

**Yellowstone Reining Horse Association
Board of Directors teleconference meeting
September 26, 2011**

President—Call to order, 7pm

Roll Call: Mike Carlson, Chandra Morris, Wendy Deans, Elise Donohue, Kim Alberta, Lanette Frye, Jan Lukenbill, J.R. Winter, Val Siegel
Excused: Nicole Mather

Minutes have been approved

Correspondence

Ron Peterson, Judge (available)
Pat Gervais (thank you)

Treasurer's Report—Wendy and Kim

Checking account balance - \$41,173.05 (includes a CD that has not yet been rolled over). We broke even on the 2011 show season before purchasing Affiliate jackets and awards; we will be in the red for the year after these purchases. A \$20,664.79 CD is due to rollover November 12.

Regarding the by-laws' requirement that YRHA have an amount in reserve equal to the cost to cover all shows: Wendy queried Brant Robey, chairman of the board of the Community Health Partners non-profit in Livingston, to determine if this was a common practice among non-profits. Ms. Robey advised that a successful non-profit would have back-up money stashed away for a rainy day. Ms. Robey further commented that if the non-profit is not successful, the board should rethink the organization's mission and what it offers to its members. This year, CHP is considering investing in T-bills and Ms. Robey offered to put us in touch with one of CHP's financial advisors for information about this.

YRHA's fundraising has dropped off and we need to revive it so we can continue to offer great prizes, awards and added money at our shows. Each show costs approximately \$15,000 including added money; if YRHA continues to put on 3 shows, a total of \$45,000 in a reserve fund is necessary to satisfy our by-laws. A question arose as to the exact amount YRHA would actually stand to lose if a show failed and if that should be the amount in the reserve fund instead of the total cost to put on a show.

Jan asked Wendy to prepare a report on our "fixed" expenses per show so that we have a more accurate estimate of the amount we need to hold in reserve. This may help us decide how to invest our reserve fund.

More fundraising will be required to support our shows next year so that we remain in the black at the end of the season and have enough to draw on to start the next show season without dipping into our reserves.

Banquet—Mike

The 2011 Annual Year-End Awards Banquet and Fundraising Auction will be held Saturday, January 14, 2012, at the GranTree Inn in Bozeman. This date does not

conflict with either MRHA or CSRHA banquet dates. We will again offer attendees a choice of 3 entrée plates.

Show Committee—Mike

Minutes of the September 14, 2011, show committee meeting were distributed. Lanette moved and Elise seconded that the following dates be set for Slides I, II, and III:

May 24-26, 2012

July 5-7, 2012

August 2-4, 2012

Motion carried unanimously. These dates will be submitted to NRHA for approval. These are the “traditional” dates of YRHA’s 3 shows. To the best of our knowledge, it has been determined there are no conflicts of date with NRHA (Derby, end of June), MRHA (Aug. 23-26, tentative) CSRHA (May 31-June 3, tentative) or NRRHA (April 26-28 and June 15-17, tentative). Raindancer Video and Crazy Mountain Catering have committed to all 3 YRHA dates.

Awards Committee—Lanette and Nicole

Affiliate: YRHA will provide awards to Affiliate champions this year in place of the NRHA pewters and plaques. Lanette prepared a list of choices in the price ranges commensurate with what we have traditionally spent on the NRHA trophies for champion and reserve champion. Chandra moved and Mike seconded that we budget \$2,350 for Affiliate awards. Motion carried unanimously. Two choices will be offered for champion and 3 choices for reserve.

Year-End: Wendy moved and J.R. seconded that we budget \$6,675 for year-end awards. Motion carried unanimously. The approved budget is the same as last year’s and allows for some new choices for awards. J.R. commented that YRHA puts on 3 shows a year and we can encourage people to attend our shows by continuing to give such high-quality prizes and awards during and at the end of show season.

Show Awards: J.R. moved that we provide prizes to 1st, 2nd and 3rd in NRHA classes and to 1st and 2nd only in club classes. Motion died for lack of a second. Mike moved and Wendy seconded that we budget \$5,748 for show awards and award prizes to 1st, 2nd and 3rd in all classes except Mares, Geldings, Stallions and Ladies/Gentlemen, awarding prizes to 1st and 2nd only in those 4 classes. Motion carried unanimously.

Fundraising Ideas—Wendy and Jan

Jan noted that Wendy has done all the fundraising by herself for the last several years and that all the board members need to pitch in and help with this important function.

Wendy noted that the recession has had an effect on fundraising and some people have lowered their sponsorships or dropped away altogether. On the plus side, Wendy engaged some new sponsors and some sponsors voluntarily increased their sponsorships.

Jan asked Wendy to give the board a complete list of our sponsors and asked each board member to select 5 names on the list that they will talk to about sponsorship for 2012. She also asked each board member to add 1 new name to the list.

Free clinics: Jay Dee Anderson and J.R. Winter volunteered to do clinics, either separately or together, to raise money for YRHA. An additional possibility would be to

add a 3rd clinician to a Jay Dee–J.R. clinic, which would provide opportunities for a few more riders to participate and keep all riders active. The clinicians would donate their time and participants would be charged an affordable fee (\$200-\$250 suggested).

Clinic: Jan suggested Doug Milholland for a YRHA-sponsored clinic.

Nominations—J.R.

All 4 officers and 3 board member positions are open this year. Jan and Mike have agreed to run for president and vice president, respectively, and member Lorra Mitzkus has agreed to run for a board seat. Additional nominees are being sought for all open positions. J.R. will present the slate of candidates to Jan by November 14, in accordance with our by-laws.

Unfinished Business

Elise noted that there has been a drop in YRHA membership since 2006 and we all need to think about this and come up with some ways to get people to join or re-join. Jan commented that one of the best ways to get members is to be the premier club of all 4 Montana/Wyoming clubs—give the best prizes, sponsor lots of educational opportunities for members, and put on first-class shows.

Other suggestions:

Get more local people to be members (Elise)

Put up notices of shows in public places (Jan)

Put up a billboard on the road at the turnoff to Anderson Training Stables at each show announcing “YRHA Reining Horse Show Today – All Welcome – Free!” (J.R.)

Livingston Chamber of Commerce membership would get our events in the area visitors’ guide (Jan)

Special pricing for members at a schooling show, be a member and classes cost less (Kim)

New Business

At the recommendation of the show committee, Sponsor Appreciation Day will not be held this year. In its place, we will offer special recognition of sponsors at the Year-End Awards Banquet. Also, Affiliate awards traditionally presented on Sponsor Appreciation Day, will be presented at the Year-End Awards Banquet instead.

YRHA made a donation to the Neuhoff family in memory of Jamie Neuhoff, former member.

Adjourn, 8:50pm