

General Membership Meeting
March 7, 2009
Bozeman Holiday Inn

Called to order: 2:20p.m.

Present: Jan Anderson, Mike Carlson, Wendy Deans, Chandra Morris, Lawrence Martin, Kurt Stabenau, Lanette Frye, Elise Donohue, Nicole Mather, John Morris, Jean Keffeler
Excused: Jackie Sorenson
Guests: Kim Alberda, Jess Woodring, Cameron Meissner, JR Winter, Mira Williams, Lori Waters, Lottie Stabenau

Minutes of March 7, 2009 board meeting read and approved.

Election - ballots counted, 22 returned. 5 directors were unanimously elected: Kim Alberda, Lanette Frye, Jean Keffeler, Lawrence Martin, John Morris.

Affiliate discussion - Jan opened the discussion. In the past, NRHA Affiliate took only the top 4 riders, then expanded to 7, now is 10. That means it's 20/class for YRHA and MRHA combined. If YRHA and MRHA were to combine affiliates, we would have a better chance to win as a team from the state of Montana. If the team wins at regionals, the club wins \$500 at the end of the year. By combining the affiliates, there would be a savings in the cost of the circuit, plaques, pewters, and vests/jackets that each club has to pay for. Used to be a good reason to have more than one affiliate when only the top 4 riders could go to regionals. Is it still necessary to have two affiliates now that 10 can go? Needs to be widely discussed between the clubs. Cost is \$100 to have affiliate. Get \$500 back at the end of the year from NRHA.

Lottie - would have to be a name change for affiliate if clubs combined. Would not work to take one or the other of the existing names; members of the club whose name was not chosen wouldn't like it.

Nicole - if we give up affiliate status, it means we won't have to put on 3 shows (or approve 3 shows); we give \$1,500 in affiliate awards/year and this cost would be halved if we combined affiliates.

Jean - if we give up affiliate status, would we become "just a club" with year-end awards, no plaques, pewters?

JR - easier for his clients if he affiliates with YRHA; the shows are close and he and his clients are usually able to qualify to go to regionals through the YRHA affiliate.

Elise - this is a good opportunity for some strategic planning on affiliation - could come up with some recommendations for the board.

Jan - biggest argument for joining affiliates is that when going to regionals, we are all from same place, but not riding for the same affiliate.

Wendy - donations are mainly to shows and not the affiliate (banquet fundraiser is for banquet and year-end awards only). Hardly anyone ever gives just to the club.

Kurt - people donate to identified organizations.

Jean - are people from both clubs willing to discuss affiliation?

Sponsorship discussion - Jan - we have some new sponsors this year and there will be a saddle for the YRHA championship; Strong & Bradley will have a tractor and gator at our shows, CSR is bringing its trailer, and WesTrends is bringing its trailer, too.

Wendy - Jess has volunteered to help find new sponsors for YRHA.

Cameron – does YRHA have any new fundraising ideas this year?

Wendy - hat raffle last year was successful; hoping to get half a beef donated for a raffle this year; trying to find a gun (rifle) to raffle. Trying to reach folks outside the reining community with our raffles. Wendy talked to Lanette about KG Beef donating. They get \$1.25/hanging carcass, wasn't going to pay off for them in advertising to donate to a reining horse club. To get beef from KG, YRHA would need to pay half for the beef; means we need to raise money from sponsors to pay that half and sell tickets, too. We really need to have the beef donated, otherwise it's too pricey. Jess - might be able to get a hog donated for raffle instead.

Adjourned - 4:25pm

Respectfully submitted,
Chandra Morris, Secretary