

MCHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 20, 2015

Millers Horse Palace, Billings, MT

The MCHA General Membership Meeting was called to order at 9:10am at Millers Horse Palace by president, Tim Stryker. There were 17 members present along with Vice President Kathy Foote, and 2015 Directors James Bower, Jann Parker, and Rachel Showalter. Also present were National Director Theresa Nelson and Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Heiken.

Reports:

Kathy Foote reported for NCHA National Director Buddy Westphal the NCHA Executive Committee voted to change the \$15,000 Novice Horse and \$15,000 Novice Non-Pro class to the \$25,000 Novice Horse and the \$25,000 Novice Non-Pro for 2016. National Director Theresa Nelson explained the NCHA committee thought this would give the horses coming out of those classes one more year before they had to move up to a higher class such as the open. They are hoping this may keep a few more horses showing that might not continue. Theresa also stated for the NCHA World Finals the top 15 get to go, however, not everyone in the top 15 is able to attend so they have decided to drop down to the top 20 to fill all 15 slots. Theresa explained the NCHA is planning to give more recognition to the Weekend Cutter along with dropping the amount for the Achievement Buckle back down to \$1,000.

Old or Unfinished Business:

The Board discussed the 2015 Regional Series. Kathy Foote stated it was a huge success with increased entries at the Big Sky Aged Event in Kalispell in August. She stated Utah may want to get involved in it for next year. The Board discussed this was the first year of the event and may still need some tweaking. Some of the concerns were the regional series being included in the MCHA Standings, the Board could look at adding wording for it to be in the MCHA standings, such as an MCHA member will have to show at 50% of Montana shows or a set amount of shows. The Board had started to put that in for this year, but then took it out. They did not want to discourage any Montana people from showing because of putting this in. The Board discussed this is a hard question, and what number of shows or percentage is the best without discouraging our membership from showing. This year there were 4 states involved in the Regional Series including Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana. It was discussed that it would help to have more incentive to get the members from those other states to come to more Montana shows vs only coming to the Finale that was held in Kalispell. It was agreed that the MCHA did benefit from having the Finale, and if possible to keep it that way. Kathy stated they are working on writing by-laws for the Northwest Regional Series and they will be posted on their website when they are done. There was discussion regarding the added money at the regional shows. Theresa Nelson stated that in the past any shows that had over \$500 added money in a class was not included in the standings. This has been posted on the website at the bottom of the show schedule page for several years, it reads Aged Event/LAE – Derby Open and NP Classes with \$500 or less added, included in MCHA Standings/Year End Awards.

The Board discussed the MCHA election for 2016. Tim Styker and the Board said thank you to Jim Bower, Wylie Gustafson and Jann Parker for their time and service for the past 2 years. BettyLou Weeding discussed the upcoming election. At that time she had received notification running for Vice President was Wylie Fraser, running for Director was Todd Banner, Kip Denton, and Helen Larsen. Betty Lou stated she thought it would be a waste of money and time to send out ballots with no choices. She moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for those that were on the ballot. Discussion followed to see if there was anyone else interested in running for a position. Tim Styker stated he had looked at the By-Laws and asked the question if a current Director could resign and run for the Vice President position. Kelly Heiken stated she had reviewed the By-Laws as well, and it was vague at to that questions. Kelly stated the Constitution reads: Under Article III:

Section 7: Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the members, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of members in good standing. It shall prepare a list of one or more persons for each office and each position on the Board of Directors. The members will then receive ballots by mail with the nominations and spaces for write-in candidates. Members will then mail in ballots, validated by their signed

MCHA membership verification form; said ballots will be counted and new officers will be announced at the annual meeting.

Under Article IV:

Section 2: In case of any vacancy in the Board of Directors by death, resignation, disqualification, increase in number or other cause, the remaining Directors, by affirmative vote of the majority present, will elect a successor at their next meeting.

It was discussed that it has been hard to get people in the MCHA membership interested in running for a position, and how important it is to start early working on getting names to the election person. The Board discussed as it reads, they would appoint the person to fill the vacant Director position, which would be a one year remaining term.

Board Member Rachel Showalter stated she would like to put her name in to run for the Vice President position. MCHA member Kelly Zelikovitz stated she would like to submit her name to run for a Director position. BettyLou Weeding rescinded her previous motion, to not have an election. She stated she would update the ballot and mail out to the MCHA membership as soon as possible.

New Business:

The Board discussed the MCHA Secretary/Treasurer position. Kelly Heiken will be resigning her position as of December 31, 2015. Sara Pahlke has stated she is interested in the position. Tim Styker made a motion to hire Sara Pahlke as the new MCHA Secretary/Treasurer. Kathy Foote second the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Board discussed signature authority for the MCHA checking account. Kelly Heiken stated traditionally the President and the Secretary/Treasurer where on the account. The Board agreed that Kelly Heiken would remain on until Jan. 1, 2016 and it to go ahead and give Sara Pahlke and Kathy Foote, the oncoming President for 2016, signature authority effective October 1, 2015.

Kathy Foote discussed the need to remind everyone to pay food bills, as well as being upright with practices, stalls and shavings. It is difficult for show producers to make ends meet, and it is important that all people participating in cuttings, take care of these expenses.

There was a discussion regarding the Wyoming Cutting Horse Association and it is a good time to maybe make contact with them about putting on shows. There is a lot of interest for shows in in Buffalo, Sheridan, etc. The MCHA Board agreed it would be a good time to work with them to maybe help get things going. Kelly Zelikovitz made a motion to appointed Jonathan Foote as the Montana/Wyoming lesion to reconnect and promote cutting with them. Donald Weeding second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion regarding more added money for the shows and promoting this to attract more cutters. It was stated it takes a lot of work to get sponsors for the added money, and the producer has to put a lot of time effort in to get this done. There was discussion about including fundraising and benefit cuttings at some of our shows, with the proceeds going to a charity, or possibly having a "Sponsor" cutting where our sponsors get to compete against each other for fun. The Board agreed these were some good suggestions.

There being no other New Business the meeting was adjourned at 10:33am.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Heiken
MCHA, Secretary/Treasurer