

## NRHA COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

**Committee name:** Youth Committee

**Meeting date:** 3-23-09

**Committee Members Present:** Walter Fuchs – Chair, Ann Barnard, Ian Barnard, Ashley Fuchs, Jim Gordon, Mike Hancock, Tom Lauth, Terry Lauth, Becky Jordan, Carlee Mahajan, Linda Raymond, Karen Shedlauskas

**Committee Members not present:** Mandy McCutcheon, Jackie Bridges

**Staff Present:** Brian Bendele – Liaison

**Guests:** None

**Mission Statement:** To provide a character and leadership building program that will enable youth to become the future leaders of the Reining horse industry.

### Agenda Items

- Call to order
- Reviewed Sub-Committee Reports
  - Affiliate Finals
    - **Update** – Brian is working with members of the Sub-Committee to sell more raffle tickets at the shows, award more prizes and hold better meetings.
  - NAYRC
    - **Update** – More information has been posted online to better inform the NRHyA membership.
  - Scholarships
    - **Update** – RHSF has agreed to raise the amount awarded for the RHSF Scholarship to \$1,500 for five places with a total of \$7,500 awarded annually.
  - Regional Clinics
    - **Update** – Clinics are on schedule with plans to add more.
  - Varsity Reining Club
    - **Update** – The program is up and running. Brian is working with Marketing on finding new opportunities for awards.
  - International Exchange
    - **Update** – The International Sub-Committee submitted a letter to the Professionals Committee in request of support for the International Exchange Committee.
    - Brian attended conference call on 4-1-09 and received support for this program and requested feedback as the exchange program continues to be developed.
- Discussed European Regional Affiliate Finals in Sweden July 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Discussed ideas for fundraising and establishing an International Youth Account.

- **Update** – Brian is working on a travel budget to be approved at the next meeting.
- Discussed Derby Planning – Charitable Opportunities
  - Agreed to let NRHyA Executive Committee decide what organization to give back to and what activity they will do to raise the funds.
    - **Update** - Discussed ideas with officer team at the American Youth Horse Council Symposium on 3-27 to 3-29 and all agreed to hold an Egg and Spoon Race at the Derby to raise funds for the Special Olympics. The officer team will also try to schedule a time to go help a local Therapeutic Riding Club.
    - This idea was discussed with Marketing and felt like it would be a good idea to combine it with the exhibitor party.
    - Brian has scheduled a meeting with the Oklahoma Director for Special Olympics on Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>.
    - Special Olympics work with the FEI and have numerous classes like Horsemanship and barrel racing. This could be an excellent opportunity to incorporate NRHA and a reining pattern into their field of activities.
    - Plans are also underway to hold a meeting where speakers will come and present information on USEF and NCAA rules and guidelines.
- No new business
- **Final Update** –
  - The NRHyA Executive Committee and Youth Director went to the American Youth Horse Council (AYHC) Symposium as our Officer Retreat. The symposium was held in Lincoln, NE on March 27<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - The symposium was a success the officers interacted with over 180 different youth and adult leaders from 4-H, POA, Arabian, AjPHA and AQHyA in over 26 states. The AYHC did an excellent job lining up speakers to put on workshop that focused on public speaking skills, equine related careers and equine activities for both leaders and youth.
  - On the first day the officers were put in a group of 10 with other youth. They were given a task to give a presentation on "Safety awareness for a barn fire." AYHC brought in a speaker to discuss disaster awareness to help the youth prepare their presentation. At the end of the convention on Sunday morning they all did an excellent job of presenting their final project.
  - Not only did the officers have an outstanding time they also were professional and represented the NRHyA very well.
  - This symposium was a great opportunity to meet leaders from all different organizations and develop contacts to help us promote the NRHyA. It seems like everyone is interested in the sport of reining, and are eager to learn more about NRHyA our programs like Varsity Reining Club.
  - Brian Bendele was nominated to the AYHC board by Ward Stutz with AQHyA which he was awarded on Saturday night. This will be an outstanding outlet to promote our programs and Brian strongly suggests more involvement with next year's symposium in Lexington, KY.