

Meeting Minutes
Minnesota Arabian Horse Association
Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Trophy House, Hampton, MN

Attending Officers and Board Members: Lori Conway, Jill Frieders, Anita Grant, Brook Matthiesen, Teresa LeFever, John Diedrich, Liz Steffes, Toni Marie O’Daniel, Nathan Hastad, Rebecca Bell, Annie Slawik, Laura Shaffer, and Pat Swenson.

Board members not in attendance: Van Jacobsen (excused)

President Lori Conway called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

1) Approval of Board Minutes

None to be discussed

2) President Report

MAHA is the second largest club in AHA, second only to the Scottsdale club, and APAHA, which is internet based. MAHA will continue to work hard to bring in new people. For every 50 members, we get one delegate at Convention. Multiple club association memberships are not uncommon and we welcome those who are also part of another local club.

3) Secretary Report

The *MAHA Express* quarterly newsletter will feature MAHA amateurs, professionals and new members. Becky Bell will oversee this section in the newsletter.

A motion approved by Toni Marie and seconded by Jill and carried to cross check the MAHA membership list against those who are members of the Facebook MAHA group to gain potential club members. The MAHA membership needs to be added to the Facebook group.

Brook initiated a discussion on enhancing the club’s communication vehicles and messaging to take advantage of the growing Facebook audience and newer communication vehicles. More information and discussion to come on this at the May meeting.

4) Treasurer Report

The MAHA club continues to be financially sound. For more information, contact Jill Frieders for a formal report.

5) Board Elected Positions

There are two outside board-elected positions. Jill moved that Pat Swenson be elected as the trail ride and endurance board liaison. Teresa seconded the motion and the motion

carried. Toni Marie approved a motion and Jill seconded the motion to appoint Anita Grant to the second board position. Anita brings a vast experience with the MAHA board, represents MAHA at the MN Horse Expo and at Arabians Unplugged and unrated shows. The motion carried.

6) Clinic Report (financial & membership)

The Gene LaCroix clinic was a huge success with at least 350 people attending. The event, and clinics like it, are instrumental in promoting the Arabian breed and attaining and retaining MAHA membership.

7) Website/MAHA Express newsletter

Retaining source documents (membership and event forms, meeting minutes, etc.) and key MAHA club passwords (website hosting, Facebook group, etc.) is important for the ease of transition from outgoing board members and other elected positions and the continued success of the club. A Google docs account has been established and will be maintained primarily by the Secretary of the club. The Executive Committee should have access to all passwords. The secretary will disseminate password information to the Executive Committee.

The MAHA website is undergoing a revamp, which includes a new hosting service, design, graphics and content. Tammi Stoffel has been contracted to do the redesign. The club should ensure that content on the new site is updated and includes all related calendar items.

8) Advertising & Promotion

The WSCA ad is in need to be updated and should include more of a “working/stock” message and graphics. Nathan will get photos for the ad from the Unplugged shows. John and Nathan to work on getting the ad updated by the *Arabian Horse Times* or by Tammi Stoffel.

9) 2014 membership

The MAHA membership as of Feb. 11, 2014 is at 345, with a decrease of 7 youth and an increase in those who selecting the three-year membership option. That’s primarily due to AHA increasing its fees by \$15 starting April 1.

MAHA’s membership form will need to be updated to reflect AHA’s \$15 increase. Liz and Brook to work on updating the form and get the revised form on the MAHA website by April 1.

10) Delegates for 2014 Convention

The MAHA club will have at least five delegates attending the 2014 AHA Convention held in Denver. Delegates must attend all Region 10 board meetings and convention. The deadline to determine how many delegates will attend from each club is June 30. The number of delegates is determined by the number of club members. Van, and John were elected again. Liz Steffes will take Anita’s place and

Anita will be an alternate. The 2014 Delegates are Lori Conway, Nancy Sawyer, Toni Marie O'Daniel, Van Jacobsen, and John Diedrich for sure. Liz Steffes is the sixth and Anita and all other MAHA board members will be listed as Alternates.

11) 2014 MAHA Spring Show

All forms and information for the Spring Fling show are online. Judge is Corky Sutton, John is ringmaster. Some barns do not get their stall numbers in on time and thus can create stall assignment problem. To avoid this, a MAHA board member will contact these barns after the deadline if they have not yet sent something in. The hospitality table is in need of volunteers to help keep it clean and stocked. Help is also needed for the silent auction. Sponsors, corporate and patrons are also needed. Check with related services (vets, farriers, etc.). Any help with tear down would be appreciated as well.

12) 2014 Volunteers

Finding those who are willing to help volunteer their time during the MAHA shows can be challenging and the existing volunteers can become burnt out after regularly volunteering. The fall Winona show is especially hard to find volunteers. The MAHA club may look at offering an incentive for MAHA members to volunteer. To perhaps extend the membership or a drawing for a prize like Region 10 does. Board members cannot be paid for work for the association, per the bylaws.

13) 2014 WSCA/Open Show Unplugged

The Arabian Unplugged show has been changed to August 24 in Farmington and the champ show will be held at the same time. There are ideas being floated around to help make the show fair for various skill levels of riders and horses.

Anita will check into whether the partnership between WSCA and MAHA is still active. WSCA has not been communicating with MAHA regarding WSCA participants who are also MAHA members. The MAHA secretary should be receiving an issue of the WSCA *Spotlight* magazine, which should feature a ½ page ad about MAHA. In addition, the WSCA membership is on the MAHA membership form. We will need to coordinate the list received from WSCA with Liz so she can cross check it against the MAHA membership list, and add if necessary.

14) 2014 Trail Rides

Pat Swenson will coordinate two trail rides in 2014. They are scheduled for: Sunday, June 22 (location TBD), and Sunday, October 5 at Conway Arabians.

15) Insurance, Spring Fling/Clinics

Insurance for the Spring Fling is completed, insurance for the Fall Winona Show and regular insurance expires with Equisure in April.

16) MN Horse Expo

The MAHA team will have 16 stalls at the MN Horse Expo. Still looking for

volunteers and horses. It's a good chance to get in the ring before Sahara Sands (it's the weekend before that show). Volunteers are needed to talk to people about the horses and helping out around the stalls. There is a rodeo and we can purchase group tickets if people are interested in attending.

17) MAHA Youth

Contact Joan Rose or view the website for information on joining a Region 10 Youth Team Tournament team.

Inquire with Tammi Stoffel to see if she can design a letterman's jacket patch for year-end high point awards.

18) 2014 Budget

Jill Frieders provided a formal report. Toni Marie approved and John seconded. The budget was approved.

19) Clinics, Open Houses, education events

Should MAHA host a second educational event/clinic later in the year? Perhaps attach it to the Fall Winona show.

20) 2014 meeting dates

A total of five meetings per year, two have already been completed. Other three meetings scheduled for: May 27th August 26th and September 13th. Same location.

21) 2014 Fall Classic Judge selection

Jill or Becky will contact Tim Goggins to judge the fall show. \$125/day plus expenses. Jill or Ann Benson to send contract for judges.

22) Region 10 horse show charity

The charity event at Region 10 the past few years, which has been "think pink" for breast cancer awareness, is open for someone else/some other club to take it on and develop its own theme. The purpose is to assist a charity—one that's horse-related—and to generate donations for that charity (and not jeopardize MAHA's non-profit status). It's a lot of work. Is it something the MAHA club should take on? If so, who will head it up? Which charity would MAHA promote? Options include: Hay bank, Ronald McDonald House, Horseman's Distress Fund, therapeutic riding programs, etc. If MAHA doesn't take it on then it would be encouraged that the APAHA take it on. Brook volunteered to head this up and to think more about what MAHA could do. Brook will email ideas and thoughts prior to the March Region 10 board meeting for the topic to be discussed at the Region 10 March meeting.

23) Any other business?

Anita will send cards to those who are ill on behalf of MAHA.

Adjournment

Lori made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Toni Marie approved, and Anita seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Brook Matthiesen