

**Northeast Reining Horse Association, General Membership Meeting
Topsfield Fairgrounds
Saturday, May 22, 2010**

Board Members in Attendance: Dirk Winkelhake, Michele Whitney, Cathy Nevitt, Dan Whitney, Michelle Robertson, Geri Wasylak, Candy Conway, Jennifer Johnson, Dennis Tito, Karen Black-Clark, Kristin McKeon

Board Members in Absence: Sheli Senecal

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by NERHA President, Dirk Winkelhake, at 6:25 pm.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The meeting minutes from the May 5th meeting were sent out via email. Motion to accept was made by Jenny Johnson, seconded by Michele Whitney. All approved.
- III. **Financial & Budget Report:** The NERHA Board of Directors receives and reviews detailed financial reports monthly and at all Board Meetings; this information is considered confidential. If you are a member and would like more information, please contact the NERHA Treasurer.
- IV. **Independence Classic - July** (Karen Black-Clark) – The show is set for 2 slates over 3 days, and will include the Pro Am Tournament and a 3 Year Old Snaffle Bit class. Based on the lower number of entries and stalls at the first two shows, the Board agreed to re-evaluate the possibility of adding a Green Horse class back to the schedule on Friday. Paid warm-ups will also be available on Thursday.
- V. **Super Slide In – August** – At the last meeting, Dirk had asked Michelle Robertson and Candy Conway to come up with a cost comparison between Topsfield and Northampton in order to utilize the lower cost grounds for the Slide In. Using a basis of 100 stalls for a 4 day show and comparable services, Michelle and Candy reported that the total cost between the 2 facilities is virtually identical. As a result, Michele Whitney made a motion to keep the Slide In at Northampton this year. Motion seconded by Jenny Johnson with unanimous approval. General membership support for maintaining the Slide In at Northampton was also very evident. Show Manager Michele Whitney will now move forward with the required NRHA approvals and final show scheduling.
- VI. **Reiner's Rendezvous – September** – Concern was expressed by the general membership over the timing of the September show at Oneco since it is scheduled for the weekend following the Affiliate Finals in New Jersey. Various Board members who have worked with the show venues we utilize confirmed that Oneco, Northampton and Topsfield are not available for any earlier dates in September, and later dates conflict with the start of Congress. Discussion then centered on reducing the costs of the show in expectation of lower attendance. Michele Whitney made a motion, seconded by Dennis Tito, to cut back the September show to a 1 slate show over 2 days (Saturday and Sunday). Motion was approved. The Board will investigate other cost-cutting measures for this show as well.
- VII. **Falls Creek Slide – October** – The Board asked for general membership input on the plan for the 2 slate show scheduled at Oneco October 29 – 31. Discussion ensued regarding the higher cost of a 2 slate show vs. a single slate show, the need for more grass roots show opportunities at less expensive venues, finding lower cost facilities, and suggestions for holding jackpot Reining's or a green reiner day. Dirk explained the Board's long range plan to try to develop a relationship with one show facility for all of our regional shows in order to negotiate discounts and venue improvements. The plan is complicated by the other show commitments at each facility, as well as by conflicting show dates with our CNYRHA and EPRHA neighboring clubs. General membership consensus was that a 2 slate show in late October in Oneco would be

lightly attended – and even less so if the weather was bad. Michelle Robertson made a motion, seconded by Michele Whitney, to cancel the planned 2-slate show at Oneco in October and to shorten the September show to a 2 day, 1 slate show. Motion was approved. The Board will evaluate alternatives for a jackpot reining or other low-cost show activity that could be held in October.

- VIII. **Sponsorships** (Jennifer Johnson) – Jenny reported raising almost \$13,000 in sponsorships so far – with the recent additions of Pardis gift cards, a banner from Dave and Bonnie Silva and a Team MDS general donation. In order to insure that banners are hung in the arena with plenty of time for horses to get used to them during warm ups, Dan Sanborn offered to bring the banners to the shows and hang them. In addition to the 50/50 raffle that Fran Simmons is coordinating for every show, the following fundraisers will be held:

Summer Prelude

- Silent auction baskets – raised \$665 for the club.

Independence Classic

- Ice cream social sponsored by Lisa Thompson to raise money for the Affiliate Team
- Pro Am Calcutta to raise money for the club
- Lia Sophia jewelry vendor (Teri Sanborn) to donate 50% of her show sales to the Affiliate Team

Slide-In

- Chuck-A-Duck to raise money for the Youth club

- IX. **Old Business –**

Newsletter – The next newsletter and those for the remainder of the year will be done electronically. The June newsletter should go out 6/15, so Michele Whitney would like news and information by June 1. General membership was supportive of moving to an electronic format, to a link through either the Tailgate or right on the NERHA website, or to a direct email in a .pdf format. The new Board in the fall will look at other options for next year.

- X. **New Business –**

Youth Club – elections for Youth officers will be held at the July show.

- XI. **Next Meeting Date** – Dirk will contact the Board for a conference call in early June.

- XII. **Adjournment** – Dennis Tito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michele Whitney seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.