

Board of Directors Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
September 22, 2014
Board Meeting

President Walker called the meeting to order.

Andy Roberts gave the invocation.

Present were:

Jamie Lawrence
Ronnie Hooker
Tim Toler
Fred McRoy
Andy Roberts
Mike Etheridge
Chris walker
Tonya Parsons
Kelly France
Darlene Harris
Jim Morris
Judy Jones
Kimberly Coult

Motion was made to excuse Eddie Barrow from last meeting by Judy Jones,
Seconded by Tim Toler. The motion carried as submitted

Motion was made to excuse Kelly France from last meeting by Mike Etheridge,
Seconded by Jim Morris. The motion carried as submitted

President Walker verified that everyone had received the minutes. Jamie
Lawrence made a motion to accept the minutes. Darlene Harris seconded the
motion. The motion carried as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Darlene Harris: presents the treasures report, and asks Melisa if there are any show
expenses that are not listed as the report shows.

Melisa Taylor: Yes there are, Checks have been written for all expenses but they are dated for the 28th.

I will give my report now if that's ok so you all know the correct numbers.

Last year at this date we had 464 entries. This year at this date we have 409 entries so we are down. We have 58 Box seats, 43 Camper spots , 554 Stalls.

I did not look at the comparison to last year but it's awful. I don't have the number of stalls exactly that we are off. But looking at the difference in money we are down about 100 stalls for the year between fall and spring.

President Walker: Any other questions or comments on the treasurers report?

Tim Toler: Page 2 the \$4000 balance, the committee chairman fees what are those for?

President Walker: Winter meetings, promotions, booth expenses, ordering trophies, sponsorship for state shows, awards for winter meetings, conference calls, trainer's association \$275 sponsorship.

We are about \$8,600 over on computer systems expenses but that is explainable, we are also way over on postage but that is due to the mail outs we have sent, printing can be attributed to that as well. Travel and gas I think was the trip to Washington. We approved the commission to Melisa, and that was really last year's expense, but it doesn't get written until January.

Tim Toler: Why haven't we had any sales tax expense this year?

Darlene Harris: We will after the show, we don't have a lot of sales tax, if I understand correctly with the state of Alabama it has to do with the Box seat and ticket sales, but we don't sell a product so there isn't a lot of sales tax expense.

Jamie Lawrence: How does the HIO affect this bottom line here?

Melisa Taylor: We moved \$15,000 last year, at the end of the year they put \$10,000 back the PNL right now is sitting at a -\$12,000 we have not paid them for this show yet, and they are carrying a balance in their checking account of \$8,624.

The HIO owes the breeders \$5,000 and we have \$8,000 or so in the account so, we are close to breaking even and I know a few of the shows have not paid them yet, and they have a few more shows this year. We talked in August about the HIO

charging \$3 a horse. This fee will change for the 2015 Year. Mika's time/salary is being used for Breeders and the HIO.

Tonya Parsons made the motion to accept the financial report, Jamie Lawrence second, the motion carried as submitted.

Jamie Lawrence: I think if we give the HIO another year it will grow a lot, it has been discussed in several Alabama Walking horse Association meetings, to go with that, it was real close to going for the Jubilee, they wanted to wait until next year and then incorporate it into all the Alabama walking horse shows, and the simple fact is its costing them \$25 a horse for SHOW.

Melisa Taylor: I think she has had 10 shows so far and lots of phone calls and for starting out that is really good. Over all I am hearing a lot of talk that it is about to be used more and more, but we can't sell our product equal to or less than what it cost us therefore you will see an increase for 2015.

Judy Jones: Our HIO follows the same rules as all of them, why is ours so much different in some things like, interpretations of things, for instance, last night I got hit with this acceptable/ unacceptable thing.

President Walker: Well they are probably talking about the unacceptable ticket that we have come up with. Heart of American actually came up with it, we just decided to use it as well, it's called an Unacceptable ticket and its really nothing more than a warning, if someone comes up rather than just saying go back to the barn or writing you a ticket they can write this unacceptable ticket and it doesn't go on their record it just gives you more of a record in case the government comes back on us and tries to figure out why we didn't give any tickets. Secondly it plants a little more in the mind of the exhibitor this is more than just a warning. So far the government is accepting that.

President Walker: Moving on to old business, we have the rule book Tim was going to check on some things for us.

Tim Toler: Yes I have talked to Sara Beth, on whether she would be interested in taking on the legal review of a revision for our rule book, she said she would be interested in it, her fee is \$125 an hour, but she would negotiate with us if we want to do that. She doesn't know how long it would take until she takes a closer look at the scope of the job.

Judy Jones: Let me see if I understand this right, we are going to redo this, for instance we are going to critique it, then send to her?

President Walker: I think the idea is that we will put together a small committee of 3-5 and then we will put everything together as much as we can, as far as we can take it and then we would pass it on to someone like Sara Beth, and she would be looking at the legal ramifications only she wouldn't be looking at the details such as model class does this, etc. she is only going to look at litigable stuff. By laws and rules, and such I think we are looking at 40 to 80 hours because she is only looking at legal side we aren't asking her to look at, is the shoe size right in pleasure racking. We will be asking where our liabilities are, where we are open and where our issues from a legal standpoint are, how do we look from that side. If this pleases the board she will be here Wednesday and we can talk to her.

Darlene Harris: made a motion to hire Sara Beth Gregory and Chris Walker and Tim Toler to negotiate payment up to \$5,000, at which time we should exceed that amount it must be brought back to the board, for approval.
We have a second for the motion.

Roll call vote

Jamie Lawrence – Yes

Ronnie Hooker– Yes

Tim Toler– Yes

Fred McRoy– Yes

Andy Roberts– Yes

Mike Etheridge– Yes

Chris Walker– Yes

Tonya Parsons– Yes

Kelly France– Yes

Darlene Harris– Yes

Jim Morris– Yes

Judy Jones- No

Kimberly Coult– Yes

The motion carried as submitted.

President Walker: We now need to set up a committee for this, who, how many does it need to be from within this room or can we recruit from outside this room to do this.

Judy Jones: I think we need to work with one section at a time. Like I would put these 2 on section one, these 2 on section 2 and so on, we need to divide the book up, because it is overwhelming if you go to do the entire book, you are going to burn everyone out.

President Walker: The only way I see that working would be if you gave someone the pleasure side of it. And give it to a group that knows pleasure, because I would personally be lost in some of that, so I could see dividing it that way. Other than that I would be very careful dividing it any other way because there is so much that overlaps. We just need to figure out who is strong in this area and who is strong in another. So have that in mind as we select a committee. So with that in mind is there any thought as to who needs to be in those committees.

Darlene, Ronnie, Jim Morris, Jim Roberts, Chris Walker

President Walker: They have suggested and talked about the model class has been omitted it says model class but there is no verbiage underneath, that says what to do about the model class, 11.11 it has already caused some issues but if we could have a motion that we simply take the most recent model class paragraph and as a result of an omission, can we just make a motion to have that put in to the new book.

Melisa Taylor: Reading from a past rule book, Model Classes are to be shown in bridle only horses shall be led into the ring and parked for judging, entry is to be judged mainly on confirmation and condition, conditioning in any transmittable weaknesses or unsoundness must be severely penalized, a whip in length up to 3 feet maybe used horses must be well mannered or be excused from the ring. Tack and exhibitors apparel shall be either English or western, but not a combination of both.

Kelly France made a motion to move the paragraph to the new book. Ronnie Hooker, second that motion. The motion carried as submitted

Back to the committee for the rule book, Ronnie Hooker, Darlene Harris, Jim Morris, Jim Roberts and Chris Walker.

Kelly France made a motion that the group of people listed make up the committee and if you need anyone else you can bring them in to help as well. Jamie Lawrence second, the motion carried as submitted.

President Walker: Show chairman, we brought that up at the past meeting and we need to address some issues beyond that meeting to today.

Jim Morris: You have to remember that when we discussed this a long time ago, about Melisa being the Show chairman we thought that would be a problem because it would put too much on her, and you can't just pile stuff, and I don't think people realize what it takes to put on horse show not just the hiring everyone but the sponsors, and for center ring all the officials the ribbons the trophies. Before we had a show chairman that did all that, and handled all of the problems that arose, but now Melisa is handling all of that and her job.

Melisa Taylor: The Staff does assist me. Mika does a lot of different things for instance She does the 4th Grade Education Program, because I can't cut loose two more people, so she is in charge of that program. For instance I have told them I want a procedure book to bring in front of the board. So they showed me what they had, and I said what about this and this and this and they said well that is really simple to do, and I told them it's the simple things that they have no idea what you do, you have to put everything in this book. So as soon as the show is over and the show is something that they will put in there, they will be putting together, something extremely detailed so we can catch up to where these other horse industries have been way ahead of us. We are getting the right people in here now to get things changed and done. We are making changes every day to look more modern.

Jim Morris: As far as history goes we have put someone in the office and said you do this this and this ... and then kept piling and piling and piling and then when we stop and say well why haven't you done this, everything starts falling apart, a person can only do so much and then things starts falling apart and we have done that time and again.

President Walker: So with Show chairman, if we just name a figure head, think about that for just a min, that person does need to have enough time on the grounds and this person needs to be available, to answer questions they have to be knowledge able and it has to be someone who can answer and do the work.

Judy Jones: I know when Kelly and I have been Show chairman, it's not the weeks before, it's just the one week, and that's it. You have to be able to talk to those people ease them down and handle everything.

President Walker: With that being said you or Kelly don't want to be sitting in that office all day every day, and who ever we get to do this needs to pretty much commit that. And I am NOT going to do it lets go ahead and put that out there I am not going to do that position.

Judy Jones: I know that when Kelly and I have both held that position, I have stayed out on these grounds from day light until dark, and you always have to be available to them.

Ronnie Hooker: We also need to make a rule that when judges go out there they leave cell phones in this office

President Walker: Well I collect them each night before they go out, have you seen some out there? NO ONE should have a phone or anything out there.

Fred McRoy: Is there one of the girls in the office that is working part time, that has the capabilities of being a show chairman, and working extra hours that week for compensation because they are part time employees they are already employed, they know the flow of the system .

Melisa Taylor: No

Judy Jones: What about Mack Hess, he has been around for years and knows what is going on and he has a backbone.

Andy Roberts: Melisa will still be the Show Manager, she will manage the event, and he will need to approve any major contract signing through Melisa.

President Walker: He will be giving information to the board and to the management so we know what is going on.

Andy Roberts made a motion to nominate Mack Hess for Show Chairman, Kelly France seconds. Motion carries.

Fred McRoy: One more thing of old business, do we have a contract already drawn up

President Walker: Yes right here

Fred McRoy: ok thank you I just wanted to check

President Walker: Just a quick statement on that the last time we got a deal, they kept trying to change things and we just told them we are done. And the next day we had this in hand.

There were so many things they tried to slip in, that finally we just said forget it and go back to the original contract or we are done.

Judy Jones: That's what their problem was, they changed their board.

Chris: Exactly, their board didn't do things right and we just went back to what we had before. And I do still have to proofread this and go over everything.

Judy Jones: We were very happy with the first contract

President Walker: Yes we were very happy I just want to go back over everything to be extra sure of it.

Tim Toler: One more pieces of old business, my constituents would like the board to reconsider having the Georgia election this year combined with Florida this year and not next year. Everyone has received many phone calls about this, mainly because they feel they are not getting the representation from their membership, that they deserve, and I told them I would bring it before the board. I am not making a motion for this I am just bringing the information.

President Walker: In my opinion we would have to treat that as a special election because you would have to open the door back up to those seven members in Florida. You could treat it like a special elections give them a two week window those seven in Florida, and allow them to put their name in the hat, you wouldn't open the window back up for Georgia because they already had their chance to put their name in.

Tim Toler: The argument always go back to in the past, it always ended up that we manipulated states so that we could vote. It was before we knew officially there was going to be an election.

Fred McRoy: The last time this happened it was done in Illinois and it took me two years to build the membership back up so that we would have a vote.

President Walker: So now we are down to reports. We do have a couple issues that need to be talked about here.

Breeders:

DQP:

Advisory

Exhibitor's status:

Personnel and property:

Promotions and membership:

Trail field and pleasure:

Rules enforcement

Judges

President Walker: Ok Mike go ahead

Mike Etheridge: Ok let me give everyone a copy of Cordell's letter. The other complaint we got was from Jerry, and Chris is going to get with him about writing a letter. But we had several other complaints about him calling and we had told him to quit calling people about judging horse shows but regardless he should not be calling people and telling them don't even bring your horse this week because we will not tie you. He called me and told what he was doing and I told him Ken you have to stop, you can't tell these people not to bring that horse to the horse show. Then we got word last week that he was calling wanting money to pay a doctor bill or something to that effect. So that's the reason we decided to let him go. But we also have a couple of letters about another judge, this judge here we got one letter with about 15 signatures on it. There is another judge mentioned in this letter as well.

To whom it may concern:

On July the 19th 2014 we attended a horse show in Waynesville North Carolina, it was judged by Jason Todd we would like to have it noted that the show horse industry does not need judges of this quality to judge our shows. He is by far one of the worst representations of a judge that I have ever witnessed. We saw evidence throughout the entire show of just how dishonest he is. On July 11th at a benefit Charlene Cox made the statement in the presence of several people that she had been in contact with Jason Todd and was assured that he would take care of her and it was evident that he did. She also holds a judge's license which is disturbing. We would appreciate your immediate attention to this matter as a show of support of the horse industry in these trying times we most definitely need honest and representable judges in our show ring.

Then I have 15 signatures

At this time the board requested the recorder be turned off.

Recess until further notice

September 27th after show

Meeting Called to order

Discussion of the last class of the night

Meeting adjourned