

MINUTES OF MCHA DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Held at Nellen Law Firm, Bozeman, Montana
January 23, 2010

The Director's Meeting to plan for the upcoming 2010 MCHA season was called to order by President, Theresa Nelson at Suzanne Nellen's office on January 23, 2010 at 9:45. Those in attendance were Theresa Nelson, Dave Weyer, Suzanne Nellen, Mike Willey, Bambi Gress, Tom Campbell, Will Nuttall, Cody Lee and Michelle Van Dyke. Theresa appointed Michelle Van Dyke to take minutes for Shirley Williams since she had a prior commitment and could not attend.

Minutes were distributed to all present and a motion was passed to approve the July 11, October 4, and November 12 minutes as read. The Year End Show Balance Sheet was distributed and also the 2009 Financial Report. A discussion ensued regarding why 4 of the 5 saddles ordered for 2009 year end awards were still not paid for. Shirley Williams was called and explained that John Burgen did not bill MCHA yet because the saddles were not received yet. Each winner was to contact Roohide and order the saddle to their specifications but MCHA was to pay a base price for each. Motion was made by Dave Weyer and seconded by Will Nuttall that Theresa Nelson will contact Shirley Williams to authorize payment to John Burgen for that base price owed for the saddles and that amount will be deducted from the 2009 Balance Sheet. After this correction is made, the Financial Report will be approved. Motion passed.

Theresa Nelson read a nice thank you letter from Gail Weber for the saddle she was awarded at the year end show. There was no other correspondence.

Old or Unfinished Business was called for and Will Nuttall reported on behalf of the Youth Scholarship Committee. Will did not have the financials at hand but did give a recap of when the fund was started and clarified that the youth scholarship funds are raised by the youth raffles, slave auctions and fundraisers that the youth cutters have organized. These are the monies they compete for and the Angela Bauer Scholarship money are the funds they apply for and these are two separate entities.

Theresa Nelson showed us the final mock-up which has gone to production for the MCHA License Plate. Todd Wirthlin sent a letter updating the status and he also contacted David Markette to do a Letter of Understanding between the artist and MCHA as to their respective responsibilities. This letter of understanding will be on file with the secretary of MCHA for future reference.

With no other Old Business, we moved to New Business and discussed Shirley Williams' proposal for an increase of \$100/mo plus paying expenses (food and hotel) to attend all board meetings, activities that the board requires and yearend show. Shirley had sent us a synopsis of what her duties were and what her monthly salary has been which includes the \$1/entry she receives for all MCHA shows for everyone to review. A discussion was held and everyone gave Shirley great praise for the job she does and hopes she will continue, but in light of the sagging economy it was probably not a good time to increase wages. We also discussed splitting the position into 2 separate positions for secretary and treasurer and it was the consensus that having one individual with these duties added more continuity. Tom Campbell made a motion to ask Shirley to continue as our secretary with the same wages and if she chose to step down the board would advertise the position to be filled ASAP. Motion was seconded by Mike Willey and passed.

A discussion was held regarding the \$500 Senior Youth Scholarship and it was agreed that we should spread the money out to benefit a greater number rather than only one. A motion was made by Theresa Nelson and seconded by Suzanne Nellen to recognize the first place senior youth with \$400, 2nd place, \$200 and 3rd place \$100 at the yearend show. Motion passed. Will Nuttall suggested that The Angela Bauer Youth Scholarship cutting dates be tabled until he and Kathy Foote, who is also on the Youth Scholarship committee, could meet. Will Nuttall made a motion to continue with the High School Cutting trophies that we have provided in the past. Seconded by Tom Campbell and motion passed.

Dave Weyer made a motion that we continue our MCHA sponsorship at the Western Nationals in Ogden, seconded by Bambi Gress. Motion passed.

We moved on to discuss the \$400 corporate sponsorships. Theresa Nelson appointed a committee to continue contacting individuals and businesses to be major donors. We not only need the \$400 corporate sponsors we have had in the past but shoot for those people who can donate to shows or sponsor added money at some of the MCHA sponsored shows. Bambi Gress, Michelle Van Dyke, Shirley Williams and Suzanne Nellen were appointed to this committee. They will work on a format for sponsors and also get the information from Shirley on what we currently have in place for soliciting funds. The Corporate Sponsorships that have changed are \$35,000 Non-pro will be sponsored by Suzanne Nellen, Atty at Law PLLC, and Switchback Ranch will pick up the \$3,000 Novice Horse Class and the Senior Youth Class, and we have not heard back on the \$1,000 Novice Horse confirming Joe Liss Water Wells. Bambi Gress contacted JFK Trailer sales and they will also be added to the corporate sponsor list to fill in with any class which is open or sponsor one of the horse of the year awards. All other sponsorships shall remain the same.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the Horse of the Year still being a "popularity contest" even though the format was changed last year. Tom Campbell and Will Nuttall came up with a suggestion that we have one Non-Pro Horse of the Year and one Open Horse of the Year and they would be decided with total money earned. The only class money which would not count for Non-pro Horse of the Year would be those earnings in the \$2,000 Limit Rider and \$800 Rider since horses do not have to be rider-owned in those classes. The Open Horse of the Year would be determined with all Open and Novice horse class earnings being accumulated toward the horse. This would be easier than a points system and could be tabulated through the Faster Cut Computer Program. The Non-pro Horse of the year would have a ballot and each horse which won a year end non-pro class, excluding \$2000 and \$800, would be placed on the ballot. The general membership would then vote on Non-pro Horse of the Year at the general membership meeting and social that will be the evening before the awards banquet. A motion was made by Will Nuttall and seconded by Tom Campbell to adopt the above format for horse of the year. Motion passed.

Next item of business was "How can we attract more members to our General Membership Meeting?" The General Membership Meeting has been poorly attended when it was held the next morning after the Yearend Banquet. Since we had a good turnout at the social that MCHA sponsored the last two years along with the dog races and games it might be prudent to move it to that evening. Bambi made a motion to have a social along with our General Membership Meeting, and schedule it the evening before our Yearend Awards Banquet. Seconded by Cody Lee and motion passed.

There was a discussion on whether to have the NWAB (Never Won A Buckle) class and it was unanimously approved to leave it in the hands of show management and it would not be mandated by

MCHA. There would not be a ride-off for a saddle but show management could present a buckle to winners at their expense if they wanted to have a class at their show. It was also proposed to have a 4 year old approved class but this would also be at the discretion of show management. That being said, Theresa Nelson made a motion to accept the following classes as approved for MCHA yearend awards; Open, Non-pro, \$50,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-pro, \$15,000 Amateur, \$10,000 Novice Horse, \$3,000 Novice Horse, \$15,000 Novice Horse Non-pro, \$2,000 Limit Rider, Senior Youth, Junior Youth, \$800 Rider, \$1,000 Horse, \$5,000 Novice Horse Non-pro. Motion seconded by Bambi Gress and motion passed.

The next item of business was discussion of goals and direction that MCHA focuses on for the upcoming 2010 season. We discussed surveys that the membership completed in the past which revealed that they would like to see fewer shows, quality shows, and new venues. How do we cultivate new interest, do we sponsor more MCHA shows as an affiliate, fund raising, and awards? After the board brainstormed, we also brought in the National Directors, Buddy Westfall and John L Dublin for their input via conference call. We wanted their input on the approval that the Idaho Cutting Horse Association asked for on their NCHA days held in Idaho Falls on June 5 and 6. Wyoming had asked for approval as well for June 4, 5, & 6. The board has tried not to duplicate approvals on the same dates in the past since it divides where our members participate. Past history has been to alternate approval with Wyoming every other year with Douglas, Wyoming being the site this year for our region. A vote was called for to approve the Idaho NCHA Day show and it failed to have the unanimous approval of all directors and therefore did not pass. A vote was called for on the Wyoming NCHA Day show dates and the board unanimously approved the Douglas, Wyoming show after lengthy discussion.

The discussion moved on to consider the rest of the show schedule and note that the board tried to keep focused on having new venues, shows with fresh cattle and tried to limit number of shows to 2 per month and tried to meet the affiliate requirement of 3 MCHA produced shows per year. They also tried to balance the number of approved show which were located in the Western part of the state (West of Bozeman) and those in the East (East of Bozeman). The January – March schedule had been approved by the 2009 Board and the April-September approved shows are listed below. A motion was made by Mike Willey and seconded by Suzanne Nellen to approve the following schedule. Note that Will Nuttall abstained from voting on the Great Falls show and Dave Weyer abstained from voting on the Lewis and Clark show. Motion passed.

April 3, 4 - Double D Creek, Columbus, MT

April 10, 11 – Cow Country Cutting, Metra Park, Billings, MT

April 24, 25 – Trailhead Cutting & Wes Tibbets Memorial, Miles City, MT

May – 15,16 – Sapphire Event Cutting, Corvallis, MT

May 22,23 – MCHA Sponsored at Madison Co Fairgrounds, Twin Bridges, MT

June 4,5,6 – NCHA Days in Douglas Wyoming

June 11-13 or June 25-27 – Barb Dahl Memorial Cutting – Jackson, WY

July 10,11 – Big Timber Fairgrounds, Big Timber, MT

July 24, 25 – MCHA sponsored show, location to be determined

Aug 7,8 – Big Sky Weekend Cutting, Great Falls, MT

Aug 21, 22 – Lewis & Clark Cutting, Fairgrounds in Lewistown

Aug 27, 28, 29 – Meadow Vue Ranch , Henry's Lake, ID

September 11, 12 – Sapphire Event Cutting, Corvallis

Sept 25, 26 – MCHA Year End Show

(unable to approve any cuttings after this date because it would be after yearend awards)

Tom Campbell also brought it to everyone's attention that we really do need to support our "Montana Cutters" who do attend the Western Nationals. This is not monetary support but moral support as a fellow cutter. Many of the other affiliates have signs, cheering sections, etc that just boost the cohesiveness of their membership. We have done well as an affiliate in the past and let's keep cheering our Montana cutters on and encourage participation from all our members and make sure you designate Montana as your affiliate so we can reap the benefits from the AQHA/NCHA Affiliate Challenge.

Next item of business was the appointment of Committees which are as follows. Yearend Awards Committee headed by Bambi Gress and she would contact Vickie Stewart and Audrey Chamberlain to be on that with her. Nominating committee will be Dave Weyer, Mike Willey and Don Weeding. Dave Weyer will contact Betty Lou Weeding to make sure she will still serve on the Election Committee and she can appoint her own members to bring on board with her. Show Committee is Will Nuttall, Chairman, Cody Lee, and Tom Campbell.

Date for next meeting will be March 20, in Billings after cutting on Saturday evening.

Motion was made by Theresa Nelson and seconded by Mike Willey to adjourn the meeting at 3:00.
Motion passed.

**Addendum to Board of Directors Annual Planning Meeting
January 26, 2010 – Via Internet Communication**

Prompted by several calls from show producers, the board had to revisit the approved show dates and locations which were voted on at the Annual Planning Meeting held on January 23. The issues which were brought to light included Jackson, WY cancelling their request for a show in June, Sapphire Event Center requested that we move the approved May show to be an approved July show and NCHA Days in Idaho was discussed for approval and new secretarial proposal.

A vote was called for moving the approved May Sapphire show to an approved show on July 16, 17, & 18. Board passed this request.

Next item was the cancellation of the Jackson, WY show and Will Nuttall was in contact with the Roundup show producer and they will pick up the dates of June 11-13. Approved by the Board.

Due to the distance for the western Montana cutters to travel to the already approved Area 4 NCHA Days in Douglas, Wyoming, the board revisited the request for MCHA approval submitted by Idaho for NCHA Days in Lewisville, Idaho at the Skaar's Feedlot on June 5 and 6th. This was a unique circumstance for approval since both of these shows were out of state and the proximity to both shows would definitely benefit the membership. A vote was called for and it was approved. Theresa Nelson contacted the Wyoming Association and discussed the unique circumstances regarding MCHA approving two separate NCHA days. The Board of Directors wanted it noted that if these shows were both in Montana, and not NCHA Days the Board would not approve duplicate show dates.

Theresa Nelson will post our tentative approved show schedule on the website.

Shirley Williams made a modified proposal to the board regarding covering her travel expenses to board meetings. She had proposed that MCHA pay for her roundtrip mileage expenses from Dillon to board meetings that she was required to attend and if the meetings were late, MCHA would cover her lodging expenses. A vote was called for and proposal denied. Theresa Nelson was going to contact Shirley to stay on as Secretary with the same wages. If Shirley declines the position, MCHA would advertise the position at the current salary.