

**National Reining Horse Association  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
NRHA Office  
Oklahoma City, OK  
June 23-24, 2007**

*Approved August 25, 2007*

**Present:** President, Mike Boyle; President Elect, Kim Sloan; Vice President, Rick Weaver; Elected Board Members, Anne-Marie Burns, Doug Carpenter, Frank Costantini, Steve Harris, and Colleen McQuay; RHSF President, Bill Peel; and Appointed Board Members, Lisa Cover, JP Forget, Terry Griffin, Greg Hill, Sam Houston, Dale Lopp, Bryant Pace, Jeff Petska, Dori Schwartzenberger, Robb Walther, and Vaughn Zimmerman.

**Not Present:** Immediate Past President, Dell Hendricks; Elected Board Member, Troy Heikes; and Appointed Board Members, Amanda Brumley, Judy Caton, Nick Cornelissens, Walter Fuchs, Lance Griffin, Lyle Jackson, Ephie Koltin, Eugenio Latorre, Chris Potter, Helmut Schulz, Rosanne Sternberg, Nanette Till, Monica Widh, and Francois Zurcher.

**Staff:** Executive Director, Dan Wall; Chief Financial and Operations Officer, John Foy; Sr. Director of Publications, Carol Trimmer; Sr. Director of Affiliate and Alliance Programs, Debbie Drinko; Executive Editor, Kathy Swan; Director of Information Technology, Dennis York, Director of Events, Todd Knerr; Director of Marketing, David Patterson; Membership Services Manager, Tobi Coleman; Executive Assistant, Susie Trimmer; Membership Services Supervisor (Shows), Melanie Rinehart; Judges Program Supervisor, Michelle Wrigley; Supervisor of Youth Programs, Mandy Kennedy; Accounting Manager, Dillard Moore; Communications Manager, Kathy Damrill; and Graphic Designer & Production Coordinator, Bucky Harris.

**Guests:** Nancy Eppers, Rebecca Overton (Quarter Horse News), Terri Owens, Rod Miller, Dean Peightell, and Keri Sigman.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mike Boyle called the meeting to order at 3:03 and roll was called.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**March 31-April 1, 2007 Minutes** – Jeff Petska stated that he was in attendance at that meeting and is not listed. Susie Trimmer noted the correction. Kim Sloan moved to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Dale Lopp. Motion passed.

**June 6, 2007 Conference Call** – Colleen McQuay stated that Chris Potter was on the call and is not listed. Susie noted the correction. Kim Sloan moved to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Lisa Cover. Motion passed.

#### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Tobi Coleman reported that membership and licensing processing is currently within one day of the date it is received in the mail. Online Show Approvals went live on June 1. Tobi also reported that the Show/Events Department staff is testing new show program software for use at our major events. Membership Services is working with the IT Department to allow members to print their original or duplicate membership cards online at any time throughout the year. Tobi stated that she, Debbie Drinko, Melanie Rinehart, Michelle Wrigley and Alison Hall all recently celebrated anniversaries. Debbie Wolter has joined the department as a Customer Service Representative.

Tobi went on to report that memberships and licenses are up over last year. Since the March Board meeting, the Membership Services department has processed 976 brand new memberships and 1,090 new competition licenses. They have also processed 1,216 license transfers. The total number of members as of June 18 is 13,705 which is a 10% increase. Debbie Drinko informed the Board that just this past week, the Office has received 253 memberships from Australia and they are going to send in many license applications for horses. Debbie also noted that they have changed their name to Reining Australia.

Tobi reported that currently, there are 574 shows scheduled for 2007. She predicted that there would be about 700 NRHA approved shows this year. Internationally, there are 101 approved shows so far, excluding Canada. Canada has 77 approved shows.

The 2007 Futurity nominations are currently at 556 nominations. This is 63 horses less than the same time last year. Tobi feels that it is due to the substitution rule that was put into effect for last year's Futurity. She feels that there will be an influx of nominations later in the year.

Tobi also reported that 322 breedings have been donated to the Sire & Dam Program to date and 186 have been sold. The program has brought in \$268,955 in donations.

#### **RHSF UPDATE**

Bill Peel reported that the RHSF has made a \$2,500 contribution to Reining Australia from the International Development fund. They have also donated \$2,750 to the Hall of Fame Committee. Terry Owens stated that the Foundation will have an International Hospitality Room at the Futurity. Each day will show case a different country. The USA will host a Thanksgiving Feast on Thanksgiving Day. Tickets should be purchased ahead of time, but will be available at the door. She stated that it will also link to the Oklahoma Centennial. Bill noted that there will be a fundraising event held during the 2008 Convention Week.

#### **FEI/USEF UPDATE**

Frank Costantini reported that the FEI Reining Committee met in Switzerland earlier in June. The FEI hired an outside company to analyze two disciplines. The disciplines they analyzed were Show Jumping and Endurance. The company concluded that both disciplines needed to review their current production schemes in order to be more spectator and media friendly. Frank also stated that the Committee is planning for the next four years for Reining, including the World Reining Masters as well as possibly a world championship. Ramona Billing will promote the FEI reinings in Europe. Also, at the meeting, the Committee went through the FEI and NRHA rules. They voted to adopt all current NRHA rules.

Kim Sloan updated the Board on the status of Reining with USEF. He stated that NRHA is no longer responsible monetarily for Reining in USEF, the new committee is responsible. A task force has been formed to work with the 2010 WEG organizing committee to make sure that Reining gets the best promotion it can.

### **2007 DERBY REVIEW**

Todd Knerr reviewed the 2007 Derby and listed both positive and negative points. An outline was provided in the Board packets.

Dan reported that the Aged Evens Committee is working on restructuring the Derby for 2008. They are in negotiations with the State Fair of Oklahoma to move the Derby back to June. There will also be a contest to re-name the event and the event will be re-branded. Dan also reported that a draft of the Derby was prepared, but the Aged Events Committee received a proposal from Bob Hamilton to restructure the payment schedules for both the Derby and the Futurity. A task force has been appointed to review the proposal and a draft of the conditions will come before the Board in August for approval.

### **REVIEW TROPHY POLICY**

Kim Sloan stated that he and Steve Harris were assigned the task of looking at the trophy award levels and determining if they should be changed. The current award levels were established in 1982 and have remained unchanged since then. As a result, the combination of the changing economy and the prosperity of the Reining industry we have seen an increase in the number of the \$2000 level awards from 150 in 1997 to over 700 in 2006. The Executive Board proposed that in 2007 a traveling trophy cup be awarded to the Open and the Non Pro Futurity Champions. Also a specially designed ring would be awarded to the Open Futurity Champion rider and owner (only). All of these awards would be in addition to the current awards and all will be sponsored. Following discussion, Dale Lopp moved to approve the proposal. Seconded by Bill Peel. Motion passed.

The Executive Board also proposed that in 2008, continuing the current policy of optional trophies for NRHA shows to be reviewed annually. In addition, they recommended allowing competitors to purchase the appropriate trophy if it is not awarded by the show. Also, they recommended that our highest award will increase from \$2000 to \$5000 and will remain the Lawson Bronze. Also, the dollar levels for the remaining two trophies will remain the same. In 2009, the EB recommended increasing the highest award level from \$5000 to \$7500. The trophy would be new and sponsored. Also, they recommended creating a new added money award level of \$2500. This would have a new trophy that would also be sponsored. In addition, the EB recommended that the \$1000 and \$500 level trophies be made of resin with a bronze patina. During discussion it was noted that at the end of 2008, the current Lawson Bronze would be retired and a new trophy would be revealed. Dale Lope moved to support the plan for 2008 and 2009. Seconded by Terry Griffin. Motion passed.

*Break 4:34 p.m.*

*Reconvene in Closed Session 5:00 p.m.*

*Open Session 5:34 p.m.*

## **FINANCIALS**

Anne-Marie Burns stated that the Finance department at the request of the Executive Board has prepared a new Statement of Activities for both the Board and the Membership. The new format is easier to understand and to follow. A copy of this improved format was presented to the Board. This new format will also be published on the website starting Monday. Anne-Marie went on to explain the variances of actual to budget in each value center listed on the Profit & Loss Overview as of 4/30/07. She stated that based on the information currently available, NRHA is forecasting a net investment (loss) for fiscal year ending 6/30/07 to be \$37,017.

*Adjourned for the day 5:43 p.m.*

*Reconvene Sunday, June 24, 2007 8:16 a.m.*

**Present:** President, Mike Boyle; President Elect, Kim Sloan; Vice President, Rick Weaver; Elected Board Members, Anne-Marie Burns, Doug Carpenter, Frank Costantini, Steve Harris, and Colleen McQuay; RHSF President, Bill Peel; and Appointed Board Members, Lisa Cover, JP Forget, Terry Griffin, Greg Hill, Sam Houston, Dale Lopp, Bryant Pace, Jeff Petska, Dori Schwartzenberger, Robb Walther, Dave Young (via web cast) and Vaughn Zimmerman.

**Not Present:** Immediate Past President, Dell Hendricks; Elected Board Member, Troy Heikes; and Appointed Board Members, Amanda Brumley, Judy Caton, Nick Cornelissens, Walter Fuchs, Lance Griffin, Lyle Jackson, Ephie Koltin, Eugenio Latorre, Chris Potter, Helmut Schulz, Rosanne Sternberg, Nanette Till, Monica Widh, and Francois Zurcher.

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**Guests:** Nancy Eppers, Rebecca Overton (Quarter Horse News), Terri Owens, and Dean Peightell.

## **2008 CONVENTION**

Dan Wall reported that the dates for the 2008 Convention will be January 28 through February 2, 2008. It will be marketed as Convention Week and will include full EB, Board, and Committee meetings. There will be a Judges School, Show Secretary School, Affiliate Congress, and much more. It will be held in Oklahoma City at the Renaissance Hotel and Cox Convention Center. Several vendors have contacted the office about having trade exhibits there. We will also be able to do some things at the State Fair.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dan stated that all committee reports will be posted on the website on Monday for the membership to review.

**Affiliate Committee** – Discussed the Regional Affiliate Finals contract. The Committee would like either the North East region or South East region to host the 2009 RAF in Lexington at Kentucky Horse Park as a test show before the 2010 WEG. The Committee also discussed the North American Freestyle Championships. They decided to leave the program as is for 2007 since the qualifying process has already begun. They will recommend to the Aged Events Committee to remove that program from the Affiliate Finals and Futurity and make the Futurity Freestyle an invitational in 2008. They Committee will also be working with the Aged Events Committee on the Affiliate Challenge Cup in 2008.

**Aged Events** – The Committee did a two day workshop in May. They created a task force to review several proposals regarding the Futurity and Derby. The Conditions will come to the Board at the August Board meeting for approval. There will be a workshop in July where they will continue to work on the Futurity schedule and revamping the 2008 Derby, which may include new dates.

**Eligibility Committee** – The Committee discussed rule changes that they submitted as well as rule changes submitted by members.

**Finance Committee** – The Committee met by phone on June 17. They have submitted a rule change regarding increasing the membership dues. They are also assisting other committees with their budgets.

**Hall of Fame Committee** – The Committee reviewed nominees for the Hall of Fame. They will submit their selections for vote at the August meeting. They also revealed the Dale Wilkinson Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is a pencil sketch of Dale Wilkinson made by Bryant Pace's father. This award will be awarded to individuals who do not meet the criteria to be in the Hall of Fame but do deserve special recognition. Doug noted that Sally Brown is gravely ill and has contributed many years to the Reining horse industry. He asked that the Board vote to award the first award to her. Rick Weaver moved to award the Dale Wilkinson Lifetime Achievement Award to Sally Brown. Seconded by Kim Sloan. During discussion, it was noted that something needs to be in the NRHA Office to recognize those award winners. Following discussion, the motion passed.

**International Committee** – The Committee will meet at the European Affiliate Championships in July. Frank noted that he would like to see funding from NRHA or the RHSF to have an NRHA representative at important international events. He believes this should be a joint effort. An answer will be forthcoming at the August meeting.

**Information Technology Committee** – The Committee reviewed bids and ideas to move toward having the NRHA Office paperless. They are still waiting on one more bid to come in.

**Judges Committee** – The Committee submitted names of people who have attended seminars and schools that need Board approval to become judges. Because this item must be done in closed session, it was tabled.

**Marketing Committee** – Robb Walther stated that the Marketing Committee would like the Marketing Department to be set up as an in house ad agency. This would allow them to be thinking forward. They will have their ideas more formalized next meeting. They are currently working on Futurity marketing plans. They also approved funds for a clinic at the Arabian Youth Nationals. The Inside Reining TV show will be shot there. There is the possibility that there could be about 1,000 attendees.

**Medications Committee** – The Committee met and had a question and answer session on the implementation of the Medications Program. A rule change has been submitted to implement the program. This information is on the web site as well as an explanation of the history of where this program came from. They also met with the Professionals Committee to explain the program. Jeff Petska stated that the Professionals Committee is on board with the proposed program.

**Non Pro Committee** – There is a conference call scheduled for Wednesday.

**Olympic Steering Committee** – No report.

**Owners Committee** – Bill Peel reported that the Committee is revamping the owner's page in the *Reiner* into a Question and Answer page. The Committee will also make sure that the Million Dollar Owner is recognized with a buckle, similar to what the riders receive.

**Professionals Committee** – The Committee met with the Medications Committee. They also had forums at the NRBC and the Derby. They appointed task forces to address judging, eligibility, and long range planning issues. They are also organizing regional meetings. The first one is to take place next week on the west coast.

**Sale Committee** – Debbie Drinko gave a recap of the Derby sale. There were 52 lots that went through the ring totaling \$409,800. The average was \$7,881. Debbie stated that Futurity sale contracts will be available next week. The deadline for the select sale is August 15. She stated that the Marketplace filled in September last year and advised for everyone to get their consignments in early.

**Reiner Committee** – Frank introduced Kathy Swan as the new Executive Editor of the *Reiner* magazine. She has been hired to revitalize the look of the *Reiner*. The goal is to get the magazine into the hands of every member.

**Show Standards Committee** – The Committee is currently helping with the seminar at the 2008 Convention including providing more information on how to put on a show, marketing and getting community involvement. They are also working on a Show Stewards seminar. They will also meet with Dori regarding judging issues.

**Sire & Dam Committee** – Vaughn Zimmerman reported that the Committee is working on perfecting the on-line auction. They have completed the new brochure. Letters to owners of stallions with unsold breedings reminding them that they can purchase their own breeding have gone out.

**Sponsorship Committee** – The Committee will meet this week via conference call.

**TV Committee** – Sam Houston stated that the advertising for the TV show is sold out. Also, we have paid for three runs of the show on RFD TV; however, they have been showing it four, sometimes five, times without charging us for it. This is great advertising for us.

**Long Range Planning Committee** – Bill Peel stated that he is close to finalizing the members of the committee. They will have their first full meeting at the August Board meeting.

**Youth Committee** – The Committee met by conference call on June 12. They have had 7 people apply for scholarships. They are reviewing the criteria for the 2008 applications. The regional clinics are underway. Also, the Reining division of the NAYRC was cancelled and the Youth Committee is working toward next year.

*Closed Session 9:07 a.m.*

#### **APPROVAL OF JUDGES APPLICANTS**

The Judges Committee submitted a list of applicants that passed the testing at the Austria School & Seminar as well as the England School. Following discussion, Robb Walther moved to approve the worldwide and continental privileges of the listed applicants from the Austria school & seminar. Seconded by Bill Peel. Motion passed. Kim Sloan moved to approve the worldwide privileges of the listed applicants from the England school. Seconded by Robb Walther. Motion passed. Steve Harris moved to approve the applicant that re-tested. Seconded by Bryant Pace. Motion passed.

*Break 9:12 a.m.*

*Reconvene 9:35 a.m.*

#### **PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES**

Bylaw proposals were submitted by a membership based working group chaired by Gary Pipkin; Pat Eggie, and the Youth Committee. Kim Sloan stated that a task force consisting of Terry Griffin, Sam Houston, Dan Wall, and himself was appointed to review all of the bylaws that were submitted. Their review was then submitted to the Executive Board. After the Executive Board's review, Kim contacted Gary Pipkin to ask if he would consider making a few amendments. Gary agreed and the final version was reviewed by the Board. Following discussion, Bill Peel moved to support the bylaw changes submitted by Gary Pipkin. Seconded by Dale Lopp. Motion passed.

The Board then reviewed the proposed bylaw submitted by Pat Eggie. Following discussion, Frank Costantini moved to not support the bylaw change submitted by Pat Eggie. Seconded by Steve Harris. The motion passed.

The Youth Committee presented a proposed change to the Youth bylaws. Following discussion, Kim Sloan moved to support the Youth bylaw change as amended. Seconded by Vaughn Zimmerman. Motion passed.

All bylaw changes will be posted on the NRHA website.

J.P. Forget joined the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

*Break 10:08 a.m.*

*Reconvene 10:33 a.m.*

### **PROPOSED RULE CHANGES**

A packet of all rule change submissions was handed out to the Board. Each rule change proposal was reviewed and briefly discussed. The rule change proposals will appear in the August issue of the *Reiner* and will also appear on the NRHA web site where members may comment on each change. All rule changes will be voted upon at the August 2007 Board meeting and all member comments will be taken into consideration.

*Lunch Break 12:01 p.m. during rule changes*

*Reconvene 12:35 p.m.*

### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Dan referred everybody to tab 10 in their materials. The candidates for Vice President for 2008 are Dale Lopp, Allen Mitchels, and Bill Peel. The candidates for the Elected Board for 2008 are Anne-Marie Burns, Kit Cosper, Steve Harris, Greg Hill, Troy Heikes, and John Milchick.

The General Membership meeting will be held October 11, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the All American Quarter Horse Congress in the Corral.

### **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

Sam Houston stated that he would like to see a recap of the Board meeting available after the meeting noting the key points of the meeting. He said that he would like to see it sent to all Board members and to the membership. He believes that this will help everyone to know what is going on.

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Susie Trimmer, Executive Assistant.