

**Texas Hunter and Jumper Association
Board of Directors Rules Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 17, 2017
1700 S Lamar Blvd Suite 338, Austin, TX**

Call to order at 12:17 PM by Lindsey Black, President.

1. Roll call taken by Angeleah Cleek.
 - Present: Stephen Lang, Linda Moore, Robert Yaffe, Lynn Walsh, Doug Brombach, Bob Brawley, Jessica Harries, Kimberley Brunson, Vicki Hunton, Suzanne Warmack, Ellen Eakin, Colleen Brombach, Patty Roberts, Brittany Hildebrand, Amy Uniss, Lindsey Black, Gayle O'Rear, Jerry Converse
 - Absent/excused: Kim Cox, Katie Cox, Jane Thacker, Trapp O'Neal, Matt Cyphert, Katja Kallenberger

2. Reading of the minutes from the January 2017 meeting.
 - Lynn Walsh moved to waive the reading of the minutes. Patty Roberts seconded the motion. All were in favor.

3. Report of the Finance Committee by Suzanne Warmack, Linda Moore, and Doug Brombach.
 - Linda Moore suggested an amendment to the by-law regarding the review of receipts and expenditures (Chapter 1, Section 4.C.d.(1)) modifying the review of receipts as a function of the Finance Committee unless an accounting firm has been retained for this purpose.
 - Doug Brombach and Bob Brawley noted that the accountant function differs from the Finance Committee function in that the accountants review the organizations accounting procedures for accuracy while the Finance Committee review the receipts and expenditures from an internal perspective to ensure they align with the goals and budget of the organization.
 - Linda Moore, Steve Lang, and Patty Roberts believed it might be redundant for the Finance Committee to complete this review.
 - Lindsey Black moved to keep the current by-law as is. Doug Brombach seconded the motion. Gayle O'Rear and Steve Lang abstained. Kimberley Brunson and Linda Moore were against. All others were in favor.
 - Linda Moore presented on the profit and loss through March 31. She commented that membership income is down. Lindsey Black requested that Linda send her a year-over-year comparison of the profit and loss.

- As part of the discussion on increasing membership, Ellen Eakin presented on her research regarding how to incorporate horsemanship and/or educational awards to pull in members from local organizations. She researched what other associations were doing and found the following common themes in award programs:
 - (1) End of year medal finals, some having written testing components;
 - (2) Scholarships and grants awarded for college with various requirements such as membership for a specified number of years, written testing, participation in fundraising and/or community service, or participation in the organization's medal final; and
 - (3) Competition and awards based on horsemanship/sportsmanship (e.g. one organization used armbands to designate participants in a 'best young rider' program where riders were observed at horse shows and given awards based on excellent horsemanship and sportsmanship. This program also had a year-end award component).
- Ellen's presentation sparked discussion on various ideas for inspiring membership via new programs. Jessica Harries and Bob Brawley felt that medal finals were a huge component. Bob explained that in other regions that he shows in, equitation and medal divisions (with year-end championship components) are offered by the state/regional organizations at all levels. In order for horse shows to be member shows of the organization, they are required to offer these types of classes. Local organization shows may also offer the classes to qualify for the medal finals.
- Patty Roberts expressed concern that adding too many classes will put a burden on show management and it is not possible to require horse shows to host specific classes.
- Kimberley Brunson suggested a THJA equitation challenge that runs throughout the year. Amy Uniss-Coleman suggested potentially using existing medal classes to track points toward a THJA year-end medal final as a solution to adding too many classes. She also proposed the idea of incorporating GHHJA and similar organizations and/or adding a piece to THJA that recognized local organization awards.
- Vicki Hunton suggested a flyer or other THJA advertising material that local organizations and/or barns hosting clinics can display to spread awareness about THJA and its programs to people who may not be attending THJA shows. Lindsey Black agreed to get with her graphics person to put together THJA materials to be made available for download on the THJA website for event organizers to print and distribute.
- Lynn Walsh commented that USEF and USHJA are not seeing growth in membership either. She suggested recognizing and presenting awards for the THJA opportunity classes as these classes do seem to be growing and are not currently recognized by THJA.
- Lindsey Black called for the creation of an ad hoc committee to brainstorm and develop specifications for something to be offered in 2018. Bob Brawley volunteered as chair of the committee, and Colleen Brombach, Suzanne Warmack, Jessica Harries, Kimberley Brunson, Patty Roberts, Brittany Hildebrand, and Ellen Eakin also

volunteered as members of the committee. They agreed to have specifications to present at the September meeting. Angeleah Cleek agreed to send Bob Brawley contact information for all ad hoc committee members.

4. Report of the Rule Book Committee by Jerry Converse, Matt Cyphert, Colleen Brombach, and Steve Lang.
 - At the last meeting, Robert Yaffe agreed to send Jerry Converse an email regarding the name changes to some of THJA's recognized divisions. Angeleah Cleek agreed to follow up with both Robert Yaffe and Jerry Converse to ensure these changes were made in the rule book.

5. Report of the Nominating Committee by Katja Kallenberger, Jessica Harries, and Steven Lang.
 - The following positions expire at the end of 2017:
 - 3N – Linda Moore
 - 6C – Doug Brombach
 - 9S – Jessica Harries
 - 12AL – Kimberly Brunson
 - 15AL – Suzanne Warmack
 - 18AL – Patty Roberts
 - 24AL – Gayle O'Rear
 - Jessica Harries requested that anyone whose position was expiring that does not wish to remain on the board contact her. All parties indicated they intend to remain on the board.
 - Lindsey Black requested clarity on what rules, if any, exist for how to address a board member with many excused absences. She suggested that after a board member had excused absences for two or more meetings in a row, the President contact the individual to ask if they'd still like to serve on the board. All were in favor.
 - Gayle O'Rear read the by-law regarding absences (Chapter 1. Section 2. E.) out loud. As the language was somewhat unclear, Angeleah Cleek agreed to send the rule to Jerry Converse and Steve Lang to clarify it.

6. Report of the Prize List Committee by Linda Moore and Gayle O'Rear
 - Linda Moore indicated a continued problem with show managers submitting prize lists late with many mistakes. Lindsey Black and Angeleah Cleek agreed to draft a letter to the managers.

7. Report of the Show Standards Committee by Jessica Harries and Colleen Brombach.
 - Colleen Brombach requested clarification on the role of the Show Standards Committee with regard to the conduct of the paddock masters at horse shows.
 - Lynn Walsh spoke about a similar committee she serves on at USHJA and stated that it was not within their purview to address show staff issues. Rather, they focus on laying out general standards for competitions. Lindsey Black agreed stating that concerns about show staff should be addressed individually as an exhibitor.

8. Report of the Sponsorship Committee by Patty Roberts.
 - North Texas Hunter Jumper Association requested \$3,500 for judges and paddock masters at their horse shows (whose proceeds go toward therapeutic riding facilities). The request was approved.

9. Report on the website and information systems by Robert Yaffe.
 - High Point Award standings are now available on the website.
 - Lindsey Black proposed the idea of creating an app for THJA. The consensus was that it may be redundant with the Southbound Showdown and Pin Oak apps. It was decided that THJA could request that those apps send out THJA announcements via push notifications.

10. Report on USEF and USHJA News by Lynn Walsh.
 - Two big changes in the upcoming year: (1) Microchips required for all horses beginning in 2018 and (2) the reorganized Green Hunter and Young Hunter divisions.
 - Lynn Walsh noted that the Young Hunter divisions have not been well-filled and requested feedback, if any. Vicki Hunton commented that she was not entering her horses in these divisions because she felt the age limits were too low for the respective heights.

11. Report on the Annual Awards Banquet by Lindsey Black and Vicki Hunton.
 - Banquet is to be held on January 6, 2018. Melissa Osbourne has assumed the role of banquet chair, and Vicki Hunton and Lindsey Black have given her a general outline of the duties involved.

12. Other agenda items.

- a. Lindsey Black requested clarification on the committees and their members.
- Rule Book Committee: Jerry Converse (chair), Steve Lang, Matt Cyphert, and Colleen Brombach
 - Prize List Review Committee: Linda Moore (chair) and Gayle O'Rear
 - Exhibitor Show Standards Committee: Lynn Walsh (chair), Jessica Harries, and Colleen Brombach
 - Finance Committee: Suzanne Warmack(chair), Doug Brombach, and Linda Moore
 - Sponsorship Committee: Patty Roberts (chair), Steve Lang, Matt Cyphert, Kimberley Brunson, and Kim Cox
 - Hunter Breeding Committee: Removed
 - Nominating Committee: Steve Lang (chair), Jessica Harries, and Katja Kallenberger
 - Banquet Committee: Vicki Hunton (chair), Ellen Eakin, Melissa Osbourne
 - 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, and Suzanne Warmack
 - Angeleah Cleek agreed to send Robert Yaffe the list of committees and their members to update the website.

The next meeting will be held on August 28, 2017 at 12:00 PM at Brawley Farms.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 PM.