



NRCHA 2011 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Minutes

Thursday, February 3, 2011

Spur Arena Bar, San Angelo, TX 3:15 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT AND SIGNED IN: Paul Bailey, Darren Miller, Ramona Wold, Ken Wold, Daniel J. Perez, Russell Dilday, Jake Gorrell, Bozo Rogers, Justin & Diana Miller, Lori Wyman, Brad Pagh, Joe Cunningham, Mel Smith, Nichole Scott, Ramona Koch, Susan Modiac, Lyn Anderson, Susan Lyle, Barry Spinweber, Bill & Michele Cowan, Jerry & Kay Brewer, Murray Thompson, Darren Bilyea, Jackie Bilyea, Tish Wilhite, Amy Bailey, Wayne Kiel.

CALL TO ORDER

Paul Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm. He welcomed those in attendance. Minutes and attendance were recorded in writing by Ramona Wold.

- I. **Welcome. Introduction of 2011 NRCHA Board and Officers.**
 - Paul Bailey reported that he would be leading the meeting in the absence of NRCHA President, Kathy Gould, due to the fact that she was stuck in Dallas Texas airport due to weather delays. Paul also reported that Ramona Wold would take the place of NRCHA Secretary Carol Rose, due to the fact that she was taken to the hospital with a sudden illness. Paul announced and introduced all the new board members, executive members and officers. Paul also recommended and encouraged all the members of the NRCHA to get to know their Board Members.

- II. **Update on Association – Paul Bailey, Treasurer**
 - The NRCHA is working hard at the communication level between the Board and its members. Paul reported that the “E-Cow Work” newsletter, which is part of NRCHA President Kathy Gould’s efforts to get more information to the members has been well received and comes out very frequently. The NRCHA is also a member of “Facebook” and communicates to its fans, members and interested guests via this process and currently has over 6,900 people receiving information
 - Paul reported that there was an audience survey at the NRCHA World Championship Show, in San Angelo. There will be a drawing of all those

who filled out a survey along with those who fill out a member survey for a Shorty's 100x Hat. Information gathered will, along with the results of the Membership survey, be used for marketing the NRCHA.

- Cinch Announcement. Paul reported that the Cinch Corporation has agreed to become the title sponsor of the Snaffle Bit Futurity. Due to the weather conditions a Cinch representative could not attend to make the official presentation and announcement. Paul reported that there will be an official announcement soon.
- Professional Horseman's Association. It was noted that the NRCHA Board has recognized the Professional's Committee and agreed to many of its suggestions to better the association and events.
- Paul reported at the January, 2011 Board Meeting Jerry Alvord presented the letter he had written to the Board concerning the divisions available to the Non Pros in the LAE. He presented his concerns and suggestions to handle the problems at hand. Paul wanted the general membership to know that the NRCHA Board of Directors does care about the concerns of its members and it does listen and try to implement progressive changes. Jerry recommendations.

III. Financial Overview – Paul Bailey, Treasurer

- Paul passed out an up to date Balance Sheet regarding the NRCHA Accounts. He reviewed each item on the balance sheet. Regarding the large amount of money listed as the Stallion Subscriptions, Paul wanted the membership to understand that this money is specifically earmarked for each year of the Stallion Stakes and should the NRCHA ever cease to exist these funds would be returned to the Stallion Owners. There were no questions or comments from the membership.

IV. New Classes and Programs for 2011 – Darren Miller, NRCHA Executive Committee

- Darren reported the implementation of the new Novice Horse Class. This will be a Stand-alone class at every Major NRCHA Event in 2011. Horses that have not won \$5,000.00 in Limited Age Event Earnings will qualify for this class. This is based on LAE of the HORSE not the rider. This is also good for the entire year. Therefore, if a horse is entered in the Novice Horse and the Open at the Stallion Stakes, that horse wins in excess of \$5,000, it will still be eligible the whole year to show in the Novice Horse classes. The entry fee for this class is \$500.00 and there will be \$3,500 added to this class. The concept of this class is to keep people interested and give them a field in which to show their horses without having to compete against horses who have won an excessive amount. This added money will come from the NRCHA general fund.
- Jake Gorrell asked if this was going to be a class that will be offered at the Non Pro division as well.

- Paul Bailey responded that the Board would like to see how well it is received before extending it to the Non Pros. He hoped it would be applied into the Non Pro divisions by 2012.
- Darren reported that there is a new division in the Open division of the Major Events. The class is called “Level One”. The class will be held on its own. The horse does not have to be entered in the Open Division to enter the Level One. It will have its own herd work. This division will be implemented for all NRCHA-produced Limited Age events in 2011, including the Snaffle Bit Futurity. There was a lot of discussion from members concerning how the fees would be paid and the time frame for those fees.
- Ken Wold commented that this could be a problem if we allow horses entered in the Open to move their money to the Level One. He felt people would take advantage of the program and move horses that ‘don’t turn out’ to the Level One and put their assistant trainers on them to show. Then the Open division would lose that money.
- Darren reported that the idea of the Level One class wasn’t to necessarily make a place for the assistant trainers but rather encourage newcomers who may already show Team Penners, Ranch Rodeo competitors, etc.
- Darren reported that he was the person instrumental for the implementation of the “Convenience Fee” for the Slots at the Snaffle Bit Futurity. He felt it was the only solution he could approach the Board with because there was some pressure to do away with the Slot Payments altogether.
- Darren reported further on the presentation that Jerry Alvord did for the Board concerning the NRCHA Non Pro Division for the LAE. He said that Jerry was working on ideas with Paul Bailey and the Non Pro Committee to improve the Non Pro divisions, especially at the Snaffle Bit Futurity. He reported that the Board agrees that there must be a change to improve the Non Pro and make it appealing for current Non Pro exhibitors and those who are looking to get involved.
- Tish Wilhite felt that divisions within the Non Pro would be beneficial.
- Bozo Rogers reported that the division within the Non Pro would be great and appealing to those Non Pros who don’t have the opportunity to ride daily. He used his wife as an example. He said his wife was a school teacher and she was only able to ride on the weekends. She would love to show more, but she can’t practice enough and travel to all the shows.

- Lori Wyman commented that we need divisions to allow us to not just keep our current members but to get more new people.
- Michele Cowan commented on Jerry's solution for the current Non Pro "problem".
- Paul Bailey reported that Jerry Alvord has presented the idea to revamp the Non Pro Divisions consist of Levels. Briefly he explained that there would consist of Levels 1 through 4 based on a 3 year average and would fluctuate. However, it would still be as it is today, that once a rider has LTE of \$5K or greater that they can never be allowed in the Amateur again. This averaging system needs to be implemented and will allow more money and prizes per level.
- Darren Miller reported that a Non Pro Select or Prime Time Division is being considered for the NRCHA World Show for 2012. This would be a concurrent class and not a stand-alone. Darren recommended that this be set at 55 years and over, modeled after the NRHA. We will need a way to finance this division.

V. Forum Discussion.

- Joe Cunningham – Drug & Medication Policy. Joe questioned the Board about the Drug & Medication declaration he had to pay \$10 for and sign upon checking in to the office at the 2011 World Show. He argued that this was not mentioned in the Terms & Conditions of this show and he does not feel he needed to sign it or pay the money. He was concerned that we would have to start paying this fee at every weekend show. He wanted to know when the NRCHA would stop charging for this fee and that fee. He is strongly against any drug fee or regulation.
- Darren Miller responded: The NRCHA Board felt that we, as an organization, needed to stay ahead of government regulations. If the NRCHA regulates itself then the government wouldn't feel the need to come in and govern us. He reported that this act from the NRCHA was a proactive move.
- Ken Wold responded that in California we are drug tested for every event. It is a rule in the state. He also mentioned that he has been at shows where PETA scrutinized every move the cowboys and exhibitors made and it is not good to have these types of organizations reviewing you. He reported that we should encourage and support our organization for being proactive concerning our own drug policy. This levels the playing field for exhibitors.
- Bozo Rogers responded that in Europe the Animal Rights Activist have gotten so strict that they only allow horses to be hauled for 4 hours at a time then the horses must rest for 4 hours outside of the trailer.

- Amy Bailey responded that in Tennessee they are so restricted that it has become a Federal Offense to use substances on horses while shown, simply because organizations did not police themselves.
- Ken Wold commented that he had been to shows where PETA had videoed trainers schooling and handling horses. He agreed that the NRCHA needed to put the drug policy into affect because “policing ourselves” greatly outweighed any external force coming in and policing you.
- Bill Cowan commented that the reason we have an elected NRCHA Board of Directors is to represent the “WHOLE” of the NRCHA.
- Joe Cunningham redirected that he would like to see this information in the Terms and Conditions of the NRCHA World Show Entry.
- Darren Miller, as a representative of the NCHA Board, said he would bring this issue up at the next Board of Directors Meeting.

ADJORNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:20pm. Paul thanked everyone for attending and for the input.

NEXT MEETING

The next general meeting is to be determined and will be announced at a later date.