

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

September 4th, 2020
Heart K Arena – Livingston, MT

President Kathy Foote called the meeting to order at 6:41 pm

Directors Present: Kathy Foote, Ashley Lee, Michelle Van Dyke, Joe Kalt, Kelsey Fraser, Roy Oliver, Ali Anderson, & Nancy LaCounte

Directors Absent: Renea Williams

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

Report of the Officers, Directors, Committees & Other Reports

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

President Kathy Foote noted to the members that the minutes of the October 4, 2019 General Membership Meeting were posted on the website. The motion was made by Nancy LaCounte to approve the minutes, seconded by Roy Oliver, and carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

As one of Montana's National Directors, President Kathy Foote told the membership that Michelle Van Dyke would be leaving the National Directors position and John Seymour would be replacing her. Kathy Foote will remain as a National Director.

Kathy Foote 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 August 31, 2020, as well as a yearly comparison of income and expenses from 2015 through August 31, 2020. She gave a brief rundown of the profit from both the June Crazy Mountain cutting, as well as the Big Piney, Wyoming cutting. The Crazy Mountain June Cutting shows a profit of \$9,508.47. The Big Piney cutting is showing a preliminary profit of \$43,385.67. However, Kelly Fraser noted that this show there were still some outstanding receipts. Kathy gave Kelly Zelikovitz and Andi James a huge shout out for the incredible success of this show. Kathy Foote explained to those present that there was an increase in the membership income partly due to the requirement of all participants in a MCHA produced show to be MCHA members. With the increase in participation at the shows there was a corresponding increase in membership income. Kathy Foote noted that Montana is one of the few affiliates that does have an increasing membership contingent which is contrary to NCHA nationally.

Kathy Foote told the membership that the June Crazy Mountain Cutting was a huge success and well attended from cutters throughout the west. She said the profit is very encouraging and wanted the membership to understand that the cost of renting the Heart K facility is high which leaves a smaller profit margin comparable to the Sublette County Fairgrounds.

Kelly Zelikovitz thanked those involved with the Big Piney, Wyoming show; especially the James family who put countless hours in the show, as well as Kathy Foote for the hours she put into the show. She said the turnout this year was huge, and they were able to show a large profit margin. She said there were some expenses left to pay and some income left to receive which will change the P & L for the show but only slightly.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser told the membership that the current bank balance is at \$126,776.38, and, of course, the Fall Crazy Mountain Cutting is yet to be entered into the MCHA books. There were two large purchases this year, the Flag, and the redesign of the MCHA License Plate, beyond those items the general operation expenses should follow closely the general operation expenses of prior years. She also noted that the awards purchased had already been accounted for in the bank balance, but the \$4,000.00 set aside for the saddles to be given away at the Year End Awards Banquet was yet to be accounted for.

President Kathy Foote told the membership of the Board decision, brought to their attention by Todd & Lee Wirthlin, to redesign the MCHA License Plate. Kathy Foote noted to the membership the hard work Lee had put into the plate renewal and their desire to update the plate since its conception in 2010. Lee has an artist that will donate her time to the project. The cost to MCHA was \$4,120.00 paid to the Montana Department of Corrections for the setup of the new plate. The goal of the plate redesign is to have a plate that “sells itself” so there is no longer a struggle to reach the 400 minimum plate requirements. Kathy Foote encouraged all the members to purchase the plate and encourage those around them to do the same.

Committee Reports

President Kathy Foote said that there had not been any rules presented to the Board for discussion.

President Kathy Foote asked Ali Anderson and Kelsey Fraser to report on the sponsorships for 2020. Ali Anderson said they had worked very hard at the beginning of the year and had a great response from sponsors, and when COVID hit, it stalled. She noted that there were some sponsorships that did come in during that time, but they had not reached their original goal. However, she felt that all things considered, they had strong support from members and sponsors during 2020.

President Kathy Foote asked Michelle Van Dyke, Roy Oliver, and Joe Kalt to discuss the nominations Committee. Joe Kalt said they did have a good response form those interested in running for a Board position and it will be addressed under election.

President Kathy Foote reported on the Angela Bauer Youth Scholarship and its finances. She said she had approached Jessica Lee to take over the Scholarship and Jessica would consider it. Kathy Foote said there was \$2,430.89 in the checking account and \$15,386.25 in the savings account. She said this year there had been no applicants and no payouts. She noted that over the past ten years there had been approximately \$25,000.00 paid out in scholarships. Kathy Foote went over the requirements for the scholarship applicants and encouraged any members who know of kids considering college and/or a trade school to please have them apply for this longstanding and successful scholarship program.

Election

President Kathy Foote explained to the membership that she, as current President, would move into a Board position for 2020; Vice President Ashley Lee would move into the President position for 2020. She said the Board members coming off of the Board at the end of the year are Ali Anderson, Kelsey Fraser, Renea Williams and Joe Kalt. She asked the Nominating Committee consisting of Michelle Van Dyke, Roy Oliver, and Joe Kalt to present to the membership the individuals interested in running for the 3 open Board positions and the Vice President Position. Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser asked Michelle Van Dyke to explain to the membership what happened this year regarding the appointments of Ali Anderson, Renea Williams and Kelsey Fraser. Michelle said that there were resignations on the Board, and they were then appointed to the Board. She explained that as appointed Board members they were eligible to run again for 2021-2022 Board positions.

Roy Oliver, Joe Kalt and Michelle Van Dyke presented to the membership the following names to run for Board Positions:

Gayle Weber
Darrell Lee
Peri Suenram
Sarah Bauer
Kelsey Fraser
Ali Anderson
Wylie Fraser

They noted that Joe Kalt and Cindy Garoutte would like to run for Vice President.

President Kathy Foote asked the membership if there were any other individuals who may like to add their name to the ballot, none were added.

Old Business – None

New Business

Peri Suenram thanked the MCHA Board for their letter of support for her proposal to the NCHA asking for a revision of the \$50,000 Amateur eligibility rule. Peri explained to the members that participants in the \$50,000 Amateur class, because of age exceptions as they get older, are allowed to enter the \$50,000 Amateur regardless of their total lifetime earnings. She fought to change the rule, so it is based on lifetime earnings with no exceptions. The proposal did make it to the competition committee, but they modified her proposal. Under the new rule if a person is eligible for the \$50,000 Amateur one year and they have won over \$50,000.00 in lifetime earnings, they would have to skip the following year of eligibility in the \$50,000 Amateur; however, the year after they would again be eligible to compete. Joe Kalt noted this was a great proposal from Peri and they both encouraged all members to reach out to NCHA executives, especially NCHA President Steve Norris and NCHA Competition Committee Chairperson Frank Merrill, to let them know the disapproval of the disparity in the \$50,000 Amateur class.

President Kathy Foote asked Joe Kalt to explain to the membership the proposed regional circuit he and Scott Raftery had been working on. Joe said that currently NCHA overall is experiencing a 6% to 7% loss in membership. He explained that this hurts everyone involved in cutting. Joe said that the proposal to NCHA is modeled after the PRCA Circuit Finals. This will provide an opportunity for entry level cutters and weekend cutters to receive recognition and awards. The country will be split up into thirteen circuits and twenty-six areas. The top thirty participants in each weekend class would advance to the circuit finals and the top ten from the circuit finals would advance to the National Circuit Finals. Qualification would be based on points and not money earned. Joe also said they have discussed the opportunity for cutting clubs to pay a \$200 approval fee and the classes that mirror NCHA classes would then be included in the points calculated.

Joe Kalt also noted to the membership that the Montana Cutting Horse Association is a bright light in the NCHA affiliates as well as Arizona. Other affiliates are struggling, and Montana is flourishing. He warned that we need to be careful and not become a victim of our own success but to continue the current path. He also felt that it may be in the best interest of MCHA to consider hiring a “show producer”. Darrell Lee thought it may be a good idea as long as those that have been responsible for shows in the past are consultants to the hired producer.

President Kathy Foote adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm

Appendix A

Sarah Bauer

Tami Allen

Anne Indreland

Caleb Kauffman

Wylie Fraser

Jack Enright

Debbie Bird

Doug Pearce

Race Anderson

Sandy Brown

Karla Camp

Lynn Bervy

Bruce Chambers

Dave Huber

Cody Lee

John Seymour

Dorothy Seymour

Darrell Lee

Jessica Lee

Cindy Fraser

Kelly Zelikovitz

Peri Suenram

Gayle Weber