

Minnesota Arabian Horse Association
Board Meeting
December 16, 2024

Present:,Christy Caspers, Hillary Hoffman, Teresa LeFever, Roberta Lembke, Brook Matthiesen, Toni Marie O'Daniel, Robert Belknap Carolyn Brockpahler

Meeting Called to Order by President Christy Caspers at 6:02

The Board approved the minutes of the November 2024 board meeting.

President's Report

Due to the fire at MEC, the spring Show was moved to Simons Arena. We will wait until May or June to determine the location for the Fall Classic.

Christy is continuing to work on incorporating adaptive rider classes into our shows. It is not possible for the Spring Fling, but will investigate what is possible for the Fall Classic.

Christy reported that her email address is being scammed and all board members should be vigilant to carefully read the correspondence and verify the actual sender before responding.

Four board members will be departing the board: Hillary Hoffman, Nathan Hofstad, Carolyn Brockphaler, and Steph Meachman. We have three individuals who have expressed an interest in serving.

Christy thanked Hillary Hoffman for her work on the MAHA Board over the past years and wished her well in her work as the new Region X Director.

Region 10 Director Update

Hillary Hoffman, Region X Director reported on some of the Region 10 initiatives:

1. Communications Plan. Efforts will also be put towards getting the 209 AHA members living in Region X but have not joined one of the local clubs. Additionally, the region will work on getting 600+ people with expired memberships to rejoin a local club.
2. Updating Club Membership on the Region 10 and AHA websites.
3. Hire a Youth Coordinator to lead the activities, including hiring a youth leader.

Convention Update

Christy reminded the delegates that they need to circulate their reports within 60 dates. Hot topics of the meeting included the restructuring, USDA inspections, marking/grants, and current state of technology.

Restructuring resolution did not receive the necessary approval by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the delegates. They reached 60%.

USDA Inspections is intervening in a guidance role and doing inspections at shows. Attendance at our Arabian shows is not expected.

Resolutions From Convention Worth Noting:

- Showmanship Scorecard – is now mandatory when it is a multi-judge show.
- Banding is allowed in reins and forlocks in reining
- Designated Runner in performance halter classes when the handler cannot run
- Leveling Change: As a former trainer, an amateur cannot show in select or choice.

Officers elected were: Lisa Blackstone was elected as President. Duane Esser is the new Vice President, Nancy Harver, Secretary, Lance Walters treasurer.

Spring Fling

Teresa gave an update on the show. Simons Arena can make some of the stalls larger by taking out the center divider. Rooms have been reserved at the local hotel. Teresa will reevaluate pricing as the facility is more expensive, but this decrease is countered with higher prices for items such as shavings. Pricilla Cluff is the judge.

4. Resolution to launch Hay Scholarship (Christy)

Motion to approve the Hay Scholarship concept as drafted by Christy (See Amended document is below). Motion seconded by Lori and seconded by Teresa. Friendly amendment to change volunteer hours to 3 hours and that MAHA take the following six to nine months to consider how the alternative ideas can be incorporated. Roberta made a motion to amend. Lori seconded the friendly amendment. Motion passed. The information about the scholarship will go into the Just in Time mailing and the premium book.

DW Productions

Toni Marie made a motion, seconded by Brook to approve \$500 for the DW show to sponsor 4 buckles. Motion passed.

MN Horse Expo

Details are yet to be determined but the Expo will be at Canterbury Park this year. We are limited to only two horses.

Treasurer Report: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:30

MAHA Marilyn J. Hay Youth \$1,000.00 Scholarship Program

Eligibility: MAHA youth (ages 13-19) who have not yet graduated from high school (or its equivalent) and have an intent to attend post-secondary education of any kind including trade schools, community colleges, private or public colleges or universities on a full-time basis.

Scholarship Award: \$1,000.00 for those completing the requirements. This is not a needs based scholarship.

Requirements for scholarship:

- Eligibility Period: Grades 9-12
- Must be a member of USEF, AHA and MAHA (holding a competition card)
- Must be 13 to 19 years old and have not yet graduated from high school (or its equivalent)
- Must show in at least six (6) MAHA shows (Spring Fling and/or Fall Classic) through the time of graduation year.
 - NOTE: for the launch year (2025) the following modified requirements/award value:
 - For those who are current Juniors in high school, such individuals must show in a minimum of four (4) MAHA shows
 - For current Seniors in high school, a minimum of two (2) MAHA shows.
 - Awards for current Juniors meeting the documentation requirements shall be \$750.00 and awards for current Seniors who meet the documentation requirements shall be \$500.00.
- Special Circumstances: Should a youth be unable to show at one or more MAHA shows solely due to their own documented illness or the unavailability of a horse, such participation can be “made up” by receiving approval from the Selection Committee of volunteering for three hours at an alternative MAHA show or (also upon approval of the Selection Committee) of volunteering at a Region 10 show. This special exemption is only upon approval of the Selection Committee and only for exceptional circumstances.
- The award will be made directly to the post-secondary educational institution that the recipient is enrolled.
- The recipient must not be a child of an active board member at the time of the award.
- The recipient’s financial status or need is irrelevant to the award.
- In order to be awarded the scholarship funds, the Recipient must provide the following to treasurerofmaha@gmail.com:
 - Documentation of attendance at the required number of MAHA shows (this can be an itemized receipt; AHA record of having shown or similar documentation)
 - Documentation of USEF/AHA/MAHA membership

- an active email address of the financial aid office of the institution for payment of scholarship.
- Failure to provide such documentation (or if documentation cannot be verified) within sixty (60) days of enrollment at a post-secondary educational institution shall result in forfeiture of the scholarship award.
- There is no application for this scholarship award other than the provision of and meeting the documentation requirements within the time period specified above.

Selection Committee: The Selection Committee shall be made up of the then current President, Vice President and Treasurer of MAHA. All eligible participants who meet the requirements shall be awarded a scholarship of \$1,000.00 except for the launch year Juniors and Seniors (see above for special launch year requirements). All scholarships will be awarded on an objective and nondiscriminatory basis. The Selection Committee shall not be donor controlled, and all funds shall be from the Hay Trust.

This policy must be approved by the Marilyn J. Hay Estate Trustee (Rebecca Bell), the IRS and the MAHA Board of Directors. This Program may only be changed by the MAHA Board of Directors. The MAHA Board reserves the right to terminate this Program which is dependent on availability of funds as well as ongoing use of the Program. Should this Program be terminated, the Board will honor any then current requests for funds assuming documentation requirements are fulfilled.

The IRS requires:

1. A statement describing the selection process
2. A description of the terms and conditions under which the Board ordinarily makes such scholarships that is sufficient to enable the IRS to determine whether the scholarships awarded under such procedures would meet the requirements of IRC 4945(g)(1), (2), or (3)
3. A detailed description of the procedure for exercising supervision over scholarships
4. A description of the procedures for review of reports, for investigation in case diversion of grant funds from their proper purposes is indicated, and for recovery of diverted grant funds