

Meeting Minutes
Minnesota Arabian Horse Association
Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Trophy House, New Trier, MN

Attending Officers and Board Members: Brook Matthiesen, Lori Conway, Jill Frieders, Lori Conway, Teresa LeFever, Brian Feuling, Nathan Hastad, Toni Marie O'Daniel, Anita Grant, Penny Gute, Annie Slawik,

Excused absences: John Diedrich, Jennifer Foreman and Renee Kramer.

President Lori Conway called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Van indicated a friendly correction to the January 23, 2016 meeting minutes should be made based on the conversation at the meeting: Minutes should indicate that MAHA would pay full MAHA clinic catering bill. Van made a motion to approve the January 23, 2016 meeting minutes as correction. Toni Marie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. Board election positions

Van made a motion to elect Anita Grant to a board-appointed positions to be MAHA's historian and to be the Horse Council Liaison, and to elect Jennifer Foreman to a board-elected position to be MAHA's WSCA liaison. Anita will make a list of all board members and what activities and clubs they participate in as the current list needs to be updated. Toni Marie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. President's report

The January 23 clinic was successful and Lori has received several thank yous from attendees. Lori will check to see if Peter took pictures of the event that can be used on MAHA's website, etc.

Lori discussed her 2016 goals for the club, which include: Continuing to grow MAHA's shows; gain a larger spread into open shows and other non-Arabian circuit shows, events and activities such as barrel races and gymkhana, and perhaps include 4-H and academy classes at our shows to bring in those who have Arabians but who don't typically show on the Arabian circuit. For some, such as those who competitively compete in endurance, a membership to any AHA club is not needed or beneficial for them to compete. The club will look for ways to gain grassroots exposure to bring in new members and Arabian horse owners such as ladies nights out events, a farm tour or coordinating efforts with Golden Ridge Stables and Ann Grainey Hoffman, and also will encourage members to attend events like the State Fair where there are lots of people from various backgrounds and the show has lots of added money for Arabians. Changes to MAHA's

insurance policy would need to be considered if any of these events take place to ensure proper coverage.

4. President's report

Even though Rebecca Bell is no longer on MAHA's Board, she has indicated she will continue to file state forms. A check of the Secretary of State's website indicates MAHA is in good standing with the state. Jill indicated the MAHA accountant double checks the state filings as well. Brook has reached out to Rebecca to get the filing information and a current copy of the forms. Brook and Lori will work more on this.

Voter turnout for board elections was up 2.5 percent from last year but still less than 15 percent of MAHA's adult members are voting. Some discussion around low voter turnout indicated the time of year, December, is not conducive to high turnout as well as perhaps offering a paper ballot again. A motion was made by Jill for Brian and Anita to plan a year-end awards banquet that will also be a General Membership meeting and the time and place to elect board and officers for 2017. The awards banquet will be Saturday, November 5. The motion was seconded by Van. The motion carried.

The MAHA website and Facebook page needs update photos. Anyone with photos please send them to Brook.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jill walked the board through the 2015 P&L statements and the 2016 statements. The club is very healthy financially. Dressage at the fall 2015 show was a bit of a loss leader. Jill indicated she would combine the AHA and USEF expense rows in future reports. While the Arabian Horse Times bill was paid in June for MAHA's 2015 new and returning member promotion, there was an administrative misunderstanding that means MAHA may still have some outstanding balance with the Times. A motion was made by Lori to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Toni. The motion carried.

6. Membership report

Renee wasn't able to make it to the meeting so Lori presented her report that indicated the club now has 326 members, which makes it bigger than the APAHA club and possibly the largest club in AHA. Typically we were within the top 3 between APAHA and the Scottsdale club. MAHA is three adult members short of obtaining a sixth delegate. In order to gain that sixth delegate, member retention is key now through the end of June. Renee is working with AHA to further refine our membership roster and data as the reports are aren't always accurate in certain columns such as when the member joined AHA.

While the Arabian Horse Times member give back promotion helped increase its members throughout 2015, the board would like to explore other options for 2016. Brian made a motion to terminate the Arabian Horse Times subscription for

members who have not yet renewed or joined MAHA in 2016 (as of February 4). Nathan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

7. Bylaw changes

MAHA's bylaws need to be updated in at least three areas: Change adult member age to 19& over, allow for electronic voting for bylaws, Officers and Directors, and allow for conference call and live video chat and streaming capabilities and other new technology. Lori made a motion to have Brian, Van and Laura Mickelson draft proposed changes to MAHA's bylaws with the goal of having the board vote on the proposed changes at the MAHA Fall Classic show and the membership ratify them on the 2016 election ballot (notice must be sent beforehand to members via website, email and Facebook). The motion was seconded by Toni. The motion carried.

8. MAHA Spring Fling show

Teresa reported that nearly everything is completed for the show, they just need people to work the gate. Jill indicated she could work it on Sunday and Lori and Teresa indicated they could probably cover it on Friday.

The documents were sent to Brook last week for inclusion on the website and Facebook page. The premium book will be sent to Brook later this week. All documents will be up on the website and Facebook page this week.

9. Website and MAHA Express

Brook indicated she needed content from officers and board members before this next MAHA Express can be sent. Lori would like a link to the Jerry McRae AHT article that Brook wrote in our newsletter. Lori indicated to look for additional training and vet articles to include but Brook cautioned that making the newsletter too long and labor intensive to read will drive readership numbers down. Look to strike a balance and include helpful and informational content in our newsletter and provide these articles on MAHA's Facebook group throughout the bi-monthly schedule vs. packing all into the newsletter.

10. MN Horse Expo

Annie reported that the Minnesota Half-Arabian club and MAHA are joining forces this year. The joint event is being planned by Annie, Jeff Rutz, Kristen O'Daniel, and Mary Grace Nelson. The group is in need of half-Arabians for the event. Also new this year are special and different neck ribbons for Arabians and Half-Arabians when presenting in center ring. Brook will create a MAHA benefits handout for this event. Annie will look to see if they can get the AHA pull-up exhibiting banners for this event. A total of 17 stalls, 4 in the front and 13 in the back. New curtains and center ring decorations are needed – currently there aren't enough curtains and the decorations are looking dated and beat up after several years of use. Jill made a motion to have Lori pursue purchasing Radon stall curtains and necessary accompaniments up to \$3,500. Toni Marie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11. Club “give back” ideas and programs

Based on discussions at the last board meeting, the MAHA scholarship idea was further discussed here. Jill is concerned that it may not be approved by the accountant because MAHA is not set up to be a charitable non-profit organization. Jill will explore this with the accountant.

Van reached out to AHA about doing a MAHA sponsorship at all the nationals and what type of package AHA could offer. The total cost would be \$1,150 for a sponsorship package that includes jacket/buckle, class and vet check sponsorships. Brian made a motion to approve \$1,150 for national sponsorships. Teresa seconded the motion. The motion carried. Van will complete the form and send the check. The sponsorship must say something along the lines of “In honor of our ___ year,” and must include the full name of Minnesota Arabian Horse Association. Could also look into the cost of a banner sponsorship in the arenas.

12. WSCA/Open Show Unplugged and GCHCA show sponsorship

Since Jennifer wasn't able to make the meeting, Lori reported on her behalf that MAHA has seen an up-tick in Arabians that come. Discussion centered around the GCHCA sponsorship and doing more types of things like this, including Silver Buckle, WSCA and other saddle clubs, as long as Arabian classes are added/included. Ensuring that the MAHA logo is included on their flyers and that they are widely distributed.

Discussion centered around when MAHA was established. Website indicates 1954. Brook and Becky will check the Secretary of State website and Lori will check her pin and other documents.

13. MAHA Fall Classic Show

Lori and Penny, who are both on the Minnesota Arabian Horse Breeders board, began a discussions about whether the MAHB's Fall Festival show could be combined with MAHA's Fall Classic show in Winona in 2016 and beyond due to low attendance at the Fall Fest show due to the Scottsdale club having their similar fall festival show and stallion auction over the same weekend. Penny and the MAHB have explored all other venues, dates and options before asking this of MAHA. Penny, as a representative from MAHB, is simply looking to determine whether it's an option that MAHA would be willing to further explore. Combining both shows would introduce a number of logistical issues including a possible lack of adequate stalling, expansion of a two-day show to four days, etc. After much discussion, a motion was made by Annie to further discuss this at a future meeting, including a special meeting called in the next few weeks specifically to address this proposal and should include representatives of both MAHA and MAHB. In the mean time, Penny should gather numbers in terms of how many classes it would add, how many horses and other necessary information. The motion was seconded by Toni Marie. The motion carried.

14. Horse Council

Anita was appointed to be the liaison earlier in the meeting. Jill hasn't received a dues bill for a few years now so Anita will work to ensure MAHA is still a member and get Jill the bill.

15. 2016 meeting dates

1. January 23 at the MAHA Clinic
2. February 3 at the Trophy House, New Trier, MN
3. March 18 at the Spring Fling; General Membership board meeting and high-point awards
4. August 9 at the Trophy House, New Trier, MN
5. November 5 at MAHA's awards banquet and General Membership meeting, location TBD

16. Budget

Jill reported that much hasn't changed, we'll do what we've always done and provide the great shows and services to members we've always provided while being fiscally responsible.

17. Delegates

Need to be chosen at the first annual meeting for two-year terms. From the website and memory, the group indicated that the delegates are:

- a) Anita (2015-2017)
- b) Toni Marie (2015-2016)
- c) Van (2015 -2016)
- d) Lori, as president she doesn't have a delegate term and goes no matter what

The group voted on paper ballots for three individuals and the results were:

- a) Brook (2016-2017)
- b) Nancy (2016-2017), alternate No. 1
- c) Penny (2016-2017), alternate No. 2

Brook will include this information on the website and clearly mark terms for all delegates and alternates.

18. Other business

Trail rides are being discontinued for the time being due to lack of member interest/attendance at the events.

Anita would like to organize more parade-type events for the club and Arabians. Insurance coverage will need to be adjusted so let Annie know about these ahead of time.

For 2015 convention coverage, the group asked that folks review the delegate report on MAHA's website.

Adjournment

Toni made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nathan seconded the motion.
Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brook Matthiesen
MAHA Secretary