

Meeting Minutes  
Minnesota Arabian Horse Association  
Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015  
Trophy House, Hampton, MN

**Attending Officers and Board Members:** Lori Conway, Jill Frieders, Brook Matthiesen, Teresa LeFever, Anita Grant, John Diedrich, Van Jacobsen, Annie Slawik, Toni Mari O'Daniel, and Pat Swenson.

Board members not in attendance: Nathan Hastad, Liz Steffes, Laura Shaffer and Rebecca Bell (excused)

President Lori Conway called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**1) Approval of Board Minutes**

None to be discussed

**2) President's Report**

Items are already listed below.

**3) Secretary Report**

Election participation was low, primarily believed to be because of the timing (December), all BOD and Officers ran unopposed. The ballot was emailed to 221 voting members, 95 people opened the email, 43 people clicked on the link and 21 people submitted the ballot successfully. Discussion on how to increase participation; suggestion on adding a link to the ballot on the MAHA website, and sending weekly reminders via email to voting members and MAHA Facebook group. All three BOD positions that were up for re-election and all four officers were re-elected.

The MAHA membership form was updated recently and is now on the website. The Lifetime AHA membership and MAHA voting membership option was erroneously added to the Youth membership category. The option was moved to the Adult membership category. In addition, Lori and Teresa noticed that an option for a Youth 1-year MAHA & AHA voting membership with no competition card was not on the form. The form is to be updated quickly so that it can be included in the Spring Fling premium book. Lori and Van noted that the membership chair should watch the newly added Adult membership option to ensure the club is not running into delegate issues with this option.

Brook indicated a subcommittee including Lori, Teresa and Brook will soon be launched to review the premium book production process, which can be more time consuming than may be necessary.

#### **4) Treasurer Report**

The MAHA club continues to be financially sound and healthy club. It increased its cash assets in 2014 by \$12,000 from 2013. For more information, contact Jill Frieders for a formal report.

John made a motion to approve the 2014 Treasurer's Report as reported by Jill, seconded by Annie, the motion carried.

#### **5) Board Elected Positions**

There are two outside board-elected positions. John moved that Pat Swenson be re-elected as the trail ride and endurance board liaison and Anita Grant be re-elected as the Minnesota Horse Council, MN Horse Expo and Arabians Unplugged board liaison. Teresa seconded the motion, the motion carried.

#### **6) Winter Clinic Report**

Lori was looking to partner with a vet to do a veterinary seminar at Cedar Ridge on March 7<sup>th</sup>. After discussion, it was decided that Lori should inquire with a few western performance trainers to see if they could do a clinic for us in March. It was also decided that we should try to do the clinics on Sundays as Saturdays conflict with lessons at many barns. Lori will continue to work on getting a clinic organized for March.

#### **7) Website/MAHA Express newsletter**

Brook will be revamping the design of the MAHA emails, including the MAHA Express. Look for the updated design as part of the Jan-March issue. Brook will update the website with new calendar items and the Spring Fling show information.

#### **8) 2014 membership**

MAHA is the second largest club in AHA with 338 current members, second only to the APAHA, which is internet based. MAHA will continue to work hard to bring in new people.

- Member retention: The Club that Gives Back
  - Winter clinic for members
  - Jackpot classes for members at the MAHA Spring and Fall shows
  - Membership email newsletter full of great horse-related information
  - Monthly email reminders to those who are up for renewal

Discussion on what to do in 2015 for member retention and to attract new members. A motion was made by Jill that MAHA pursues the most cost effective method of providing a complimentary 12-month subscription to the *Arabian Horse Times* magazine for all full new and renewing MAHA members in 2015 as another way to give back to its membership. Households with multiple MAHA memberships may want to donate their subscription to an area charity or service provider to help promote the Arabian horse to the public. The motion was seconded by Van, the motion passed. John will develop a proposal and discuss with Lara Ames.

**9) Delegates for 2015 Convention**

The MAHA club will have at least five delegates attending the 2015 AHA Convention. 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. Lori, Van, Anita, Nancy, and Tom will represent MAHA at convention 2015. All other MAHA board members and officers are listed as alternatives.

**10) 2015 MAHA Spring Fling show**

All forms and information for the Spring Fling show, March 20-22, will be on the website soon. Judge is Ted Carson, John is ringmaster. Silent auction items and volunteers for the show are needed. Short stirrup reining class added.

2014 MAHA High Point awards will be awarded in conjunction with the 2015 Spring Fling show on Friday, March 20.

**11) 2015 MAHA Fall Class show**

The MEC had the wrong dates listed on its website for our fall show and instead had another show listed as tentative for our actual show dates. The incorrect dates are over an Unplugged show weekend, among other things. Lori is working to see if we can get our original dates at the MEC. Lori confirmed following the meeting that the show will be held Sept. 19-20 at the MEC in Winona. The judge is Jill Mitchel and the steward is Cheryl Hanson, both from California.

**12) 2014 WSCA/Open Show Unplugged**

The Arabian Unplugged Championship show is slated for Sept. 12-13. The judge is Hoyt Rose.

**13) 2015 Trail Rides**

Pat Swenson will coordinate two trail rides in 2015. They are scheduled for: the weekend of June 27<sup>th</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>. Pat is looking for suggestions of parks that members would like to ride at. She's also wondering whether participants prefer Saturday or Sunday. Email Pat with your ideas and suggestions.

Brook to look at the endurance websites to get dates on our website for endurance rides.

**14) Insurance**

Annie reported that club insurance is in force, current policy expires in April. Show policies are up-to-date.

**15) MN Horse Expo & MN Horse Council**

The MAHA team is looking for volunteers and horses to represent the Arabian breed at the Expo. Horses must be good in crowds and with loud noises in order to participate, and must be neatly groomed and well taken care of. Anita and Annie report that its a good chance to get your horse in the ring before the Sahara Sands show. Participation has been waining in recent years and Anita suggested the club look at potentially not participating in future years if participation from club members doesn't increase.

Anita nominated MAHA member Dick Ames for the Minnesota Horseperson of the Year and gave a speech at the awards banquet recently.

**16) MAHA Youth**

Joan will again organize a youth team judging contest at the Sahara Sands show. She is also looking for a Youth Director and/or Vice Youth Director for 2015/2016. And, the 2014 Region 10 Youth Team Tournament award winners will soon be on the Region 10 and MAHA websites.

**17) 2015 Budget**

Jill Frieders provided a formal report. Jill moved to approve the 2015 budget, Van seconded, the motion carried.

**18) MAHA shows APAHA high point program**

Discussion as to whether MAHA should approve its shows to be included in the APAHA High Point Amateur Money Program. Local level shows can become part of the program by paying an initial \$250. See the APAHA website for more details about the program. Jill moved to make the MAHA Spring Fling show and the MAHA Fall Classic show APAHA approved high point shows. Van seconded the motion, the motion carried.

**19) 2015 meeting dates**

A total of five meetings per year, which include two general membership meetings. Meetings dates scheduled so far: Jan. 22 (BOD), March 20 (general) at the Spring Fling show, May 5 at Trophy House, August 26 (BOD) at the Trophy House.

**20) Region 10 horse show fundraiser**

The Region 10 show committee has asked the MAHA group to work on the fundraising event at the Region 10 show again in 2015. Lori will submit a proposal of the following to Laura, Chuck and the Region 10 show committee. Two timed events for professionals to be held Saturday evening—barrel races and pole bending. Fundraising to support the Horsemen's Distress Fund, and MAHA/Region 10 will also make a donation to the Minnesota Hay Bank. In addition can have the Youth do the Chuck-A-Duck concept again as it was popular among the kids.

**21) Any other business?**

Encourage members to get involved and show at the MN State Fair. Participation in

the Arabian classes is low and yet there is lots of money and prizes won at this show, in addition it's a qualifying show for regionals and nationals. Perhaps MAHA could look at sponsoring MAHA members who show there.

**Adjournment**

Toni Marie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, John seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Brook Matthiesen