

**Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)
Board of Directors' Meeting**

January 12, 2019

The Baxter, Bozeman, MT

President Jeremy Young called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

Directors Present: President Jeremy Young, Kelly Zelikovitz, Jann Parker, Gayle Weber, and Shaun Strickland

Directors Present by Phone: Vice President Kathy Foote, Joe Kalt and Ashley Lee

Directors Represented by Proxy: Brian Anderson

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

The minutes of the December 5th, 2018 Board of Directors' meeting had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Kelly Zelikovitz and seconded by Shaun Strickland, motion carried on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Wyoming CHA Update

Shaun Strickland gave an update of the Wyoming CHA Board and the traction their Board is trying to gain. He said that it has not worked for the entire Board to meet in person but there had been teleconferences. Their Board wishes to focus on growth and a positive forward motion. Wyoming CHA is asking for approval from MCHA of their Wright, WY show. They want to work with MCHA and encourage participation for members of both organizations. The show is produced by WyCHA and has already been approved by Western States CHA.

Shaun Strickland noted the current WyCHA Board includes: Clay Turner, Shaun Strickland, Jack Enright, Justin Johnson, Gordy Bray, Kristin York, Kelly Winsor and Megan Greenwood. Shaun is still working on a face to face meeting of all the WyCHA Board members hoping to get a better understanding of their financials and to understand and see a copy of their Bylaws.

NRS Update and Big Sky Aged Event (BSAE)

Kathy Foote gave an update of the NRS (Northwest Regional Series) dissolution in regard to BSAE (Big Sky Aged Event). BSAE is currently in the process of closing their books. BSAE will receive from NRS approximately \$800. Because BSAE was the participating affiliate they had contributed to NRS approximately \$3200.00. BSAE asked MCHA if it would be willing to pay the difference of approximately \$2400.00 to BSAE to aid in their closeout. A lengthy discussion was had on this request. Following the discussion, it was carried on a voice vote by the Board that such request be denied because setting a precedent of this nature was not in the best interest of MCHA.

NEW BUSINESS:

MCHA Rule #2

As discussed during the December 5th, 2018 BOD meeting, there is a desire that was expressed at the last General Membership meeting to increase the added money in all MCHA approved non-jackpot classes from \$200 to \$300. This requires a General Membership vote. A motion was made by Gayle Weber to propose this change at the next General Membership meeting. Motion seconded by Jann Parker and carried on a voice vote.

Lowering of Approval Fees

There was a discussion among the BOD of whether to lower MCHA's show approval fees. Currently the fees are \$4 per run. It was decided to propose lowering the fees at the next General Membership meeting.

2019 Show Schedule

Vice President Kathy Foote provided the Board with the shows and dates that were under consideration for approval as follows:

March 20-23: Nampa, Idaho

April 19-20: Laurel, MT

May 11-12: Wright, WY

May 23-26: Livingston, MT (MCHA Produced)

June 22-29: Western Nationals Denver, CO (NCHA show listed for information only)

July 12-14: Dillon, MT (MCHA Produced)

August 14-18: Big Piney, WY (MCHA Produced)

October 4-5: Laurel, MT

October 24-November 2: Ogden, UT

Kelly Zelikovitz briefed the Board on how the Nampa approval has worked in the past and how the change in Rule #10 has allowed the Board to approve a show if it is deemed by the Board to be in the best interest of MCHA. Nampa collected a great number of memberships at the 2018 show and advertised the MCHA approved show schedule on their web site. Kelly Zelikovitz also noted the change in Rule #10 allows for producers to offset their approval fees by collecting MCHA memberships.

Shaun Strickland reported to the Board that Wyoming CHA has agreed to the reciprocal approval of Big Piney without MCHA having to pay WyCHA approval fees if MCHA approves the Wright, WY show without WyCHA being required to pay MCHA approval fees. It was agreed

that this was in the best interest of MCHA, will help WyCHA and aid in participation between the two organizations.

Kathy Foote is working on the Dillon, MT show. It will be at the new University of Montana Western College Rodeo Barn. The show will be MCHA produced and LaCense has agreed to be the cattle supplier with cost around \$33/head including trucking. She said there are several MCHA members in the area that have agreed to help get this show going.

Kelly Zelikovitz gave an update on Big Piney, WY. She has already been working on obtaining portable stalls for this year's show. There will be an additional weekend show day added with a modified schedule to allow weekend classes to be held on the weekend. She said she is currently working on cattle suppliers.

Kathy Foote said she is currently talking with MSU Bozeman's Horseman's Club to hold a cutting at their facility on the Bozeman Campus. This show date may be as early as April.

Kelly Zelikovitz explained to the Board that UCHA wishes to do a reciprocal show approval again this year. She said they had already approved Big Piney and they would like MCHA to approve the Weekend and LAE show in Ogden, UT on October 24 – November 2. There was a discussion on how to best handle earnings from this show as it would be after the MCHA Year End Show. It was decided that all earnings from the Ogden, UT show would go towards MCHA 2020 earnings.

President Jeremy Young said he would like to see more shows added to the schedule. He will be looking into the possibility of a cutting at the college facility in Miles City. He would like to encourage more participation from North and South Dakota with this show being closer to those affiliates. President Jeremy Young also would like to look into the possibility of shows in Great Falls, Lewistown, and MCHA producing a show in Sheridan, WY.

Following the discussed points above all proposed shows and dates as well as MCHA producing noted shows, were approved unanimously on a voice vote.

LAE Classes and Weekend Classes

Kathy Foote discussed the fact that some members who compete in Weekend classes had complained to her about Weekend classes not being held on a weekend. MCHA can only address this in the context of MCHA produced shows, but Kathy Foote and Kelly Zelikovitz said they would work to construct the show bills for Livingston, Dillon and Big Piney to try and have as many of the Weekend classes as possible held on weekend days.

2019 Approved Classes

President Jeremy Young asked for suggested changes to the list of classes that MCHA approves for awards for the 2019 show year. Kelly Zelikovitz discussed that the \$1500 Novice Horse class made only two times in 2018. The motion was made by Kelly Zelikovitz to eliminate the \$1500 Novice Horse from the list of approved 2019 classes. Joe Kalt seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote. All other classes will remain the same. Our MCHA 2019 Approved Classes will be as follows:

Open
Non-Pro
\$50,000 Amateur
\$25,000 Novice Horse
\$25,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro
Junior Youth
Senior Youth
\$35,000 Non-Pro
\$15,000 Amateur
\$5,000 Novice Horse
\$5,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro
\$2,000 Limit Rider
**Open Derby
**Non-Pro Derby
**Open Classic
**Non-Pro Classic

**It will be up to the show producer whether to offer these classes, but 2019 Year End Awards will be given in these classes regardless. All other approved classes must be offered in order for a show to receive MCHA approval.

2019 Never Won A Buckle Class (NWAB)

President Jeremy Young opened the floor to discussion on choosing where to hold/offer the NWAB class or to allow individual producers to determine if the class would be offered. Kelly Zelikovitz noted that MCHA has several NWAB Buckles with no year date. The Board discussed whether eligibility for the NWAB class would exclude buckles won in club cuttings such as Treasure State Cutting Club and Central Wyoming Cutting Club. Motion was made by Jann Parker for the NWAB class to be approved at any show where the producer would like to hold the class and that eligibility for the NWAB class would exclude only buckles won at NCHA approved cuttings not buckles won at club cuttings. Motion was seconded by Shaun Strickland and carried on a voice vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser asked for clarification on the entry fee for the NWAB class. Historically it has always been a \$100 entry fee with it not being a jackpot class. The Board agreed that was the best way for the class to run. Gayle Weber noted that if a rider won money in the NWAB class they no longer could be eligible for Rookie of the Year.

2019 Year End Awards:

Minimum Participation

The Board agreed to not have a minimum participation rule in 2019, carried on a voice vote.

Awards Banquet

The Board discussed the option of having the Awards Banquet on a separate date and location from the Year End Show. It was decided that attendance would be low. Members may not want to travel just for the banquet. At the Year End Show everyone is together which makes for ease of travel. Members enjoy the comradery, dinner and drinks which having the Banquet at the Year End Show allows for.

Re-Run Cattle Class Award

President Jeremy Young opened the floor to discussion regarding the possibility of not doing a cash Shoot-Out but instead giving away a saddle. Ashley Lee noted that a saddle would give the member something to commemorate their accomplishment. It was decided that MCHA would do a saddle for the 2019 Re-Run Cattle Class Shoot-Out. MCHA would have a framed photo of the saddle to take to the shows for advertisement. At the Year End Show there would be a shootout between the top 10 money earners in the \$35, \$15 and \$2K classes with MCHA donating fresh cattle as was done in 2018. The winner of the class would be awarded the saddle in a winner-take-all format.

The Board discussed whether to award a second saddle in 2019. Jann Parker moved that a second saddle would be awarded via a drawing at the Year End Awards banquet in which all class Champions would be eligible but with the provision that you **MUST** be present to win. Kelly Zelikovitz seconded the motion and the motion carried on a voice vote.

Shaun Strickland volunteered to take on finding the saddles and obtaining a photo for advertisement.

Placing to Give Awards To

President Jeremy Young proposed to drop the awards placing to 3 places in 2019 to help with the cost of the saddles. The Board was in agreement, it was voted on and carried by a voice vote.

Special Awards

President Jeremy Young asked for discussion on continuation of the Special Awards given. The Board agreed to keep all special awards for 2019 as they were in 2018 by a voice vote. The Special Awards will be as follows:

- MCHA Open Horse of the Year (most money won)
- MCHA Non-Pro/Amateur Horse of the Year (voted on by membership)
- MCHA Most Money Won – Non-Pro or Amateur
- Open LAE Horse of the Year (most money won)
- LAE Most Money Won Non-Pro or Amateur
- Adult Rookie of the Year (voted on by the Directors)
- Youth Rookie of the Year (voted on by the Directors)
- Kim Asay / Most Inspirational (voted on by the Directors)
- Horizon Yacht / NCHA SWT (recognized and small award to be given)

2019 Operating Budget

President Jeremy Young presented the 2018 MCHA P & L and the proposed 2019 Operating Budget created by Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser to the Board.

President Jeremy Young stated again that MCHA would be removing the 4th place awards for 2019. He recommended increasing the awards budget. A discussion followed to increase the awards budget to \$15,000 for 2019. The amount allocated to the two saddles would be \$2,000 each for a total of \$4,000 and would not be included in the awards budget. The added awards budget will allow Bambi Gress more flexibility to find awards. The motion was made by Jann Parker to increase the awards budget to \$15,000, seconded by Kelly Zelikovitz and carried on a voice vote.

Annual Review of Secretary/Treasurer Compensation – Closed Session

Following discussion by the Board, it was decided that the 2019 Compensation for the MCHA Secretary/Treasurer position should remain the same in 2019 as in 2018.

2019 Committee Assignments

President Jeremy Young asked the Directors for ideas on Committee Assignments, response was as follows:

Show Committee: Kathy Foote (per Constitution, Vice President is Chairman)

Year End Awards: Bambi Gress

Year End Banquet / Auction: Ashley Lee

Sponsorship: President Jeremy Young will contact all 2018 Sponsors

President Jeremy Young asked all Board members to present new ideas for sponsorship contacts.

The 2018 Sponsorship list will be emailed to all Board members

Nominating: Joe Kalt

Rules Committee: Kelly Zelikovitz

NCHA Rule Changes

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser noted that the rule changes that were pertinent to MCHA had been rescinded.

Dale Wood Bronze

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser had not been able to set up a meeting with Dale but will continue to keep the Board updated. The Board is interested in what the royalties to MCHA would be if MCHA sponsors pay for the clay prototype, whether MCHA would be able to purchase pieces in the series at a discount for awards and seeing a sketch or some semblance of

what the piece will look like. Kelly Fraser said it will be up to MCHA as to the number of pieces that will be in the series.

Current MCHA Voting Process

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser explained the email and paper ballots that were sent out in 2018. She noted the lack of returned votes. One of the issues may be the number of out of state individuals. It was decided to continue the 2019 voting process.

Facebook and Website

Shaun Strickland volunteered to help with Facebook posting for MCHA. Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser will get him “Admin” access to the FB page so he can keep the membership updated and post pictures for MCHA.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser updated the Board on the website upgrade. She said she had spoken with Tom Bruch regarding online payments of memberships and sponsorships. She will need to set up a PayPal account for credit card processing. Because of having multiple producers, MCHA will not allow entry fee credit card payments on their web site. Tom had provided sample online fillable payment forms and recommended keeping it as simple and clean as possible. He will build those forms for MCHA and we will be able to test them. Tom anticipated having the web page done by the end of February. Kelly Fraser and Tom discussed show secretaries having issues receiving show entries. Tom said with the new site those problems should be alleviated. There will also be a comments section on the entry form for people to more easily note if they would like to be in a SWT class. The mobile interface was included in the original quote for the upgrade, the only additional charge will be for the online credit card form, for both membership and sponsorship; the additional cost for that will be \$250.00. The total quote for the web site will then be \$3250.00, of which a \$1750.00 deposit has been made.

Encouragement of New Membership

President Jeremy Young opened a discussion for encouraging new people to get involved with cutting. One suggestion was to hold free clinics around the state to hopefully generate interest in the sport. It was discussed to offer free memberships to Treasure State Cutting Club (TSCC) and Central Wyoming Cutting Club (CWCC) members if they were to attend a MCHA show. The stipulation would be they could not have been a prior MCHA member for two years. This offer of free membership would also be extended to High School Rodeo participants. Jann Parker made the motion to offer free MCHA membership to TSCC, CWCC or High School Rodeo contestants, who attend a MCHA show and have not held a MCHA membership for at least two years. Shaun Strickland seconded the motion, motion carried on voice vote.

Kelly Fraser will email TSCC members who do attend MCHA shows, asking what encourages them to attend shows in both associations.

Signatory on MCHA Wells Fargo Checking Account

President Jeremy Young and Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser will meet in Billings at an agreed upon date and time (no later than the end of January 2019) to add President Jeremy Young to the account. At that time 2018 President Kelly Zelikovitz will be removed from the account. The President and Secretary/Treasurer are to have equal access to the Wells Fargo checking account #8337439353.

President Jeremy Young adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.