

**National Reining Horse Association  
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting  
NRHA Convention  
Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center  
Oklahoma City, OK  
January 30, 2009**

*Approved April 4, 2009*

**Present: President, Rick Weaver; Vice President, Allen Mitchels;; Elected Officers, Kit Cospers, Mike Hancock, Greg Hill, Beth Himes, Dale Lopp, Mark Schols and; and Regional Directors, Rick Clark, Judy Caton, Nick Cornelissens, Julia Cowan, Andre DeBellefeuille, Mike Deer, Katarina Dorminy, Nancy Eppers, Tom Foran, Terry Griffin, Tim Lynch, Michael Martin, Dan McGregor, Woody Taylor, Guy Vernon, Judith Vetter (web), Josh Visser, Brett Walters.**

**Not Present: Susan Camfferman, Renzo Canciani, Luis Cruz, Helmut Gerstenberg, Jennifer Hoyt, George King, Anat Kirshner, Raul Leal Cavazos, Matt Mills, Rick Ramsey, Helmut Schulz, Rosanne Sternberg, Monica Widh, Wim Van Gemert, Robert Welle.**

**Staff: Executive Director, Dan Wall; Chief Financial Officer, John Foy; Chief Operations Officer, Dennis York; Executive Assistant, Katie Wagner; Sr. Director of Publications, Carol Trimmer; RHSF Administrative Assistant, Krissy Colbath; Director of Marketing and Communications, Todd Barden; Manager of Marketing and Communications, Christa Morris; Website Designer & Internet Marketing Specialist, Haley Carmen; Supervisor Futurity/Derby Entries, Susie Trimmer; Manager of Events and Shows, Melanie Rinehart; Supervisor Judges Program, Michelle Wrigley; Accounting Manager, Dillard Moore. Youth & Outreach Manager, Brian Bendele; Director of Events, Brad Ettleman; Executive Editor, Kathy Swan; Affiliate/International Coordinator, Ashley Weyland; Beita Covas.**

**Legal Counsel: Terry Wiens**

**Guests: Rick Swan, Patty Tiberg, Jerry Kimmel, Fred Thomsson, Mandy McCutcheon, Rick Ford, April Weaver, Lance Griffin, Leonardo Arcese, Duane Hicks, Susy Baeck, Anja Kuhlmann, Lisa Lenninton, Colby Balazs, Rebecca Bennett, Kristie Bellemore, Sandra Martin, Tracy Lynch, Steve Simon, Ann Barnard, Ian Barnard, Emily Winegar, Jordan Willette, Helen L Lauth, Meaghan Burns, Cash Bridges, Wallis Winegar, Tim McQuay, Colleen McQuay, Pat Mullens, Jared Leclair, Mrs. Jared Leclair, Michelle Florida, Doug McClelland, Frank Costantini**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Weaver called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m. on January 30, 2009. Roll was called and a quorum was announced. President Weaver welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their participation.

## **NRHyA PRESENTATION**

Brian Bendele introduced the 2009 NRHyA Officer Team as President, Cash Bridges; Vice President, Meaghan Burns; Secretary, Helen Lauth; Treasurer, Jordan Willette and Historian, Emily Winegar. Cash Bridges noted the quick growth in the youth sector of the NRHA membership and the need to continue the growth. He also talked about the plans for an International Youth Exchange program. Meaghan Burns discussed the Varsity Reining Club and the changes that will be made to it this year. Helen Lauth thanked many of the groups and people that have helped to support the youth program over the last year. Jordan Willette talked about the success of the regional clinics last year as well as the successful fundraising efforts by the youth. Willette noted the youth fundraisers in 2008 brought in over \$113,000. Emily Winegar talked about some of the new avenues of reaching out to the youth members through Facebook and MySpace.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

John Foy noted that the 2008 Audit Report was available on the NRHA website. Foy noted that for the year-ending 6/30/08, NRHA had total revenues of \$8.29 million, positive change in net assets (or net income) for the year of \$518,586, and a strong current cash position. Foy noted and discussed some key highlights of the audit report, and then presented bar charts documenting NRHA's net asset growth for the past 5 years and also actual to budget performance for the last 5 years. He noted that part of reason for improved financial performance was switching NRHA from cash to accrual basis accounting for internal financials, development of a monthly budget by financial line item, and full allocation of payroll and other expenses to the various value centers to improve the matching of revenues and expenses. The result of these changes was improved internal financial statements which provided the Board with a better tool in which to base financial decisions upon. Foy also noted the 2008 Futurity was slightly up from budget with net income of approximately \$171,000. Touching on the status of the IT project, Foy said that approximately \$246,000 had been collected to pay for the IT project while approximately \$216,000 had been spent to date and thanked the membership and the Board for their investment in the IT project.

## **BUSINESS PLAN**

Dan Wall presented a current situation analysis of the NRHA through 2008. Wall noted a less than 1% decrease in membership for 2008 but that the membership is heavily reliant on international growth. Wall pointed out that US membership numbers were stagnant. Wall noted a 42% growth in Non Pro memberships over the last 5 years and in that same time period, youth members grew by 77%. He also said that the number of NRHA approved shows was up due to the number of international shows.

Wall presented the 2009-2010 Business Plan, noting that it is a work in progress and will be updated over time. Wall addressed the supporting stakeholders of the plan as well as the association's key priorities for the next two years. Some of the key priorities include encouraging new growth through the youth regional clinics and Rookie Day programs to support affiliate development, increase participation in the NRHA Futurities and Derby, international development, the 2010 World Equestrian Games and the IT project. Wall noted a key

component of the plan is the charters given to each committee to work in concert to move the ideas and initiatives forward.

### **FUTURITY/ DERBY NOMINATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

Dan Wall stated that the office had processed over 2800 nominations to date from a total of 1214 nominators. He thanked the staff for efforts prior to year end to collect additional nominations via a telephone/member service campaign. Wall noted an additional 83 nominations from 69 brand new members. Wall also thanked the many people who were involved with the inception of the plan and their dedication to seeing it through.

### **2009 BYLAW IMPLEMENTATION**

Allen Mitchels noted that the new 2009 bylaws had considerable changes from the previous year. He noted the importance of the bylaws and that they supersede all but state and federal law. Mitchels thanked those responsible for their work on the 2009 bylaws.

### **2009 ELIGIBILITY CHANGES**

Kit Cosper stated that conflicts had been discovered in Category 2 eligibility and a task force had been formed to address the issues. He noted the task force would be creating and presenting a rule change clarification for 2010.

*There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted by Katie Wagner, Executive Assistant.