

## **Yellowstone Reining Horse Association Board Meeting**

January 14, 2012

GranTree Inn, Bozeman, MT

Meeting called to order: 11:22am

**Roll Call:** Janis Anderson, Mike Carlson, Wendy Deans, Chandra Morris, Elise Donohue, Kimberly Alberda, Lanette Frye, Nicole Mather, Jan Lukenbill, JR Winter, Val Siegel

**Guests:** Jessica Woodring, Shelle Egbert, Sharon Gelhaus, Mira Williams, Darcy Morrison, Jay Dee Anderson

**Correspondence:** Jan A. received 3 inquiries from judges (Connie Johnson, Kristen Lilley, Scott Buckley). The show committee keeps a long list of judges and these 3 names will be added to the list.

Thank you letter from the Neuhoffs was received.

Wrangler deadline dates: The Wrangler comes out every 2 weeks; info/articles/photos must be in 2 weeks prior to the issue date.

**Treasurer:** Wendy Deans assumed treasurer duties in October and got a final report out of the old YRHA computer before it became terminal and passed away in December. A new YRHA computer and QuickBooks software was purchased by incoming treasurer Mira Williams.

Income & expenses: Raffle and sponsorship money is divided equally among the shows and included as income. Income for 2011 = \$92,276.25. Expenses for 2011 = \$101,283.09. 2011 shows a loss of \$9,006.84 for the year. Note: The expense report includes all the expenses for both the 2010 and 2011 banquets; normally only one banquet's expenses are included in the calendar year expenses. Through the show season and up until the regional affiliate finals, YRHA broke even on income and expenses. Affiliate expenses put us in the hole. Overall, YRHA had a good year. Three years of checkbook review was done by an independent auditor and no errors were found.

**Awards:** Presentation by Darcy Morrison (daughter of Alice and C.R. Morrison) of different types of awards that she can order for the club. Selection includes acrylic glass that can be etched, bronzes, high-quality resin trophies, picture frames, coaster sets, medallions, wall plaques, and more. Affiliates do not have to purchase NRHA awards from NRHA and are free to make our own choices. Darcy showed a bronze sliding reiner that was created by C.R. Morrison (a true bronze) that is different from the official NRHA Morrison bronze. This bronze is also available in a high-quality resin. Jan A. noted that NRHA's trophies are now being manufactured in China. The trophies that Darcy Morrison is representing are made in the U.S.A., by C.R. Morrison, a long-time member and supporter of YRHA.

**Show Awards:** Lanette Frye reported that all year-end awards came in but two (on backorder). With affiliate awards added to this year's banquet awards, choosing and purchasing awards was a huge project. She is preparing to order awards and prizes for 2012 and is open to suggestions from members. Popular prizes of past years include leather punches, forks with extended handles, duffle bags, reins, chairs, splint boots and bell boots.

**Show Season Saddle:** Mike Carlson moved that Jan Anderson research saddles and find one at a comparable price to last year's for the show season saddle award. Seconded by Nicole Mather. Motion carried unanimously. This saddle is co-sponsored by Anderson Training Stables and YRHA and is awarded by drawing at the August show.

**PeeWee Reining:** Jan Lukenbill reported there were 6 PeeWee reiners at last year's show. Murdoch's sponsored the Breyer horses for prizes. The picture that Wendy took after the PeeWee reining was framed and provided to Murdoch's as a thank you. Murdoch's has indicated they will work with Breyer to donate the horses this year. It was tentatively decided to hold the PeeWee Reining at the August show.

**Fundraising:** Wendy and Jan A. split up the current list of sponsors and assigned them to board members. Incoming board members will also be assigned sponsors to contact. Jan L. and Nicole Mather added several potential new sponsors to the list.

Wendy explained her fundraising program and offered to provide samples to board members of the letters and invoices she sends out. Following receipt of a sponsorship, Wendy collects business cards from the sponsors for display on the website, collects their banners and makes sure the banners are displayed in the arena. In addition, she prints a poster with the year's sponsors listed on it and displays this in a prominent place in the arena. The fundraising levels and benefits to sponsors are displayed on the website.

Banner sponsorships are \$200 and banner will be displayed at all 3 shows. The sponsor provides the banner, we follow up to make sure that it is displayed at the shows. Vendor sponsorships - every vendor must also be a sponsor. Minimum amount is \$100 - for that amount, the vendor can put up a booth at one show. To have a booth at all 3 shows, the vendor sponsorship amount is \$200, and the vendor can also have their banner displayed in the arena. Wendy noted that it's important to collect sponsorships before the first show so sponsors can be advertised at all the shows. Fundraising needs to start in January, well ahead of the show season.

**Raffle Tickets:** These are popular with members and Wendy recommends doing them again this year. K Bar J, Tom Balding, and Rocky Mountain Hat Co. have again agreed to provide the raffle items. Last year, Cameron Meissner/Meissner Reining Horses stepped up to sponsor the portion of K Bar J's donation that was not covered; this is available to anyone who wishes to become a sponsor at this level. Shelle Egbert recommended that we work with stores and events that horse people and reiners frequent and see if the

stores/event organizers will let YRHA set up a table for youths to sell raffle tickets. Suggestions included Murdoch's, Cenex in Belgrade, and the Circle L Expo.

A fundraising committee chair will be appointed at the general membership meeting and anyone may join the committee. Fundraising is the responsibility of every member of the board.

**Clinic:** Jay Dee Anderson is working on clinicians, no firm commitments yet.

**Banquet:** Mike Carlson reported that numbers are up from last year. We have a band and will have a fun event called a Dance-Off right after dinner. Moving the banquet out to the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of January was discussed. Mike asked for feedback on the venue – all present agreed the GranTree Inn is a good venue for the banquet.

**Shows:** Dates have been set for the Yellowstone Slides. Slide I is May 24-26, Slide II is July 5-7, Slide III is August 2-4. Have commitments from RainDancer Video and Crazy Mountain Catering for all 3 shows. Suggestion for promoting reining: Invite visitors and staff from Crazy Mountain Ranch (Clyde Park area) to our shows – Jan A. volunteered to contact the ranch.

Jan Lukenbill moved that YRHA become a member of the Livingston Chamber of Commerce to take advantage of their advertising and promotion for our events. Seconded by Mike Carlson. Motion carried unanimously. Wendy to act as the contact.

**Affiliate Approval Fee and Changes to the Affiliate Program:** Jan A. reported that as club president, she is the designated NRHA affiliate representative for YRHA. The NRHA agreement for affiliation has been completed; it is due to be filed January 31, 2012, for this year. It has been filed and the \$100 fee paid.

NRHA is now requiring affiliates to perform tasks for their (once-complimentary) \$500 affiliate sponsorship (now known as NRHA bronze level affiliate). These tasks include designating an affiliate liaison who must participate in one webinar and pass the toolbox test, and the club must host or co-host one circuit show and hold NRHA green reiner classes (levels I & II) at one show. The affiliate liaison must be appointed by each club by December 31; Jan Anderson was appointed for YRHA.

In order to get to the NRHA \$1000 silver level affiliate, our club will have to complete the bronze level requirements, the affiliate liaison must attend a regional affiliate workshop, the club must hold two fundraising/development programs (from among these choices: jackpot affiliate show, ride & slide show, Rookie Day, regional clinic or applicant seminar), and hold NRHA Green Reiner classes at two shows.

In order to get to the NRHA \$1500 gold level, the club must also host an Affiliate Forum, the designated affiliate representative must attend Summit, and the club must hold three fundraising/development programs in addition to the bronze and silver level requirements.

The show committee forwarded a recommendation to the board that YRHA adopt the new NRHA green reiner classes and hold levels 1 and 2 at our shows.

Mike Carlson moved that YRHA adopt the NRHA Green Reiner program and hold it at all YRHA shows. Seconded by J.R. Winter. Motion carried unanimously.

YRHA and MRHA have consulted on the issue of replacing our respective club rookie classes with the new NRHA classes in order to coordinate efforts and accommodate both clubs' needs at our shows. The Level 2 Green Reiner class will replace the YRHA two-handed rookie class. The YRHA green rookie class will run concurrent with the NRHA Level I Green Reiner class with both classes following the NRHA rules for this class. A few exceptions to the rules will be necessary to accommodate green rookies currently in the YRHA club program. Show committee will hammer out the details and bring their recommendations to the full board at the next meeting.

Green rookies already in the YRHA program (those with points) will be notified of the changes in the program. The YRHA green rookie program will be discontinued following the 2013 season. Green rookies with no points in the YRHA club program to date will be advised to start in the NRHA green reiner program.

NRHA is also requiring each affiliate club to post the NRHA Affiliate designation rules and requirements at all our shows.

Nicole Mather moved that YRHA apply for American Paint Horse Association Paint Alternative Competition approval for all YRHA shows. Val Siegel seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The incoming secretary, Sharon Gelhaus, will complete and submit the application to APHA.

**Unfinished Business:** Affiliate qualifying shows. This is an ongoing discussion between regional clubs and will be discussed at a future board meeting.

**Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday Feb 21, 5:30pm, Bozeman Public Library (tentative).

Adjourned 1:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Chandra Morris, YRHA secretary