

RHBAA General Membership Meeting
Saturday, September 27, 2014
8:00 am Hospitality Room

President Walker called the meeting to order.

Mr. John Mark Hubbard gave the invocation.

President Walker asked if everyone has the unapproved minutes. President Walker states he will entertain a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Jim Morris made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Darlene Harris second. Motion carried.

President Walker asked if everyone had the Treasurer's Report. Does anyone have questions concerning the report? President Walker states he will entertain a motion to accept the Treasurer's as submitted. Kent Lawrence made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Mike Etheredge second. Motion carried.

President Walker moved to Old Business. Jim Roberts requested to speak on the old business and referred to the minutes requesting everyone turn to old business the second page where it talks about election of judges. My thoughts are to move forward by taking the association's presidents and the membership (RHBAA president) and have those persons to come up with a set of recommendations before Winter Meetings. We could not do anything at Winter Meetings because of the 2 year rule. This Winter Meetings we can do something about it. Mr. Roberts wants to charge the committee presidents to come back to the Board of Directors with a set of recommendations before Winter Meetings and the Board at least have a proposal to vote on at Winter Meetings. Mr. Roberts states that he is coming with a proposal at Winter Meeting himself if this group does not come with something different then what we have now. I think to get a broader scope this is a way for the members to report to the different heads of the associations and then have it turned in to the board, so they can get a whole lot more ideas. I think any change could be better than what we have now.

Mr. Roberts made a motion the that "Chairs of the different associations will sit on a committee and it will be their charge to come up with some ideals to bring to the board and then out of those ideals propose something to the membership and have it ready to be voted on at the Winter Meetings". Brian Perkins second.

President Walker: "I appreciate the motion more than you know, I am ready to wipe the slate clean, and start from scratch. So thank you for this motion and give us more time to think, instead of just acting like I wanted to do. This is the most important issue we have to deal with there are a lot of issues that need addressing but this is most important.

We are basically saying, through committees we would like them to poll the general membership and come up with ideas on how to revamp the system, not just choosing a judge but how to make the judging program better, and vice versa if general membership has ideas contact these committee members and let your voice be heard. President Walker is asked who heads the committees, and he lets everyone know they are online, and then lists the presidents”.

Darlene Harris: “Please let us know some of the ideas you have to let us think about”.

President Walker: “I don’t want to speak from frustration, but I would go back to the judges section and re-do the whole thing, I am not picking on these people, I started in 89 and I have heard talk about the judges every year since then. When I read the judges section the part that is frustrating to me is it speaks to the knowledge of the racking horse twice, and then there after it speaks numerous time about personal integrity and honesty and character and reputation among your peers and it goes on to say, that it’s not a right it’s a privilege, our rule book is filled full of parameters of how we are supposed to elect or judges and it gives you the ability and the authority to make judgment calls based upon those things, knowledge of a racking hose, reputation among your peers, integrity, personal honesty, and character. For whatever reason, well we all know the reason we don’t want to judge someone’s integrity as we don’t want to be judged by someone on our integrity but that is the parameters by which we should be picking out judges, that is an uncomfortable place to be in but that is what we are asked to do. We have abandoned that side of it all together and we just go back to the other criteria. I think we somehow need to start from scratch. My idea would be to start over completely and use that list we have in our rule book and select judges according to that. When I talk to everyone about this, I get over whelming response that, this is a good idea except from the judges. The judges think it’s terrible. But I will say there are some that say it’s not fair that we have worked to get our license and we really try to do what is right and we would have to start from scratch. If this is the idea we decide to use, I would say to that, if you truly have been a good judge you have studied and advanced your skills as a judge and you have expressed integrity and honesty and so and so forth, and it goes to a hand selection process they shouldn’t have to worry they will be hand selected the thing is your reputation is already built”.

Jim Roberts: “President Walker did the judges take a lie detector test last night”?

President Walker: “They are in the process now, it’s actually a much longer process than I had originally thought, it takes between an hour and half and 2 hours per judge, and with 5 judges you’re talking 7.5 to 10 hour process. The rule book states they have to be given within 24 hours before or after the last class, we are confined to either today or tomorrow to do the test. Any other discussion on that topic”.

Mr. Roberts amended his motion to include a person from the Show Committee. Mr. Perkins second. Motion carries as submitted.

Delay committee reports to the end. Motion carried

President Walker: "Let's move onto the chain issue". President Walker gives a background on the chain issue and his feelings on the situation, and what came about when they visited Washington. He recapped speaking to the board, the trainers and then general membership. After informing every one of the outcomes, when everything settled down the board decided, instead of them making the decision themselves, they would put it to the general membership, and let everyone decide for themselves, that way there was no question.

President Walker: "What I will say about both sides of the issues is I appreciate the passion, I don't think there is ill will on either side, it's a hot situation and there have been a few things that I have been disappointed in, but over all I don't think there is specific ill will from anyone".

The membership: There are numerous statements stating everyone is upset because the poll is not on the website, or the committees. President Walker sends someone to get the numbers. President Walker then discusses the process in which we sent the poll out to general membership, how you are eligible and what the process was.

The Membership: voices complaints "The office did not send the poll in a timely manner to allow for people to return by the dead line". It was insinuated that this was done on purpose.

President Walker rebutted this statement, "although it may have appeared to happen that way, I can assure you nothing was planned to not give sufficient time".

President Walker also assured that "through discussion with other people, their thoughts were, we are not returning our ballot because we support what the board does and will honor their decision. We really wanted the returned ballots, we wanted to know what you thought, and we wanted your vote. We got more comments on the judges than anything".

The Membership: "Why does the board feel so compelled to do away with a whole division? I don't think you see people that show in the specialty action division saying that we should do away with the pleasure association and their classes; I think every division brings something to the breed. I think what the board has chosen to do is say we don't need this division any longer, and that's a concern for me because that's where I like to show. So you are forcing the people to change the venue in which we show our horses. I don't think we can afford half of the breed to leave to find another venue to show. If the original vote was so close, to me, I don't think we even need to have this discussion".

The discussion then flows back into the topic that "judges are where we need to make the change, chain or no chain, we should be tying racking horses not walking period".

Discussion continues to circle the fact that "until we deal with the judges nothing else will get fixed. A suggestion is brought to the group, that we should have a peer review of the show, randomly select general membership and review the judging and the show. Peer review could be a good thing, because even in sports there are peer reviews to keep judges honest".

"If we don't have enough judges in the system that we can trust why don't we go outside the system and hire judges".

President Walker then discusses the chain, and what was discussed in Washington with the USDA "the chain was a topic of discussion at some length while the pad wasn't discussed very much". President Walker gives personal opinion, the reason they are not meeting with individuals from the horse community is proven over time they are not credible. What you want is someone with some credibility to be able to bridge some gaps if that is possible.

General Membership "wants to have a final say in the chain issue, Judges are brought up once again, in terms of losing our gait, we are turning our horses into something else, and because of the way we are judging".

DQP is brought into discussion, "if we clean the judges up are we going to have to worry about this barn getting through DQP and this one not, are we going to be dealing with favoritism from the DQP's".

President Walker: "We try to address the situations as they come but we set up the HIO to allow closer scrutiny, if we come to the conclusion you don't need to be a DQP you won't be".

A point was brought to the discussion "if we would only govern ourselves with honesty and integrity, we wouldn't have any of these problems".

It was brought up that "there are several things we can change, to make these shows better I have been coming since 1980 never missed world or spring but this year, we didn't have enough box seats ... it was filthy, it has never been this dirty. We want to put on a World Celebration some people want to dress to come to a horse show; I wear worse clothes here than I do to the barn. We don't need to go somewhere else but it needs to be addressed".

President Walker: "That is all addressed in the new lease for the grounds".

Brought up about the judges, "we should consider paying these judges a little more, and it might bring in more people with a little more honesty and integrity".

"I checked during the meeting the committee chairman's are not on the website, President Walker assured them that they will be put up".

Jim made a motion to forgo the committee updates second to that motion all in favor. The motion passes.

No New business

Motion made to adjourn, motion seconded motion passes.