

Region 4 Director VP Candidate Call - 4.14.26

6pm Central

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[Speaker 22]

Or how are you today?

[Speaker 15]

I'm good. Can you hear me?

[Speaker 4]

I can.

[Speaker 15]

Okay, perfect, perfect, perfect. I know I'm early I just wanted to get on and get settled in and then I'm going to turn you to mute. Perfect.

How are you?

[Speaker 4]

I'm good. I'm good. It's been fun in the office for a couple of days.

[Speaker 15]

What?

[Speaker 4]

I said it's been fun in the office the past couple of days we have we've had no AC.

[Speaker 15]

Oh, heck. Oh, wow. You still having trouble.

[Speaker 15]

That's tough now. Oh, wow. Oh, wow.

Oh, yikes.

[Speaker 7]

Yeah, sure. I can see where that would be with all that hot air in there.

[Speaker 15]

Holy smokes. You're not kidding, Jim. Holy moly.

That's for sure.

[Speaker 7]

There's a whole lot of hot air in there and it ain't all outside either.

[Speaker 4]

Jim, you're not insinuating that it's coming from my office, are you?

[Speaker 7]

No, ma'am. No, I love you. There's three of you down there that are my girlfriends.

[Speaker 15]

Oh, yeah. I'll tell your wife, Jim.

[Speaker 7]

Your what?

[Speaker 15]

I said, I'm going to tell your wife. You're in trouble.

[Speaker 7]

That's all right. She knows it. She's met every one of them.

[Speaker 15]

I got you. I got you.

[Speaker 7]

Yeah.

[Speaker 4]

Good deal. It looks like it's just Barney and Ora right now, Jim. You're a little bit early.

But we'll take you anywhere we can get you. Got it.

[Speaker 7]

Well, I'm in Illinois and it's six o'clock here. That's the deal. I ain't at home.

[Speaker 15]

I got you. I got you. Jim, how's the weather there, babe?

[Speaker 7]

It's hotter than hell. Dry.

[Speaker 15]

It's hot here and dry. Man, we need some rain. Some kind of bad now.

[Speaker 7]

Oh, yeah. Yeah, it's pretty rough, but we'll make it. It'll rain sometime.

I have my cutting in May. It'll rain.

[Speaker 21]

That's for sure. That's for sure. That's for sure.

Gotcha. Gotcha.

[Speaker 3]

Hello. This is Jack Werner.

[Speaker 7]

Hello. Yeah, we're here, Jack. We know you're here.

Okay. When do I have to put in for fresh cows that show up at Bloomsburg by Sunday before the cutting?

[Speaker 22]

Yes.

[Speaker 7]

All right. You going to Dillsburg?

[Speaker 3]

Just to watch. My mare has a tendon issue, a suspensory issue. It's in a front leg, and she's laid up for about 60 days.

[Speaker 7]

Oh, that ain't good.

[Speaker 3]

No. No, it's not.

[Speaker 7]

I'm not going to be there.

[Speaker 3]

We're going to go up probably on Saturday, maybe, just to watch and hang out with everybody. They've got 700 head of cattle ordered. That's a bunch.

And she's got 141 stalls.

[Speaker 7]

That'll be a 3 o'clock in the morning deal. I'm glad I'm not going to be there.

[Speaker 3]

Me too.

[Speaker 7]

I'm going to be in Palmyra, Missouri.

[Speaker 3]

That's a nice place to be.

[Speaker 7]

Well, it is. It's the sure take beats up there in Pennsylvania at that rodeo. Yeah.

[Speaker 3]

Is your horse out there now, or do you have him at home?

[Speaker 7]

No, I'm not here now. I'll be here until next week. Yeah, I'm cutting this weekend.

I'm going to be going to it. I get home Monday and then got to be in Charlotte, North Carolina on Thursday. I'll probably go up to Paul's before.

[Speaker 22]

Uh-huh.

[Speaker 7]

I got to call him.

[Speaker 22]

Yeah.

[Speaker 6]

This is Byron. Hello, Byron. How are y'all this evening?

[Speaker 3]

Pretty good.

[Speaker 6]

Good. Waiting for Cathy. Cathy, are you on?

Of course I'm here. Oh, there you go. That was a good question.

I agree with you. I agree. It sounds like we have about everybody.

[Speaker 7]

Yeah, me, Jack, and Ora. There you go.

[Speaker 6]

That's all that matters.

[Speaker 15]

Hey, Byron. Hey, how are you?

[Speaker 6]

Good. Good. How's everything down your way?

[Speaker 15]

Hot and dry. We need some rain. Bad.

[Speaker 6]

Yeah. How's the pet doing?

[Speaker 15]

Josie's doing great. She's getting ready to be a real cow and go to the real world here shortly.

[Speaker 6]

Oh, I will. I'm yet to see that or believe it. You're going to see it.

[Speaker 15]

Does she not think she's a dog? My border collies think that she is their dog and their pet. Yes, she does.

They do. Yes. Yes.

[Speaker 6]

There will be tears in the household.

[Speaker 15]

Bill, I guess that's better than taking her to beef her, so I guess that's better than nothing, huh?

[Speaker 6]

Well, I think I told you that about my friend. They had a four-aged pig, and they killed it, and they had named it Arnold because that used to be their program, and the kids had a fit. The first time they had, like, pork chops, they had to give it away.

They had to give all the meat away. The kids wouldn't eat it. His wife wouldn't eat it.

Cathy, whenever you're ready, babe.

[Speaker 4]

Okay. Yeah, we've got 14 on right now out of a possible 18. I don't think the Europeans will be joining us this evening since we have that separate call on Friday for the Europeans.

So let's go ahead and get started. I'm going to go ahead and call roll. And as we're getting started and you're going through all, if you wouldn't mind, we had some problems with this last night.

Please mute your phone if you're not speaking. We had a lot of line interference last night that I'd like to try and avoid just to show respect for everybody speaking, okay? Here we go.

[Speaker 6]

Cathy, before you go, one other thing I'd like to say, if everybody would kind of look at their questions and try to keep them as short as they can so that everybody gets a chance. I know in the past we've always went around once, and then if we had time we would go around a second time. But try to know what your question's going to be before you ask it, and so we can get through this.

[Speaker 4]

Sounds good, Byron. Thank you. Okay, here we go.

Amanda Law.

Eric VanBoekel. Here

Byron Green. Here.

Nick Pilcher. Here
Trent Harrison. Here.
Crystal DeWitt.
Dan Agnew. I'm here.
Chuck Smith. Here.
Jeff Brown.
John Lavelle. Here
Steve Duff. Here.
Tim Dobyns. I'm here.
Jack Werner. Here.
Marty Miller.
Bill Stein.
Ryan Smith.
Jim Johnson. Here. Thank you. And I think Roy was going to join another call.

[Speaker 6]
Is that correct, Byron? No, ma'am.

[Speaker 4]
Hello, Roy. How are you?

[Speaker 5]
Perfect. Hi, Roy.

[Speaker 6]
Thank you.

[Speaker 5]
Yeah, and Ryan Smith called me. His mother had taken a turn for the worse, so he said he wasn't going to be on the call. He called me to let you know.

[Speaker 4]
Thank you, Roy.

[Speaker 5]
Yes.

[Speaker 4]
Okay, I'll turn it over to you. Byron, we're going to start off with Rock.

[Speaker 6]
Is Rock on? Cathy, is Rock on?

[Speaker 4]
No, I just texted him. Did I miss anybody from Region 4 that would like to record their attendance?

Okay. Is there anybody joining us from another region? Okay.

Here we go.

[Speaker 6]

Hey, Rock, are you on now? No. I don't see him yet.

Okay. Let me know when he gets on then, please. Yes, sir.

Hello? Yeah, Mr. Hedlund, this is Byron Green. We appreciate you.

[Speaker 2]

I'm sorry, go ahead. Go ahead. I was just going to say it's nice to talk to you.

[Speaker 6]

You bet. It's nice visiting with you. We appreciate you taking the time to get on the call and taking the time to volunteer to try to be VP.

I think you're more than qualified, so I'm going to turn this over to Cathy and she'll go around the roll call and we'll do our questions and answers.

[Speaker 22]

Okay. Okay.

[Speaker 4]

Hey, Rock, before we do that, if you want to go ahead and give an opening. Thank you.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you, Cathy. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to speak with you tonight. My name is Rock Hedlund, and I'm honored to be considered as Vice President-elect of the NCHA.

I've been involved in this industry for over 40 years. This industry has been very, very good to me. It's allowed me to create a living, raise a family.

I have a son who started off as a non-pro, started off as a youth, then became a non-pro, and now is becoming a very successful young trainer. I want you all to know I've spent 25 years in the politics of the NCHA and the Pacific Coast, and I feel that with that background, I have the experience and the leadership to take this association into the future. Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Rock. Okay, so we're going to go ahead and get started. Nick Pilcher.

[Speaker 12]

Hey, Rock, this is Nick. Can you hear me?

[Speaker 2]

Hi, Nick. Yes, sir, I can.

[Speaker 12]

I appreciate you taking the time and also throwing your name in the hat. I know it's a big commitment and appreciate that. Thank you.

Kind of a question that I've got would be kind of as our association and demographic of a customer, be it a non-pro, amateur, or trainer, kind of is changing, I feel like, going into the future, and I guess this is kind of a marketing-wise question, how would you kind of maybe branch into our association and to get us in front of a completely different set of eyes, i.e., people that haven't even ever seen a horse, let alone rode a horse, even in different disciplines, other than a Western saddle. Any ideas there?

[Speaker 2]

Yeah, let me see if I understand your question correctly. You're wanting to understand how or know my thoughts on how you market yourselves in your area or how I think NCHA should market themselves better at the national level.

[Speaker 12]

Well, at the national level, which would obviously kind of trickle down to the different regions and areas.

[Speaker 2]

Okay. I honestly believe that NCHA is doing a really good job, a better job than we've ever done in the past at marketing ourselves more on a national level. I think a lot of things have played into it, a lot of things that Taylor Sheridan has done, a lot of things we're doing now with our celebrity cuttings.

I think all that is really helping us grow nationally. I think on a local level, I think we need to market ourselves better to our local clubs and our local affiliates, if you will, maybe to the 4-H kids, maybe to the FFA, the local saddle clubs in our area, and try to market ourselves that way. Okay.

We need to become much more user-friendly at our grassroots local club level so that we can attract new members. And then once we attract them, we have to understand what their needs are and their wants are, and we have to try to fill that so that we can keep them in our industry. The only way we can grow this, and I know you've all heard this before, is we've got to start at the outlying areas and then grow it, because that's where our new members are going to come from, is our outlying areas.

We've got to put more emphasis on that, and I would like to hear from our outlying areas and affiliates as to what their concerns are, what their needs are, so that then we can address them and we can go back to the NCHA and say, hey, this is the problem they're having up here. How can we help them? Our outlying areas need to start looking back to NCHA as the mothership and how the mothership can help us, because they help us, then we can grow.

And I say us because I live on the West Coast, and we're struggling with a lot of issues out here. So I hope I answered that the way you were warning me to.

[Speaker 12]

Yes, thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Nick. Trent Harrison?

[Speaker 20]

Yes, ma'am. Yes, sir. Thank you, Rock, for your commitment.

I have no questions at this time, but I appreciate you.

[Speaker 19]

Thank you.

[Speaker 20]

Thank you very much.

[Speaker 4]

Thanks, Trent. Crystal DeWitt, are you with us? Okay, let's go to Dan Agnew, please.

[Speaker 10]

Thanks, Cathy. Hi, Rock. Hi, Dan.

I think you answered one of my questions through Nick's question, so that was good. But I have another one that's not really related. With my history with the Governance Committee, which is now over with, but I'm curious.

I mean, you were on the EC when I was on the Governance Committee and working through a lot of things. And I'm curious what you would like to see from a governance standpoint coming out, I guess, in the next three years, if you were elected. What would you like to see that committee be working on, and what problems do you see coming up from bylaws in a governance situation?

[Speaker 2]

Thank you. That's a very good question. Well, if I remember correctly, Dan, when you were in there and I was in there, that's about the time we were doing away with our at-large directors.

And I personally think that's something we need to revisit. And I would like to see the Governance Committee look at that, because I think we still have some holes in our outlying areas where we don't have enough representation, especially at this time in our economy. We have to reach out to these outlying areas so that we can hear their needs, and we need a place for them at the table, in my mind.

I don't know if we need three, but I think it would be good if we could have one at-large director from the West and one at-large from the East, so that we can just reach our members a little bit more. And I feel we need to reach out to our committees more and hear what our committee's concerns are. And we need to bring back to the Executive Committee, because we have some really, really tough hurdles ahead of us.

So that's one thing I would like us to look at, if I could say anything at all about it. That's what I got on that.

[Speaker 10]

Well, thanks. Good ideas. Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Dan. Chuck Smith?

[Speaker 9]

Rock, this is Chuck. I wholeheartedly agree with you. I was disappointed when we got rid of our directors at-large, because I thought it would weaken the outlying areas.

But my main question to you, I guess more of a comment, is that I was fortunate enough to be what you're running for a few years ago. And it was an invaluable experience to me that I had spent so many years on the Executive Committee, as well as either chairing or participating in other committees, which was invaluable in knowing how NCHA actually runs. And it didn't have that much of a learning curve.

Could you give a little bit of your background on your committee participation, your Executive Committee experience? Yes, sir.

[Speaker 2]

When I first came on as a Board of Director for NCHA, it was about 20-some years ago. And the first committee I got on was the Judges' Rules Committee. And I served off and on on that committee, because you term out, for over 20 years.

And I was chairman of that committee four different times. I've served on the Grievance Committee of NCHA for the last 23 years and been chairman for the last eight years of that committee. I've served on the Trainers' Committee.

I've served on multiple task force for the NCHA on different committees. And I'm just terming off of the Stallion and Foal Committee. When I went on to the Stallion and Foal Committee, Chuck, as you remember, we had a very hard line in the sand between the Stallion and Foal Committee and the EC.

And the amount of time that I've been on that committee, we have brought these two back together again, where there is no more problems between the Stallion and Foal Committee and the EC. And we're working together as one. And our Stallion Committee has really flourished because of that.

The six years, the time that I spent on those committees really helped me be prepared, what I thought was helping me be prepared when I went on to the Executive Committee. But I'll be honest with you, for the first four meetings, I sat there like a stick because I was scared to death. And my six years that I served on the Executive Committee was very, very eye-opening.

But if I wouldn't have been able to serve on those other committees before I got to the EC, I wouldn't have been as good a help to the Executive Committee as I was when I got there. So thank you for asking me that question, Chuck. And thank you for letting me speak.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Rock. Thank you, Chuck. John Lavelle?

[Speaker 8]

Thank you, Cathy. And good evening, Rock. How are you doing?

I'm doing well, John. Rock, it seems every couple of years, an idea comes up at the convention or out of the committees about changing the structure of the non-pro and amateurs so that everything's based on earnings and you go away from categories. In other words, the leveling would be based solely on money earned and remove the label of an amateur or a non-pro.

I'm just curious what your thoughts are on that. We now have three divisions, an open, a non-pro, and an amateur, and the amateur's been there for a number of years now and very, very successful. Actually, it contributes most of the entries anymore to the Triple Crown events.

What are your thoughts on that if it comes up? Do you have it in a position one way or the other? Do you feel that would help or hurt the association or grow or decrease the non-pro or the amateur?

I just kind of want to know what your thoughts are on that.

[Speaker 2]

My thoughts on that are this is something that I believe the amateur committee should work on, and if this is something that the amateur committee believes in is the direction we need to go, then it needs to go to the non-pro committee. The non-pro committee needs to get their arms around it, and the non-pro committee and the amateur committee need to come together at whatever decisions they want to make to see this going forward. Our amateur is very, very strong, and our non-pro suffers, and I think there are things we need to do to the non-pro.

I'm not sure what they are, and I don't have all the answers, but I do know we need to reach out to our committees and find out what our committees want, and then we can bring that to the table and look at it and see if that's what's going to be the best for our association. And if it is, then we go forward with it, but at the same time we want to put it in place. We've got to look and see where it's going to be three years down the road, five years down the road, and leave the door open to if we need to revisit it for changes, because a lot of times we make decisions and we make rule changes going forward that sit us here and now today, but we don't look far enough down the road to see where we're going to be three or five years from now, and then we realize, well, maybe that wasn't such a good idea or we need to do this or we need to do that. We've got to start looking farther ahead so that the changes we make are going to be the best changes for this association going forward.

If we make some wrong decisions, then we've got to be able to back up and change and say, hey, you know what, this didn't quite work out the way we did. We need to fix this so that we can go forward the way we need to go forward so that our association can grow and continue to be strong.

[Speaker 8]

Okay, thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, John. Jeff Brown, are you with us? Okay, let's go to Steve Duff, please.

[Speaker 17]

Yeah, I have just sort of an open-ended question. Are there any, is there a problem you see right now that is not being addressed that you would champion moving forward if you were president?

[Speaker 2]

Well, I think we have two issues right now and one of them, our biggest issue I believe we have right now is the rising cost of our cattle. And because of the rising cost of the cattle, we can't control that because that's controlled by the beef industry. But what's happening to that is it is causing our entry fees to go up at every cutting we go to, which therefore has to get passed back down to the cutter.

And I think this is something that needs to be looked at. We need to start talking about things we can do to try to keep the cost down, to try to make it more user-friendly for our cutters that we have, and try to attract new cutters to come along and get involved. If our costs keep going up like they are, and we don't know what this economy is going to do, but we need to start looking forward to it so that we will be able to withstand these changes going forward.

Because at the end of the day, this is a hobby. And if we're not making the kind of money we need to make from our non-pros and amateurs, the trainers aren't going to make a living. So we all have to work together and we've got to look at what these cattle prices are going at to see how we can make this all work.

Like I said, I don't have the answers, but I want to hear from the outlying areas and our grassroots affiliates as to what their issues are and what they're facing so that we can face them all together to go forward to make this whole association grow.

[Speaker 17]

Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you. Steve. Tim Dobyms?

[Speaker 11]

Hi there, Rock. This is Tim. I appreciate your time and involvement.

Terrific. Yeah, I appreciate Steve's question, and mine was kind of along those lines, and I appreciate the answer. Also sensitive to the cost being a concern, especially for new folks and amateurs and those just trying to start out NCHA.

So I appreciate that. And then I guess I was going to ask you what two or three of the kind of hot-button issues are for you that you see for NCHA over the next two or three years? So I guess other than the one you mentioned, is there anything else?

[Speaker 2]

Yes. NCHA now is stronger financially than it's ever been in its history, and Chuck can attest to this. When I first came on the EC, NCHA really didn't have a lot of money, and we were trying to get a line of credit so we could pay our bills because we were relying strictly on our state money to operate.

Over the years, NCHA has become very, very strong with some good leadership, some good people behind it, and some good investment programs. And the fact that our economy has changed, our horse sales have went up, and that has helped us a lot. But we have to start looking forward.

We need to look forward for three years, five years, ten years down the road as to where we're going to be. Right now, we're riding the high, but it's not going to stay like this forever, and we have to be prepared for when the fall comes. And that is what I would like to see us start looking for.

That is a hot button for me because we are strong now. I want to see this industry continue to stay strong and get stronger. I want it to be around for generations and generations to come, but we have to prepare for that, and we have to start looking at that now.

That is what's ahead of us. And like I said earlier, I also think we need to look. We need to hear from our membership as to what they want.

We need to utilize our committees more than we have been in the past. This is how we get more input from our outlying areas, from our members, and from our directors. And I've heard from a lot of directors how they don't feel like they mean anything to NCHA.

Well, there's times I can agree with that, and I think that has to change. That has to change. I hope I answered your question correctly.

[Speaker 11]

You did. That was great. Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Tim. Jack Werner?

[Speaker 3]

Yes. I want to say to Rock, I'm glad you took the opportunity to run, and I wish you all the luck with it. One thing in the East here, cattle, like you just said, there's a tremendous problem for us.

I'm in charge of getting all the cattle, and I'm hauling cattle six hours for cuttings from one supplier, and it's a lot of money we're spending. But we've been very fortunate with our affiliate that we've had some really good fundraisers, and that's really what's kept us going. But also, we've really spent a lot of time coming up with ideas to give back to the exhibitor.

At our May show, we have our award ceremony for last year, and we'll have a big banquet, and all our members are free. The affiliate is paying for the banquet totally, and we're having a couple little clinics. We're trying to do the same thing with that, but it's just tough to get people interested and people, new members, because of the cost.

And the cattle that keeps going up is going to be a real problem, and I'm glad that you mentioned that. You're well aware of that. So that's about all I have to say.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you, and I want to add to that a little bit. I've done a little research on our cattle deal, and yeah, the cattle prices are high. Our numbers of cattle that we have throughout the United States are low, and that drives it.

But when it costs what it costs to go buy a cow now, it's really hard to go ask the cowman to put that cow on a truck and send it down the road when they cost as much money as they do. So I've tried to listen to the people that own the cattle and to the cutters, and like I said, I don't have the answers, but I do know the only way we're going to get through this is if we start talking about it, we start coming up with new ideas, and we address it.

[Speaker 3]

You're right. I agree with you.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you. Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Jack. Marty Miller, are you with us? Bill Stein, are you with us?

Let's go to Jim Johnson, please.

[Speaker 7]

Believe it or not, I don't have any questions. Jim, come on. Throw something at me.

All right. This is my last time as a director, so it's really a mute issue because I've been in this for over 20-some years myself, and what I've really found out is the NCHA is a very ungrateful association for people that have served on this organization for 25 and 30 years and spent our own money, our own time to further the organization, and when you don't get voted in, which was fine with me, is that all you get is thank you for participating in the election, which is kind of discouraging and disgusting and a slap in the face that they don't even go back and look at the records that what people have done and the sacrifices they've made for the organization. So I really don't have anything else to say. That needs to be changed.

[Speaker 2]

Well, Jim, it hurts me to say that I agree with you, but there's times that I do agree with that because you are exactly 100% right, and we need to start looking at the people that have been in this association for a long, long time and what they've contributed and how much they have appreciated it and stayed with it over the years through the ups and downs. I'm sorry you feel that way, but I cannot disagree with that.

[Speaker 7]

Well, the thing of it is it's not just me. I'm just one of the few people that have the guts to stand up and say something. Everybody else just slumps it out, so it needs to be addressed one way or another.

Okay.

[Speaker 2]

If I am lucky enough to be elected, I will address it.

[Speaker 7]

Okay, sounds good to me, but we get a lot of rhetoric out of the NCHA that doesn't happen. I hope you can change that.

[Speaker 2]

Well, I'll try my best.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you. That's all you can do. You're fighting to have me home.

Well, I got to go on. I'm done.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you. Roy Bauer?

[Speaker 5]

Yes, can you hear me, Roy?

[Speaker 2]

Yes, Roy, I can.

[Speaker 5]

Yeah, we sure appreciate you running, and there's no doubt that you have vast experience. And one thing with going last is just about everybody has covered everything that I know, and I agree with the large director thing. I thought as a director, that was a very important day for us directors to elect that person, so I agree with that.

And I think what you're saying about the outlying areas, I do think one thing NCHA could do is make a promotion. They've got a lot of promotional videos like the youth kids and all the different stuff, but one just with grassroots or just basic cutting to let people know that you don't have to own the four sixes to have a cutting horse. It's getting close to that, but you don't yet.

And then my other question that hasn't been addressed is I've heard, because we usually got somebody trying to make the top 15, and I've heard that there's a lot of trouble with getting sponsorship for the world finals, and I just wondered if you had any thoughts on all that, whether it's going to move or anything like that.

[Speaker 2]

First off, I want to say, I think that's a very good idea you have on the grassroots video or something like that. And yes, that's something that I hadn't thought of, and that is a very good idea, Roy. The second part of your question on the world finals, I am unaware of that.

That must be above my pay grade. But I have been asked the question if I thought the way you qualify to go to the world finals should be on money one or should go on points. We had some discussion about that last year where you only count so many shows, a lot of different things.

I believe that that's something that needs to go back to the weekend show committee for them to look into and figure out if the way we're doing it now is actually the best way for us to continue to do it going forward, or we need to look at changing it or adjusting it in some ways. And because there has been a fair bit of discussion, and some of it's come back to me. But that's something that has to come from the membership and from our directors.

And it's got to start somewhere, and it has to start at the weekend show committee because those are the ones that are dealing with our year-end point standings. And if that needs to be looked at and dealt with, it needs to start there, and then it needs to come back to the directors and then to the membership so that everybody is on board if that's the direction we're going to go going forward. As far as the sponsorship money, I don't know where we're at on sponsorship money for the world finals, and I have not heard one word about it moving or changing.

So I'm sorry I don't know that.

[Speaker 5]

That's good. No, I think what you're saying there is exactly right. And I think starting with the weekend show committee, I think the way we're hauling is okay.

I know we have our little circuits where, you know, but people have to, you know, like for us, we have to nominate local to get to go to other cuttings to try to make it, you know, so. Right. But anyway, I sure appreciate it and good luck.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thanks, Roy. Amanda Law.

[Speaker 14]

Are you with us? I'm here. Sorry.

I didn't get the invite. I guess my question would be, I think this comes up every so often, and there's lots of conversations that happen about, you know, how to improve the non-pro class. And it seems to me that a lot of the solutions that get thrown out are, are kind of taking away always and, and kind of screwing over the amateur.

So I guess my question would be what, what are your thoughts on improving the non-pro that does not affect the amateur?

[Speaker 2]

Well, at the end of the day, and I've said this earlier, if the non-pro needs to go to work and, and deal with the issues they're having the non-pro committee, and then that needs to

come to the table. And then the amateurs need to look at it also, because at the end of the day, we're non-pros and amateurs. So we, we all have to work together to make this grow.

We are all members. We all love this sport and we want to see this sport grow and go forward for a long, long time. I have made a living giving amateur, non-pro lessons and teaching amateurs and non-pros how to cut since I started training, which was 43 years ago.

I understand how important the amateur and the non-pro is. I don't want to collapse it. I don't want to put it together.

I want to do what the non-pro and amateurs feel is going to be the best thing to do to go forward, to grow our sport. Did I answer that correctly for you?

[Speaker 14]

No, that's perfect. Sorry. I don't know if you had already been asked that.

I just got on late. So thank you. No, no problem.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Amanda. Eric Van Boekel. Are you with us?

[Speaker 13]

Yes, I'm here. Hey, Rock. How you doing?

Thank you for running. I'm good. I want to start off with that.

I want to start off with that. No, I may have a question that I had that you've already addressed it. It sounds like there's no intention of collapsing the non-pro and the amateur, just trying to find a way that each can help each other's organization or division and still keep promoting cutting.

So that's the answer I was looking for. So I appreciate you for your thoughts on that. Thank you.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Eric. Crystal DeWitt, are you with us? Okay.

Byron, it's all you.

[Speaker 6]

Yeah. Well, Rock, I had the privilege of serving with you on EC, and I must say you always handled yourself professionally, and I have a lot of respect for you. I think you have proven that you have the knowledge for this job, and I wish you the best of luck.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you, Byron.

[Speaker 4]

Byron, do you want to ask the group if there's any additional questions?

[Speaker 2]

Does anybody have any additional questions?

[Speaker 4]

Yes, please, Rock. Thank you.

[Speaker 2]

Okay. I just want to thank you all again for giving me the time to speak to you tonight. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to run for NCHA vice president-elect.

This association means so much to me, and I'm very, very proud of it. And I want to see it keep going and going for as long as it can. I feel very fortunate to be a part of it as long as I have, and I will support it as long as I'm alive.

I want to thank you all for listening, and I'll ask you to please vote for me. Thank you very much.

[Speaker 6]

Thank you, Rock.

[Speaker 4]

Okay. It looks like Rock's left the line. I've already texted Chase.

He should be joining us shortly.

[Speaker 5]

I just got a text. This is Roy. I just got a text.

They canceled the cut in Pennsylvania this weekend.

[Speaker 3]

When did you get that, Roy?

[Speaker 5]

Just a few minutes ago. I think it's on Facebook, something about the ground. They got some kind of problem.

[Speaker 3]

Oh, boy. That's what everybody was afraid of before, last year. But last year, the one she had, you couldn't have had better ground.

[Speaker 1]

Hey, Cathy.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Chase.

[Speaker 6]

This is Byron Green, and I'd like to take a minute here to thank you for running. We appreciate that you've taken the time and putting forth the effort to do that. We'll go around here first.

I'd like you to have an opening statement, if you would, and then we will start questions.

[Speaker 1]

Yes, sir. Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

Well, I'm Chase Lackey. I'm from Burlington, North Carolina. I've been a member since 2013.

I currently serve as a North Carolina director, and I'm on the limited age committee. I have a business that works in the construction industry, operates across the southeast on any given day, working 200-plus people at our direction, and have about 10 projects going on at any given time. Those jobs last about a year or two as they're going.

I'm fortunate to have a great staff around me. I believe surrounding myself with people better than me is the way to go. I think we have a culture that is goal-oriented, and I think that very much relates to NCHA Jay and his staff as well.

Having those people affords me the opportunity to go to these horse shows and have the time to serve in this position if I'm lucky enough to get it. I'm an active competitor in the non-pro and amateur divisions. I have horses showing in the open.

I've done a little bit of everything, weekend, limited age, called for the world, world finals multiple times, and I just feel like I want to run to help protect NCHA, what we've built. We're so strong right now, and I want to help us continue moving forward and making business-minded decisions. I believe my experience plus my industry knowledge from showing in NSBA and AQHA and NCHA will be invaluable for making decisions along with my business knowledge.

I'd like to thank everyone for asking some questions, and I look forward to it.

[Speaker 6]

Thank you. Cathy, do you want to start a round now?

[Speaker 4]

Yes, thank you, Chase.

[Speaker 14]

Amanda Law. Hi, Chase. Thanks for joining us.

I guess I'll ask the same question I asked Rock. We have been hearing a lot about trying to build up the non-pro, and a lot of the ideas at times that I hear really take away from the amateur and affect the amateur, and I'm wondering what your thoughts on that are.

[Speaker 1]

Sure. Well, obviously the amateur is extremely successful. We put the leveling in place at the limited age events, and I think we have a great structure on the weekend side.

We do not need to do anything to mess that up. I think the non-pro probably needs to look inward to make some adjustments on their end. From what I hear talking to everyone as I've been running, a lot of amateurs would like to see an option to enter just in the intermediate.

I think that would help increase entries there. I think in addition to that, we have some rules in the rule book we can probably look at that aren't as relevant anymore, and if we can adjust some of those, we may be able to help increase non-pros that way. Because again, our amateurs are strong, and financially the way we are backs that up.

I think we can see that in the money we've been putting back and have a nice little nest egg now. I hope that answers your question.

[Speaker 4]

Yeah, thanks, Chase.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Amanda. Eric Van Boekel?

[Speaker 13]

Hello, Chase. It's Eric Van Boekel. I want to thank you for taking the time and for running for NCHA vice president-elect.

I want to thank you for the time that it's going to take you and all the hard work that you're putting in and trying to do this endeavor. What makes you feel that you're – what drives you to be the NCHA president?

[Speaker 1]

Well, a little bit on what I just said. I think this moment matters right now, and experience matters, but I think having the right experience matters more, and I believe a business background lends itself to make very good financial decisions, and I want to help protect what we've built and continue us moving forward in an upper trajectory. That's very important for us right now, and I think making business decisions because there is no question NCHA is big business.

We're a worldwide organization, and we're going to have to operate like one and make smart financial decisions as we move forward. So I just believe that my skillset lends itself to that, and I want to give back to NCHA because it means so much to me and my family. Thank you.

Thank you very much. Yes, sir.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Eric. Nick Pilcher? Nick, are you with us?

Hey, Chase.

[Speaker 16]

It's Nick. Hey, Nick. Yeah, can you hear me?

Yes, sir. I just want to copy what everybody else said. I know it's a big-time commitment, and I appreciate your support and volunteering and throwing your name in the hat.

We had a chance to sit down the other day. I appreciate your conversation, but just for the group, I asked Rock this question, something we talked about as far as moving into the future and adapting what we're looking for. We've got to find new customers to cutting and look in non-traditional places, and at a national level and a local level, what would be some of your thoughts and ideas and possibly how we think outside the box to get our sport into creating new cutters across the country?

[Speaker 1]

Yes, sir. Yeah, I appreciate that. I think a few things, and like we discussed, and I've kind of been rolling out on some social media platforms that I've discussed quite a bit as well.

I think marketing is a big part of what we do. Yellowstone was great for us. We saw an incredible influx of people that were interested in what we do, and that was great.

But we're on the tail end of it. We are going to have to continue to ramp up our marketing to find new viewership. I think an NCHA app is something we certainly need to be looking into and developing.

Our youth are going to expect it. They get information quickly at their fingertips any given day. They type in a question, they have an answer in 10 seconds.

We don't want to be the dinosaur in the room. We want to be able to provide that information to them and keep them interested. So I think we would start with an app.

I would like to see something where we're putting reels out on little short video clips through Facebook and Instagram and all the social media sites that would link into our app. And then from our app, we would have access to see where our local shows are. And if we can get them from a reel to the app to seeing that there's a horse show right down the road they could go visit, I believe we'd get them to that horse show through that avenue.

And then we need an ambassador program that is paying attention. This could be donated, this could be through our donated time or through our directors to get them more involved. But we need to be looking for the new faces in the stands, the new people that are coming to the horse show and do outreach through that.

Let's find out why they're there. What do they know about cutting? How can we introduce them to trainers and the exhibitors and be that source to help develop them to long-term cutters?

So I feel like those would be vital for us. And then locally as well, we need to consider maybe doing some outreach through our local radio. Maybe that's something NCHA can help with, our feed stores.

There are ways that we can do it on a local level as well. But I think on a national level, we certainly need to be continually looking forward to the future and how we adapt to the needs and wants of our organization.

[Speaker 16]

Absolutely. I appreciate that answer. Thank you.

[Speaker 1]

Yes, sir. Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thanks, Nick. Trent Harrison.

[Speaker 19]

Hey, Chase. I just want to say thank you for running and thank you for your commitment to the association. I do not have any questions at this time, but I appreciate everything that you're doing.

Thank you, sir.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Trent. Crystal DeWitt, are you with us? Let's go to Dan Agnew, please.

[Speaker 10]

Yeah. Hi, Chase. We've never met, but look forward to meeting you one day.

Yes, sir. Same question for you that I gave Rock. I've got years of time on the governance committee.

I'm not on there now. I turned out a long time ago, or I mean from a long time. But the question for you is from a governance standpoint, I know the committee, I'm still kind of loosely connected with them.

They're still involved in a lot of bylaws reviews and updates. Do you see anything from a governance standpoint that you would like to see NCHA or the governance committee work on or evolve to?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, absolutely. Thank you for that question. I feel like, you know, our election process maybe could take a little bit of a look at that.

It does last a very long time. I think that becomes strenuous for us to recruit candidates to run for this office. I'm curious what it looks like, and we would need to do our investigation and it needs to go through all the proper channels.

But what does it look like if we served a two-year term versus a three-year term? Does that entice very qualified people to potentially be willing to put their time forward for that?

Three years can be a pretty big commitment for some people.

The other thing that I feel like we could do is maybe even loosen the rules a little bit for the qualifications to be a vice president candidate. Yeah, we would need a lot more time to start digging into something like that. But I feel like those are some simple things we could look at that may help us as we move forward to find, you know, great candidates out there that maybe didn't have all the time in the world over the last 20 years or so to invest time at a detailed level.

[Speaker 10]

Well, thanks. Good input. Thanks, Chase.

Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Dan. Let's go to Chuck Smith, please.

[Speaker 9]

Yes. Thank you for running. And I'll ask you the same question that I asked Rock.

I've been a past president. I've been through what you're going through, and it is very time consuming.

[Speaker 12]

Yes, sir.

[Speaker 9]

And it is strenuous. And you have to be committed, you know, going into it. But I was fortunate enough that I had spent several years on the executive committee as well as chaired and been on multiple NCHA committees that I felt was really gave me a leg up in knowing how the system worked and in the staff, et cetera, going in.

Did you give us what your background is with on committee on committees and other things you've done with NCHA in addition to your competition?

[Speaker 1]

Sure, absolutely. I've served on the limited age committee right now, and I also have been a director, but I also help produce shows through Area 18. I'm the vice president there of Area 18 Cutting Horse Association.

We produce the Peach State Futurity, which is a fairly large show we produce once a year. I've also helped host individual classes within that. We had a shootout for a lot of the lower level classes, and that really helped increase participation through that.

Sir? I'm sorry, I didn't hear what you said. Anyways, so I've done that.

And, you know, I really believe my skill set is involved in my business background. I'm very good at delegation. I've managed to grow a company from a very small family-owned company to one that works across half the country.

So I feel like my skill set is very valid for the role that I would be assigned to. And I think Jay is very good at running the day-to-day operations, and we need to help him do that.

[Speaker 9]

Thank you.

[Speaker 1]

Also, I do have the Mary Kingsbury Sportsmanship Award that we've been involved in. My family sponsored that for, gosh, maybe five years now, I want to say. We've been involved with NCHA and want to see it grow.

I think it's a family atmosphere, and we need to keep fostering those types of things.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you.

[Speaker 8]

Yes, sir.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Chuck. John Lavelle?

[Speaker 8]

Thank you. Excuse me. Thank you, Cathy, and good evening, Chase.

Thanks for running. I'll try to bring up a couple of points that were discussed with your opponent when he was on the call earlier. The size of the executive committee, do you think it's about the right size?

Did you like the old system where we had at-large representatives? Is there room to revisit the situation with at-large representatives and maybe make them regional at-large representatives? Say one from east of the Mississippi, one west of the Mississippi, one south of the Red River, that type of thing.

What's your feelings about the size of that body and whether it's adequate or needs to be more representative of the whole country?

[Speaker 1]

Well, I believe one of my concerns would be not getting too heavily represented in one area. Right now, I feel like the EC functions very well. There was a time and a place, eight, ten years ago.

It didn't function so great. But I think we have come a long ways over the years, and we've had some great leaders, some great business-minded people that have helped lead us to a very strong point. We're efficient now.

We're not having meetings every single month in person. We've moved away from that. So it seems like the EC, to me, is operating very well, and I don't know that that necessarily needs to change until something warrants it.

[Speaker 8]

The second question I'd like to ask, then, is there's been talk every couple years, it seems like, of consolidating the non-pro and the amateur divisions into a simple money-earned category. In other words, once you hit a certain category, you move out and go to another category and get rid of the amateur criteria and the non-pro criteria. Make it strictly based on money-earned, for instance.

How do you feel about that idea?

[Speaker 1]

Again, I'm going to say we are – I call it a four-division system. A lot of people call it three. I call it four.

We're open, non-pro, amateur, and youth, and we don't need to forget about the youth. So I always throw that in there. But I believe where we are at, it is a four-division system, and I think financially that has proven to work for us.

And until we have something that is fully vetted, I don't see us moving away from that. Just from a business standpoint, it makes no sense for us to make a knee-jerk reaction and change our whole system and not know what that looks like. So if we were ever to change, we're going to need a lot of information and a firm idea of what that structure looks like.

Again, I believe you have to operate this as a business, and if you have something that's working this well, you don't necessarily throw it to the wayside unless you have a highly vetted option out there. And there's so many factors that will come into that that rarely get talked about. I would certainly challenge that our software probably couldn't handle that change, which means we're going to have to make a new investment in software.

No telling what that looks like from a cost standpoint. So I just think there's many things we would have to look into in order to make a change like that.

[Speaker 8]

Okay, well, thank you. One follow-up to that. You mentioned having an NCHA app that the younger generation particularly could have a one-touch system and take us to all these places.

And then you just mentioned the challenges with NCHA software, etc., and the way we're set up. I don't know how long you've been a director, but it used to be every year at the convention, we kept hearing about the new computer system and give us another year and it's going to be operational. About a million and a half later, it finally got up and running and it went on for years.

It was a very clunky and expensive thing to implement. And we have so many rules and exceptions and so on that one size doesn't fit all. Have you investigated or talked to Kelly and those in the IT department at the office and Jay and others about what would be involved in creating an app and what the cost of it would be and ideas to streamline that?

[Speaker 1]

No, I'm really excited to get that opportunity. And I don't think that's something, John, that happens in six months. These are big ideas that we need to investigate and make sure we're making good, strong decisions as we move forward.

But I think the concept of it is what we really need to be looking at. And I have had some high level conversations with our staff and Jay, and they seem very supportive in looking into something like that and feel that that would be beneficial to us. And to go back to what we spent as far as our website, our website is difficult.

I mean, we're a complicated association with all the different things we have. Obviously, we have the limited days, we have the weekend, we have the circuit finals and the world finals. So I don't know that that's ever the easiest thing to navigate in the world.

But I believe we got very good staff involved, especially when Jay got here, and we got the right people in place to get these things corrected. And I am fully confident that our staff moving forward is fully capable of creating something like this and getting it right. So I think that's part of it.

We hired Jay to do a job, and we need to make sure we're allowing him to go do it. And if we don't have confidence in that, then we need to be asking ourselves why we would even have someone like him. And in my opinion, he's great.

I think he does a great job, has good staff, and continue us moving forward.

[Speaker 8]

Thank you.

[Speaker 1]

Yes, sir.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, John. Steve Duff?

[Speaker 17]

Yes, Chase, I want to echo everybody else's thoughts. Thank you for running and spending the time to do this. And I just have kind of an obtuse question that I ask Rock as well.

Is there a single issue that you see moving forward that has been unaddressed so far that you would champion moving forward?

[Speaker 1]

I guess yes and no. So I feel like we need to continue to improve our marketing. I mean, I think we are addressing that, and we're working on it.

But we need to make sure we're pushing that forward. I'm fearful that we are not looking ahead to create things like an app and make sure we're adapting to what our youth are going to need. Something, just an idea that I think we could work on as well, you know, we kind of have a gap from our youth to our amateur non-pro class.

You know, a lot of those kids, when they're done with the youth, they go off to college, they do something else. We may or may not get them back. I'm really curious what a collegiate class would look like that we could offer, even if it would just start out as once a year.

And hopefully that could grow into getting the colleges involved. But I think it would offer an opportunity for kids to not leave our sport and potentially never come back. If we could keep them involved, I think that helps with our membership retention.

So that is something I feel like we could work on that maybe we're overlooking slightly right now.

[Speaker 17]

No, that's great. And hopefully get some of those young kids involved with moving forward with the software and social media and things like that. Yes, sir.

Thank you. Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Steve. Tim Dobyms?

[Speaker 11]

Hi, Chase. This is Tim. Thank you very much.

And I appreciate all the insights you've shared. I guess I'm curious what you see as kind of a couple of the biggest challenges or headwinds that the NCHA faces in the next few years. And it seems like we have a lot of great opportunities, but wondering what you think the biggest challenges are in the coming years.

[Speaker 1]

Certainly. You know, rising costs are always going to be a concern for us. And some of it's going to be out of our control.

You know, cattle are a big part of our costs. And we need to try to look into some ways that we could help. I can't say that I can offer you an answer to that right off the bat.

I think there are some things we could do to help create a little more nest egg. I've discussed a few times on some of the podcasts I've done and with some of the directors and trainers and everyone what an NCHA horse registry would look like. I think that that would be something we potentially could create that would offer another revenue stream for us that would help build our nest egg and help us reinvest in ourselves.

When you look at what we spend to register horses at AQHA, that's something we could be spending inside of NCHA to help reinvest in ourselves. And that could be a very significant revenue stream for us. I mean, in the millions.

So imagine what we could do to help with the changing environment and the COVIDs of the world if we had that nest egg set to the side.

[Speaker 11]

Got it. Thanks, Chase. Appreciate it.

Yes, sir. Thank you. Yes, sir.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Steve. Jack Werner? Jack, are you still with us?

[Speaker 3]

There I am. I had it muted. Chase, I'm congratulating you for being for the presidency, but you just answered the question I had before about cattle.

And that's a big problem with us up here in the Northeast. And we have to do a lot of fundraisers, or we couldn't afford to keep cattle or keep the cuttings going and still afford the cattle. I mean, it's driving our entries out of sight.

And I'm afraid we're going to have some people drop out because of the cost. But there's no cattle up here to rent of the quantity we need. And I'm in charge.

I get all the cattle. And we're trucking cattle six hours to all our cuttings. And I don't know how another couple of years, maybe, but I don't know how long it's going to last.

If it keeps going up, there's got to be a solid answer for it. That's all I can say. And what's your idea?

What you had just said previously here may be some good ideas to solve some of that problem.

[Speaker 1]

Yes.

[Speaker 3]

Obviously, we're going to need help.

[Speaker 1]

Yes, sir. We can't ignore the problem. We need to actively be working for solutions.

And I can't say that I can offer some perfect solution right now. I'd love to be able to say that. But I don't have that at the moment.

But I would love to work with individuals to help come up with some solutions for that. And let's make sure we're addressing it. That's the biggest thing.

We can't just sweep it under the rug.

[Speaker 3]

No, we can't. It's starting to get out of hand is what it really is. And I don't know how much more the exhibitor wants to absorb in cattle costs.

That's the problem.

[Speaker 1]

Big concern. No different than any other business. You get a problem, you face it head on.

You don't just set it to the side and let's figure out how we deal with it.

[Speaker 3]

That's true. Well, thank you for your input. And good luck in your election.

Thank you, sir. Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Jack. Let's hear from Bill Stein, please.

[Speaker 18]

Hi, Chase. We haven't had an opportunity to meet. I look forward to that in the future.

And again, thank you for the commitment and running for this office. It does take a lot of time. Unfortunately, I joined late, but I'm listening to these questions and your answers.

I'm very impressed with them. Jack, just talk to you about our situation here. Our biggest challenge is the cost of cattle.

But yeah, other than that, I don't have any specific questions for you, but I'm enjoying those that you're answering and your answers. So congratulations and good luck on your campaign.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you. I appreciate that. If you happen to think of a question later on, please don't hesitate to reach out.

[Speaker 18]

Well, thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Bill. Jim Johnson. Jim, are you with us?

Okay, let's go to Roy Bauer and we'll come back to Jim, please.

[Speaker 5]

Hey, Chase, can you hear me okay? Yes, sir. Hey, so, you know, like everyone said, we appreciate you running.

I've seen you at a bunch of cuttings and we've talked quite a bit about a lot of different stuff. I mentioned the rock and I had talked to you in private about it. I wanted to get it out that about doing a promotional video for just kind of grassroots weekend type cutting.

Because a lot of people think it's only for the rich and it is getting where it's only for the rich. But to let people know that there is on local level places people can cut. And then my other question, when we were at West Monroe and I was talking to Jay and he was talking about the World Finals and the trouble with getting sponsorship and maybe having to move it or wanting to move it.

I wondered if you had any thoughts on that.

[Speaker 1]

I do, you know, and I don't know where all that will go. But I think that goes back to like my horse registration idea. You know, that could afford us the opportunity to cover the full gap that that show cost us to produce.

You know, it's pretty significant and I feel like if we were looking at a large idea like that. And again, this isn't something that happens overnight and we need to fully vet it and understand how it impacts our industry. But an idea like that helps close the gap on so many things.

You know, it allows us to make bigger payouts at the World Finals. I mean, we wouldn't just cover the cost gap. We could double our pays.

We could do the same thing for our International Circuit Finals. We could be paying upwards of a million dollars at the Super Stakes and some of those other big shows. It allows us to do so much more, give back to our customer base as well.

So I really hope that we can investigate some ideas like that to help out. Because I think, you know, people want our World Finals and it's important we find ways to preserve that.

[Speaker 5]

Yes, thank you. I sure appreciate you running and good luck. Thank you.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Roy. It looks like we've lost Jim. So Byron, I'm going to go ahead and go to you.

[Speaker 6]

Thank you. Thank you, Chase, for running and I appreciate it. I know what's involved here.

And it looks like you've got a lot of really interesting ideas, something I think is worth looking into. So I won't keep you any longer. Do you have a closing statement?

[Speaker 1]

Yes, I do. Are we ready for that? No more questions.

[Speaker 6]

Well, do we have anybody else that wants to go around again? It looks like we're ready for your closing statement then.

[Speaker 1]

Great. Thank you so much. Thank you, everyone, for your time.

I appreciate the thoughtful questions and the opportunity to express some of my ideas. I really look forward to the opportunity to work with our staff, with Jay, and everyone on this call to help advance NCHA. I really want to continue to see us grow and protect what we have built.

And I hope you will vote for me. Thank you.

[Speaker 6]

Thank you. Kathy, I think that kind of winds us up there. And, again, I want to thank everybody for taking the time to be on the call this evening.

And we look forward to seeing you all. Thank you so much. Kathy, did you have anything else?

[Speaker 4]

I don't, Byron. I don't. Thank you for everyone's time this evening.

If there's any further questions regarding convention or anything coming down the pipes, feel free to let me know. The vice presidential election will open Monday, the 20th, and it will run through May 27th. I know it sounds like a long time, but I have to allow enough time for ballots to be mailed back in, especially from Europe.

We do have a significant group that does mail paper ballots back every year. So if you have any further questions, feel free to just email me or call me at the office. Thank you for your time.

[Speaker 6]

Thank you, Cathy. And everybody else, good evening. Thank you.

Good night.