

**Texas Hunter and Jumper Association  
Board of Directors  
2019 Annual Meeting Minutes  
Saturday January 5, 2019  
AT&T Conference Center, Austin, TX**

Call to order by Suzanne Warmack at 8:48 AM.

1. Roll call by Angeleah Cleek

- Present: Stephen Lang, Colleen Brombach, Robert Yaffe, Doug Brombach, Katja Kallenberger, Bob Brawley, Gustavo De Cillo, Vicki Hunton, Suzanne Warmack, Angeleah Cleek, Patty Roberts, and Gayle O'Rear
- Absent/excused: Linda Moore, Lynn Walsh, Matt Cyphert, Kim Cox, Kimberly Brunson, Katie Cox, Ellen Eakin, Jane Thacker, Amy Uniss-Coleman, Lindsey Black, and Annie Kartsotis
- Absent/unexcused: Brittany Hildebrand
- The significant number of absences from this meeting sparked discussion regarding attendance policies and potentially reducing the size of the Board. This discussion was tabled for later in the meeting.

2. Reading of the meeting minutes from September 10<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting

- Patty Roberts moved to waive the reading of the minutes. Vicki Hunton seconded the motion. Doug Brombach suggested we read through the minutes for specific follow-ups. The following follow-up items were noted:
  - \$3.00 Education Fee (Suzanne Warmack): Suzanne reported that USEF has approved a \$3.00 education fee to be charged to all horse show participants by THJA and that THJA began charging such fee as of December 1, 2018. Further discussion was tabled for later in the meeting.
  - Research into changing tax status to 501(c)(3) (Doug Brombach and Jane Thacker): Doug reported that he met with Jane to research this change and that Jane suggested becoming a 501(c)(7), which is a status applicable to social and recreational organizations. Doug requested consensus on whether THJA wants to change to 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(7). In discussing the differences, he reported that payment of membership dues and donations would not be tax deductible to the donor if THJA were a 501(c)(7). The consensus was that THJA should pursue 501(c)(3) status.
  - Trainer cruise award (Colleen Brombach): Colleen researched available cruise dates within the allocated \$1,500 budget for the trainer cruise to be awarded at the banquet. She agreed to provide this information to Suzanne Warmack after the meeting such that she could present the winner with the options at the banquet.

- Research into the benefits of THJA recognizing out-of-state shows (Patty Roberts and Bob Brawley): Per an email sent to the Board prior to the meeting, Patty and Bob completed research on this subject and determined that limitations and concerns may outweigh the benefits. Further discussion and alternative suggestions were tabled for later in the meeting.
- In addition to the above follow-up items, Patty Roberts noted that when THJA loses an officer during the year (as Jessica Harries resigned prior to the September Special Meeting) there should be a special election to ensure the officer position is filled immediately.
- Colleen Brombach suggested that follow up items be included in future meeting agendas. All were in agreement.

### 3. Report of the Treasurer

- Doug Brombach requested that the title of this agenda item be changed from Report of the Finance Committee to Report of the Treasurer as there has not been a meeting of the Finance Committee in quite some time.
- Linda Moore was not in attendance, but she provided financial report handouts. Linda also reported via text message that THJA has collected \$756 referable to the new Education Fee to date.
- Patty Roberts stated that she felt THJA threw the December horse shows under the bus regarding the new \$3.00 Education Fee. She felt that there was poor communication to both the membership and the horse shows about the fee and that there is a general lack of clarity surrounding its purpose. Suzanne Warmack and Robert Yaffe agreed to ensure that thorough communications are issued on the purpose and intended use of the fee when all details surrounding this topic are finalized.
- Vicki Hunton suggested that THJA send a survey to its members (and potential members) requesting their feedback on benefits they would like to see THJA offer its members. All were in favor. The Membership Committee was tasked with assembling and distributing this survey.
- Doug Brombach moved that THJA recognize year end awards for 2019 for the Short and Long Stirrup divisions. To promote this new offering, all participants at THJA shows will receive points and be recognized without THJA membership effective January 1, 2019. Patty Roberts seconded the motion. Gayle O'Rear abstained. All others were in favor.
- Additional ideas were discussed including: recognizing the opportunity classes and the baby green division; the possibility of adding "owner rider" awards; a THJA Finals horse show similar to the USHJA Zone Finals where participants wear a colored armband; and potential alliance memberships with local horse show organizations. Bob Brawley suggested the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate these potential outreach programs.

- Doug Brombach nominated Bob Brawley to be chair of an ad hoc Outreach Committee and suggested that Bob select his committee members. Suzanne Warmack, as President, agreed to the formation of the ad hoc committee. Bob Brawley selected Suzanne Warmack, Patty Roberts, Doug Brombach, and Colleen Brombach as members of the ad hoc committee. The Committee agreed to research the potential outreach programs and present a plan to the Board for a vote via telephone conference on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM. Angeleah Cleek agreed to send a calendar invitation. Subsequent to the February 4<sup>th</sup> vote, the ad hoc Outreach Committee will work with the Rule Book Committee to make any necessary amendments or additions to the THJA Rules and/or Bylaws.

#### 4. Report of the Rule Book Committee

- Jane Thacker was not in attendance, but she provided confirmation prior to the meeting that all planned rule book updates had been made.
- Robert Yaffe requested clarification on whether USET medal participation counts toward the THJA Medal. The consensus was that the USET does count toward the THJA Medal.
- Based on discussion earlier in the meeting, the Rule Book Committee was tasked with revisiting the Bylaws related to Board of Director absences and the enforcement of such Bylaws.
- Stephen Lang requested clarification as to whether Directors Emeritus receive invitations to the meetings. Angeleah Cleek agreed to invite the Emeritus Directors in the future but noted that she will need contact information for certain of the Emeritus Directors.

#### 5. Report of the Nominating Committee by Katja Kallenberger

- Confirmation of new board members:
  - Annie Kartsotis to fill position 23AL expiring 2019
  - Gustavo De Cillo to fill position 9S expiring 2020
- Additional vacant positions:
  - Stephen Lang (position 1C) has moved to Emeritus status effective 01/01/19
  - Gayle O'Rear (position 24AL) to move to Emeritus status effective 01/05/19
- Katja Kallenberger nominated the following potential candidates: Jennifer Devening, Mark Drosos, Sharon Soderquist, and Stephanie Cook. She agreed to work with Robert Yaffe to prepare a member voting ballot to fill the vacant positions. It was noted that this should be done in conjunction with the Rule Book Committee, which had been tasked with examining the size of the Board.

- Stephen Lang moved that Suzanne Warmack move from position 15AL to position 1C to fill his vacant Central Zone position and that Lindsey Black move from position 22AL to position 15AL. Gayle O’Rear seconded the motion. All were in favor. As a result, positions 22AL and 24AL are now the vacant positions.
- Proposal from junior members, Brooke Brombach and Megan Winborne
  - Two junior THJA members joined the meeting to present their proposal to be considered for the positions of non-voting Junior Directors on the Board. They proposed that as Junior Directors they would like to develop a THJA merchandise/souvenir booth to be manned by the Junior Directors at horse shows to promote membership. They also suggested THJA junior Instagram and Snapchat accounts to increase social media presence.
- Doug Brombach moved that THJA amend its bylaws to allow two non-voting Junior Director positions to be filled by Brooke Brombach and Megan Winborne. Bob Brawley seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Doug Brombach moved further that the Junior Directors create THJA Junior Instagram and Snapchat accounts. Such accounts will be monitored by a Director, and usernames and passwords will be provided to the Executive Committee. Doug nominated Angeleah Cleek to be the monitoring Director. Katja Kallenberger seconded his motion. All were in favor.

#### 6. Report of the Prize List Review Committee by Gayle O’Rear

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

#### 7. Report of the Exhibitor Show Standards Committee by Colleen Brombach

- Colleen Brombach indicated she had not received feedback other than the previously discussed feedback regarding the \$3.00 Education Fee.
- Doug Brombach mentioned a conversation he had with a member regarding the member’s experience handling a point discrepancy and the process for resolving discrepancies. In conjunction of his explanation of this conversation, Doug suggested that THJA give a 14 or 30 day grace period from sending notice of a discrepancy for the member to resolve the issue. Robert Yaffe explained that while THJA generally works with members who proactively remedy clerical errors, he feels strongly that THJA should strictly adhere to its policy of not awarding points retroactively. All were in agreement. The group also discussed potentially sending out additional reminders to members and making a checklist of “to-dos” for joining and registering horses.

#### 8. Report of the Sponsorship Committee by Patty Roberts

- The Sponsorship Committee did not have any items for discussion.
- Suzanne Warmack determined that the Sponsorship Committee would be renamed the Sponsorship & Education Committee and that the Sponsorship & Education

Committee is tasked with determining how funds received from the \$3.00 Education Fee will be allocated.

9. Report on the website and information systems by Robert Yaffe

- Robert Yaffe did not have any items to report on the website and information systems; however, he reported that 2018 was the first year in recent history that no members had contested their points with THJA.

10. Report on USEF and USHJA News by Patty Roberts and Colleen Brombach

- Colleen Brombach noted that there was discussion at the USHJA Annual Meeting regarding reverting the “Green” divisions back to the previous “Pre-Green,” “First Year Green,” etc. nomenclature and previous rules for these divisions. However, USEF determined that such changes should be in effect for a longer period of time before being considered for reversion.
- Colleen Brombach and Patty Roberts also noted that safety was a major topic at the USHJA Annual Meeting and reminded that beginning this show year all adult members of USEF are now required to complete the Safe Sport training. Colleen Brombach also reported that there was discussion at the USHJA Annual Meeting about having juniors complete the Safe Sport training in the future.
- Patty Roberts reported that proposed rule changes related to safety included the following:
  - Certain level competitions being required to publish information about the mileage to the nearest hospitals with emergency care and Level 1 Trauma Centers;
  - Certain level competitions having higher level medical staff onsite; and
  - Updates to the equitation rules regarding certain inhumane practices which are currently specified in the hunter rules but not in the equitation rules.

11. Report of the Membership Committee

- While the Membership Committee did not have any items to report, per discussion earlier in the meeting, the Membership Committee was tasked with creating and executing a member survey. The Junior Directors agreed to join the Membership Committee to assist with the survey.

12. Report on the THJA Annual Awards Banquet by Suzanne Warmack

- Suzanne Warmack reported on the status of the 2019 Annual Awards Banquet. Suzanne also presented the inaugural issue of the THJA News to be launched at the banquet. She reported that THJA made a profit of approximately \$1,500 on the first issue of the THJA News.
- Doug Brombach mentioned that he received a letter from THJA stating that THJA would not be mailing awards. He expressed that he felt this did not send a good

message to the members. The consensus was that this message should be worded in a more member-friendly manner in the future. Suzanne Warmack indicated that the awards would be available for pickup at Great Southwest Equestrian Center. The Junior Directors agreed to assist in communicating this information and distributing the awards.

- Based on discussion earlier in the meeting, there was some concern regarding the length of the banquet, especially given the THJA is considering recognizing additional divisions. Ideas to resolve this issue were discussed, including: using ticket purchases and RSVPs to determine which awards are announced; certain awards being placed on a board or table near the stage rather than announced; and certain awards, such as the professional awards, being announced during the cocktail hour.
- Patty Roberts indicated that she felt that having the banquet in a consistent location with consistent management may help it improve. She suggested that THJA consider a two year banquet location and management rotation. Gustavo De Cillo shared this sentiment and also suggested that THJA consider hosting a banquet concurrent with a horse show.
- THJA members and trainers, Susan and Bill McMorris, were in attendance listening to the meeting. At this time, Susan requested a chance to make some comments. She stated that her observation is that THJA's membership has been declining since USEF stopped allowing THJA to charge non-member fees. She feels that many horse show participants are not even aware of THJA and that, as a result, the banquet is no longer as special an occasion as it once was. From her perspective, she believes that hosting the banquet at a horse show would help promote THJA. The Board agreed to consider this feedback for future banquets.
- The 2020 Annual Awards Banquet to be held on January 11, 2020 in Houston, TX at a time and location TBD. The Annual Board of Director's meeting will also be held on January 11, 2020 at 8:30 AM at a location TBD.

*Note: At the meeting, the Board agreed that the banquet and annual meeting would be held on January 4, 2020; however, the Board agreed to change the agreed upon date to January 11, 2020 via email correspondence shortly after the meeting.*

### 13. Other agenda items:

- a. Follow up discussion regarding the benefits of THJA recognizing out of state shows (Patty Roberts, Bob Brawley)
  - Patty Roberts and Bob Brawley indicated that their points under this agenda item had been addressed both via their prior email to the Board and via earlier discussion in the meeting.
- b. Discussion regarding the THJA medal and possibility of adding more medal classes where participants must be THJA members (Colleen Brombach)

- Colleen Brombach requested that the Board revisit the idea of THJA hosting a THJA Finals show similar to the USHJA Zone Finals. Bob Brawley indicated that he has spoken with Patrick Rodes about this idea and that Patrick is open to hosting a THJA Finals show.
  - Colleen also stressed that she felt it was important to continue working to add THJA 2'6 and 3'0 medal classes to the THJA Medal. She suggested that THJA's Medal Finals could be hosted at the THJA Finals show. The group also revisited prior discussions regarding the recognition of year-end awards for equitation divisions.
  - The ad hoc Outreach Committee agreed to add these items to its list of ideas to research in advance of the February 4<sup>th</sup> telephone conference.
- c. Discussion regarding THJA News advertising prices (Colleen Brombach)
- Colleen Brombach and Bob Brawley expressed that while they are thrilled with the magazine, they are concerned that advertising prices may be a bit high. Colleen stated that she has found advertising opportunities with a higher distribution for lower prices. She agreed to provide information on these advertisers to Suzanne Warmack for comparison.
- d. Determination regarding Patrick Rodes' May show (Suzanne Warmack)
- The facility at which Patrick Rodes is hosting his May 21<sup>st</sup> - May 24<sup>th</sup> horse show needs him to move out by Sunday. As such, he is requesting THJA make an exception to its junior showing rule and allow juniors classes to be run on Friday.
  - Suzanne Warmack called for a vote to allow the exception. Stephen Lang, Gayle O'Rear, Gustavo De Cillo, Robert Yaffe, Katja Kallenberger, Colleen Brombach, Doug Brombach, and Suzanne Warmack voted in favor. Vicki Hunton and Patty Roberts voted against. Bob Brawley and Angeleah Cleek abstained. The exception was granted. Suzanne Warmack agreed to contact Patrick Rodes to get a written request for the exception.
- e. Discussion of items sent via email from a member (Suzanne Warmack)
- Suzanne indicated that her points under this agenda item had already been addressed via discussion earlier in the meeting.
- f. Discussion regarding agenda setting (Colleen Brombach)
- g. Discussion regarding the recruitment of beginner riders (Colleen Brombach)
- h. Discussion regarding Board support (Colleen Brombach)
- Colleen indicated that her points under these agenda items had already been addressed via discussion earlier in the meeting.
- i. Election of THJA Officers and Executive Committee members

- Stephen Lang called for a vote to approve the following 2019 Executive Committee slate:
  - President: Suzanne Warmack
  - First Vice President: Katja Kallenberger
  - Second Vice President: Bob Brawley
  - Treasurer: Linda Moore
  - Secretary: Angeleah Cleek
  - Non-Officer Member: Doug Brombach
  - Non-Officer Member: Vicki Hunton
  - Non-Officer Member: Patty Roberts
  - Non-Officer Member: Lindsey Black
  
- Colleen Brombach and Doug Brombach abstained from the vote. All others were in favor of the Executive Committee slate.

j. 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) and Colleen Brombach
- Finance Committee: Katja Kallenberger (chair) Doug Brombach, Angeleah Cleek, and Linda Moore
- Sponsorship & Education Committee: Patty Roberts (chair), Stephen Lang, Matt Cyphert, Kimberley Brunson, and Kim Cox
- Nominating Committee: Katja Kallenberger (chair) and Stephen Lang
- Banquet Committee: Brittany Hildebrand (chair), Patty Roberts, and Courtney Bagget
- 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 Directors, Emeritus Directors, and committees.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at Brawley Farms in Dallas, TX.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM.