

MICHIGAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION
Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 19, 2022

President Barb Foster called a meeting of the MQHA Board of Directors to order at 7:06 p.m. at the MSU Pavilion, classroom B, in East Lansing, MI. The following Directors and staff were present: Meggen Baynes, Jennifer Bluhm, Heather Coe, Kevin Cubitt, Barb Foster, Megan Hirschman, Rob Kirkpatrick, Monty Montgomery, Sarah Switek and Kris Woroniecki. Excused were Chris Perniciaro, Sasha Glover and Austin Gooding.

AGENDA: Megan Hirschman made a motion to approve the agenda. Heather Coe seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: Monty Montgomery made a motion to approve the March 8, 2022, Board of Director minutes. Kevin Cubitt seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Rob Kirkpatrick presented the financial statements for March. The total assets of the Association as of March 31, 2022, are listed at \$596,656.02; the total liabilities at \$267,897.49 and the total members' equity is listed at \$328,758.53. The net income as of the end of March is listed at \$38,213.57 compared to \$17,147.73 for the same period in 2021. Megan Hirschman made a motion to accept the March 2022 statement. Sarah Switek seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rob Kirkpatrick presented the checks written report for March 2022. There were checks written totaling \$27,993.41 for the month. Meggen Baynes made a motion to approve the March check detail report. Megan Hirschman seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Barb Foster heard nothing but compliments about Easter show and the way it was run. The awards and the luncheon were great. The vendors were happy. The schedule ran better with the latest night ending at 10 pm on Saturday. Much of this was due to the effort by the committee to choose patterns that didn't take a long time. Barb stated that the National Director subject needs to come to an end. Barb remarked that she continues to get calls, texts and emails regarding the National Director process that MQHA went through. Barb stated that she and Kris both tried very hard to get information from AQHA regarding the process for filling the National Director vacancy. MQHA was told prior to setting up the timeline and again on a Zoom meeting that we should have our affiliate choice for National Director to AQHA prior to the end of 2021. We made every effort to reach out to multiple people regarding the position availability. The Board worked hard to set up a process that was transparent and fair. The Board did not intentionally exclude anyone from the process. A letter sent to all of the candidates included a statement explaining to them that they were welcome to reach out to AQHA prior to the February 1 deadline, if they wanted to move forward with the process of applying directly to AQHA. Some people have suggested to her that it was MQHA's responsibility to censure or reprimand personal statements on Facebook. Barb stated that she feels the Board made good decisions with the information that was made available and that there are no regrets about the process that MQHA went through to provide a candidate.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Vice President Coe concurred that the Easter show went great. She heard a lot of compliments. The catered lunch was great. She stated that she felt people really appreciated the lunch considering how bad the food at MSU has been.

OFFICE REPORT: Kris Woroniecki reminded the board that the June meeting is at a restaurant in Frankenmuth. She also explained that former employee, Rachel is currently dealing with her husband being involved in a very serious car accident. There has been a gofundme set up to help them. Megan Hirschman made a motion to donate \$100 to her. Meggen Baynes seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EASTER SHOW: Monty thanked the committee for all of their help. There were about 30 fewer stalls than the last event in 2019. The AQHA entries were down but the NSBA entries were up. A financial report will be given next month. Thanks to his wife, Stacy for choosing good patterns that saved a tremendous amount of time.

FINANCE: Rob Kirkpatrick mentioned that there was discussion about the need to be sure TNT Events were bonded since they are handling all of the horse show revenue. He intends to talk to our insurance agent to be clear about what we should be requiring.

FUTURITY: The Futurity committee had a meeting and discussed fundraising. Kevin explained that the committee would like to offer a raffle for the futurity. Megan Hirschman made a motion to approve the purchase of the raffle items up to \$4500 to benefit the futurity. Jenny Bluhm seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed. Rob Kirkpatrick made a suggestion that with the amount of money offered to the weanlings, it might be a good idea to have them show once to all six judges or pay on an average of all six scores. He also asked about running all of the showmanship classes in one block versus splitting them up.

HALL OF FAME: Kevin stated that we have a person that has been determined. The committee is working on the horse.

HARBOR CLASSIC: Barb Foster stated that we have been unable to secure a tent for the harbor. We have found a resource for the portable stalls. Barb is still interested in offering a sweepstakes class on Saturday. She believes she has a sponsor for it. She also has a few other groups lined up to sponsor some other fun things at the event. The golf carts are ordered.

HARVEST: Sarah Switek mentioned that with the time of year this show is held, she would like to focus on a charitable cause such as hosting a food drive. She would also like to include a fun activity such as a versatility challenge or a trainer jackpot showmanship. There is a discussion about acquiring approval from another group.

MEMBERSHIP: Meggen Baynes filled the group in on the MCH Expo booth MQHA had. She said the event was busy. She thanked everyone who volunteered to help at the booth. She said the handout items at the booth went over well. There were a few memberships sold and people stopped to pick up showbills and asked a lot of questions. Currently, the association has 563 memberships. Several more renewals and new memberships were taken at the Easter show. We will need to order some more items for marketing as the supply is getting low. Megan Hirschman suggested we look for rain ponchos for various occasions. Megan Hirschman made a motion to spend up to \$1000 on marketing items. Kevin Cubitt seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

NOMINATIONS, ELECTION & RULES: Megan Hirschman sent out an email for a June 5 meeting in St Johns for the review of rules and constitution.

QUEEN: Barb Foster mentioned that Kathy Christensen did a beautiful display at the Easter show for the contest. Kathy submitted this report: *Katherine West was crowned 2022 MQHA Queen on Saturday night, April 16, at the Easter Eggstravaganza. Katherine is the daughter of Jeff and Christine West, of Williamston, Michigan. She is nineteen and a student at MSU. Katherine is working towards a bachelor's degree in Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary medicine. Katherine serviced as MQHYA board Youth President in 2019 and 2020. The estimated value of the gifts the 2022 Queen received, or will receive. \$2933.00. Cash collected or pledged for the Queen \$410.00 Runner-Up candidate value of gifts she has received, \$569.00 (estimated). I am happy to report that both young ladies would represent MQHA well. I will be contacting GLQHA and asking if Kailene Bader-VanDyke could be offered the position of GLQHA Queen, providing her with the opportunity to attend the Congress Queen Contest, if she wanted to go. Katherine West has already been contacted by current Congress Queen Darcy Woods, congratulating her and inviting her to the Level One Championships to present awards, if she would like to and is able to attend. I truly appreciate my one and only committee member, Minae Kroeze. She has helped organize this event and contact sponsors for the Queen. Morgan Jennings has reached out and offered to help Katherine study for the Congress test. Appreciate Morgan offering this assistance.*

SPARTAN SPECTACULAR: Barb Foster reminded the Board that the Thayne Miner will be held at the Spartan Spectacular in Ludington. The youth will offer a root beer float fundraiser again this year. There will be a Team Tournament held during the show. Barb is hoping that she has secured a \$500 sponsor for the tournament.

SUMMER SERIES: Kris Woroniecki has had a discussion with Trish Steele, Midland Fair manager and she has indicated that the grounds will be ready by the show on Memorial weekend. She will provide the MQHA office with the stall charts within the next few weeks. A new logo for the show has been chosen.

OLD BUSINESS: Kris updated the Board on the status of the Grand Agricultural Center. The campaign cabinet has been reassured that the federal grant dollars were making their way through the process and should be in hand soon. The layout of the facility is still in the works with Kris having a meeting with one of the construction principles later this week to receive an update.

NEW BUSINESS: Barb Foster stated that she has asked TNT Events to submit a bid for show management for upcoming years. She has not received it yet. Barb also brought up discussion about an audit versus a yearend review. The last audit was done in 2017. The board has already discussed that we are scheduled for a 2021 yearend review and that has been put into motion.

Megan Hirschman made a motion that we push back the review of 2021 and replace it with an audit of 2022 in the spring of 2023. Kevin Cubitt seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous support. If we are unable to stop the 2021 yearend review, we will determine if they can move it into an audit of 2021. Megan stated she didn't think that a 2021 audit would be as useful since it wasn't a full season and we had new show management.

Monty Montgomery then brought up discussion that is going around at the shows that AQHA is considering adding a \$1 per entry per horse per show to help fund the AQHA World Show. The Board is adamantly opposed and will submit a letter saying as much. Megan Hirschman has offered to help write it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. by unanimous consent without objection.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.