

IHJA Board Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2024
7:00 pm – via Zoom

Attendance

Officers/Board Members Present:

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Stumm | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ingrid Schoenlein | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Vaught |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maggie Boyle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Davis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katie Heim |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Holly Maclean-Whittaker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brandy Snodgrass | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erica Zirkelbach |

Guests Present: None

Call to Order 7:09 pm

Guest Business None

OLD BUSINESS

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Financial Report | Income: | \$26,419.17 |
| | Expenses: | \$37,407.14 |
| | Account Balances: | |
| | Checking: | \$27,208.92 |
| | Savings: | \$8,143.92 |
| | Horseman's Assistance Fund: | \$6,313.21 |
| | TOTAL: | \$42,066.05 |

Motion to approve the Financial Report was made by Ms. Schoenlein and was seconded by Ms. Boyle. **The motion was passed unanimously.**

Membership Report Current membership: 68 members and 50 registered horses. Membership Challenge on Facebook open through January 20.

OLD BUSINESS

Banquet

Overall, banquet was a success and was enjoyed by attendees:

- 183 attendees
- Net loss of approximately \$1800 for the event. Food cost was biggest expense.
- Better signage/promotion of silent auction?
- Audio was difficult to hear. Cardinal Room's audio was down so the DJ's speakers had to be used, which was not optimal.
- 2024 Banquet tentatively booked for 1/4/2025

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- Invitations: Some members reported that they did not receive invites. Only one invitation was returned as undeliverable, unsure how other invites were delayed/lost by USPS. Since we already have a date/location for next year, would like to get invites out in November to avoid any delays due to December holidays. This would also help to evaluate menu options from caterers in order to get the most accurate pricing.
- Program ads: Missed opportunity. Flyers were sent in the invitations, but were missed. Recommend having someone to solicit ads (and raffle/silent auction donations) for better response.

USHJA Annual Meeting Recap

Ms. Schoenlein and Ms. Vaught reported:

- Check out the USHJA Programs, which were all promoted at the meeting:
 - Recognized Riding Academy and School Horse awards
 - Instructor Credentialing programs
 - Horsemanship Quiz challenge: Study guide and other resources available online
 - Emerging Athletes Program and Mini EAP Clinics
- Proposed rule changes:
 - A system to “level up” horses and riders to demonstrate proficiency at a skill set before moving to higher and more challenging skills.
 - Guidelines for when a competitor can approach the Judge
 - Judges being allowed to change scores after a video review.
 - Stronger position overall on horse welfare, including limiting number of classes that a horse can do in a day, quarantine plan requirements, temperature monitoring including biothermal microchips
 - Zone 10 and Jumper Task Force both recommended rule changes that would eliminate “speed-only” classes for any jumper class below 0.95m (would still allow jump-off classes at these heights) for the safety of the horse and rider.
- Good opportunities for networking during lunch sessions and breaks. Had great discussion during the Equitation working group about medal finals and how other regions execute them successfully.
- Ms. Vaught commented that her biggest takeaway from the meeting was new appreciation for how Horsemanship and Equitation are fundamental building blocks for the Hunter/Jumper sport, and that we as an organization should focus on promoting those foundational skills to set up our riders for future success.
- Ms. Schoenlein recommended that IHJA should send more members to the USHJA Annual Meeting in order to obtain better insight into the governance of USHJA and issues that are facing the sport throughout the country.
- Ms. Stumm asked about the rule change that was approved last year (which went into effect this year). Ms. Stumm stated that IHJA needed to include a statement in the IHJA Rule Book that was similar. Ms. Vaught agreed to review the USEF and IHJA rules and make the appropriate changes to the IHJA Rule Book before we vote on it later in this meeting.

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Review of Fine Discussion

Ms. Stumm asked that the Board review the issue of IHJA issuing fines for rule and conduct violations.

- Ms. Stumm has reviewed our decision at the last meeting to impose a fine and felt that we needed to have rules in place before we could impose any fine.
 - Ms. Vaught commented that while at the USHJA Annual Meeting, she discovered that USHJA does not impose fines, only USEF, the higher governing body. USEF devotes 9 pages of its bylaws to the complaints and grievances process, including rights of both the individual lodging the complaint and the individual against whom the complaint was made. <https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/wncxC9gluP4/bylaws>. Without all of these procedural protections in place, Ms. Vaught does not feel that IHJA can impose any fines or suspensions without putting the organization at undue risk.
 - Ms. Maclean-Whitaker agreed that she felt that the actions previously taken were adequate for a first offense of this nature.
 - Ms. Zirkelbach asked how IHJA would go about adding those rules that were necessary to support IHJA being able to impose a fine. Ms. Vaught stated that a rule change of this magnitude would require the due diligence to perform an in-depth review of the USEF resources, adjusting and adapting them to meet IHJA's needs, and proposing them to be included in next year's rule book.
 - Ms. Schoenlein suggested that this topic be approached with extreme caution, because it could put IHJA at risk for litigation, which has been threatened previously and could possibly put the organization at risk of bankruptcy.
 - Ms. Maclean-Whitaker, Ms. Heim, and Ms. Zirkelbach will work together on this initiative.
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NEW BUSINESS

Committee Chair Assignments

The following individuals volunteered to chair committees:

- Annual Horse Show : Ms. Stumm, Ms. Vaught, and Ms. Heim
 - Medal Finals: Ms. Snodgrass and Ms. Zirkelbach
 - Communications/Social Media: Ms. Zirkelbach, Ms. Heim, and Ms. Davis
 - Election: Ms. Maclean-Whitaker and Ms. Stumm
 - Rules: Ms. Snodgrass and Ms. Maclean-Whitaker
 - Banquet: Ms. Davis and Ms. Vaught
 - Financial: Ms. Stumm and Ms. Heim
 - Junior Board: Ms. Zirkelbach and Ms. Snodgrass
 - Education: Ms. Zirkelbach and Ms. Davis
 - Fundraising: Ms. Davis and Ms. Stumm
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Annual Horse Show

Possible Locations: Suggestions include Hoosier Horse Park, H&H Stables, WEC Ohio, Henry County. Ms. Stumm and Ms. Vaught to send bid invitations to these venues.

USHJA Zone Committee

Applications are due in March. Ms. Schoenlein reported that Indiana is not well represented in the USHJA Zone 5 Committee. Ms. Stumm indicated that she would be interested in running.

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Show Calendar

Ms. Vaught presented the following show applications to the Board for review:

- Change to Kolowa date: 3/30 to 4/13
- Country Heir, September 5-8
- Robert Murphy Stable Horse Show, July 4-7
- Brownland Farm: April 17-21, April 24-28, May 4, May 5, May 22-26, May 29-June 2, June 26-30, July 3-7, September 4-8, September 11-15, September 21, September 22, October 9-13, October 16-20, October 23-27

Ms. Schoenlein made a motion to approve the dates proposed. Ms. Heim seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously (Ms. Snodgrass abstained)

SafeSport

Ms. Stumm reminded all new Board members that all IHJA Board members need to complete SafeSport training and also should be USEF and USHJA Members.

2024 Board Meetings

Dates and Locations were set as follows (all meetings at 5 pm):

- March 10, Kolowa Equestrian Center
- May 12, Grand Champion, with Grehyavens as a backup
- July 14, H&H Stables,
- September 15, Rebel Heart Farm
- November 10, H&H Stables

IF BOARD MEMBERS HAVE A CONFLICT: Please notify Dawn as soon as possible (at least two weeks ahead of time) so that we might be able to reschedule a meeting.

Ms. Vaught will post meeting dates, times, and locations on the IHJA calendar.

Rule Book

The 2024 Rule Book has been submitted to the Board to review in advance of the meeting. Ms. Vaught provided a high level overview of the recent changes to the Board.

Ms. Davis made a motion to accept the rule book as presented. Ms. Heim seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

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Open Discussion

- Ms. Vaught suggested that IHJA should develop a “handbook” that encompassed the Duties and Responsibilities of the Board and each committee. This document would supplement the Bylaws and provide additional information on what each committee is responsible for. This document would serve two purposes: to ensure continuity of the organization’s operations as Board members are elected every two years, and also to help identify activities for which volunteers can be recruited to assist.
- Ms. Vaught suggested that IHJA should investigate becoming a 501(c)(3) so that donations to our organization would be considered. Ms. Vaught has asked our CPA to start investigating what we would need to do in order to be considered an Educational organization instead of a Sports Club.
- Membership considerations:
 - Ms. Zirkelbach asked if there is a way to offer discounted membership fees for IEA and ISHA members?
 - Ms. Snodgrass asked if we can we develop a program to encourage trainers to register a large number of lesson horses by offering a more affordable price point?
 - Ms. Vaught stated that the organization needs to consider that membership and horse registration fees help to pay for end of year awards (ribbons and Champion/Reserve prizes), and any adjustments that we make to membership/horse fees should result in an increase in members to compensate for the decrease in revenue so that we can continue to offer the prizes that our members want.
 - Ms. Snodgrass and Ms. Zirkelbach and Ms. Boyle will work together to discuss a plan that can be presented at the next Board meeting.
- In return for the donation of grooming brushes by Wahl, Ms. Vaught asked for photos of their brushes being used that could be submitted back to Wahl in appreciation for their generous donation.

Next Meeting

- March 10, 5 pm, Kolowa Equestrian Center