



VQHA BOD Meeting

via Zoom

Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

#### Attendance

Suzanne Gonzales, VQHA President

Tim Cohill, VQHA Vice President

Connie Christopher, VQHA Executive Vice President

Laura Boardwine VQHA Treasurer

Loretta Tozer, VQHA Director at Large and Amateur Director

Shay Nicely, VQHA CIO, Bylaws Committee Director and Webmaster

Cory Balsis, VQHA Membership Director

Matt Guthro, VQHA Director at large

Eddie Faulk, VQHA Director at Large

Debby Steiner, VQHA Points Director

Todd Hullings, VQHA Ways and Means Director

Samantha Groves, VQHA Director at Large

Kevin Babcock, VQHA Region 1 Director

Cathette Plumer, VQHA AQHA Programs Director

Jeanenne Griffin, VQHA Region Director

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 7:04pm, and requested that everyone please state their name for the attendance record. Carolyn is working the late shift tonight and Shay is recording the Zoom meeting for her to transcribe. Once roll call was complete, Suzanne verified that there was more than enough signed in to meet the criteria for a quorum.

Suzanne started the meeting by apologizing for short changing a few individuals on the agenda. She thanked everyone for attending and asked that everyone please try and stay on task in order to keep the meeting rolling. Suzanne stated that she did not have anything pertinent to lead the meeting off with,

but does have a few things to discuss further down in the agenda, so at this time she would like to hand things over to Tim Cohill, VQHA VP.

Tim Cohill reported that he did not have anything specific to discuss at this time, but would have more to add for the show committee report.

Suzanne spoke for Carolyn regarding the meeting minutes that were emailed out earlier in the week. A motion was made by Loretta Tozer to approve the meeting minutes from 01/28/22 and 03/23/22. The motion was seconded by Laura Boardwine, and with no discussion the motion carried.

Laura Boardwine reviewed the treasurer report that was submitted via email earlier in the week. Laura stated that VQHA has more money in its accounts than it has had in a long time and thanks everyone for their hard work in making that possible. The show amounts have changed as of today due to monies that have just come in for stall reservations for the upcoming Doswell Show. Tim Cohill asked if anyone was aware of when the VA Horse Industry Board Grant monies would be coming in to cover the costs of the clinic. Suzanne stated that she was surprised that they had not received any funds yet because she submitted all of the information just in time before they were starting to cut checks. Suzanne stated that she would reach out via email to follow up. Laura stated that she got a packet in the mail over the weekend from Lisa Vignerot with the VA Bred totaling about \$3,800, and she has already deposited that money. Laura has also sent out an invoice to Heather Wheeler for the \$5,000 for the breeders amount but she states that it missed the deadline by a couple of weeks so it will take several months to come back. The other concern Laura states is that VA Bred payout amount was \$5,000.25, but Laura has only deposited \$3,800. Past practice she states has been to not pay that money out until all checks have cleared, but until the other checks come in there is not enough money in the account to do the payouts. Tim Cohill recommended going ahead and paying the money out. Laura states that in order to do that, the difference between the two will have to be pulled from another account, such as the general account. Suzanne asked how long individuals had to wait in the past to get their payouts. Per Laura, last year the VA Bred was at the November Horse Show and checks were not mailed out until mid to late January. Todd Hullings made a motion that funds be moved from the general account to the VA Bred account to cover the cost of the payouts so that those checks can be mailed out, and the funds be replaced as the remaining checks come in to VQHA. This motion was seconded by Tim Cohill, and the motion carried. Cory Balsis had a question for Laura asking that when she receive the packet from Breeders that she send Cory information on membership. Laura states she sent had emailed that information out to Cory. Cory states she did not receive an email, so Laura plans to resend the information to Cory. Laura says she has received the sanctioning fee from the Martinganza show for a total of \$2,394 that went into the VQHA Banquet account. She says they must have had a good show because that is more than they have received in the past. Currently the Banquet Account has about \$9400 in it. Suzanne asked Laura if she had received the checks she had sent in, to which Laura stated that she has indeed received the sanctioning fees from the Spring Breakout Show. Suzanne also states she sent a check in for \$900 in sponsorships that had been sent to her paypal account that she just wrote a check for to pay back to VQHA. Laura states that Shay is looking into our paypal account because it will not accept the Wells Fargo information. For some reason Venmo is working but PayPal is not. Tim Cohill asked how much the sanctioning fees were that were received from the Spring Breakout. Per Laura the

sanctioning fees received were \$916. Suzanne states she would like to make a comment about that because it seems low to her. Suzanne states that she sold a lot of stalls, but not everyone showed AQHA which is where the sanctioning fees come from. A lot of the horses at the Spring Breakout just showed in the NSBA Classes or other money classes. So that is why the check seems so small – she wishes it was bigger but it is what it is she states. Suzanne states that while on the topic of sanctioning fees, that she has been approached by other organizations to set up a sanctioning “swap” so to speak where there would be a reciprocity deal. Suzanne believes that several board members have been approached by other organizations hosting shows asking for the same sort of thing. Suzanne believes there are a couple of shows in NC that are planning on applying for sanctioning. Suzanne feels that if she strikes a deal with Maryland that they will lose the sanctioning from NC. Everyone seemed to be in agreement that applications for sanctioning would be the only way to go. Connie Christopher added that the sanctioning fees are some of the largest sources of revenue that VQHA receives and the integrity of that revenue stream needs to be maintained. Laura states that the VA 4H club has reached out to her again for a sponsorship. In the past VQHA has done a \$250 sponsorship to go towards their state horse show. Cathette Plumer made a motion that VQHA make a \$250 donation to the VA 4H club horse show, and the motion was seconded by Connie Christopher and carried unanimously.

Directors at Large were given the opportunity to give their reports. No one had anything to report at this time.

Region 1 Director Kevin Badcock states that at their last regional meeting they had discussed sponsoring some classes at the Fall show which quickly morphed into an award to hand out at the horse show in Honor of Skeeter. Kevin states that they would like permission from the board to further develop the idea of having an award presented at a VQHA show from the northern region. Everyone agrees that it is a great idea. Kevin says that he has come across an ad in the local newspaper advertising that the Smithsonian is looking for a Skeeter saddle to purchase to put on display at the National Museum of African American History. He passed on the contact information for Phil Miles who is handling the logistics and verifying that the ad is legitimate. Kevin requested that Shay place the ad on the website and Loretta states that she saw the same ad floating around on Facebook. Todd Hullings and Connie Christopher both stated that they both have Skeeter saddles they would be willing to donate. Cory Balsis stated that she spoke with Phil and they are specifically looking for a tooled type saddle vs a work saddle and several people had reached out wanting to sell their Skeeter Saddles, but not donate them. Connie stated that maybe VQHA could look into purchasing a saddle to donate. Shay stated that it would be excellent advertising for VQHA if we had our name on the donation to the Smithsonian. Connie Christopher stated that she would personally donate \$1,000 towards procuring a Skeeter saddle to donate. Todd Hulling states he will start searching for something. Shay will post to Facebook and the website. The next Region 1 meeting will be June 7<sup>th</sup>. No other regional directors were available this evening.

Cathette Plumer states the Virginia Horse Council legislative trail ride will be at David McLamb’s farm in Gordonsville on 5/13 and 5/14 in conjunction with the BLM Bull Riding Event. They are looking for

sponsors. There will be youth representatives, 4H individuals, and legislators as well. Todd Hullings states that there will be several VQHA Youth kids there on behalf of the VQHYA and makes a motion that VQHA make a \$250 sponsorship to the event. The motion was seconded by Loretta Tozer and the motion carried. Cathette will send the sponsorship form to Laura to fill out and send a check in. Loretta pointed out that the Virginia Horse Council highly supported the banquet and that David McLamb will be donating season passes to the rodeos at Gordonsville to be auctioned off at our banquet.

Committee Reports. Cathette is working on getting more members for the recreational riding program and she will also be talking again to the people at Bull Run to try and get another trail ride organized for the fall. Cory Balsis reminded Cathette to please send her the information on the members that are signing up for the recreational riding program so that she can add them to her membership list and newsletter.

Loretta Tozer reported that the banquet committee will start up with meetings in June to start preparing for next years banquet.

Loretta Tozer states that the Amatuers are doing a Taco dinner Friday night at the show as a fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids. Each ticket purchase for the dinner also earns a them a raffle ticket for prizes to be drawn through the evening. The Amateurs are also raffling off tickets for a Cricket Golf Cart. There will be 250 tickets sold. The plan is to have the drawing at the banquet for the winner, unless they sell out of tickets before the November Doswell show, in which case the winner will be drawn at that show. Cory Balsis how the raffle worked. Loretta explained that there are 250 tickets each valued at the number of the ticket, so if you pull out ticket number 5 then you pay \$5 for you ticket, if you pull out ticket 195 then you pay \$195 for your ticket. Tickets will start being sold at the Doswell show. Tickets can be sold to anyone. Loretta encouraged everyone to help spread the word.

Lisa Vignerot was unavailable to discuss the VA Bred.

Shay Nicely discussed the bylaw changes have been made and just need to be loaded up to the website.

Shay Nicely states that several renewals have been made for the Website and there have been a few behind the scenes things that have been done. Suzanne requested that Shay send her the breakdown on the costs for the upgrades to the Websites to that the invoices can be sent to the VA Horse Industry Board for Grant money approval. Shay states that he has sent that information to Laura, and Laura stated that she will forward that over to Suzanne to review. Suzanne stated that she needs things to be as specific as possible for the grant so that funds will be released for reimbursement.

Suzanne states that Kerry Baker has reached out to her and offered to help manage the Facebook postings to help promote VQHA more effectively. Suzanne feels like this is a great idea. Shay pointed out that there is already a Communications Committee Chair – Cathy Herbert – who is in charge of things like that. Suzanne stated that thus far she has only been doing the newsletter. Shay mentioned that she is head of the Committee and maybe it would be good to place Kerry Baker on that committee so that she is working alongside the committee chair. Tim Cohill states he feels that social media is very important and that having a sole person dedicated to that task would be a good thing. Todd Hullings feels that Kerry Baker would do a very good job with the role and that it would still allow Shay to have administrative rights to change, edit, or delete anything that may not align with what VQHA wants posted. Todd Hullings made a motion to appoint Kerry Baker in charge of the VQHA social media. There was a discussion back and forth. The idea was bounced around of starting a separate Social Media committee and appoint Kerry Baker Chair. There was concern about starting a new committee without going back in and adding it into the bylaws. Shay pointed out that it makes more sense to have the social media person as part of the communications committee because if you start breaking things down into too many committees people are not going to be working together cohesively. He also pointed out that Cathy Herbert set up the Instagram and twitter accounts for VQHA so she is the sole individual with credentials to those accounts. Shay states that he should probably reach out to as the Chief Information Officer to Cathy and state that he needs to have those credentials as well. The overall consensus of the group decided that Kerry Baker will be added to the Communications committee to work along with Cathy to share the work of her committee. Todd withdrew his motion and Shay made a motion that Kerry Baker be added to the communications committee, the motion was seconded by Todd and carried unanimously.

Debby Steiner thanked Cory for her help with the points. They have also been sorting through the divisions and the bylaw descriptions. Debby noted that the VQHA Bylaws for the walk trot division does not comply with the AQHA Rules. VQHA Bylaws states that if you show walk trot that you cannot show in an AQHA class at the lope/canter. Per AQHA, you for example could show Walk Trot Trail and still show Hunter Under Saddle. Debby feels that this need to be clarified. Cory suggested adding an addendum to the show rules so that VQHA is in compliance and that VQHA class points are tabulated correctly. It is outlined in the show and contest rules that need to be laid out more clearly. Shay stated that it is not a bylaw change and just a show committee rule change. Suzanne stated that AQHA rules would override VQHA rules in this instance. Tim Cohill made a motion that the VQHA Show and Contest Rules be modified to coincide with AQHA and Todd Hullings seconded. Cathette Plumer opened the floor or discussion stating that since there have already been several shows, should the rules be changed for this year or next year. It was agreed that the change should be made effective immediately and the motion carried. Debby states that there are no current conflicts in the points but there could be. She just wants to make sure there are no future issues. Cory and Debby feel this is a positive move to keep things uniform with AQHA. Debby states she is still waiting on the second set of judges points to arrive from Linda Falls. Laura states that she has spoken to AQHA and there have been multiple errors noted and AQHA is trying to sort through the results still. Debby states that as soon as she receives everything she will get it organized and tabulated.

Cory asked if everyone received her membership report. She added that there were two things she wanted to add. The expiration years end in 2022, 2023, and 2024, and she pointed out that due to people paying for multiyear memberships, there is about \$2,600 in revenue that VQHA will not receive between 2023-2024 memberships, so she said some of that money needs to be earmarked for future

because it is not money that can be spent this year since it is fees for future years. She states there are 206 active members and approximately 20 lapsed memberships. Cory states she has sent out emails to those who have lapsed. Cory also sent membership info out to each regional director for their particular region.

Suzanne opened the floor for the show committee. Suzanne sent out the latest show bill and has asked Shay to place onto the website. There are 80 portable stalls that are ordered for the show. There are approximately 20 empty stalls and we are about 15 days out from the Doswell Show. Tim states that if there is anyone in the Richmond area that is available to help set up stalls at the show that would be very helpful. Glen at the facility will just need to know what day VQHA plans to help set up. Suzanne requested that all board members please sign up to help at the show. She states that she will have a volunteer list started shortly. She will need a showmanship walker, a gate person, someone to help set up the show office and the awards. Friday will be the busiest day because there will be three rings running at the same time. Suzanne gave updates on the Lynn Palm clinic stating that she had planned to do an over fence clinic and no one showed interest, so it was changed to a dressage clinic, and Suzanne reached out to someone in the dressage world who was able to fill six sessions of clinic times and auditors and a waitlist for more clinic times. There was a huge interest in the dressage so that was a saving grace. Debby mentioned that the NCQHA Show in August in Williamston actually does the western dressage classes at their show. Suzanne states that she is pleased with how well the Lynn Palm clinic has turned out, but Friday will be a super busy day at the show between the clinic, the vrh show, and the novice show. Laura states that the payment total for the show was for 95 stalls. The walk trot legends class will be held Saturday and has gotten a lot of publicity. Currently it has approx. \$1500 cash donated, plus some other prizes that have been donated. There will be a \$35 entry fee to go in the class and the pay out will go to 1,2,3, then prizes down, but that is still being determined, and then there will be a random drawing for the CP Custom Saddle. You just have to go in the class to be eligible to win the saddle. The showbill will be updated and Shay will post to the website and facebook as soon as it has been revised. There are a few things that need to be modified like the leadline class. Tim asked Laura how much is VQHA losing in paying fees to venmo. Laura states that approximately \$118 was lost in fees for the stall money she received. Venmo is super convenient for the exhibitors, especially those who wait to the last minute, but it does cost VQHA. Tim suggested that we charge a fee for those using Venmo for their convenience. Cathette offered a "discount" for those who pay by check and a regular rate for those that pay via Venmo or Paypal. Suzanne and Loretta agreed that that was a great idea, and Suzanne said that would work for a credit card form too. Tim agreed that it was a great way moving forward to deal with the fee issues. Todd expressed concerns that there are only 95 stalls paid for for the show in doswell in 2 weeks. Several stated that there were folks who had reserved stalls and planned to pay at the show still. Tim stated that to prevent that from being an issue at the November show he recommended telling folks that your stalls aren't reserved and on the stall chart until you have paid, so if you wait until the last minute to pay for them, then you can expect to be in the portable stalls by the bathroom. Eddie suggested that to fix the problem going forward, he would recommend that when people call to reserve the stalls you take their credit card number and tell them that they have until x days before the show to pay via another method, but on x day we will be charging your card for the amount for the stalls and a convenience fee for use of the card. Hopefully this will keep folks from cancelling last minute or waiting until the last minute to pay.

Todd did not have any updates for the Ways and Means committee. He is just looking for sponsors for the upcoming show so if anyone is interested in sponsoring please let him know. Tim will email shay with the sponsorship levels and forms so they can be posted on the website and facebook.

The youth advisors Kyle, Amanda, and Beth are currently in a Youth Meeting, but there are plans to go to the Legislative Trail Ride later in the month, raffle off a TV, and a show jacket raffle coming up.

Suzanne states there is currently no unfinished business to discuss.

The show committee wanted to go ahead and pursue doing the November Doswell show. Everything is due to AQHA asap. Linda Falls is working on getting everything to AQHA right away. There will be a novice show on Friday and a split combined show on Saturday and Sunday. Tim suggested that since most of the VRH folks will be gone at the world show, that maybe the Dressage could be something that could be added to the November show. Suzanne expressed concerns about the weather holding up enough to have several rings running at once. The challenge is the cost of the judge and the cost of the extra ring to rent. Debby suggested reaching out to the local dressage association to see if they'd be interested in going in on the expenses together. Hillary was mentioned as a good contact person. Debby states she will clarify how VQHA awards year end points for dressage scores and align it with what AQHA does. Laura made a motion that VQHA host the November Doswell Show and Debby seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Suzanne made a motion that VQHA purchase a copier/printer to have to use at shows and at meetings. She states that they run approximately \$150. The recommendation is that the VQHA Secretary be in charge of having the printer. Tim states he recommends that VQHA buy one. Connie states that she has a HP Invy printer/copier that she would be willing to donate to VQHA to use in the interim.

Suzanne states that she needs to order cups and ribbons for the show in November. She states the cups will cost about \$600, which is a lot cheaper than the ribbons. Suzanne states that she already has the grand and reserve ribbons. She has some ribbons but not many, and plans to order more 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place ribbons.

Shay is at his computer now and is adding Keri Baker and Tim Cohill to the Facebook editor status.

Loretta states that she feels we need to be on the lookout for assigning someone to the roll of year end awards person to fill that position to get awards for the banquet. It was suggested that maybe Matt Guthro be in charge since he left the meeting early. There were a lot of compliments to Jessica for getting the awards together last year. The banquet was a huge success. Loretta again thanked her committee for a great banquet. Will plan to put out information in the newsletter looking for someone to take on the task.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm.

There was no motion to adjourn the meeting but everyone unanimously said their good byes at 926pm.