



VQHA BOD Meeting

Wednesday, April 12th, 2023

President Suzanne Gonzales called the VQHA Board meeting (via Zoom) to order at 7:07 p.m. on Wednesday June 14, 2023. The meeting was recorded by Shay Nicely. Fourteen members were present (Cory Balsis, Laura Boardwine, Tim Cohill, Suzanne Gonzales, Clarence Green, Samantha Groves, Kyle Hughes, Todd Hulings, Shay Nicely, Catheter Plumer, Beth Smith, Debby Steiner, Loretta Tozer, and Scott Troutman).

Suzanne began the meeting by thanking everyone for their support for her family. She updated the status of her husband, Matt, who has AML – he is doing really well at Georgetown and should be home within the next week.

A concern about posting the Youth Newsletter on the VQHA site was expressed by Suzanne and Shay. Shay was uncomfortable about posting pictures of the youth with names, even though some of the youth were posting on their personal pages. Shay consulted with several people (Julie Roger, an ex school administrator, reporters, The Equine Chronicle, and the Ohio Quarter Horse Association) and concluded that VQHA needs a waiver signed by each youth's parent. Laura Boardwine and Catheter Plummer agreed. Loretta Tozer suggested a waiver be attached to the membership form. Tim Cohill contacted his brother, a lawyer, who will send Tim a letter we can use. Shay will also get one from a school system. VQHA will use these letters to tailor a letter for our needs. Everyone agreed that a waiver is necessary.

Next, Suzanne thanked the Board for a job well done at the Virginia National Stock Horse Show. She heard that our show in May was larger than the more recent Tarheel Summer Classic show put on by the NCQHA.

Vice President Tim Cohill discussed the future of the VQHA leadership. Positions will be opening (President, Vice President, and Treasurer). He believes that VQHA needs to begin talks sooner rather than later. Shay, as head of the nominating committee, will appoint members to help him. People interested will need a letter of intent or can be nominated from the floor at the General Meeting in February 2024.

Secretary Carolyn Merritt was not present due to a late shift at work, so the meeting minutes will be read at the next meeting. Debby Steiner is documenting the meeting in her absence.

Treasurer Laura Boardwine reported on the financial status of the Virginia National Stock Horse Show. A few bills were still not paid. Also, she is dealing with approximately \$800-1000 of returned checks and nonpayment of charge card bills. Laura did not want to discuss specific names over a Zoom meeting and will contact the Executive Board about this matter. VQHA also paid for a few things for the Queen. The balance is approximately \$23,000 with some outstanding bills.

Loretta Tozer asked about the Crisis Fund. She talked to Emily (last name???) about the location of the saddle money. Emily did not know. VQHA will need the auditors to look for the saddle money (~\$7000-8000). Beth Smith suggested removing the saddle money from the budget. Clarence Green said he believes Steve Meadows was President during this time and will contact him. Laura will put a hold on the money for the budget until Clarence can check with Steve.

Laura also pointed out that she had to transfer \$3244 to pay for the Virginia Bred Classes held at the Spring Breakout. The Virginia Bred is running on a deficit, and Clarence suggested that this program needs to be dropped by VQHA, as it only benefits a few people. Loretta cited mismanagement. The consensus was to see what Kristy Drew, who was not present at this meeting, can accomplish, but the future of this program is not looking promising.

Director at Large Scott Troutman had nothing to report.

Region 1 Director Kevin Babcock said they are trying to have a July meeting. Cory Balsis said she was contacted by Skeeter's girlfriend, who would like to show support for Region 1 by donating an annual memento with his logo. Possibilities could be a keychain or a headstall.

Amateur President Loretta Tozer reported that the Yeti cooler fundraiser at the Virginia National Stock Horse Show was a big hit. She thanked member Krista Jacobs for her work in putting this together. Also, the Amateur Association was audited by the Audit Committee.

Cathette Plumer reported on the AQHA Programs. She found some pictures from the past. She wanted to know if Clarence and Sandra wanted them. Cathette announced that AQHA is trying to promote the Horseback Riding Program. They will be giving away a saddle to the state association who has the most people joining the program. This will run from June 1 through December. Cathette suggested using the newsletter and Facebook to promote this. There is also a QR code.

Pam Troutman reported that the banquet will be held at the Marriott (city???) on February 2-3, 2024.

Cory was called upon to discuss the Awards Committee. A committee needs to be formed. More classes and the lower point requirement will result in more awards to be given. Points Secretary Debby Steiner believes she can have the final results completed by the end of November to give the Awards Committee as much time as possible.

Loretta asked about the AQHA Professional Award. Virginia did not give one at the banquet in 2023. We did give a VQHA Professional Award (Connie Christopher). Supposedly, AQHA gives information on this in September. This will need to be researched.

Kristy Drew was not present so there was no report on the Virginia Bred Program. Concerns about the financial status were addressed under the Treasurer's report.

Shay Nicely had nothing to report from the By-Laws Committee. The need for the Nominating Committee to begin the search for positions was repeated. Shay will choose people to help him and publicize positions on Facebook and in the newsletter. Again, a letter of intent or nomination from the floor will be required.

Membership Officer Cory Balsis reported that approximately \$7000 was received for memberships, \$1600 of which is for the amateurs and \$300 for the youth. VQHA has 180 members, five to ten of which are new. Seventy memberships have lapsed. Kathy will contact those people.

Tim Cohill reported for the Show Committee. The Virginia National Stock Horse Show had a profit of \$12,265, before taking into account the bounced checks. Of this profit, \$5400 was from sponsorships. Tim stressed the importance of sponsorships in making the show a success. Mark Miller, Show Manager, is busy at work on the Jack O'Lantern show in November. The AQHA application has been submitted to AQHA, and judges have been hired. Volunteers will be needed because Tim will be busy preparing for a new addition to his family. Tim promised to supply the trail poles for the show.

Kyle Hughes had to leave the meeting so there was no Youth report.

Loretta Tozer reported on the Queen. Karsyn Green has been busy. She attended the VHC trail ride and family day. She will also be representing Virginia at the Region 5 show in New Jersey this month. Shay has helped Karsyn with her profile and Facebook page. Karsyn is studying hard for the contest. She is also writing a manual about the Queen in Waiting. Karsyn has expressed interest in being the Virginia Queen for 2024. One concern is if she has a horse for the horsemanship portion of the contest. Todd Hulings said he has contacts, possibly a horse from Tommy Sheets' stable. Loretta will contact Kelly Wayman, Karsyn's mom, to find out if the horse is an issue and if VQHA can be of help. Everyone expressed their support of Karsyn and the great job she is doing as Queen.

The Ways and Means Committee report was presented by Todd Hulings. He reiterated Tim Cohill's claim of the importance of sponsorship for our shows. Cory reminded him of the VQHA calendar idea. This could be a good money maker. Members could buy a month and have their picture on it. Birthdays, anniversaries, and important dates could be sold. By-laws and a member list could be included. Paid ads could be incorporated to include trainers, tack shops, feed stores, boarding stables, etc. Tim brought up the concern that someone with graphic design experience would be needed to organize the calendar. Contacting the graphic design department of a community college was suggested.

There was no unfinished business not already covered during the meeting.

Debby Steiner brought up the idea of having an EWD division. This was accepted without reservation. Todd and Jessica will sponsor a belt buckle for the award.

Beth Smith reported on the Audit Committee. The Amateur Association was first. The report is self-explanatory, and the audit was clean. The Amateur Board accepted the report during their meeting on June 11, 2023. Next will be the audit of the Association, and then the Youth Association will be audited.

The meeting was adjourned by President Suzanne Gonzales at 8:42 p.m.