

Northern Minnesota Arabian Horse Association



NMAHA NEWSLETTER

April/May 2020

Meeting Minutes

April 2020

A meeting of the Board of Directors and Board members was held via Zoom on April 18, 2020. President, Lynda Frenchick called the meeting to order at 2:20 PM. Members present were: J. Liestman, M. Beecroft, V. Temp, K. Frenchick, J. Liestman, L. Mueller, R. Gilbert, M. Smith and R. Temp.

The One Day Shows:

Update on the ODS and Value Show for 2020. (May 16-17th)

Awards:

- Roz G. has ordered towels to be embroidered.
- Lynda F. has ordered vet wrap and gift certificates.
- Kaitlyn F. reached out to Heather and ribbons are good to go.
The High Point buckles have been ordered without the year engraved.

Volunteers:

- Kaitlyn F. will head up the Google sign-up sheet.
- Ring Stewards potentially will be Ally E. and Rachel T.
- All ribbons/awards would be displayed on a table for exhibitors to pick up.
- Heather L. will volunteer as a "floater" and her sons are willing to man the gate.

Sponsorships:

- Sponsorships are always welcomed, even from businesses outside of the Verndale area.
- Our FB page could be used to push getting sponsorships and encourage members to ask businesses.

TBA Classes:

- More TBA classes have been filled. Roz G. will send an updated list to Lynda.
W/T classes could be split into English and Western if large enough.

Cancellation(s):

- AHA is working on publishing a list of COVID-19 guidelines if shows are to proceed as scheduled.
- Wisconsin Desert Horse Association has cancelled the Badger show for Memorial Weekend due to COVID-19.

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Dates to Remember:

- May 15, 2020**—2021 Royalty Applications due to Jaime Liestman
- May 16-17, 2020**—NMAHA Show, *CANCELLED*
- June 6, 2020**—NMAHA OEIP/WSCA Show, Litchfield, MN
- August 2020**—NMAHA Meeting/Trail Ride, Darwin Ski Hill (Date undecided)

Meeting Minutes Continued

The One Day Shows (Cont):

- R&J is still holding shows in 2020, however the NMAHA show would be the first of the year. Wednesday arrival would be allowed. The show would not be open to the public.
- If we had the show, how would we follow the recommended CBC guidelines as far as masks, gloves, sanitizer, 6' distancing, etc. We are considered an "indoor activity".

A motion was made by Kaitlyn F. with a second by Mary S. to delay making a decision regarding holding or cancelling the May show until a later date and after Governor Walz has publicly announced more guidelines.

June OIEP/WSCA Show:

Awards/Ribbons:

- Jean L. and Jaime L. received neck garlands that were donated to our club.

Volunteers:

- This is very important to help the show run smoothly. We will wait until closer to the date of the show.

Food Stand:

- Missy B. will send an email to the Relay for Life group to see if they would be willing to be in charge of the food stand.

Ambassador:

Jean L. presented the idea of expanding the Ambassador program for just the 2020 year, due to COVID-19 and the lack possible activities our club members could partake in.

- The member could document and keep a log of activities done with a Reg. Arab/HA horse(s), such as: Grooming, Trail Riding, In-Hand Work, Groundwork, Pleasure Riding, Training, etc. This would still show the member's enthusiasm and love for the breed.

Jaime L. made the motion to expand the Ambassador Program for the 2020 year, with a second by Missy B.

AHA Request to contact AHA members with no club affiliation:

NMAHA is currently at 33 adult members and 7 youth members. Perhaps we could offer an incentive to encourage people to join NMAHA.

- Roz G. sent an email to people in MN with reasons to join an affiliated club.
- Lynda F. will draft a letter and mail to individuals (NMAHA members and non-members).

Meeting Minutes Continued

OLD BUSINESS:

Hippology:

-Kailyn F. is looking into holding the Hippology contest online. This could be done whether the May show is held or cancelled.

Show Facility Comparison:

-Lynda F. made the decision to withhold asking members feedback on the facility comparison.

-Double F Arena would let us book the 3rd weekend in May, so we could keep our current date.

-If our 2020 show is cancelled, R&J will honor our \$200 deposit and transfer it to 2021. The R&J contract could be renewed for one more year, while a decision is being made about Double F Arena.

Mary S. made the motioned to table the discussion on a facility choice until we know what is going to happen with our 2020 show. Kaitlyn F. seconded this motion.

Other:

-Mary S. inherited historic NMAHA items and is looking for a new storage place for it.

Perhaps it could be a summer project to digitalize the documents.

-Volunteers are needed at the Region 10 show.

-WCSA club membership list to be updated by 5/31/2020.

Meeting Dates:

August – Date TBD, Location Darwin Ski Hill – Trail Ride

October - Date and location TBD

December 5, 2020 – Location TBD, looking at possibilities.

These dates are to be discussed and finalized at a later time.

Jaime Liestman,
NMAHA Secretary

President's Perspective

Thoughts from my perspective....

Due to Stay at Home and restrictions due to Covid 19 we did not have a meeting of the association members, but we did have a Board and Officer meeting via electronic means. Discussion was on our May show venue, this was tabled at this time. We also discussed our May show. We decided we would wait to see what the next couple of updates from Governor Walz brings. Thank you to the Board and Officers for your input.

By now you may have already seen the news that we have cancelled our May show. From what was shared on the update by the Governor, the status of our show has very slim chance of being held. As courtesy to our exhibitors, judges, members and venue we could not justify waiting any longer to make a decision.

Since I am finally writing this after April 30th, I can share additional information. WSCA posted on Facebook that they have submitted a plan to the State for opening horse shows in a safe manner. AHA as part of a Joint Council with other breed associations has provided us a plan to submit for safe horse shows, restricts attendance to only exhibitors, horse show staff and club members working, provides safe distancing guideline and what to do with the show venue. I also reached out to a few Minnesota groups as to their activity with the State. From that I feel we need to do more as a cohesive group of associations/organizations and present a united front in working to open our horse shows. My fear is if we do not - having any shows in June is at risk. Kudos to WSCA and Region 10 for presenting plans. Now I hope we can get together and strive for a conference call with the Governor's office to plead our case.

Until then, stay safe, wash hands frequently!

Lynda Frenchick

NMAHA President

Letter from NMAHA President

May 1, 2020

Dear Northern Mn Arabian Horse Association Officers and Board members,

We have waited with hopes that we would have a definitive answer from our Governor Tim Walz with his live broadcast and update of April 30th, but I at least came away with uncertainty.

He extended the Stay at Home until May 18th but did leave it open to be changed if numbers continue to look like they have been. He has opened more business but at this time has not made a commitment to anything other than additional retail business. Is there still some hope? Yes - with his talk of opening some summer sports – but only a very small chance.

Truly the decision to proceed with our show is not in our hands, it is in the hands of the Governor's office. What it comes down to is do we want to continue to keep our exhibitors, judges, etc. in suspense any longer? As courtesy to them it is best that we do not wait any longer - so we will notify through face book, our website, email, phone calls to our exhibitors, judges, facility and members that it is officially cancelled.

I want you to know that I do respect your feelings and opinions. But I do ask that all of you assist me in contacting our legislature and Governor Tim Walz to allow horse shows as soon as possible. Whether you feel it is safe or not to do so. We had a tremendous amount of interest and commitment by trainers and exhibitors to come to our May show. This along with the data from the AHA survey that shows that people want to show their horses at horse shows. Safety measures have been put forth by AHA through the Joint Council (please refer to letter previously shared on Facebook). It can be done while reducing risk to everyone.

I thank Mary for contacting the Governor via email. I would like to see that a concerted effort is being done by Region 10 to contact the other Minnesota horse organizations (MN Saddlebred, MN Pinto, etc.) to make sure all are doing their part to get our shows going again. I sincerely feel if we do not make our voice heard we will be put off by officials that think our horse shows are like fairs with large numbers of people there and therefore are at the far right on the dial. Our June show along with Region 10 are at greater risk of not happening if we just sit back and wait and see.

Let me know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Thank you everyone!

Sincerely,

Lynda Frenchick

Lynda Frenchick
NMAHA President

Northern MN Arabian Horse Association

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