

# **Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)**

## **Year End Meeting**

*September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021*  
*Millers Horse Palace*

President Will Nuttall called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Directors Present:** Cindy Garoutte, Michelle Van Dyke, Alison Anderson, Roy Oliver, Nancy LaCounte

**Not Present-** Kathy Foote, Wylie Fraser, Kelsey Fraser

**Others Present:** Rick Anderson, Cindy and Rob Fraser, Helen Larson, Doug Pearce, Ashley Lee, John and Dorothy Seymour, Sandra Brown, Justin Namken, Sarah Bauer, Russ and Jill Miller, Peri Suenram, Joani Mink, Jessica and Darrell Lee, Shaun and Michelle Musselman, Tanya Dvarishkis, Justin Johnson, Lynn Moore.

John made a motion to approve minutes from last meeting. Alison seconded.

John Seymour gave the National Directors report. He went over the August 2<sup>nd</sup> NCHA mini conventions main focus to vote electronically, now the directors can do so. John gave highlights of the meeting that Kathy Foote attended. The circuit will be changed and moved around; our borders are off balance and they will modify and change some of the rules. Next meeting the NCHA will come together with different ideas to make the circuit program work. During this meeting, they discussed bringing Western Nationals back to Ogden. The format is being discussed. The 50,000 Amateur is becoming a conflicted class with the age rollback, and winning totals. A proposal is being made and NCHA is taking a poll with suggestions and opinions. We need feedback from the weekend cutters regarding the 50,000 Amateur. Cindy Garoutte asked that you please respond to the email that was sent out (a survey regarding this class). John also stated the importance that we give feedback. Peri added there was a comment section on the survey. John went onto state that the NCHA made a commercial about the premier of Yellowstone. Rob Fraser asked about the amount of money given to circuit finals. John responded that \$8,000 is given to each circuit plus awards. John asked Kelly about more information regarding award clarification. It was asked that we support the circuit program, John feels it will work and be successful. He finished up with asking for any questions. Michelle Van Dyke asked more about the boundaries clarification. Alison asked if some of the circuits are not making finals due to entries or issues. John wasn't aware of any that hadn't.

Finance Report Given. Secretary/Treasurer Kelsie Harbert gave out profit and losses and reports as the meeting started. She went over them in detail and answered questions. Several questions arose regarding the sheets given. Kelsie gave detail on each MCHA produced show, also stating that Big Piney is still fluctuating and fluid and is not finalized. She gave a membership report, a license plate report, sponsorship figures, and bank balances.

Rules Committee- none.

Nomination Committee was read by Roy Oliver. Roy read the nominations we have for the upcoming board elections.

Sponsorship Committee- Alison Anderson gave a statement regarding sponsorship totals, and that it was a hard year for receiving money. She also stated it is a tough committee to be a part of, and that future help would be received greatly.

Jessica Lee gave an update on the scholarship program. Angela Bauer was a very vibrant, encouraging person involved for many years. Her life was tragically ended at 29 years old. It was requested by her husband to set-up this scholarship program. \$25,000 dollars has been given over the past 16 years. Kathy is helping complete the transition to give the program direction over to Jessica Lee. There are a lot of outstanding recipients to receive the scholarship and is an important program to continue, stated Jessica. She would like to get the youth program going more. There are several sponsors to thank for supporting this program. Renea and Cory Williams, Dvarshikis family and Rehyer Embryonics. There was no application and no money paid out this year. Jessica gave bank balances of over \$15,000 in savings and around \$3,000 for checking. Will suggested that they go back and put on youth clinics to find and promote youth cutters. All Proceeds were donated. Wyatt Christensen, Carson Hale, Jayden Levine, Cade Denton, Katie Gertge, Jett Brower and Austin Denton were recipients this year.

Nominations for upcoming board to be voted on by membership.

Doug Pierce, Rick Anderson, Darrel Lee, Cody Lee, Rob Fraser

V.P. Nominations- Peri Suenram

President Will Nuttall stated that he would rather not come back on as an advisory. He served the year asked of him and would like to step down.

Cindy Garoutte will be the new incoming MCHA President. Alison Anderson will be leaving the board and is being substituted by BOD voted replacement Tanya Dvarishkis. All board members leaving were stated----- Kathy Foote, Roy Oliver, Michelle Van Dyke, Nancy LaCounte.

Moved and seconded to close all nominations to fill positions.

Members will have 30 days to vote by email, and paper ballot.

## **OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

By-law Change is proposed. The By-law was posted on the website, given as a handout to members attending meeting, and was read to the board and members present.

Motion was made to pass new by-law change by Peri Suenram, Michelle Van Dyke seconded.

Discussion was made. Questions arose regarding family membership vs individual membership and having the capabilities to vote. It was replied that family memberships only have one vote as a family. A few clarifications were made that with this by-law change, there would be no paper

voting at all. Tanya asked if this had to stay within this web design company, It was answered no. That isn't a part of the actual by-law.

Voting proceeded.

Motion passed with no neigh voters.

Rob asked to bring up some defining dates (schedules) earlier than normal due to the cattle situation. Will and Rob have both voiced concerns about this for next year. Cuttings may change drastically due to this topic. There was discussion regarding the limited number of places to cut in state. The membership talked about bringing back cuttings again to different venues and the differences in today. Darrel made a statement regarding the centrally located 406 venue, great cattle, great opportunity for MCHA. Will stated his concerns about making the schedule now, then voting on it in January and how things can change until then. President Nuttall made a statement that everyone needs to pull together to make cutting in Montana again, support in state. In order for this club and affiliate to survive, and make venue's and affiliates better. Tanya asked how to get memberships to pull in from entry level cuttings. Will's response was to produce quality events. Rob voiced his concerns regarding financial aspects of our shows. Joani mentioned her concerns about aged events vs weekend shows and the length and ability for the weekend members to attend. Peri suggested listening to membership and seeing what fits for them and what their needs and wants are. Rob said he would bet money that the big venues don't have Montana members; they only pull participants from out of state. Russ Miller mentioned making money on shows and producing shows without participants from all areas won't work. Kelly said the ranch class was the biggest class at the US Cutting, Russ stated there was a reason. Will touched on what Russ said, they are for the grass roots and start out cuttings and have their place. It is a different level on what they want to be as a competitor. The question was how to bring the people in from those smaller cuttings. Russ stated times have changed over the years---Idaho had 20 cuttings a year. The expenses are different, the costs have completely changed. Will discussed that Rob knows feed and he knows the cattle industry. Will agreed we need to have the numbers and schedules set as early as possible. Russ suggested that we use the same facilities multiple times throughout the season. Discussion was made on these topics.

Michelle asked when you vote for your directors to vote for ones that support us! She wants to have a board that support our shows and are actively attending board members.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

**President Will Nuttall adjourns the meeting at 7:04 p.m.**