

6/27/24 Board Meeting
7 pm

OPENING BUSINESS:

- Call to order:
 - Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM by President Phillip Williamson
 - The following board members are in attendance via Zoom:
 - Phillip Williamson, Ashley Holsinger, Gordon Reistrup, Jamison Strasser, Robin Wood, Sarah Vagnoni, Anne Lesko, Holly Flory
 - Secretaries Anne Johnston and Maggie Evans are also present
- Minutes
 - Minutes from the previous meeting approved by Anne Lesko and seconded by Robin Wood
- Treasurer's Report
 - The Treasurer's Report was sent in advance via email. No discussion at this time in Treasurer Annie Shawver's absence.

OLD BUSINESS:

Yearbook Distribution

- Planning to continue distribution at the Summer Soiree

Summer Soiree Update

- Ashley H and Sarah V will go to Gordon's to set up the tents for the party
- Everything is moving along smoothly.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Secretary Preparation

- Phillip proposes that he and Secretary Maggie Evans will work on an introductory email to be sent to the membership as she begins her new job.
 - This will also include some reminders to the membership, to be circulated to the board for approval

Decision on Quickbooks Online Subscription

- The board approves moving to an Online Subscription for quickbooks
- Anne Johnston discusses levels of Online subscription, noting that the association needs more than the basic package.
 - The "essentials" package is roughly \$60 a month (the next level up is \$90 so we could upgrade if needed)

- Board agrees to move forward with the mid level

Banquet Date

- Anne Johnston informs the Board that this year, there will be 30 awards to be given at the banquet, so the board will need to plan appropriately time wise to allow for embroidery dependent on prizes TBD

Date:

- Holly discusses feedback from some attendees of last year's banquet that the Friday date was difficult for some last year, so Saturday is probably ideal. The board agrees and feels that Saturday is better
- Phillip presents options December 14th (Saturday), and two Saturdays in January
 - The board is inclined to think December is not a good option
 - **However**, board has tentatively agreed to run another Winter Benefit Show, so December might be viable if we can have a January Benefit show
 - Phillip will inquire with the horse center

Annual Meeting

Format:

- Board notes that while Zoom annual meeting is efficient, the membership seemed inclined to have an in person meeting last year
- Phillip proposes that we do a hybrid zoom and in person meeting like we did last year, so that the membership can still have an engaging conversation and those that want to be there can, but we can still access membership that cannot or do not want to be in person.

Date:

- Board recalls that we have discussed having the annual meeting early (ideally prior to the annual show) so that the board can release and enact rule changes ahead of the date rules would go into place
 - Gordon notes that prior to the annual meeting always being in Jan with the banquet, the annual meeting used to be separate and took place in September
- **Main goal is to have the annual meeting over and done *before* the show year starts**, but the board agrees that feedback should not be received at the annual meeting to *change* the rules
- The board concludes that we will have a separate, earlier Zoom meeting that will be an open meeting for the membership to give their feedback on proposed rule changes for the following show year.
 - The annual meeting (where we announce rule changes and vote on board members) will be *after* the annual show and "year end"
 - Phillip proposes Sunday November 3rd as the annual meeting

- The Zoom Feedback meeting is proposed to be September 29th
 - Board will vote on final changes October 8th
 - This gives the board and the review committee roughly 2 weeks to go over membership feedback and make revisions to be announced at the annual meeting

Committee Reports:

Education (*Ashley Holsinger, Gordon Reistrup, Sarah Vagnoni, Katie Gardner*)

- Currently finalizing the location for the "Pro Round Table clinic"
- Waiting board feedback on the annual show clinic options

Junior (*Britni Cash, Holly Morris Flory, Caroline Light, Megan Heffernan, Tara Deckel*)

- Horse show:
 - As of now, the committee does not have financial information
 - Estimated \$4,700 in checks, ~400 cash
 - Waiting for committee member Caroline Light to finish financial reports
 - Food vendor donated all money from the day to the organization, and some entry checks also had donations
 - Lots of good feedback and exhibitors enjoyed the grass field
 - Committee plans to send thank you notes to all donors
 - Holly wants to note that cash payments from this horse show have been tracked and accounted for

Fundraising (*Ashley Holsinger, Annie Shawver, Aly Black, Chrissy Elliott, Catherine Daniel*)

- Board agreed prior to the meeting to approve the new fundraising levels and options
- Committee wants to note that they recognize that horse showing and associated costs have gone up in recent years, and the goal of the maximized fundraising is to keep the expense as reasonable as possible for the exhibitors.
 - While levels are higher for fundraising options, it is in effort to keep costs down and keep us out of the red
 - Committee encourages the board to be united on the sponsorship level changes going forward
- Committee is still working hard to get a title sponsor this year

Review (*Gordon Reistrup, Anne Lesko, Annie Shawver, Jamison Strasser*)

Division Proposal Board Discussion:

Intermediates/2'3 Discussion:

- Committee proposes that we convert the Intermediate Hunter to Equitation, and then create a 2'3 hunter division that does not have an age or level distinction, just a 2'3 rated hunter division open to Juniors and Amateurs
 - Currently combined and then split if entries allow
- Ashley Holsinger suggests that rather than making an Am/Jr 2'3 hunter, we can instead allow the Hopeful hunters to be rated as is- open to pro/am/jr.
 - From a show management perspective, she expresses concerns over too many divisions and too many cards with am/jr/pro splits
 - She suggests enacting it as an open division for the year and then taking feedback and noting entry patterns at the conclusion of the year.
- Committee will take these suggestions into account and revise plans for the board to discuss at the next meeting. At this time, no decision has been made regarding this.

Pre/Beginner/Beginner/ vs Short Stirrup/Long Stirrup

- The committee proposes 2 options:
 - Replace the Pre-Beginner with Long Stirrup/Short Stirrup **OR** keep pre-beginner
- Ashley notes that the specifications for Pre-Beginner and Beginner are important because the long/short stirrup is open to any years of competition, while the original divisions allow for a limited range of experience/competition
 - Long stirrup/Short stirrup is important and well entered and so far the short stirrup has been successful, but important to note
 - Ashley compared the numbers from recent schooling shows, and the pre-beginner/beginner has more or consistent entries
 - Anne notes that we originally thought of the short stirrup with those years in mind- we felt that it would be safer to give exhibitors more time jumping lower heights rather than just one year at each height
- The board agrees that all of these divisions do have a place and have been successful, so at an impasse with how to navigate all of the division options and not having too many divisions
 - We don't want to take anything away, and but instead we want to make it all flow a bit better
- Hunter vs Equitation
 - The short stirrup equitation is different from pre-beginner equitation (Walk trot/WTC/Jump classes)
- Height issues
 - Show management perspective- specs are not clear and show managers have struggled so far with managing the heights and potential issues with pre-beginner eligibility
 - Problem stems from VHSA verbiage

- Board discusses adjusting our specs so that they still align with VHSA but flows better with our membership while still keep opportunities for all levels

CLOSING

- Next meeting set for Tuesday July 30th at 7pm
 - The board makes note that it is Anne Johnston's last board meeting as Executive Secretary! Maggie Evans will be Executive Secretary at the next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM

