

**National Reining Horse Association  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center  
Oklahoma City, OK  
January 30, February 2, 2008**

***DRAFT  
Pending Approval***

**Present: President, Dr. Kim Sloan; President Elect, Rick Weaver; Vice President, Allen Mitchels; Elected Board Members, Doug Carpenter, Kit Cospers, Frank Costantini Jr., Greg Hill, Dale Lopp and Colleen McQuay; and Appointed Board Members, Anne-Marie Burns, Rick Clark, Nick Cornelissens, Andre DeBellefeuille, Walter Fuchs, Lance Griffin, Terry Griffin, Ollie Griffith, Mike Hancock Anat Kirshner, Tom McCutcheon, Jim Morgan, DVM, Jeff Petska, Chris Potter, Rosanne Sternberg, Guy Vernon, Robb Walther, Monica Widh and Robert Welle.**

**Not Present: Immediate Past President, Mike Boyle; RHSF President, Bill Peel; and Appointed Board Members, Amanda Brumley, Susan Camfferman, Lee Foster, Helmut Gerstenberg, Eugenio Latorre, Jose Montalvo, Bryant Pace, Helmut Schulz, Wim Van Gemert, and Brian Welman.**

**Staff: Executive Director, Dan Wall; Chief Financial and Operations Officer, John Foy; Sr. Director of Publications, Carol Trimmer; Sr. Director of Alliance Programs, International Development and Equine Sales, Debbie Drinko; Director of Information Technology, Dennis York; Director of Member Services, Tobi Coleman; Executive Assistant, Katie Borum; Supervisor Futurity/Derby Entries, Susie Trimmer; Supervisor Show Department, Melanie Rinehart; Supervisor Judges Program, Michelle Wrigley;; Supervisor Youth Programs, Mandy Kennedy; Director of Marketing and Communications, Kathy Damrill.**

**Guests: Susy Braeck, Bill Fingland, Blummer, Jerry Kimmel, Fauntley Garrido, Lisa Cover, Ron Thompson.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Sloan called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. and roll was called. President Sloan announced that the meeting would be conducted under a loose version of Robert's Rules of Order.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATES/INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE PROGRAM  
APPLICATION APPROVALS**

Lance Griffin moved to approve National Association Affiliate status to Reining Australia, Austrian Reining Horse Association, NRHA Belgium, ANCR Brazil, Reining Canada, NRHA of Denmark, British Reining, NRHA France, Reining Deutschland, Israel Reining Horse Association, Italian Reining Horse Association, ANCER Mexico, Dutch Reining Horse

Association, Swedish Reining Horse Association, and NRHA Switzerland. Seconded by Rick Clark. Motion passed.

Rick Clark moved to approve International Affiliate Program status to Reining Australia, Austrian Reining Horse Association, NRHA Belgium, ANCR Brazil, Reining Canada, NRHA of Denmark, British Reining, NRHA France, Reining Deutschland, Israel Reining Horse Association, Italian Reining Horse Association, ANCER Mexico, Dutch Reining Horse Association, Swedish Reining Horse Association, and NRHA Switzerland. Seconded by Lance Griffin. Motion passed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**August 25-26, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting:** Lance Griffin moved to approve. Seconded by Dale Lopp. Motion passed.

**September 10, 2007 Board of Directors Conference Call:** Lance Griffin moved to approve. Seconded by Rick Weaver. Motion passed.

**October 11, 2007 General Membership Meeting:** Dale Lopp moved to approve. Seconded by Lance Griffin. Motion passed.

**October 31, 2007 Board of Directors Conference Call:** Rick Weaver moved to approve. Seconded by Nick Cornelissens. Dan wall noted to amend pg 3, paragraph 4 from “Yea” votes to “Nay” votes. Rick Weaver moved to approve as amended. Seconded by Nick Cornelissens. Motion passed.

**December 7, 2007 Board of Directors Conference Call:** Lance Griffin moved to approve. Seconded by Jeff Petska. Motion passed.

### **FINANCE**

Chief Financial Officer, John Foy, presented the financial statements for 7-1-07 to 12-31-07. John covered the profit & loss overview for twelve NRHA value centers. He noted a new category called “Total NRHA Events”, which is the Futurity, Derby, Sales, Managed Events, and Conventions & Awards Banquet combined. This was added to the overview in order to gauge how NRHA events are operating in total. Traditionally, all NRHA events have been managed together. John pointed out the positive variance to budget for the year.

In General & Administrative, John noted a positive variance for the value center. He credited this variance to: An increase in memberships applications and licenses, and IAP rebates being below budget, with the IAP variance most likely due to timing.

In Reiner, the Reiner has not captured the budgeted increase of 5% in advertising revenue; however, the redesign of the Reiner has received positive feedback and this will hopefully result in increased ad revenue. The Reiner changed printers this year and is benefiting from substantial savings in printing costs.

In Sire & Dam, new enrollments are substantially ahead of plan and this is a timing issue between when enrollments were budgeted to be received and when they actually are being received. John indicated to expect Sire and Dam enrollments to not continue to operate so far ahead of budget, and at this time enrollments are expected to be close to budget for the year.

No material variances exist for the Judges and Website value centers.

In Marketing & Sponsorship, budgeted Futurity webcast revenue of \$15,000 would not be realized because it was decided to provide the webcast to the membership for free; NRHA did obtain sponsorships for the webcast that would help off-set most of the cost of the webcast. Inside Reining revenues are ahead of budget and this most likely is a timing issue, membership advertising expense is \$14,000 below budget.

This is the first year for NRHA to have a Youth value center, youth membership revenue is being allocated to this center along with the appropriate expense allocations. There was \$10,000 in youth team tournament buckles paid by RHSF that should have been paid by NRHA, and this transfer of expense to the NRHA will be reflected in the next statements.

In Futurity, John stated that it is apparent that when the Futurity hosts the World Reining Masters that Futurity is more profitable. In addition, the Futurity enjoyed fantastic weather as compared to the prior year, and the weather combined with the World Reining Masters resulted in substantial increases in box seats and exhibitor badges. He noted that badge sales and stalls were significantly higher than prior year. Also, significant savings came from payroll (\$32,000) and the Cantina (\$27,000) being under budget. John reminded everyone that the profitability of the Futurity will decline during the year as payroll and benefits are allocated against this value center for the last half (January thru June) of the current fiscal year, these expenses are budgeted at approximately \$48,000 for this time frame.

In Derby, expenses are below budget due to the Director of Events position not being filled on a full time basis.

In Sales, the Sales at the Futurity performed well compared to budget, the Sales benefitted from a very well attended Futurity, and an international customer base that enjoyed a favorable foreign currency position.

Lance Griffin pointed out just how much of an impact the International Affiliate members have on the budget and finances of the NRHA, as evidenced by the 2007 World Reining Masters and 2007 Futurity.

Anat Kirshner questioned what is being done to improve value centers that are not operating at a profit. Dan Wall stated that as a not for profit organization, we do not operate each value center as a for profit entity. Some value centers are not revenue generating but do add significant value to the organization and also go to support our exempt status.

***Break 9:11 a.m.***

***Reconvene 9:25 a.m.***

## **DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

**Member Services:** Director Tobi Coleman presented the Member Services Report. She was pleased to announce that the first ever Show Management Seminar via webcast was held on January 19, 2008. She explained that being able to hold seminars in this format will allow for higher attendance and also less expense for the NRHA. Tobi also reported that membership and license processing currently takes only 3 days of the date it is received. This is great turn around time!

Tobi reported that all NRHA Affiliate renewals were completely processed by January 18. Also, an NRHA Affiliate newsletter was started in 2008 in order to more widely distribute information to members via their affiliate. More good news was the report of a record number of Futurity nominations.

Her 2007 Annual Membership and Licensing Year-End Comparison showed NRHA members - 15,573; a 10% increase over 2006. US membership increased by 5%, Canadian membership increased by 6%, Youth membership increased by 12% and International (Non US/Canadian) membership increased by 27%. Licenses and transfers were also up by 20% over last year. 724 NRHA approved shows were held in 2007, a large increase from the 660 NRHA-approved shows in 2006. Of the 724 shows, 469 were held in the US. Canada held 100 NRHA approved shows and International countries held 155 NRHA approved shows. As of January 22, 2008, there are 153 scheduled NRHA approved shows.

**Futurity:** Supervisor Susie Trimmer presented the 2008 Futurity report. A nomination comparison showed a significant decline in nominations over previous years during 2007 with only 552. In 2008, there are currently 735 nominations, which is the largest number of nominations in Futurity history. The increase is attributed to the elimination of substitutions.

**Sire & Dam:** Tobi Coleman presented a brief overview of the Sire & Dam program, which revealed that as of January 22, 2008, 187 breedings have been donated, with 75 of those being sold. \$175,325.00 has been collected to date.

**Youth:** Mandy Kennedy presented an update on the youth department reflecting a very successful year for the program. Over \$85,000 was raised in 2007 from various fundraisers. The 2008 Youth Officer Team was introduced: President, Ian Barnard; Vice President, Cash Bridges; Treasurer, Abigail Grabein; Secretary, Meaghan Burns; and Sentinel, Melanie Galbraith. The number of delegates for 2008 increased to 28 US delegates and 4 Canadian delegates. There will be a large push this year to encourage more International youth involvement, including changes to the NRHyA website, regional clinics in Europe and an exchange program. The Varsity Club will be available to international youth, and there will be more worldwide youth education opportunities through NRHyA.

***Break 10:37 a.m.  
Reconvene***

**Alliances:** Senior Director of Alliances Programs, Equine Sales and International Development, Debbie Drinko, reported that breed alliances with the American Quarter Horse Association, American Paint Horse Association and the Arabian Horse Association were finalized in September 2007. She noted that the Arabians added a \$50,000 added purebred division to the Scottsdale, AZ, Futurity last year. Also, the Pinto association held NRHA-approved class at the 2007 Pinto Congress. Debbie said that other alliances will be developed due to the NRHA's ability to record dual registrations. She also noted that the Criolle breed (Brazil) is interested in forming an alliance.

### **2007 NRHA FUTURITY REVIEW**

President Sloan presented a review of the 2007 Futurity & Adequan<sup>®</sup> North American Affiliate Championship Show. It was a positive event; with many new and exciting events during the 10-day show. The new super barn was a great improvement. It was a financial success. There were many special events for exhibitors and spectators, from the Reining Horse Sports Foundation Americana Day Thanksgiving dinner, to the 4R Performance Horses 8 Second Celebrity Slide, benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The culmination of these events ended with a grand slam as the last rider was the winner of the Futurity Open. The attendance was one of our biggest ever. The new VIP camping sites were a nice addition. Dan Wall was directed to present a Cantina study for the board to consider revisions in current policy at the March meeting.

All in all the 2007 Futurity celebrated a huge success from years past. Ending the week with a new tradition, a celebration of winners was held with friends, food and music.

### **10 & UNDER ROOKIE ELIGIBILITY**

Ollie Griffith moved that points earned in the Youth 10 & Under Short Stirrup do not count toward rookie eligibility, and it be enacted retroactive to include 2007. Seconded by Colleen McQuay. Motion passed. Mike Boyle moved that Youth 10 & Under Short Stirrup points not qualify for Youth Incentive Award. Walter Fuchs seconded. Following discussion motion withdrawn. Eligibility and Youth committees are to review this subject and bring back to the board their recommendation.

Allen Mitchels moved to table the regional director elections until after the Affiliate Committee meeting. Seconded by Kit Cosper. Motion passed.

***Break 11:33 a.m.***

***Reconvene Closed 11:39 a.m.***

***Meeting Adjourned.***

*Reconvene February 2, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.*

**Present: President, Dr. Kim Sloan; President Elect, Rick Weaver; Elected Board Members, Frank Costantini Jr., Greg Hill, Dale Lopp and Colleen McQuay; and Appointed Board Members, Anne-Marie Burns, Rick Clark, Nick Cornelissens, Andre DeBellefeuille, Walter Fuchs, Helmut Gerstenberg, Lance Griffin, Terry Griffin, Ollie Griffith, Mike Hancock Anat Kirshner, Tom McCutcheon, Jim Morgan, DVM, Chris Potter, Rosanne Sternberg, Wim Van Gemert, Guy Vernon, Robb Walther, Monica Widh and Robert Welle.**

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**Guests: Approximately 25 guests in attendance.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Sloan called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and roll was called.

### **PROPOSED RULE CHANGES**

Discussion was held regarding rule change submittal comments on the NRHA website. Some members felt it beneficial to be able to submit blind comments to the NRHA website; others wanted to see them posted. President Sloan felt the only way to allow members to freely express themselves would be to not post the comments. Additionally, this would petition individual thoughts rather than a group consensus.

Lance Griffin moved to allow NRHA members the ability to make comments to rule change submittals on the NRHA website, without posting them for general viewing. Seconded by Chris Potter. Lance Griffin moved to amend his motion to require members posting to submit their name and membership number. Seconded by Chris Potter. Motion passed.

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 on the NRHA web site where members may comment.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Each committee chair submitted a written report from their meetings and gave an oral report on the current projects they are working on. Committee reports are available on the NRHA website.

*Break 10:01 a.m.*

*Reconvene 10:18 a.m.*

## **REGIONAL ELECTION PROCEDURES**

Judy Caton presented Resolution #01-08 to the board for approval. She read the resolution and made changes from board suggestions. She left the meeting to make the appropriate changes to the document and returned to represent again. A few minor changes were made.

Rick Weaver moved to approve Board Resolution #01-08 as submitted by the Affiliate committee. Seconded by Dale Lopp. President Sloan noted to change the second lettered paragraph to (b) instead of (a). Lance Griffin went on record to say he was completely opposed to the regional election of directors. Resolution passed. See below:

### **RESOLUTION #01-08**

Subject: Regional Directors Regional Directors Nominating Committee

Submitted by: Affiliate Committee

**Date of Submittal: January 30, 2008**

WHEREAS, The National Reining Horse Association desires to create a formal committee for establishing procedures for the selection of qualified candidates to serve as members of the board of directors; and

WHEREAS, that committee shall be charged with nominating the highest quality candidates pursuant to those guidelines established; and

WHEREAS, procedures to elect Directors from the seven U.S. Regions were established by bylaw Article V. Directors. Section 1(f).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that at this first meeting of the 2008 Board of Directors the board elects from within its membership those directors necessary to serve on the Regional Directors Nominating Committee and perform the duties and responsibilities of this committee as follows:

1. Regional Directors Nominating Committee. The Regional Directors Nominating Committee shall be comprised of no less than (3) three and no more than (5) members of the Board of Directors of the Association who reside in the US. Members of this committee shall be appointed to a two (2) year term (except for 2008 which shall be a one (1) year term) by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at the first board meeting of the year. The Regional Directors Nominating Committee shall develop explicit criteria and qualities for board membership and submit to the full Board for approval.

- a) The Regional Directors Nominating Committee shall develop explicit criteria and qualities for board membership for the Regional Directors and submit to the full board for approval.
- b) The Regional Directors Nominating Committee shall further develop the procedures for nomination and election of directors from the U.S. Regions. These procedures will require that the Affiliates within those regions shall formally submit their candidate(s) for Regional Director to the Regional Directors Nominating Committee.

President Sloan moved to appoint to the Regional Directors Nominating Committee, Rick Clark as Chair, and Mike Hancock, Guy Vernon and Ollie Griffith. Seconded by Tom McCutcheon. Motion passed.

Break 11:20 a.m.  
Reconvene 11:33 a.m.

### **FUTURITY/ DERBY SCHEDULE**

Colleen McQuay presented the proposed Futurity/Derby schedule from the Aged Events committee to the board for approval. She noted that the schedule is more geared to families and Non Pros to encourage more exhibitors to participate.

Jim Morgan moved to approve the Futurity/Derby schedule as submitted. Seconded by Chris Potter. Motion passed.

***Executive Session 11:45 a.m.***

***There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted by Katie Borum, Executive Assistant.