

MICHIGAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL OPEN MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Friday, January 8, 2021

President Megan Hirschman called a meeting of the MQHA Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The following Directors and staff were present: Heather Coe, Tessa Dalton, Barb Foster, Sasha Glover, Austin Gooding, Megan Hirschman, Mike Huntoon, Danielle Lindsay, Monty Montgomery, Denise Morgan, Sarah Switek, Allyson Thompson and Kris Woroniecki. There were 5 members in attendance.

AGENDA: Mike Huntoon made a motion to approve the agenda. Monty Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

MINUTES: Mike Huntoon made a motion to approve the January 11, 2020 Annual Membership minutes as presented. Barb Foster seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Report presented by Barb Foster, Finance Director
MQHA started 2020 off with a bang by purchasing a cargo trailer which can house all of the trail obstacles and provide a place to store the equipment out of the weather. We then provided the West Michigan Fair Association with an advance to purchase the materials they needed to build 88 new stalls for their brand-new barns. Little did we know that 2020 would then become a roller coaster ride.

To say that 2020 was a financial challenge was an understatement. The MQHA Board of Directors had to make some really tough decisions in March, in an attempt to protect the assets of the Association. The Board has, over the last several years, worked very hard to be sure that MQHA could continue to exist should there ever be a year when the events were not profitable enough to sustain the expenses of the association. I think that the thought was more about weather, or EHV or strangles. I am not sure anyone ever considered PANDEMIC. Then, it seemed that once we all realized that a pandemic was what the new normal was, it took us longer to realize, this wasn't going away any time soon.

The difficult decision to lay off the hourly office staff was made. Kris stayed on to maintain the day-to-day operations. Due to the uncertainty of the ever-changing state mandates directly affecting the venues we were booked into; the Board made another difficult decision to not offer MQHA Year End Awards. We applied for a grant through the small business association which was finally approved in October.

Easter, Spartan and the Summer Series were canceled. The association then hosted the Harbor Classic in Ludington as the first event of the season. The Harvest Classic was moved to Midland and the Futurity was moved to Mason. All three events had an increase in participation, and all were profitable. Due to the success of the shows, the small grant and the other decisions made to protect the Association, the Board was able to provide year end recognition of member achievements. We can happily report that the association broke even for 2020. This is a testament to the hard work and determination of a dedicated group of individuals, including Megan Hirschman as the President.

2021 isn't starting out strong. We have determined that the Easter Show and the Spartan Spectacular will not be held at MSU in April. The ongoing uncertainty with the pandemic is forcing MSU to remain closed and without any other options for venues that can keep us out of the weather, it is likely that the first show that MQHA will host will not happen until May. This will mean seven months of little to no income for the Association. We have to continue to be frugal with expenses and try to think out of the box with any of the events we know we can host, in an attempt to try to recoup some of the income that will be lost by the cancellation of at least those two circuits.

We are hopeful that 2021 will end on a good note. We are hopeful that the pandemic gets under control and that we can regain some sense of normalcy. We are hopeful that we will continue to have a great Association and see our horse show family and friends very soon. We all appreciate the support you have shown MQHA over the years and hope to see your continued support into the future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BIO SECURITY: Report presented by Danielle Lindsay, BioSecurity Chairperson.

This was the first year for a Bio Security committee. We put into play, a list of recommendations for our trainers to share with their clients to keep everyone safe at our shows. We provided signs and hand washing stations at our shows to keep everyone safe. We provided instructions and sanitation wash to keep our horses and barns safe as well. We hired a lawyer to write up a legal document that every person had to sign at our Harbor Classic show to keep our association safe from any legal action that may have been put on us if anyone came in contact with covid at our show. I believe we handled things the best we could and heard nothing but good feedback from our members.

CLINICS: Report presented by Allyson Thompson, Clinic Chairperson

Individual small group demonstration clinics were held at the February tack swap. Participants seemed to enjoy the informal format. Jeff Greaves presented a horsemanship clinic at the Harbor.

CONVENTION: Report provided by Heather Coe, Convention Chairperson

Welcome to everyone to our virtual convention 2021. We will be holding the entirety of convention virtually, including the stallion service sale, breakout sessions and the annual membership meeting. The Back Number auction will be held online Saturday from noon to 7 pm. Thank you to Toledo Ticket for again sponsoring the Back Number auction! The starting bid is \$25 with a buy-it-now option at \$100. A special thank you to Sasha Glover for all of his help with setting up the technology to make this virtual convention happen!

To recap for you, the 2020 Convention was held at the Comfort Inn in Mount Pleasant. Overall, the accommodations and staff were great to work with. There was a significant snowstorm that weekend and it did decrease the attendance at the event. Thank you to all the Convention committee members who worked hard and were a great help putting the event together.

As with everything we were trying to plan in 2020, our 2021 event hit some roadblocks due to Covid. We tried to plan our event as we had done in the past but due to the circumstances, the Convention needed to change to a virtual one. As last year moved forward, the show season affected how Convention and Year End achievements would play out. We normally come together to celebrate the successes of the show season and this year we needed to reassess how to reach our membership. The Convention committee is looking forward to 2021 and hopes to bring back our annual Convention to celebrate our MQ members in 2022.

EASTER SHOW: Report submitted by Monty Montgomery, Easter Show Chairperson

Due to the Covid pandemic, the 2020 Easter Eggstravaganza was cancelled. Current plans for 2021 do not include this show during Easter in early April. If circuits are combined these judges can be added to another venue at a later date in the year. We are all hopeful for a relaxed atmosphere to allow for more shows this year.

FUTURITY: Report presented by Mike Huntoon, Futurity Chairperson

The 2020 MQHA futurity was a great success, despite presenting many challenges. The futurity had to be moved to Mason because of COVID-19 restrictions at MSU. Despite this, the show was huge. Stalls and entries were up from the 2019 show, and the show was nearly twice as profitable. The committee is unsure where the 2021 futurity will be held, and possible changes to the showbill will take place for 2021.

HALL OF FAME: Report presented by Mike Huntoon, Hall of Fame Chairperson

The Hall of Fame Committee made the decision not to award any recipients in 2021 because there would be no MQHA Convention.

HARBOR CLASSIC: Report submitted by Barb Foster, Harbor Classic Chairperson

First, I would like to thank everyone who helped us pull this show off. From dealing with Covid protocol to adding additional stalls and camping all happening within a 3-week timetable, made things crazy. There were 166 more stalls sold this year. There were 600 NSBA entries and 6800 AQHA entries. We were not able to hold all of the fun activities as we have in the past, but we still managed to pull off some a few. The youth were able to hold a very profitable Dog Race. Thanks to some very generous exhibitors, we held a special western pleasure class with a considerable donation given to our Youth association. We still held a great exhibitor dinner thanks to help from the West Michigan Fair Association. Saginaw Valley Equine Services Surgery and Sara Switek each held awesome hospitality events. All of our exhibitors cooperated with us in following all of our COVID protocol without question. This has been a very difficult year, but we felt we were able to give our membership and exhibitors a small amount of normalcy.

HARVEST CLASSIC: Report presented by Denise Morgan, Harvest Classic Chairperson

The Harvest Classic show was successful. MQ had to switch venues from MSU Pavilion to Midland Co Fairgrounds. We had long days and big classes. We were thankful for our great sponsors: Paramount Coffee, Dalton Performance Horses, Infinity Performance Horses and Totally Outfitted. We had multiple random drawings and gave out Yeti cups filled with candy. Based on the challenges that we faced this year (Covid) we managed to make a profit at this year's Harvest Classic.

MEMBERSHIP: Report presented by Danielle Lindsay, Membership Chairperson

This year was a quiet year for our membership. Going into 2020 we had big plans of reaching out to more open show people by setting up booths at some of their shows. With the covid pandemic happening, we were unable to do so. We did have the opportunity to have a booth set up at the Michigan Horse Expo at the MSU Pavilion. It was a success as always. We had a lot of people stop at our booth to learn about our shows.

NOMINATIONS: Report submitted by Tessa Dalton, Nominations and Elections Chairperson

WOW! What a crazy year 2020 has been. With election year taking place we obviously had to deal with Covid-19. This resulted in a lot of struggles within MQHA and exhibitors. This year a new ballot was created holding new members to be soon established. As a board, we decided not to do a Hall of Fame or Member of The Year, Mother and Father of the Year and Sportsperson of The Year, due to the Covid-19 circumstances. By being a part of this board and this committee I had the honor to find more board members to be on this year's ballots. Can't wait to see what next year has in store for our association.

QUEEN: 2020 Queen Committee report submitted by Kathy Christensen, Committee Chairperson

The Queen Contest was held at the Harbor Classic due to cancelation of the Easter Eggstravaganza show in April. The Queen Horsemanship was Wednesday night, the test Thursday afternoon. The interview was Thursday morning, and a big Thank You to the interview judges, Becky Scott, Paddy Baker and Marcia Hansen. Kate Clapp was at the show on Thursday to perform her final duty as queen and crown the 2020 MQHA Queen.

Congratulations to Lily Atkinson, crowned 2020 MQHA Queen. Raegen Schnell was runner-up and was offered the position as GLQHA Queen.

2020 Queen prizes and gifts estimated value \$3600.00 and the 2020 Queen Candidate runner-up estimated value \$640.00

Congratulations to the 2020 Princess, Ella Spies, and Jr. Princess Rylee Spies, crowned on Friday at the Harbor Classic. We did get to go to the beach for some great photos of the Princess' with Queen Lily. Princess and Jr. Princess gifts baskets were each valued at \$227.00

The All-American Quarter Horse Congress was canceled, and with it the Queen contest. The Congress Queen Contest Directors have offered the event to any 2020 Queen for 2021, provided the association she represents agrees, and the age limit for 2021 has been removed. I spoke with Jayme from the committee, and she said that they will accept only one candidate from each association. I was clarifying their statement, considering that the 2021 MQ contest will again be at Easter. If a MQ Contest is held, and a new Queen is crowned, then only that candidate may go as MQ Queen Candidate. The 2021 MQHA Queen position has been offered to Lily Atkinson. Lily has a month to decide if she will accept the Queen position.

Lily did attend the Futurity, where she handed out ribbons and congratulated the winners. It was mentioned by several, that Lily was very helpful during the Futurity.

I would like to also say a big "Thank You" to Minae Kroeze, for again being so very helpful with the Queen Contest. I am grateful for all of Minae's thoughts, ideas, flexibility and support of the MQHA Queen.

SPARTAN SPECTACULAR: The 2020 Spartan Spectacular was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans are to add this show to another circuit in 2021 since it is likely it won't be held at MSU in April for 2021.

STALLION SERVICE SALE: *Submitted by Austin Gooding. The 2020 Stallion Service Sale was a huge success. We were able to sell 64 stallions and the sale made \$56,500. This was up from the 2019 sale where we sold 56 stallions and the sale made \$46,450. As we all know 2020 has been a very trying year for everyone, so for the 2021 sale, I was very uncertain how getting stallion owners to participate would go with hearing how many people chose to not breed their mares during the pandemic. With that being said, I am very happy to report that we have a very big group of really nice stallions for our 2021 sale. We have over 20 new stallions and still have contracts coming in almost daily. I certainly cannot take all the credit. Mike Huntoon, Chris Perniciaro, Julie Leek along with Kris and Heather at the office have put in a lot of time helping contact stallion owners and take care of a lot of paperwork. We are looking forward to sale day which will be January 9th at 11 am. As much as we would love to have our typical in person auction, it will be all online via Facebook live. Tom Moore as always, will be auctioning the stallions. He has had great success throughout the pandemic with his Facebook live tack auctions and with the response I have got so far, I think our auction will be no exception.*

SUMMER SERIES: The 2020 Summer Series was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans are to extend the show a few days in 2021 since it is likely that this will be the first show for the 2021 show season.

TACK SALE: The 2020 Tack Sale was held in early February, before the pandemic shut MSU down. There were 180 spaces sold which was up about 10 from the 2019 sale. The event made about \$4,500.

WEBSITE AND FACE BOOK: Website and Facebook report submitted by Kathy Christensen, Committee Chairperson

The MQHA office has been keeping the miquarterhorse.com website updated. The office has posted the Convention information, as well as providing the ballots for board member election. I will continue to provide the office with pictures and updated information when necessary. I will defer to the office for any other information around the website.

MQHA official Facebook page - This page has 5458 followers, and 5144 likes. From this past week alone, there were 158 reactions/engagements from only 2 posts. Compared to other FB pages, (Ohio who posted nothing

in the last week, has 14.7K likes and only 71 engagements,) (Indiana, who has 4.6K likes, and posted nothing, has 7 engagements) I feel our FB page gets above average attention from the membership. Our site activity spikes when pictures are posted, unfortunately, not having Convention this year, we will not have pictures to post.

MQ Marketplace group page - This page has seen a dramatic increase in membership requests. Current members count 9120, January 6 of 2020, member count was 7555. According to stats, there are 2392 active members. 91 new members approved for December alone. 1565 new members were approved in 2020. For the time between November 5, 2020 – January 3, 2021, there were 506 membership requests. 324 were approved, and 170 declined. Just some insight around those declined. Some are not US citizens; I do not approve these. Some have only joined FB for a few weeks, there are no pictures, no information around where they live, what they do, and if they have a horse. I check what groups they have already joined, and if they have friends that are already members. I do decline these also, when there is not enough information for me to clarify that they are a “real person”. When I have a concern or question around an individual, but they have friends that are members, and live in Michigan or surrounding states, and have joined other legit groups, I will message them. “I will approve your request to join the MQ Marketplace. Please remember that this site is for Equine related items and services Only!” I usually get a positive response in minutes and I approve. I have had to message people, reminding them of this policy. If you have any questions around what I do with this, please feel free to reach out.

YEAR END AWARDS: Report submitted by Barb Foster, Year End Awards Chairperson

Initially due to the uncertainty of shows for 2020 it was decided not to have year end awards. After the completion of half of the yearly circuits, the committee along with the entire board decided to give back to the membership as a thank you for supporting the available shows. The decision was to give MQHA gift certificates to the top 3 places in each eligible class. The amounts are \$50, \$30 and \$20 respectively. The requirements for receiving an award were relaxed due to the limited number of shows for the year. There will be no high point or reserve high points. It is asked that all certificates be redeemed during 2021.

YOUTH: Given by Sasha Glover (Chair), Danielle Lindsay, and Barb Foster

This year the Michigan Quarter Horse Youth Association did the best with the abilities it had due to COVID-19. The season started off to a rough start with the cancellation of the Spartan Spectacular Show due to the MSU Pavilion being closed and in the best interest for exhibitor safety. Due to this show being cancelled amongst the other circuit shows, it started the fundraising season off to a slow start. The first fundraisers the Youth Association hosted were at the Harbor Classic where the youth held the annual dog races. The youth did cancel the bouncy horse races due to the various touch points. At the Harbor Classic, the youth partnered with Linda Barnes and supporters to recognize the seniors graduating in 2020. Each senior was encouraged to bring their cap and gown for the presentation that was done in the main arena. Linda and supporters provided each recognized senior with a custom MQHA plaque. A reception including cake and ice cream was provided through donations, following the recognition ceremony. Additionally, at the Harbor Classic the youth continued the Academic Achievement Program and presented gift certificates and t-shirts to those who were recognized.

Earlier in the year AQHA announced that all qualifications for the Youth World would be waived. This created a unique situation for those interested in attending the Youth World. The Youth Association wanted to recognize those that fulfilled all state Affiliate requirements while still supporting those that wanted to go but did not fulfill state requirements. The solution was to provide financial support for the night watchman, fans, etc. for those that wished to attend and met the state Affiliate requirements. Through the generosity of a private donor, the Youth Association was able to extend this financial support and gift to all that attended. This

created an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere regardless of individuals where on the “team” or attending independently.

Unfortunately, shortly after the Youth World Show, the Ohio Quarter Horse Association announced the cancellation of the All-American Quarter Horse Congress which therefore cancelled the NYATT competition.

Since the season was cut short, the Board worked hard to stay engaged and create excitement amongst members. Through social media outreach the Board chose to create a “spotlight” campaign recognizing all youth members interested in participating. This went over very well and had close to 30 submissions.

To close out the year, the youth will recognize Academic Achievement winners in a virtual format near the time of the Annual Convention.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS: No new business

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS:

Elected to a three (3) year term:

Jennifer Bluhm (2024)

Austin Gooding (2024)

Rob Kirkpatrick (2024)

Brenda Schrader (2024)

Elected to a two (2) year term:

Megan Hirschman (2023)

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 p.m. by unanimous consent.