

MICHIGAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION
Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 6, 2022

President Barb Foster called a zoom meeting of the MQHA Board of Directors to order at 7:35 p.m. The following Directors and staff were present on the call: Meggen Baynes, Jennifer Bluhm, Heather Coe, Kevin Cubitt, Barb Foster, Sasha Glover, Austin Gooding, Megan Hirschman, Rob Kirkpatrick, Monty Montgomery, Chris Perniciaro, Sarah Switek and Kris Woroniecki. Also on the call was Shelley Donovan.

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

REVIEW OF MINUTES: President Foster asked that the President's report in the August minutes be replaced with the entirety of an email that was sent to the Board by her, prior to today's meeting. Austin Gooding made a motion to amend the August 9, 2022, minutes to replace the existing text with President Foster's email. Sasha Glover seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Due to the early meeting and the Labor Day holiday, August financials and treasurer's reports were not available for this meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Barb Foster reported that TNT Events is working on a 2023 contract and making revisions reflective of questions that have been brought up throughout the year. There have been no discussions about the costs currently. They should be submitting something soon.

OFFICE REPORT: Kris Woroniecki stated that she was contacted by GoHorseShow about renewing our advertising package with them. Meggen Baynes made a motion to renew it. Chris Perniciaro seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CLINICS: Jenny Bluhm stated that she had talked with Kris and is going to get some thank you notes. Jenny will send them to those who put on a clinic in 2022. She also discussed providing a gift for them indicating that they were a clinician, or a sponsor. She would like to purchase some cups for this purpose. Megan Hirschman stated that she would donate some and will work with Jenny to get the MQHA logo put on them.

CONVENTION: Sasha Glover stated that he has had formal discussion with the Grand Traverse Resort about the MQHA Convention. The resort is available January 20-22 weekend. He has reached out to JW Marriot in Grand Rapids as well as the Firekeepers but neither of those properties have responded to him.

FUTURITY: Chris Perniciaro mentioned that both barns are sold out for the futurity. The camping is sold out. The committee has received commitments for over \$12,000 in sponsorships. The committee is ready and excited for the event.

HALL OF FAME: Kevin Cubitt stated that the person has been determined. The horse has been narrowed down to two options and the committee should have that finalized after a bit more research.

HARVEST CLASSIC: Sarah Switek reported that the Harvest Classic showbill is complete and there is a full slate of EWD classes. The start time has been moved earlier for each of the days.

NOMINATIONS: Megan Hirschman explained to the board that there was one Letter of Intent submitted for the Vice President Elect position from Chris Perniciaro. Megan thanked Chris for his interest in the position and welcomed him into his position starting in January. Megan also discussed including more volunteers on committees. She reminded the board that committee members do not have to be on the board and that this is a good way to get help without them needing to be committed to the board. She reminded the board to help seek out people to run for the board. Three positions will be open for the upcoming election. The bios and resumes will be due the first of November for anyone wishing to run for a position. This will allow the office to prepare the information to have the ballots available at the November horse show.

YOUTH: The NYATT Teams were selected according to Sasha Glover, Youth Advisor. He stated that there are two teams supported by MQHA. The MQHA team is a Division 1 team and the MSBA team is a Division 2 team. Both teams will be very competitive. A lot of youth declined positions this year for various reasons when offered, therefore the process took a little longer than expected. The youth are currently working on their team attire and will get their order placed soon.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Michigan Equine Legislative Day, Lansing, MI - The day is to advocate for the equine industry and MQHA can provide perspective from the QH showing discipline. The staffers and legislators will be present, and we can share information with them. It is on September 21st. Sasha Glover and Megan Hirschman indicated that they could put together some information. Barb Foster will be in attendance. Chris Perniciaro offered to help also if need be.

Stall Reservation Process - Sarah Switek indicated that the current process for reserving stalls and camping for MQHA events is too complicated. She explained that she would like to change it so that stall reservations can be made and then paid for at the event once there are arrivals which would make it more user friendly. There was Board discussion about the need to collect money earlier than at the show in order to protect the association. It was decided that the restricted field for the camping permit would be removed. All other aspects will remain the same at this point.

Rookie and Novice Eligibility – There was a review of an email complaint received in the MQHA office regarding exhibitors who are knowingly showing in classes they are not eligible for. After much discussion, the Board came back to the same conclusion that has been reached when this has come up before. AQHA is the governing body for all rules including leveling issues. If AQHA indicates that a rider is eligible, even when people within MQHA are fully aware the rider is not eligible, MQHA cannot step in without serious liability issues. AQHA has said that if a signed complaint is submitted in writing, they can open a case on it and pursue it. Without a signed letter, they will not.

Open Show Circuits – Kevin Cubitt raised the issue of communicating with people showing on the open show circuits. He mentioned an idea of offering a listening forum with some of the open show circuit horse trainers. Megan Hirschman and Meggen Baynes will work to facilitate a conversation with them beginning with compiling a list of names. Kevin also discussed messaging within the Board and the need to soften dialog to help make a conversation less defensive and how important that is in communication. He feels that some of the board members need to do a better job with communication and messaging.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. by unanimous consent without objection. *The next meeting will be Thursday, November 10, format TBD.*