

**National Reining Horse Association
Stewards Committee Winter Meeting Minutes
Date February 7, 2023 at 12:15 P.M. (CST)**

Approved 2/17/2023

Members Present In-Person: Van Luse – Committee Chair, Richard Pokluda

Members Present Virtually: Walt Larson – Vice Chair, Lyle Jackson, Alessandro Dezzutto,
Sandy Jirkovsky

Members Not Present: Matt Lantz, Shane Brown

Staff: Sr. Director of Education and Officials Patti Carter, Education and Officials
Coordinator Lillian Esterl-Byrne

I. Call To Order

Committee Chair Van Luse called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M.(CST)

II. New Business

a. Stewards Program Overview

- i. The committee reviewed the educational content currently used for the online recertification process.
 1. Recertification for current stewards is done online via Zoom.

b. Strategic Action Plan

- i. 1-3-5 Year Plan
 1. The committee reviewed the working Stewards Code of Ethics document.
 - a. The final draft will be submitted to NRHA legal counsel for review.
 2. The suggestion was made to develop more comprehensive report writing skills among the stewards by providing more educational resources about report writing.
 3. Discussion was had on how to make the recertification process more valuable for current stewards.
 - a. The recertification course will be condensed and a more in-depth and extensive course will be used for new applicants.
 - b. A mid-year Zoom meeting will be established to touch base with all stewards.
 4. The need for more extensive education on animal welfare was identified. This education will be expanded upon in future educational courses.
- ii. The committee discussed how to raise awareness of the steward's program among the NRHA membership.
 1. Social media and the membership newsletter can be more fully utilized in the future to spread awareness of the program.

- iii. A larger effort will be made to open the lines of communication between the stewards and the professionals.
 - iv. Review the current rules for ties to make sure they are relevant.
- c. Problem Areas of Stewarding
- i. Discussion was had on how stewards should safely and effectively handle animal rights groups and situations.
 - 1. More detailed education about handling these situations will be implemented in future educational courses.
- d. Steward Online Recertification
- i. One to be held in September 2023 and one in October 20203
- e. Tentative Call Schedule
- i. The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 17th, 2023.
 - 1. The Stewards Code of Ethics working document will be reviewed at this time.
 - ii. All future meetings will be scheduled for 1 P.M. (CST).

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M. CST