



VQHA BOD Meeting

via Zoom

Tuesday, August 9th, 2022

#### Attendance

Suzanne Gonzales, VQHA President

Tim Cohill, VQHA Vice President

Laura Boardwine VQHA Treasurer

Carolyn Merritt, VQHA Secretary

Loretta Tozer, VQHA Director at Large and Amateur Director

Eddie Faulk , VQHA Director at Large

Debby Steiner, VQHA Points Director

Todd Hullings, VQHA Ways and Means Director

Kevin Babcock, VQHA Region 1 Director

Jeanenne Griffin, VQHA Region Director

Kyles Hughes, VQHA Youth Advisor

Lisa Vignerot, VQHA Director at Large, Auditing, VA Bred

Scott Troutman VQHA Director at Large

Michelle Might, VQHA Queen

Denise Duncan VQHA Awards

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 708pm, and requested that everyone please state their name for the attendance record. Once roll call was complete, Suzanne verified that there was indeed a quorum, and opened the meeting with a welcome.

Laura Boardwine began with the Treasurer's Report. She states she emailed out four attachments for everyone to review. The general account increased by a couple hundred dollars. The show account had some small changes. The sanctioning fees changed slightly, and the Youth account had a few deductions after the world show. There were no questions regarding the Treasurer's Report and a motion was made by Scott Troutman to approve the report as presented and was seconded by Mike Jenings and the motion carried unanimously.

Tim Cohill had no new news to report at this time.

Cory Balsis was unable to attend tonight, but sent out the membership report via email prior to the meeting. Suzanne reviewed with the group for those who may not have had time to review it. There are 216 members which is about the same membership numbers as in the “good years”. Suzanne asked for ideas on how to increase membership. Scott asked about reaching out to 4H Groups to grow the youth membership. There was some discussion about 4H Sponsorship each year. Todd Hullings stated that he sent out an email to a local creamery to request donations of ice cream to hand out at the VA State 4H Show in Lexington. Suzanne mentioned treating participants at the 4H Show to a pizza party on behalf of VQHA to help entice new members. Todd mentioned that there are approximately 300 exhibitors at the VA State 4H Youth Show. Kyle Hughes stated that only 4 youth represented VQHA at the World Show this year and NO youth are competing this year at Congress and NO youth at the 4H horse show. Suzanne said the VQHA Booth was not useable at this time – no banner etc. Todd questioned purchasing another pop up booth that was in better condition. Kyle stated that they typically run approximately \$1500. Laura Boardwine said she could print off a VQHA Banner and Table Cloth and recommended putting up photos to display. Scott said he could look into doing something more permanent. Todd said he would ask Jessica about getting permission to have a pizza party at the 4H Show. Michelle Might offered up the idea of giving out buttons or stickers to people and if you are spotted wearing that logo by a VQHA rep then you win a prize. VQHA logo stickers would be easy and fairly inexpensive to order per Michelle. The dates for the VA 4H State Show are September 9-11, 2022 and will be held at the horse center in Lexington. Suzanne asked if anyone was available to go and represent VQHA at the show. Todd stated Preston might be able to help and to send things to him or Jessica to hand out.

Loretta Tozer gave an update on the Amateur’s Cricket raffle stating sales are going well, and have over \$6,000 sold which covers the cost of the golf cart. Any more tickets sold at this point will go to profit. The Amateur Association has offered to do a Team Tournament at the November Show. Todd made a motion for the BOD to approve and Eddie seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Central Region Director Jeanne Griffin states that her region is discussing having a cookout at Loreta’s – details to follow. There was then an open discussion regarding the regions – Northern Region, Greater Richmond region, South Central Region, Central Region, Southwest Region and Shenandoah Region. It was pointed out that the regional map is posted on the website for reference. Scott and Kyle requested better representation because their region encompassed a large area. Currently Charlie Rogers is the Regional Director for that area. Suzanne asked that all regional directors share their meeting dates and times to Facebook.

Communications Committee – Cathy Herbert was unable to attend meeting.

Bylaws Committee – Shay Nicely was unable to attend the meeting. Loretta asked if Shay could please update the names of the directors on the website and will send him an email reminder. Kyle also stated that the youth officers need to be added to the youth page on the website. Kyle to send info to Shay via email.

Michelle Might discussed the latest on the VQHA Queen. The 2022 VQHA Queen Sierra Lucks will not be attending Congress this year. Michelle states that Sierra wants more experience under her belt before she goes to Congress to compete. Michelle reports that there is a new rule for the Queens Contest at Congress stating that the contestant must be female assigned at birth. Loretta expressed her concerns regarding the money that VQHA had raised at the banquet for the Queen to go to Congress and compete. There were also Congress photos taken of the Queen that were sponsored. Michelle indicated that the Queen is not going to Congress due to health problems. It was brought up that the Year End Banquet used to hold the VQHA Queen interviews. Suzanne asked if the current queen understands that she would have to reapply for VQHA Queen for 2023? QH Congress reached out to Michelle about the Congress application and Michele states that it sounded like the Queens Contest participation is dwindling. Loretta states that she has another person who is interested in becoming Queen. Suzanne reminded everyone that the Queen was given cash at the banquet. She has been representing VQHA some at the local level. It was asked that she provide an account of the funds she has acquired and used. Michelle states that she will ask Sierra to provide that information. Michelle asked what VQHA can do to better promote the Queen's program? Lisa Vignerot recommended that there be stronger language in the application outlining the use of funds. Michelle states that she would like to step down as the Queen Mum due to returning to school in the fall in addition to continuing to work her full time job. The BOD thanked Michelle for all her hard work.

Loretta gave an update on the Banquet Committee. She states the Banquet efforts are starting to ramp up at this time. Everyone agreed that the banquet in January was a huge success and they would like to continue to have the banquet as a separate event and not associated with a show. Loretta has been talking to Fort Magruder again and is trying to arrange a sliding scale fee schedule but would like to get the minimum nights dropped. The tentative dates are February 3-5, 2023. Loretta indicated she would be running a tighter budget this year. There are approximately \$15,000 in sanctioning fees to date, with \$3,000 in the account to start the year. She says she made some money on the banquet. The amateur association paid for the amateur awards in 2021 and the VQHA paid for the open and youth awards out of the general funds. Laura said she does not have a break down of what exactly the amateurs spent. Todd states that he thinks Jessica spent approximately \$5,000 on awards for last year, so likely \$10,000-11,000 between all the awards. Denise Duncan and Pam Dyson have requested a budget for the 2022 awards. They do not want to spend the whole budget of \$15,000 this year. Suzanne recommended placing a dollar amount on each award, for example, \$50 for champion, \$35 for Reserve Champion, XXX amount for an All Around Champion and XXX amount for an All Around Reserve Champion. Loretta states the banquet was a huge hit and would like to continue that level of enthusiasm. Debby states that she is updating the points currently, but there are a lot of classes that do not have the minimum number of points qualification met to earn a year end award. Some are due to small class numbers and some due to not all shows having the same classes. Debby questioned lowering the qualifying points for the classes as a bylaw change.

Suzanne reported on the sow committee. She states that they are working on finalizing the show bill for the November show. There will be a Novice Show Friday with Cayce Miller judging and a split/combined show Saturday and Sunday with Shane Young and Rhonda Replogle. Stalls will only be considered reserved once they have been paid in full. There is some uncertainty about

getting temporary stalls for the show as the previous rental person is not available. Eddie states that stall reservations are open now and that Jamie Faulk will be taking them again this year. This year there will be no refunds on stalls after October 1<sup>st</sup>. Stall charts are very difficult to configure and the sooner stalls can be reserved the easier it is for everyone involved.

Lisa Vignerot spoke in regards to the VA Bred program during the discussion on unfinished business. She talked about the funds. She states that there needs to be more participation! She would like to continue to have the classes at the Spring Breakout Show in Lexington in March because it is a large enough show to draw people from out of state to participate and the facility is large enough to accommodate the stalls. Lisa indicated that she plans to reach out to various groups to let them know that they have a horse that is eligible to compete in the VA Bred Program. There will not be a saddle donated for the 2023 competition. Todd stated that adding a VA Bred walk/trot or walk/jog class might be a popular class to add and would include people that may be intimidated by higher level classes.

The website needs to be updated with the Jack-0-Lantern show dates and the show bill as soon as it becomes available.

There was a question raised about whether or not the Herndon show in November would be VQHA Sanctioned. Lisa states that the show will be VQHA Sanctioned and that the application and fees should be coming in shortly. Debby then asked for clarification as to what the sanctioning fees are because she was at the Black Eyed Susan and Suntan Shows in July in Maryland and there were a lot of VQHA members there. It would be nice to have more VQHA sanctioned shows. Suzanne outlined the fees for sanctioning for clarity. Eddie pointed out that we have great dates for the May and November shows. Debby pointed out that it would be nice to have more judges at those shows. Tim stated that it is hard to move around more judges and staff and Lisa stated that the show runs long as it is and staff frequently goes into overtime. Eddie stated the May Show would be a good show to make into a 4 day show and drop the Novice Day. Suzanne stated that maybe a Novice Show combined with a clinic would be a good idea. Tim says there are only 143 permanent stalls at Doswell and it is hard to host bigger shows at that facility. Suzanne pointed out that the Doswell Shows work really well for the “local guy” type exhibitor that does not run up and down the road following the circuits. Staying small saves money. Time said the Novice Show had 323 entries and 478 over the 2 day Split/Combined Show in May and was unsure of the VRH numbers. Suzanne wants to know if people are still chasing AQHA points now? Eddie states that a lot of his clients are enjoying just showing and not pushing for points. The only way to afford more judges is to have more stalls. The temporary stalls are very expensive to rent for Doswell. Tim says we really need to stay streamlined with our shows and states that the Novice and S/C May and November Shows are VQHA’s “bread and butter”. Mike Jennings asked if the facility at Doswell would be purchasing temporary stalls to have on hand. Eddie states that the Virginia Horse Council would do whatever VQHA needed to help make the Doswell facility improvements needed for making the facility better function for VQHA events. Tim states he envisions using the Doswell Shows to build on as grassroots to then put on a larger show at Lexington or something. Eddie recommended sitting down with the management at Dowell and discussing options. Eddie also mentioned that the Herndon facility has temporary stalls and he may ask if they can be rented for

the Doswell show in November. Suzanne states that Susan Daniels just texted her back stating that the Herndon Show will be VQHA Sanctioned and she will send the forms in ASAP. Christy Hughes, who is a hunter show announcer, will be available. Lisa states she will coach her on how to announce for the QH Shows etc, and how to run the sheets.

Suzanne asked if there was any further business that needed to be discussed. Having no further business to address, the next meeting date was set for 7pm on Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Lisa a made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Laura, and the meeting was adjourned at 2118.