

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)
General Membership Meeting

October 13th, 2023

Miller's Horse Palace – Billings, MT

President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 6:26 pm

Directors Present: President Peri Suenram, Vice President Michelle Van Dyke, Doug Pearce, Darrell Lee, Rob Fraser, Mike Hoffman, Josh Keimig and Clayton Miller

Directors Excused: John Seymour

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser
MCHA Members (Appendix A)

Report of the Officers, Directors, Committees & Other Reports

Vice President Michelle Van Dyke read both the NCHA Mission Statement and the MCHA Mission Statement.

As proof of due notice, President Peri Suenram stated the meeting notice was made available on the MCHA website, Facebook and in an email, 30 days prior to the meeting.

President Peri Suenram noted to the members that the minutes of the October 7th, 2022 General Membership Meeting were posted on the website. The motion was made by Rob Fraser to approve the minutes, seconded by Shaun Musselman, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Reports of Officers

National Directors Report

President Peri Suenram thanked Suzanne Nellen for attending the GM meeting, she asked Suzanne to please give an update on the National Convention and some of the changes that will come in 2024. Suzanne said she was first of all impressed with the attendance at the Convention, she noted that with the move to Las Vegas it has brought in more membership up by 75% from the last Fort Worth Convention. The largest change affecting MCHA is the update of the Big Sky Circuit to now consist of Montana and Wyoming. Suzanne said she would be nominating MCHA for Affiliate of the Year for 2023. The voting for Affiliate of the Year will be in March 2024, with winning the title there is recognition and compensation from NCHA. Suzanne said in all the categories that NCHA judges the affiliates on, Montana checks all the boxes. She said it is important for the MCHA membership to be involved in this process by sending letters. President Peri Suenram said the membership will be notified when it is time to turn in the application and asked for everyone's help to get MCHA the Affiliate of the Year award for 2023!

Rob Fraser made the motion that MCHA apply for the 2023 Affiliate of the Year Award, seconded by Shaun Musselman, passed on a voice vote.

Suzanne said that the Amateur Committee in 2024, is going to start requesting competitors to declare their earnings in other disciplines outside of cutting. It will be up to the member to disclose earnings to NCHA and NCHA can further decide what relevance those earnings may have on your rider status. President Peri Suenram noted that this is only come up for the Amateurs and the Committee has not yet decided what it is going to do with the information gathered, her advice to the membership is to be honest and declare earnings and we will have to wait and see how it will all play out. She said as soon as more specifics are ironed out NCHA will put out the language of the proposal. Suzanne said one of the other items that changed is the leveling titles, they will now be Level 1, Level 2, Level 3; instead of Limited, Intermediate and Open.

President Peri Suenram reminded the membership that at the GM meeting the year prior, it was voted on to give our National Directors \$1000 each, travel money to cover the cost of attending the Convention. She said both John Seymoure and Suzanne Nellen have worked very hard for MCHA and WYCHA to get the Big Sky Circuit changed. Peri said if any member has the chance to attend the NCHA Convention, she strongly encouraged it.

Financial Report

President Peri Suenram asked Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser to update the membership on the current financials. Kelly Fraser presented to the membership the current MCHA profit and loss through September 30th, 2023; individual show profit and loss; as well as a yearly comparison of income and expenses from 2020 through September 30th, 2023. Kelly noted that all financials were compiled after the bank statement reconciliation for September, there will be additional minor expenses such as the banquet and possibly some awards yet to be accounted for. To touch on a few points, Kelly said the membership income was \$7870, which was great. She said the Sponsorship income for 2023 was huge at around \$23,000.00, it included cash received, clinics that were given, show sponsorships, hotels comping rooms, etc. There was a lot of support this year for the association. Kelly had each of the MCHA produced shows separated out and asked the membership to please look over each and let she or Peri know of any questions they may have.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser said that the current Wells Fargo checking account has a balance of \$41,399.77. She said that the Association currently has two 6-month CD's with Edward Jones that total \$170,000.00. One at \$70,000.00 that is coming due in November and the other at \$100,000.00 that will come due in April. This allows us to gain some interest income and have the money back into our checking account prior to the 2024 show year.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser said our State of Montana License Plate program is getting stronger all the time. She said that Todd & Lee Wirthlin have been promoting and pushing the

plate program for us. Kelly said that when Lee checked our plate count in September, we were at 750 plates, the total current income off that is \$10,150.00 with more to come by the end of the year. She reminded the membership that 400 plates is our minimum. Vice President Michelle Van Dyke asked how the State of Montana recertifies us each year. Kelly said that you must prove to the State that the income you are receiving is going back to your membership, and for us that means what we are doing to promote the sport of cutting. She said any website expense, promotions, clinics, awards etc. can be used to show we are giving back, right now we are expensing out more than we are receiving.

President Peri Suenram asked the membership if there were any questions on the financials provided. Shaun Musselman made the motion to approve the financials provided, seconded by Rob Fraser and passed on a voice vote.

Rules Committee

The MCHA rules Committee consists of the entire MCHA BOD. Doug Pearce noted that again this year, as was done in 2022, it was required that in order to be eligible for year-end awards you must have competed at 3 in state show venues. John Murdock said that he would like to see one other show in Wyoming count as a qualifying show. He said with making the trip from Colorado to support cutting in Montana, it is hard to get to Dillon or Deer Lodge for them. The discussion was had to possibly include a Torrington or Gillette show. President Peri Suenram said that now that the Big Sky Circuit has been changed it may be a point that the 2024 Board needs to discuss at the January planning meeting. Rob Fraser said that a possible show in Gillette may be very successful and would appease the Wyoming and Colorado cutters that are trying hard to support MCHA. Roy Oliver agreed that with Montana and Wyoming as a Circuit, it should change MCHA's perspective on adding a Wyoming show, Shaun Musselman agreed with that sentiment.

Show Committee

President Peri Suenram said she was able to call together all the Northwest Show Producers and has started a 2024 show season calendar. Peri said in 2023 there were several shows that were scheduled over the top of one and other, looking ahead to 2024 everyone wants to avoid that if possible. Once the calendar is closer to completion it will be shared with the membership.

Election

President Peri Suenram explained to the membership that she, as current President, would move into a Board position for 2024; Vice President Michelle Van Dyke would move into the President position for 2024. Peri said the Board members coming off the Board at the end of the year are Doug Pearce, Darrell Lee, Rob Fraser and Mike Hoffman, there are three open Board

positions and the Vice President Position for 2024. The Nomination Committee has commitments from the following individuals who are willing to run for 2024 positions:

Vice President Candidates: Ashley Lee & Doug Pearce

- Motion was made by Shaun Musselman to close the Vice President nominations, seconded by Gordy Bray, passed on a voice vote.
 - Note: Roy Oliver was nominated, but subsequently declined.

Board Of Directors: Audra Crouse, Phil Murphy, John Delmonte, Cindy Fraser, and Mike Hoffman

- Motion was made by Clayton Miller to close the Board of Directors nominations, seconded by Darrell Lee, passed on a voice vote.
 - Note: Shaun Musselman was nominated, but subsequently declined.

President Peri Suenram explained that the voting will be electronic, and the results will be compiled by Big Sky Internet Design as our third party. The vote will be open for 30 days, there will be an email sent out approximately a week after the GM meeting with the link to vote. We will provide the membership with a Bio on each of the candidates up for consideration.

Old Business

None

New Business

President Peri Suenram told the membership that MCHA will be hosting NCHA Weekend May 31st to June 2nd, 2024, in Deer Lodge. Peri said she and Justin Johnson had spoken and discussed that between Montana and Wyoming the associations will work together going forward in decided where NCHA Weekends are to be held as well as the Big Sky Circuit Finals. Justin is currently working on the 2024 Circuit Finals and both associations will keep their membership posted.

President Peri Suenram announced that Kelly Fraser will be resigning as the association Secretary/Treasurer. MCHA will be sending out an email to start the process of hiring a replacement.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm

Appendix A

Cindy Fraser

Ashely Lee

Cody Lee

Ken Mesaros

Becky Mesaros

Karla Camp

Wylie Fraser

Suzanne Nellen

Sarah Bauer

John Murdock

Nate Hayes

David Reyes

Roy Oliver

Justin Bannan

Shaun Musselman

Michelle Musselman

John Delmonte

Justin Johnson

Audra Crouse

Gordy Bray