

**National Reining Horse Association**  
**Minutes of the Professionals Committee Winter Meeting**  
**February 6, 2024**

*Approved 2/20/2024*

Members Present: Professionals Committee Chair – Jordan Larson, Trevor Dare, Josh Crawley, Gunny Mathison, Casey Hinton, Kaci O’Rourke (virtually), Robin Schoeller (virtually), Matt McAuslan (virtually)

Staff: Sr. Director of Education and Officials – Patti Carter, Assistant Commissioner – Christa Morris-Stone, Chief Financial Officer – John Foy, Reining Horse Foundation Executive Director – Leslie Baker, Executive Assistant & Governance Coordinator – Liz Kelsey, Sr. Director of International Affairs & Development – Sam Oldfield, Director of Marketing – Sara Honegger, Director of ReinerSuite & Sale – Angie Honeywell, Sr. Manager of Award & Show Services – Kristen Liesman, Education and Officials Coordinator – Lillian Esterl-Byrne

Guests: Executive Committee President – Mark Blake, Executive Committee Vice President – Mike Hancock, Board of Directors Member – Joao Marcos, Stewards Committee Chair – Van Luse, ProTrainer Editor – Jen Paulson, Judges Committee Chair – Eugenio Latorre, NRHA Derby/Futurity Show Manager – Cheryl Cody, NRHA Derby/Futurity Show Secretary – Kathy Gould, Jennifer How, Larry Jo, Peter DeFreitas, Stevie Cody

**I. Call To Order**

Sr. Director of Education and Officials – Patti Carter called the meeting to order at 3:12 P.M. (CST)

**II. New Business**

a. Strategic Plan

The Committee reviewed and discussed NRHA’s Strategic Plan which serves as a roadmap for all future goals. It was noted that Goal A, B & C directly relate to the objectives and purpose of the Professionals Committee. Further discussion was had on how NRHA Professionals can help grow and support the NRHA youth membership

b. Tutorial on “How to Update Your Trainer Profile on ReinerSuite”

The “Find A Pro” and “Trainer Profile” features available to NRHA Professional members were reviewed. Discussion was had on how to better communicate with the professional members about these available resources.

c. ProTrainer Updates

ProTrainer Editor, Jen Paulson, and Director of Marketing, Sara Honegger, provided an update on the future of the ProTrainer. The ProTrainer will be converted into a microsite and will be advertised to a wider audience across the Western industry to illustrate how NRHA Professionals are industry leaders in their business practices.

Conversion to a microsite will help the content to be more accessible and allow the content to be more time relevant.

d. Collaborating with Steward

Stewards Committee Chair, Van Luse, provided an update on the significant improvement in recent year of communication between stewards and professionals especially at major events.

Discussion was had on the need for implementing nighttime passes at the NRHA Derby and Futurity. Nighttime schooling would be advertised as a closed practice in the effort to create an atmosphere in which professionals can focus on preparing their horses with limited distractions. These practices would continue to be monitored by NRHA Stewards as usual.

### **III. Open Discussion**

a. 2024 Futurity Schedule

The Committee discussed potential changes to the 2024 NRHA Futurity schedule that would allow professionals more time to prepare their horses prior to the start of the go rounds.

b. Update on 2023 NRHA Futurity Checks & Medications Policy

Discussion was had on challenges surrounding the current medications testing policy and its impact on the distribution of payout checks from the 2023 NRHA Futurity.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:25 P.M. (CST)**