

**MICHIGAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**September 23, 2021**

President Mike Huntoon called a Zoom meeting of the MQHA Board of Directors to order at 7:34 p.m. The following Directors and staff were present on the call: Heather Coe, Tessa Dalton, Barb Foster, Sasha Glover, Austin Gooding, Megan Hirschman, Mike Huntoon, Rob Kirkpatrick, Danielle Lindsay, Monty Montgomery, Sarah Switek and Kris Woroniecki. Jennifer Bluhm was excused. Also on the call were Christa Baldwin and Kelly Chapman.

**AGENDA:** Austin Gooding made a motion to approve the agenda. Rob Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES:** Sasha Glover made a motion to approve the August 31, 2021, Board of Director minutes. Barb Foster seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Mike Huntoon stated that he thought the Futurity ran smoothly. There were lots of entries and he would give more detailed information in his committee report.

**VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Barb Foster had no report except what will be given during committee reports.

**OFFICE REPORT:** Kris Woroniecki stated that she received confirmation from the Michigan Horse Council that we will have our 10 x 10 booth space for the 2022 MHC Expo. Kris went on to ask the status of her contract. She was told that there should be something to review within the next week. She then shared some amazing news about the status of The Grand Agricultural Center. On Tuesday, Sept 21, 2021 the state budget was approved by the legislature, including a line item for \$5.2 MILLION for The Grand Agricultural Center of West Michigan for the Raising Barns, Raising Youth campaign. It is awaiting signature by the governor, but it looks very promising. Kris reiterated the MSU Pavilion's position on an alcohol-free campus which does pertain to our events and shared that there was some alleged bad behavior by a few of the attendees when it came to respecting the masking mandate and the MSU employees.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**CLINICS:** Sarah Switek stated that the committee has Mary Luther lined up to do an equitation clinic at the Harvest Classic.

**CONVENTION:** Sasha Glover indicated that he has been in contact with the hotel regarding the Convention contract. He explained the fee structure. There was a tentative schedule shared with the Board. The Board made no objections to the proposed schedule. The Committee will continue to work on planning the dinner and other activities.

**EASTER SHOW:** Monty Montgomery raised the idea of combining the rookie and novice pattern classes for the Easter show and possibly adding the AQHA adult walk-trot division. There was discussion and the committee will come back with more information. The application is due to AQHA by December 1 so there is still some time to make adjustments as the committee deems necessary.

**FINANCE REPORT:** Heather Coe stated that the August financials were not available due to the Labor Day holiday and the meeting dates being moved around, as the bookkeeper is not available to come in until September 27. She also discussed a bad check that was written to the Association from the Harbor Classic. The individual has been given until October 1 to pay the amount due or it will be sent to AQHA to begin a disciplinary process for writing a bad check at an AQHA event. The first payment on the Small Business Association loan is due October 8 and has been sent. It is still a possibility that the loan will be forgiven but there has been no guidance on the issue from anywhere.

**FUTURITY:** Mike Huntoon stated that he thought the Futurity was wildly successful. There were good numbers in the classes. The show ran very well with each day being done at a reasonable time. The judges did a great job. TNT did a great job. The technology is really nice. It helped to keep the show moving well. Mike is concerned about the Futurity dates for 2022 which will be dependent on what the Congress decides to do. There will be a Futurity meeting held on Sunday during the Convention. Austin Gooding asked about giving out Futurity paybacks at the show. He also suggested we purchase a large check prop for pictures at the event.

**HARBOR CLASSIC:** Barb Foster presented the profit and loss statement for the Harbor Classic. Overall the show did well.

**HALL OF FAME:** Mike Huntoon stated that the Committee is meeting soon to finalize the details for the Hall of Fame inductees.

**HARVEST CLASSIC:** Danielle Lindsay reported that the stall and camping reservations are starting to come in for the November event.

**MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICITY:** Danielle Lindsay remarked that she is planning to be present at the Michigan Horse Council Expo now that we have the booth spoken for. She will work to establish a schedule for volunteers.

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:** Sarah Switek brought up a discussion about changing the term of the President from the current ascension plan that is in place. She indicated that several on the Board feel it would be better if the President had a two-year term. Mike Huntoon named Sarah Switek, Barb Foster, Danielle Lindsay and Sasha Glover to assist the rule chairperson, Megan Hirschman in establishing the best path to present a written proposal to the Board for any of the proposed rule changes and the process necessary to achieve it.

**SHOW APPROVAL:** Megan Hirschman shared the proposed 2022 show calendar with the Board. She indicated that the show committees will need to determine the number of judges at the events since we did some rearranging in 2021 to get more shows in due to the pandemic.

**SPARTAN SPECTACULAR:** Barb Foster shared that the dates for the show will be April 29-May 1. Kris reminded her that the show application will be due by December 1.

**STALLION SERVICE SALE:** Austin Gooding stated that the office had already received a few stallion contracts for the sale. The office is working on the solicitations for the 2022 stallions. The catalog is being updated to a full page ad for each stallion, from the ¼ page ad. The office staff has reformatted all of the 2021 stallion ads and will be emailing them to the contact person requesting return of information for the sale. The sale will be held during the Convention and will also be on Facebook.

**TACK SALE:** Kris shared the tack sale information with the Board. She requested input on commercial space for the event. It is also the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the sale, so she suggested we do something to celebrate that. She and Barb will continue to work on it so it can get mailed soon.

**YEAR END AWARDS:** Monty Montgomery stated that the committee is starting to dig into the process. There will be more information provided at the upcoming meetings.

**YOUTH:** Sasha Glover expressed his gratitude to Christine West who helped track the points for the youth teams again this year. MQHA is sponsoring two NYATT teams. Both are Division 1 teams. Every youth who earned points and completed their requirements to be on the NYATT team was given a spot. The youth moms worked on the outfits for the kids. They have Haala jeans, a Cinch vest and they are working to purchase their shirts. The team photo is done. Sasha is also starting to prompt the youth about the Board elections. He also mentioned that this is the year we are losing more kids than normal due to age. Some of the youth moms have been soliciting for donations for the NYATT team. They will report back once there is more information. Sasha requested a review of the administrative fee being charged to the youth. Mike Huntoon stated that he would help and asked Sasha Glover to participate as well. Mike will include Megan Hirschman in the process since she was involved in prior years.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Back to Berrien circuit – Mike Hutoon brought the Board up to speed on the discussions he has been having with Jon Barry who represents a new Futurity circuit that is scheduled for the end of June. The Board decided that it was not in the best interest of MQHA to participate in the circuit. Kris will draft a letter to send to Jon Barry to officially give him the decision of the Board.

Kelly Chapman mentioned that there will be a National Director opening next spring.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:40 p.m. by unanimous consent without objection.

*The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.*