

**Tennessee Walking Horse Shows of America
Minutes for 2005 Annual Meeting
November 12, 2005**

The 2005 Tennessee Walking Horse Shows of America annual meeting was called to order at 10:15 am, on November 12, 2005, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, East Gate, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Present:

President Dave Wenger

Vice President Mary Poell

Treasurer Rick Chovan

Secretary Maria Redmond was not present, but was replaced for this meeting by Linda McCrillis Chovan*

* Secretary Kris Herman resigned. Maria Redmond was appointed to replace her.

Also present:

Lynn Wenger, Nancy Eakins, Mark & Deb Matson, Tracy Weir, Noble & Pat Stout, Earl & Linda Kittle, Elizabeth Thornsby, Crystal and Nick Calvet, Chuck & Romona Pinyard, and Ralph Lakes

Mag Ranft made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2004 meeting. The motion received a second. Unanimously approved.

Opening: Dave Wenger

State of TWHSA: There have been 6 successful shows. TWHSA has brought fun back to showing. The judges have been good and more people are coming. There are good quality horses showing. TWHSA will continue to grow as long as we keep going in the direction we are. Stay focused on building a show circuit where show is the customer, and where the shows make money as opposed to having to rely on donations. There are some shows that will need more commitments, if TWHSA members run them next year. There are still negative comments flying around, such as the one that TWHSA fixes the classes. If folks take an honest look at the shows, it is clear that this has never happened.

Committee Reports:

Ethics and By Laws Committee: Mark Matson and Randy Perry are co-chairmen. Randy was not present. Mark Matson was the committee representative.

There was a discussion about the bylaws, and whether or not there any concerns or items that

needed to be addressed. These are interim bylaws, which were to remain in effect until adopted as final at the 2006 annual meeting. It was pointed out that this is the 2005 and was it not the intention for these bylaws to be voted on at this meeting. It was explained that it was not initially clear when the 2005 annual meeting would occur, and so it was assumed that the bylaws would remain in effect until possibly 2006 meeting.

There was a discussion of who would be voting at this meeting, as not everyone present had paid 2005 dues. It was discussed that membership in TWHSA was not stressed in 2005, but rather, affiliation was a point of focus. It was also discussed that TWHSA cannot be a member driven organization if it does not have members. It was pointed out that at the 2004 meeting, it was agreed that the Steering Committee operational for 2 or 3 years. At the last conference call, this was modified and it was agreed that as soon as TWHSA hit a membership threshold so that the structure of TWHSA would be protected from immediate change. The issue of donations and freely given labor for TWHSA being counted for membership was also raised.

Mag Ranft made a motion that everyone who cared enough about TWHSA to come to this meeting be permitted to vote. The motion received a second. Discussion of the motion followed. The motion carried.

Rules Committee: Mary Beth Pruett is Chairman. She was not present. There was no representative.

There was a discussion of a problem that came up at one of the Mid Ohio shows regarding the definition of professional verses amateur. Rules for a professional generally state that the person is an adult, and accepts remuneration from people who are outside the immediate family of the professional. The question is what is remuneration, and does it involve paying expenses or taking someone to dinner. There was discussion on what the NHSC Rule Book says about professional and amateur status, as well as opinions offered as to what criteria should be used to define a trainer.

Lynn Wenger made a motion that we include in the TWHSA Rule Book the line that an amateur can accept a small token of appreciation, other than money, and reimbursement for expenses without profit. The motion received a second. There was no discussion on the motion. It passed unanimously.

There was a discussion of allowing bands on plantation horses at TWHSA affiliated shows. The TWHSA Rule Book makes provisions for bands in the Park Pleasure Division. The decision as to whether or not to offer classes for horses wearing bands is a show management decision.

Tracy Weir made a motion that the Rule Book remain unchanged as to the issue of bands on Plantation Horses, as there is an option for shows who wish to include classes for horses wearing bands. The motion received a second. There was further discussion regarding the motion. The motion carried with 4 opposed.

As there were dissenting votes, in the consensus process, the reasoning behind the dissenting votes must be heard. If an impasse is reached, then there must be a vote on whether those arguments were persuasive or non-persuasive. If the argument is voted persuasive, then the motion is to be tabled for further study and discussion. However, if the no voters changed their votes to abstentions, those votes are considered negative, but the body can move onto other issues.

There was clarification on the bands issue, that those in favor or it wanted the TWHSA rule book to be changed to eliminate the Plantation Division and to only have a Park Pleasure Division.

The four individuals who initially voted against the motion changed their votes to abstentions.

There was discussion about putting together a group or a committee to put together penalties and consequences for breaking rules. The penalties imposed by the HPC are only for violations of the Horse Protection Act. Point of order was that there is a Rules Committee, and that committee needs to be tasked with this project. Rules Committee members are Carol Smithson and Mary Beth Pruett. Ralph Lakes and Romona Pinyerd volunteered to work with Carol and Mary Beth on this matter. The Rules Committee will be tasked with putting together penalties and bringing this back to the Steering Committee for vote.

The Steering Committee consists of:

TWHSA Officers

President - Dave Wenger
Vice President - Mary Poell
Treasurer - Rick Chovan
Secretary - Maria Redmond

Membership & Show Management Committee:

Mag Ranft

Judge's Committee:

Carol Smithson

Rules Committee:

Mary Beth

Ethics & Bylaws Committee:

Randy Perry and Mark Matson

DQP Committee:

Donna Benefield

Founder's Committee:

Lynn Wenger

Trainers Committee:

Ralph Lakes

At Large: Chuck Pinyerd (also working with Show Committee)

Web Site: Tracy Weir (also working on Judge's Committee)

DQP Committee: Donna Benefield is the chairman. She was not present.

There was a discussion of the relationship TWHSA has with HPC, which is good, and the fact that show management has generally had good experiences with HPC DQPs.

There was a discussion of HPC fees and if there is a way that TWHSA and HPC can become more financially competitive with other horse inspection organizations (HIOs), and the fees that NHSC and NWAH charged shows in 2005.

Ralph Lakes made a motion that three people go: Rick Chovan, Randy Perry and Mark Matson. The motion received a second. There was discussion on the motion.

Mag Ranft made a motion that Mark Matson meet with Donna Benefield to see what can be worked out, and then that he come back with a proposal to be discussed on a conference call. The motion received a second. 13 in favor; 4 abstained. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm, and reconvened at 2:15 pm

Founder's Fund Committee: Lynne Wenger is the Chairman

There was discussion about the Foundation Fund. Lynne Wenger reported that the Foundation Fund was not able to collect money until there was a bank account. Commitments were made, but a lot of people didn't follow through with their commitments. About \$4,000 was collected, but the commitments made were higher than what was collected. As the task of the Founder's Fund was completed, the committee should be dissolved.

Treasurer's Report: Rick Chovan, Treasurer

There was discussion on an affiliation check sent to TWHSA by the Michigan Charity Horse Show. A stop payment was subsequently placed on the check by the issuer, and TWHSA incurred a \$10 fee. Atty. Martha Childs subsequently sent a letter to Cliff Blossom, who had made the original affiliation commitment to TWHSA on behalf of MCHS and to the Walking Horse Association of Michigan (WHAM) of which Cliff Blossom is the 2005 president. The letter said that WHAM interfered with the contractual obligation of MCHS to TWHSA and that legal action could be taken.

The facts preceding the letter was that MCHS had an agreement with TWHSA to affiliate. There was a signed contract and a check was issued. The check was not deposited promptly into the TWHSA bank account, and so when it was eventually deposited, it was then learned that a stop payment had been put on it. MCHS did not choose to discuss the matter with TWHSA, and

elected just to cancel the check.

There are many other issues with WHAM right now. The MCHS was not a WHAM show, but a private show that Cliff Blossom, president of WHAM, took over. WHAM had no involvement in the show. Most people who are knowledgeable about the situation expected TWHSA to take some sort of action when MCHS changed their affiliation to NWA.

Judges Committee: Carol Smithson is the Chairman. She was not present. Tracy Weir was the committee representative.

There was no new information from the Judge's Committee. There is concern that TWHSA needs more judges on their list, and any suggestions should be forwarded to Tracy Weir or to Carol Smithson. The Judge's Committee has been discussing, for one more year, approving judges that are already licensed and putting those judges on the Judge's List. The Judge's Committee believes that there is not the money or the time for a Judge's Clinic before the 2006 show season starts. For 2006 there would be an open book test, which would require that judges to go through rule book for the answers to the test. They would then mail back their responses. The Judge's Committee felt that there was a problem in that the rule book was not sent out to the judges on the TWHSA list.

Few evaluations have been sent in. The evaluation process needs to be improved and revised in order to help improve the pool of judges. The Judge's Committee would like to add between 10 and 12 new judges to the list we already have. They are looking for a list of people who would actually work with TWHSA.

Current Judges:

Danielle Gernt Johnson
Wayne Hackney
Lonnie Kuhn
Lori Snyder Lowe
Scott MacGregor
Marilynne Orr
Cash McCall
Dale Siedel
Jim Singleton
Vernon Stamper
Carol Smithson
Tracy Weir

Leslie Boatwright Smith would like to be added to the list. She had some matters that needed to be corrected first, and Mag Ranft said that those matters have been handled.

Possible considerations would be Adam Hall and Carol Camp Tosh; however, there are concerns as to whether they would be willing to split their time between us and the NWA show they are assigned. There is also a concern that we not fill TWWSA's Judge's List with all NWA judges. Names suggested today were:

Gary Oliver
Marsha Glessner
Phil Snodgrass
Dwight Mongold.

There is a problem with having Tracy Weir and Lori Snyder Lowe on the list, as they will probably never get to judge so long as the majority of shows are in Ohio or in that region.

The TWWSA Judge's Committee has discussed asking people at shows to watch classes that they have no involvement in, and rate a judge's performance. Those who are asked to rate classes should sit by themselves and evaluate specific classes.

There was one negative evaluation for the MOWHA Spring Show on the DQP, but there were many complaints about the judging for the Ohio Classic.

There was discussion on how exhibitors can get advice as to what they need to work on with their horses so that they can be more competitive. There was some discussion between members about putting in book form what judges are looking for, so exhibitors read the booklet and know what the judge is supposed to be looking for.

Membership and Show Management Committee: Mag Ranft is the Chairman. She represented the committee.

There was discussion on the fact that the initial task of the Membership and Show Development Committees was to set a fee structure and get forms done. This task was completed.

There was discussion about reaching out to people for membership purposes, and the data base that was available for this task. Sending out labels to shows that affiliate as opposed to giving the shows the actual data base developed. Mag Ranft and Tracy Weir will work on this project.

There was discussion that exhibitors told show office officials that they were happy not to have to have amateur cards.

TWWSA members are willing to go and talk to potential affiliating shows.

There was discussion on how shows raise sponsorship money. Door knockers are the best but they are hard to get. Crystal Calvet offered her and her husband, Nick's services for advertising for sponsors.

There was discussion about developing new shows, to include a championship show in September. It was pointed out that what is really needed is for more people to come to the shows that are already established.

The Mid-Atlantic Walking Horse Association (MATWHA) doesn't want to affiliate with TWHSA because TWHSA doesn't offer something for every breed that MATWHA has high point awards for. The TWHSA high point program focuses only on walking horses. MATWHA doesn't feel that TWHSA can represent their wide variety of exhibitors. The Plantation Walking Horse Association of Tennessee (PWHAT) is going to use the National Horse Show Commission (NHSC) for one of their shows and the remaining shows will be independent.

The North Central Walking Horse Association has a contract with TWHBEA for seed money, and is committed to the NHSC for 3 years.

The Greencastle, IN, show had such a poor turn out that exhibitors and the judge gave back money. The Indiana Celebration has gone from 600 entries to 300 in a year.

There is so much going on with WHAM right now that it does not appear to be prudent to approach WHAM at this time. They can't agree on a ballot for officers and they have reportedly cancelled their next election.

The people who took over the Pennsylvania Celebration entered into an agreement with TWHBEA, and have 2 more years of contract with TWHBEA. The name, Pennsylvania Celebration, is still available because the Pennsylvania Walking Horse Association/NorthEastern Walking Horse Association, had to get a new name, and went with Pennsylvania Walking Horse Show. There doesn't seem to be enough support to re-establish a show in Western Pennsylvania.

A contact will be made with the Plantation Walking Horse Association of Indiana to see if there is any affiliation interest from this organization.

There might be a chance of MOWHA and TWHSA working together for a fall championship show, but that this would be down the line as the focus must be to get more horses at the shows that are already established.

It was suggested that show bills come out early, like in January, rather than in the summer.

TWHSA hasn't had a disqualification or suspension list. Show office management has watched the list that NWHHA publishes and what is available from other sources. Two issues came up over the season in the show office. The first involved amateur status, and the other was indebtedness to show. As to the indebtedness issue, the person admitted that they had not paid the outstanding obligations, and they were told that they would have to pay cash to show. The exhibitor agreed. As to the amateur status issue, the person wanted to show in amateur classes. They didn't have an

amateur card, and their amateur status had been revoked by NWA.

TWWSA will only disqualify those who have horse protection act violations, and that status revocations and other non-HPA violations don't prevent exhibitors from showing at TWWSA affiliated shows.

It was agreed that TWWSA needs to get suspension lists, and show office management would continue to monitor for those who have a history of indebtedness to shows.

Trainer's Committee: Ralph Lakes is the Chairman. He represented the committee.

No report submitted.

Old Business:

There was discussion about running an ad in The Voice Magazine for high point winners for the purpose of honoring those winners and for promoting TWWSA membership. There was discussion as to whether this should still be done, and if it should be one page. It was agreed that this should be done, and that there should be two facing pages; however, it will have to be for the January issue of The Voice, as the deadline for the December 2005 issue is past.

Linda Chovan made a motion that we ask Maria Redmond to do the copy for this, to include a page and pictures of the awards presentation as well as a listing of TWWSA winners. The motion received a second. There was no discussion on the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Today's experience with the consensus process was discussed, and it was felt that TWWSA needs to look at this method of resolution and somehow modify it. There is no point in having bylaws and then not doing what the bylaws say. There must be a way to discuss issues and give opinions without binding up the meeting. It was recognized that the goal of the consensus process is to keep a group interacting and to prevent the minority from being shut out. The process can go quickly once the group is accustomed to it. It was agreed that TWWSA needs to refine the technique, and not to make the mistake of forcing a decision based on a time table.

Conflicting statements exist in Sections II and III, where the bylaws talk about 2/3 majority votes, and if there are negative votes, they are preferably in writing with supporting documentation. One part of the bylaws deals with general membership meetings while the other addresses committees. Bylaws have not been passed, so they can be reviewed again.

Mag Ranft made a motion to look at this section of the bylaws again. The motion received a second. There was no discussion. The motion passed with one abstention.

New Business:

There was discussion of the fact that at the awards presentation, TWHSA gave an award to a member who contributed enormously for the betterment of TWHSA.

Tracy Weir made a motion to appoint Mary Poell to a committee for the purpose of, in coming years, determining if there is someone worthy of being honored for their contribution. The motion received a second. No discussion of the motion; it carried unanimously.

There was discussion of giving high point award winners a check with their ribbon to the end of having more people come to the awards presentation because they would be getting more than just a ribbon. Nominations for high points was suggested as a way of paying for that suggestion. A luncheon and awards presentation at the same time was suggested as it was not cost effective for people to come to get a ribbon and to pay \$20 per head for hors devours.

The Founder's Committee finished it's task and is now dissolved. Not all the money that was pledged was collected.

Lynne Wenger made a motion to establish the Red Hat Rules Committee, with her, Linda Kittle and Crystal Calvet to serve on same. The committee will set rules for the Red Hat Class fund raisers so that show managers do will not have to make up rules for the class at the shows. The Committee will also come up with fund raising ideas, such as auctioning off old tack at TWHSA affiliated shows. The motion received a second. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion as to why TWHSA does not have a newsletter. It was explained that a newsletter was not established because of the cost. While Nick Calvet said that he would donate the printing of a newsletter, this left unaddressed the issues of who would write the newsletter and how postage for same would be paid.

TWHSA will stay with the same core of people as were set into TWHSA positions last year. The Steering Committee will remain intact for 2006.

Comments:

In general, this was a good meeting. There were people present who have different views than her, but the discussions were good, and it is good that not one or two people run TWHSA.

There was a question as to why shows don't charge admission. It was explained that this is a show management decision, and that, for example, MOWHA has not done this for years because of the need to have someone at every gate. MOWHA believes that for their shows there are not enough pure spectators to merit an admission fee, and that the organization doesn't want to discourage those who come to the show to watch.

There was a question as to whether or not concessions can be done at shows, and it was explained

that this depends on the rules of the show grounds, who may require that you use their concessionaires.

The next conference call was set for Sunday, December 11, 2005, at 6 pm. Rick Chovan will email information to members as to how to get on the call.

Ralph Lakes made a motion to adjourn. The motion received a second. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McCrillis Chovan

Accepted as written: _____

Accepted with the following changes: