the Executive Committee for review as well as the entire Board of Directors. The Executive Committee voted in favor of the ABIP proposal. Robert motioned that the "monthly drafting of payment" be removed from the proposal for monetary safety reasons. Linda and Kim seconded. All in favor.

It was noted by Colleen that Linda's volunteer responsibilities have increased significantly in Paula's absence. Linda currently handles finance/accounting issues as well Prize List Review and Show Results checking. The latter two are very tedious tasks and require a quick turn around as well as a strong knowledge of the various recognized classes and divisions. Lindsey suggested that we pay Linda to continue to handle the Show Results checking and asked Linda to leave the room for

discussion. Kim Cox motioned that we pay Linda \$50 per show to check and confirm all results. Lynn seconded. All in favor.

Linda accepted the offer effective immediately. She will be paid quarterly. An email will be sent to the Board regarding her payments.

5. Report of the Rule Book Committee was waived due to Jerry Converse absence.

6. Report of the Nominating Committee. Issues were discussed during item 2. Colleen will appoint Nominating Committee and they will move forward with reviewing possible nominees.

7. Report of the Prize List Committee by Linda Moore. All prize lists are up to date at this time.

8. Report of the Show Standards Committee. Matt is absent. No Report.

9. Report of the Sponsorship Committee by Patty Roberts. Only one sponsorship request so far this year made by Kim Brunson for \$3500. Patty reminded everyone of the sponsorship application and its availability on the website.

10. Report on the Website and Information Systems by Robert Yaffe. Robert noted that the Pin Oak Horse Show slowed down some of the deadlines for the completion of the site. We should have something to view very soon. Robert will send out a URL link to all of us for comments.

11. Report of the Zone 7 Committee by Pauline Cook. Zone Finals will once again be held in Houston at GSWEC Autumn show. The finals will be split again this year between North and South. Linda asked that Cookie check on the continuation and rules for Pony Jumpers. This update is needed for future prize list review.

12. Report on USEF / USHJA news by Lynn Walsh. Lynn noted that the new 3'3" low junior hunter division has not taken off as well as the low amateur owner division. The reason being that riders cannot cross over into the 3'6" junior hunter division.

New pregreen classifications / age restrictions rules have been passed. As of December 1st this year (for the 2015 show year), a pregreen horse must be 5 or 6 years old. This rule is coming under a lot of scrutiny but is moving forward.

AA Shows must now commit to actually giving out \$24,000 in prize money. Hunter Derby classes etc may contribute to this amount. This new rule will help to define the A versus AA shows in the future.

Colleen noted that next year's USHJA meeting will be in Las Vegas.

13. Report on the Annual THJA Awards Banquet by Colleen.

Colleen has been trying to find a venue in downtown Austin. Colleen has several options available outside of downtown such as the Omni Barton Creek, Hyatt Lost Pines etc. These hotels have many activity options for kids, adults etc. Additional discussion regarding hiring a party planner as well as whether there was a past documentation on the banquets. Claire noted that Laura Brown had documentation regarding this past year's banquet and that she would request it and forward it to the appropriate people.

14. Other agenda items

a. THJA Logo Clothing: Lynn suggested that THJA use the same logo clothing company and sales that Pin Oak used. They could handle all sales etc. Lynn will forward information to Colleen. It was noted that this is not amoney making effort and that we would like to keep prices reasonable.

b. Discussion regarding the 2'6" Limit Medal class. In April 2013 we abolished the Limit Medal Finals Class/Awards. However, we have continued to collect entry fees for this class. We have currently collected \$110 to date. Note – medals were created for 2013 finals class and riders did not receive them. Carl noted that he did see the medals. Linda to contact Clare Christie in regards to the medals that she created. Very few show managers have offered the medal class thus far this year. It was proposed by Patty that the 2014 Limit Medal Winner be based upon the number of points at year end. Points would be calculated like

other equitation class /division points. A medal plus ribbons and certificate would be awarded at the year end awards banquet.

c. Linda asked that the rules for the THJA Childrens'/Adult Modified Hunter be revised so as not to reference USEF. Also, Change Rule Book Chapter 3, Section E to read that "For the Modified Children / Adult Hunter. The same horse and rider combination may not enter into any other THJA rated Class". All in favor of this rule modification.

d. Linda requested that we nominate Paula Sparks as Director Emeritus. All in favor.

e. Steve Lang discussed his continued interest in making THJA a 501 c 3. He requested that he and Jerry have the opportunity to meet with a non-profit consulting organization in Austin to explore the opportunity for THJA to become a non-profit 501 c 3. Carl motioned that we grant them the opportunity to meet with this organization. All in favor.

f. The topic of "Refundable" memberships was addressed. Colleen motioned that membership dues are not refundable. All in favor. It was noted that Jerry will need to add this to the Rule Book.

g. Colleen noted that the THJA Committees needed to be organized. Several Board members requested to remain on their current committees. Colleen will send out a separate document to all Board members with committee assignments.

Next Meeting: Wednesday September 10th Tyler Texas at the Texas Rose Horse Park 5:30. Claire will notify members of exact location within the horse park.

Post meeting agenda – Due to Mike McCormack's unexcused absence, he will also receive a letter regarding Board withdrawal.

Meeting adjourned 7:55pm

