

Region 5 Director VP Candidate Call - 4.15.26

6pm Central

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[Speaker 3]

Hey guys, this is Ora. How is everybody?

[Speaker 24]

Good. How are you, Ms. Ora?

[Speaker 3]

Good, good. Is this Andrew?

[Speaker 24]

Yes, ma'am.

[Speaker 3]

Hey, proud you're here.

[Speaker 24]

I know. I remembered.

[Speaker 3]

Hey, your wife did great. I'm proud of her.

[Speaker 23]

Yeah, she had an awesome week.

[Speaker 3]

That's awesome. Awesome.

Congratulations for me. I will. They will.

They will. Barney, I see you.

[Speaker 7]

Yes, ma'am. I'm here.

[Speaker 3]

Awesome. Awesome.

[Speaker 7]

Sitting outside enjoying the afternoon.

[Speaker 3]

Good. Good deal. Good deal.

I see Garry Merritt.

[Speaker 12]
Hey, Gar.

[Speaker 3]
Hey, how are you?

[Speaker 12]
Present.

[Speaker 3]
Present. Present and accounted for.

[Speaker 12]
No, no, no. Just present.

[Speaker 20]
Just present. Okay.

[Speaker 12]
Okay. Accounted for. Got a lot of responsibility with it.

I agree with you there.

[Speaker 3]
I agree. I agree. I agree.

I agree. I agree. Jan, I see you are on our call.

That's awesome.

[Speaker 4]
Thank you for welcoming me. I couldn't make my regional call.

[Speaker 3]
I got you. I got you. Well, I'm glad you're here tonight.

Thank you. I will put you in the list here, Jan. Who else we got?

A 1229 number. I don't know who that is.

[Speaker 14]
That's probably me, Ryan Howell.

[Speaker 3]
Hey, Ryan. How are you?

[Speaker 14]
I'm good. How are you doing?

[Speaker 3]

I'm good. Good. How's our little boy, Jet, doing?

[Speaker 14]

Oh, he's getting big.

[Speaker 3]

I say they grow quick, don't they?

[Speaker 14]

He grows. He's very quick.

[Speaker 3]

That's awesome. That is awesome. That's awesome.

Who is iPhone 11 down here?

[Speaker 24]

Is that me, Ora?

[Speaker 3]

That might be.

[Speaker 24]

I bet it is.

[Speaker 3]

Okay. Okay. It's you.

Okay. Got you. Got you.

Got you. Got you. Got you.

We'll give it a little bit of time here. There's everybody. There's Wendy.

Hey, Wendy. Hey, folks. Hey, Ora.

Hey, Wendy. Hey, babe. How are you?

I'm good. How about you? Good.

Good. Real good. Good.

Good. Denise, I see you. She's bowling tonight, so she's got her earbuds in trying to listen to us.

Sounds like fun. Uh-huh. She's on a bowling league, she says.

The 561 number.

[Speaker 18]

It's Sandra.

[Speaker 3]

Hey, babe. How are you? Good.

How are you? Really good. Really, really good.

Needing some rain, but other than that, we're good. Healthy. Wealthy and wise.

[Speaker 18]

Yeah, same here. We could use some more, that's for sure.

[Speaker 3]

We sure could.

[Speaker 5]

We've got 10 on right now, but it looks like they're still coming in.

[Speaker 3]

Yeah. Let's give it a few more minutes, okay?

[Speaker 5]

And Ora, just to confirm, we're going to start off with Rock this evening and then move into Chase.

[Speaker 3]

That's correct. That is good. Yeah, gotcha, baby.

Gotcha.

[Speaker 6]

This is Maben.

[Speaker 3]

Hey, Maben. Welcome. And welcome back aboard with us, babe.

[Speaker 6]

Yeah, it's been a while, huh? Yeah, it's Dejan Vu. Glad to be here.

[Speaker 3]

Good, good. Glad you're here with us. Glad you're here.

Cathy, it's just seven right now. Let's give it a couple minutes, okay? And we'll get started.

Sounds great. Okay. Cathy, you did hear that Jan Gandy could not make hers on her Region 6 call, so she's on our call tonight.

Yes, ma'am. I copied you on the response back to her today. Okay.

Yep. Okay. All right.

I've been out of the office, so I've been crazy today, so I didn't get much time.

[Speaker 5]

Yeah. Hey, Ora, after we call roll and get started, will you remind everybody to mute their phones if they're not talking just so that we can kind of eliminate some of that background noise? Sure, sure.

[Speaker 3]

We'll do it for sure. We'll give it one more minute, and then we'll kick off, okay? And get started anyways.

All right, Cathy, I'm going to go ahead and start us off. I'm going to welcome Region 5 Board of Directors. It's great to see such good representation, and I thank all of y'all for taking this call seriously and participating.

This is an important time of year for us to do this. Cathy Marie is on with us, and she has been the last few nights along with us, long nights, and as you all know, I'm a Cathy Marie fan, a big-time fan. She is an amazing asset of the NCHA, and I just want to personally thank her for taking such good care of all of us.

Thank you, Cathy Marie. Thank you. Thank you.

And I'm going to turn it over to you to get a little roll call, please.

[Speaker 5]

Okay. Thank you, everyone, for joining us this evening. We've got a fun-filled line-up for you, so here we go.

Andrew Sligh. Here. Thank you

James Hooper

Joey Nail

Julie Beasley

Ora Diehl. I'm here. Thank you,

Brittany Overstreet. I'm here. Thank you.

Pam Scott

Sandra Lines. Here. Thank you.

Sharon Overstreet. Here.

Allison Howell. Thank you.

John Hulsey

[Speaker 3]

John is flying in between. If he gets on, it's going to be late. He did call me.

Okay. Perfect. Thank you, Ora. Mark Senn.

Ryan Howell. Here. Thank you, Ryan.

Barnwell Ramsey. I'm here.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you. I still be on with this after a while.

Garry Merritt. Here. Thank you.

Bob Meyer. Here. Thank you, Bob.

Tony Smith. Here. Thank you, Tony.

Wendy Warne. Here. Thank you.

Barbara Brooks.

Jason Whitaker. I'm here. Thank you, Jason.

Kevin Hertzke. I'm here. Thank you, Kevin.

Zeke Entz. I'm here. Thank you, Zeke.

Dr. Maben Thompson. I'm here. Thank you, Maben. And welcome back to Region 5.

[Speaker 25]

Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Okay. And we also have Jan Gandy from Region 6 joining us this evening. So is there anybody else from another region that's calling in on tonight's call?

Okay. Thank you, Ora. I'll watch for the others.

[Speaker 3]

Thank you, Cathy. As always, our best. Let's go ahead and give Rock a call if we can do that.

And in the meantime, guys, mute your phones so that you don't get some playback here. So when you're done talking, let's do that. Rock's going to be first up.

We're going to go around the room. Cathy will call roll call and you can ask your questions. And then if we have time, we can go back and ask others.

There probably will be people that will load up on us, come on the call a little later. So we'll do that if they do. Other than that, we'll wait for Rock to come on and he's going to give us a little bio and then we'll turn it over to around the room and ask some questions.

[Speaker 5]

Rock should be joining us shortly.

[Speaker 3]

Thank you, Cathy.

[Speaker 1]

Hello.

[Speaker 3]

Hey, Rock. It's Ora.

[Speaker 1]

Hi, Ora. How are you?

[Speaker 3]

I am really good tonight. I guess I'm glad you're here with us. Region 5 welcomes you.

First and foremost, I'd like to tell you thank you for your consideration of serving our NCHA and the president-elect or VP-elect, sorry, that will be end up president. But I wanted you to know a little bit about us. Region 5 spans over six states, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

And we are all on the phone and listening to you. So we're going to ask you to, you know the drill. You've been through many of them so far.

I'm going to turn the floor over to you so you can introduce yourself and then we'll go around the room. Thanks. Thanks a lot.

[Speaker 1]
Thank you, Ora.

[Speaker 3]
You bet.

[Speaker 1]
Thank you, Ora. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to be speaking to you tonight. My name is Rock Hedlund.

I'm honored to be considered for NCHA vice president-elect. I've spent years deeply involved in this industry, building relationships, understanding our challenges, and working to support the success of our members and the future of cutting. I believe in strong leadership, transparency, and preserving the traditions that make NCHA great.

I'm committed to listening, collaborating, and serving the association with integrity. And I want to thank you for considering me. Thank you.

[Speaker 3]
Thank you, Rock. Cathy, I'm going to turn it over to you to draw on our board of directors for questions for Rock. Please make sure your phone is muted, please.

[Speaker 5]
Thank you, Ora. We're going to get started with Andrew Sligh.

[Speaker 23]
I don't have any questions this time. We'll listen for a little bit.

[Speaker 5]
Thank you, Andrew. Let's go to Brittany Overstreet.

[Speaker 16]
Hey, Rock. Thank you for your time. I've been trying to think of questions.

The only question I really have, maybe you can tell me what your ideas would be. I feel like in our region, specifically our circuit, we've just seen our shows kind of getting smaller and smaller. And, you know, sometimes the non-pro doesn't even make.

Do you have any ideas on how to retain the members that we have, but also grow at the weekend level?

[Speaker 1]

Um, the best way I can speak to that would be I would like to hear from you all what you're telling me, what your concerns are. And we would need to come together with a plan because you're not the only area that spoke about this. And we all need to sit down and talk about it from the non-pro side of it to see what we need to do and what changes we need to make to make it easier for the non-pros so that they have a class.

Because we have the same problem here on the West Coast. I don't have the answers. I just know that we need to start talking about it.

We need to start coming up with ideas. And we all need to come together so that we can put a plan together for what is going to be best for the non-pro. And each area has its own issues.

So, that is something that we're going to need to take into consideration because what we decided to do in California might not work for you on the East Coast. So, we got to discuss that part of it also.

[Speaker 16]

Okay. I appreciate that. Thank you.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thanks, Brittany. James Hooper, were you able to join us? Joey Nail?

How about Julie Beasley? Okay. Let's move down to Pam Scott, please.

Pam, are you with us? Okay. How about Sandra Lines?

[Speaker 18]

I'm here. Hi, Rock. Thank you for throwing your hat in the ring to run for the Vice President.

I do have a question. So, I've seen your videos talking about being pro-amateur. How did you represent the amateurs in the past when you were on the EC?

[Speaker 1]

I felt I was very supportive of the amateurs as I am the non-pro and the youth because at the end of the day, it takes all of it to make the NCHA grow. And we all have to come together so that it will grow. The amateur, I've trained amateur and non-pros since I started training cutting horses 42 years ago.

And I understand that we need to continue to have a fair and level playing field so that we can welcome new members into this association. And the amateur is a very, very good place for them to get started.

[Speaker 18]
Okay. Thank you.

[Speaker 1]
Thank you.

[Speaker 5]
Thank you, Sandra. Sharon Overstreet? Okay.

[Speaker 11]
Can you hear me, Cathy? Yes, ma'am. Okay.

Hi, Rock. Good to talk to you again. I, this is what I see.

Well, I see our main dilemma right now in the cutting horse industry is the cattle. But there's very, very little any of us sitting here can do about that. The other secondary issue to me is bringing new people in.

I've watched team rope and explode, barrel rope, race and explode, sorting. All Western industries seem to be easier to get into, easier to understand the program, easier to get a horse, and easier to go do all of those events. Do you have any ideas about how we can simplify our rule books, simplify our class structure, do whatever it takes to get people in off the streets?

Because that right now is, to me, the only thing we could possibly solve. We can't solve the cattle problem. So we need to work on solving that.

Do you have any ideas about that?

[Speaker 1]
Well, Sharon, that's a very good question. And I hope I can answer it the way that it needs to be. I'm going to answer it the way I feel.

I think we need to look at our amateur division. We need to look at our non-pro division. And the non-pros and the amateurs, they have very, very strong rules at this time as to what you all can and cannot do.

And I think those rules need to get looked at. I think they need to be revisited. I think we need to start looking.

You know, the AQHA has started a lease horse program. And I think that's something that we might want to investigate. We need to come up with some way that it would be possible for us to be able to bring new people into this industry that aren't ready to step out and pay \$75,000 or \$100,000 for their very first cutting horse and go show in our entry-level classes.

I think that needs to be looked into. I'm not saying we need to do it. I'm saying it needs to be researched.

Because what you're talking about is a big, big concern. It's a concern of mine. And it's a concern of this whole industry's.

I've had two people come to me this year and want to get involved in cutting. Amateurs. They took a cutting lesson on my turnback horse on the flag.

Came back two, three times. Loved it. Wanted to start cutting.

I told them, okay, that's great. We're going to have to find you a horse. Because in order to do this, you have to own your own horse.

Okay, great. But you're going to need to look at, you know, for a beginner kind of horse, maybe we can find one for \$50,000 to \$75,000. They go, oh, wow.

Really? I said, yeah. Our horses are expensive.

They said, okay, well. And then it's going to cost me this to go to the shows. Yep.

Yep. It is. I said, now, you know, we might be able to get you a horse you can start in the \$4,000 limit now.

Oh, okay. But normally that class doesn't go until about 8, 9 o'clock at night. Really?

That's way past my dinner time. I don't know if this is something I really got to get into or want to get into. Where I'm going with this, we need to look at our association and become more user friendly to invite people in.

And then when they come in, we need to keep them in and help them mature and get the same experiences that we've all had because we've been in it a long time. In order to bring new people in, we've got to be warm and welcoming and invite them in and give them a place to come in and get started and try it out. I think there's a lot of things out there that we need to look at as to how we need to become more user friendly like the roping has and all our other western events that we're doing.

We are still going down this same road. And I think it's time we take a stop and we look at all the other avenues that we could pursue if we want to grow this membership and we want to grow the interest in cutting. I said this last night on a call and I'm going to say it again now and it's a little off what you just asked me, Sharon.

We sent out free members, free memberships for many, many years. And then we stopped doing it. Now you can get them on a limited basis or however that works.

But whenever a member does not renew, we don't follow up with why they're not renewing. We need to send something to them. It doesn't cost that much money and find out why they quit.

Did their horse die? They can't afford a new one. Did they get mad?

Who knows? But that's information that we need to know so that we can grow our membership. Our membership is down from what it was last year, the year before, as it's down in all of our affiliates.

And we need to stop and look at this and see why. There's information in front of us if we just start talking to each other and we put a plan together of what is the best way for this whole association to go forward. Did that answer your question, Sharon?

[Speaker 11]

Yeah, thank you very much for your thoughts. I appreciate that.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you, Sharon.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Sharon. Alison Howell, have you joined us? Yes, I'm here.

Thank you, Alison. Thank you, Rock, for taking the time to run for vice president. Not an easy task and a big ask of your time.

Pretty much my only concerns were kind of what Sharon was talking about and Brittany on the non-pro. One other thing I wanted to ask was our membership cost to get in to be a member is \$130. I feel that's really high.

Do you have any thoughts or ideas about is there a way we can lower that? Maybe that's the way, maybe that scares people off, you know, and then you've got it to where, you know, every rider has to be so a husband and wife team, you know, they both have to be members. I mean, it gets expensive if you've got, you know, you start adding it up.

I know they cut the chatter down to a few times a year, you know, is there something else we can do to lower that cost? Maybe that'll help with the membership.

[Speaker 1]

I think those are very, very good ideas and that's something that I agree with you needs to be looked into. I'm making notes right now and writing that down because I agree with what you're saying and that's something that needs to get looked at. It needs to get looked at from finance.

It needs to be looked at from the show secretary side of it and it needs to get looked at through the weekend show committee and we need to look at that and see if there is a way that we could lower that for first-time members, maybe second-year members. I don't know but that's a very, very good idea and like I said, I just made notes of that so I can write it down and we'll take it but that's something that we all need to look at, work on and see if that is something that is possible that we could get done. I agree with you 100%.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you. Thank you, Allison. John Hulsey, are you with us?

Okay, how about Mark Senn? Okay, let's go to Ryan Howell, please.

[Speaker 14]

Hi, Rock. You had mentioned and one of the other directors have mentioned that first off, thank you for running, taking the time. I appreciate it.

Kind of a long multi-year kind of strategic plan for the NCHA and I mean you've touched on a lot of this but is there any other like important points that you're gonna take on or make a priority when you get in?

[Speaker 1]

If I was elected by the membership to be vice president of this association, one of the first things I would want to put in place is a three-year, a five-year and a ten-year plan. NCHA right now is financially stronger than it's ever been in its history. When I came on the NEC nine years ago and I believe Ora was part of it back then at that time also, we were trying to get a line of credit so that we could pay our bills because we were relying so much on our state money that we got from the state of Texas.

Over the years, with good leadership that we've had and the right people in place, we have grown to be in the position that we are in today. But we're not going to stay at this position forever. Nothing does.

We have to look far enough down the road so that we can manage our money correctly, continue to do the things we're doing, grow this association and have an industry here for our kids, our grandkids and their grandkids. And if we don't start looking at it right now, I'm afraid we could fall back into the same place we were 10, 11 years ago.

[Speaker 14]

Thank you. I appreciate it. Thank you.

Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Ryan. Hey, Barney, we're going to circle back to you when we get, back to Ora as president. I'm going to go on to Garry Merritt, please.

[Speaker 12]

Rock, thank you for serving. Thank you for running for this office. And thank you for 42 years of diligent giving back this association.

I'm not going to ask you any questions because you've been there, you know, you've got history. You don't take it for granted. It's just like you got done talking.

We're in really good shape right now. And that's when you got to work harder than when you were broke. So, you know, as long as we can preserve it and keep it going, that's fine.

And when you get elected, I have all the confidence in the world that you know what you're doing. Thank you for serving, buddy.

/

[Speaker 1]

Garry, thank you for those kind words. I really appreciate it.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Garry. Bob Meyer.

[Speaker 1]
I can't hear you.

[Speaker 8]
How about now?

[Speaker 1]
Oh, that's much better. Thank you. Yes, sir.

[Speaker 8]
I'm on the Drugs and Medication Committee for NCHA. And this past year we had for the futurity and the world finals, it's the first time we've never had a penalty or a violation for prohibited substances. And I wondered if you had an opinion about expansion of that into the other age events, you know, like the major limited age events besides the one NCHA produces, or whether, you know, we should just leave it as the ones that, you know, just the association produced events.

[Speaker 1]
Okay. I'm going to ask you to define that a little bit more when you talk about the other limited age events. Are you talking about shows that are produced outside of the NCHA?

They're just approved by NCHA?

[Speaker 8]
Correct. They, you know, the logical thing would be to, you know, expand to first the major ones, you know, say ones that had 100,000 or more added. And just because, you know, that's where a lot of money gets spent.

And the fact on stallion popularity, what people pay for horses, what people spend fees. And just wondered if you had an opinion on, you know, if things were, if we're happy just like it is, or if we needed to look at expanding it further than just the NCHA produced events.

[Speaker 1]
I think that's a very hard, I'll tell you straight up, that's a very hard question for me to answer. Because we, there's shows produced in a lot of different states. And a lot of the different states have their own drug rules.

And if NCHA, if we were to try to implement drug rules in the state of California, for example, the state of California has very, very strong drug rules, and I'm sure you're familiar with them, where we basically can't use anything. The NCHA produced shows, that took years to come up with the guidelines and the drugs that were okay to use and the drugs that are prohibitive. And I feel that what we've done for the NCHA at this time, and I know in the beginning when we implemented it, because I was around then, we had a lot of people misusing drugs.

And what that has done, it's taken us quite a few years to get to this point, but it has taught our trainers and our locals and our membership how to use drugs properly. Before that,

nobody had any idea. So there's been a lot of good come out of this, and it did take our cutters a while to understand what all this meant, because they had no idea.

The drug rules that we have in place today, I think are good, and I think it's strong, and I think we're doing the best thing for the horse, because at the end of the day, that's what we're looking at, is the horse, and educating the people that administer those drugs. And I know there's different drug laws in different states, some don't have any at all. I think if we felt that we needed to put a drug system in place from the NCHA, that's something that would need to be looked at and discussed by your committee, and then brought forward with the proper research and documentation to where NCHA felt they could get behind it to support it and stand behind it going forward.

When you commit a drug fine in California, NCHA will accept that penalty, and you can go on probation at NCHA also. You can get fined from NCHA also. And so I don't know if I'm answering your question correctly.

[Speaker 8]

Yeah. I was just asking about enforcement. In theory, any NCHA-produced or approved show, they all go by the same drug rules, but we only enforce those rules at the NCHA-produced shows.

And you in California, you've been showing under those more strict rules for quite some time already, and you're able to get your horses shown and earn money and make stallion prospects. But that's California. You don't have stricter rules than what NCHA already has.

I just was wondering about that. You already have the rules in place that are, in theory, the same no matter where you show, but they're only enforced. We only can right now do the tests at our NCHA-produced shows.

So I just was wondering what you thought about expanding that enforcement.

[Speaker 1]

I think that's something that darn sure needs to be looked at. But there again, we're going to be looking at that cost that's going to go right back to our cutter, that they're going to have to pay more money for every entry because it's going to cost us that much more money on every entry to when they enter a class. So that's going to have to get looked at too.

I believe in the state of California, you're up to \$14 a horse, which gets pretty pricey as we go forward. I'm not saying it's something we shouldn't do. I'm saying it's something that if this is something we need to look at, then let's look at it.

Let's research it. If that's the direction we need to go, then let's do it. I do want to commend you, though.

I want to say this. If we had zero come out of the fatuity, which I believe you just told me, that says something for our program, that we are moving forward in the right direction. And when we put this program in place, it's doing exactly what we put it in place to do.

[Speaker 8]

It was the world finals too. That was a big deal.

[Speaker 1]

That's huge because I'm chairman of the grievance committee and I know a lot of that stuff that comes in front of me. And I applaud your committee for what it's doing and the way we're getting our information out to the cutters. And I applaud our membership for that.

[Speaker 8]

Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Bob. Let's go to Tony Smith.

[Speaker 19]

Hey, Rock. How are you doing?

[Speaker 1]

Good. How are you?

[Speaker 19]

Good, sir. I think I love being a director in this part of the world because there's so many smart people around. They already asked all the good questions before I get to them.

So I appreciate you directing the questions. And Rob, thank you for your time and thank you for your willingness to serve. We appreciate what you do.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you as being a director.

[Speaker 19]

Yes, sir.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you, Tony.

[Speaker 9]

Wendy Warne. Good evening, Rock. Like everybody else, I appreciate you throwing your hat in and stepping out to run on the VP elect.

I do have a couple questions. First, I want to go back to something that Ryan Howell touched on. He had mentioned where we're at from a financial stability standpoint, which is great.

And you mentioned that you were on the EC some back maybe 11 years ago. And during that time, we are just trying to establish line of credit. Was there anything specific when you were on the EC that you did to support improving the financial aspect of NCHA?

[Speaker 1]

I've been off the EC for three years. I served two terms, which was six years. And when I came on, we were in a financial struggle.

I will say one of the key things that we did while I was on the search committee for this, we hired Jay Winborn. And by bringing Jay Winborn on board and the leadership that he has and the way that he can put great people around him to do what the jobs are that they need to do was a big turnaround for the NCHA. We were spending money that we didn't have to spend.

We had a lot of staff on board that we didn't need. And at that time, we did not know how to get out of that hole. But when we put it together and we went through a lot of candidates, as you all know, we went through a lot of executive directors after Jeff Hooper left.

And we were lucky. We worked for a long time. It took a year almost.

And when we got a hold of Jay Winborn, we knew this was the man we needed. And we got him. And I will attribute 80% of the success as to where NCHA is at today because of Jay Winborn and his leadership and the ability that that man has to put good people around him.

And then he lets them do their job, which is what their job is what they're very good at.

[Speaker 25]

Wonderful.

[Speaker 9]

I appreciate the response and I appreciate that. I know something now that I didn't know prior to the call, and I think that's what these calls are about. So I appreciate you being on the committee, the search committee during that time.

My second question, very near and dear to my heart, is our Eastern Nationals that's held in West Monroe, Louisiana. I want to know your thoughts, number one, on...

[Speaker 8]

Yeah, that's exactly what it was. As a matter of fact...

[Speaker 1]

Could somebody mute their phone, please?

[Speaker 20]

Guys, I don't know who's on the phone, but Andrew, is that you?

[Speaker 14]

I think it's Andrew Sligh, if I had to take a guess.

[Speaker 20]

Yeah, Andrew? Cathy, can you mute that, please? I just got in the truck.

I'm sorry. I'm trying to mute it. Okay.

All right. We got you, Andrew. Thank you.

Thank you.

[Speaker 9]

Okay. So going back to the Eastern Nationals, your thoughts on that program remaining and your future thoughts on re-establishing the Western Nationals for that group of people in the Central and West atmosphere. Just wondering where you are on those.

[Speaker 1]

You put a lot of thought into these questions. You're really making it hard on me, you know.

[Speaker 9]

I'm not Tony Smith.

[Speaker 1]

Let me start with the Eastern Nationals. I remember when I was on the EC nine years ago, when I first came on, the Eastern was struggling. And you were hurting for entries and trying to figure out what to do.

And you all over the years were able to make some adjustments to it. NCHA was able to help with that. And if I'm correct, last year and this year were two really, really good years for you.

Am I wrong? No, you are correct. Okay.

So and part of what you did is you changed part of your format. You added some weekend shows to the format. You enticed more players to come cut at the Eastern Nationals.

And that is outstanding because you all looked at the problems you had, came up with ideas that you needed to change it, and went to NCHA, talked about it, got it done, and now it's working. It's working again. Whether you change venues, you change your class structure, you just made it available to where more people could come cut.

And I know that's a big task because if I remember correctly, there's about three or four other shows that are going on that same weekend or that same week. So I commend you guys on doing that to make your turn your show into something that could be profitable and successful for the cutters. That is outstanding.

And I think with the direction you're going now, it will keep growing. The second part of your question, you asked me about the Western Nationals. Yes.

The Western Nationals is a totally different animal because Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association plays a very big part on the West Coast. And when the Western Nationals were a little earlier in the year and we were in Ogden, they were a success. But Ogden is only so big and it could only handle so much.

And then came the year where we had the EHV-1 outbreak and everything had to shut down. Part of the problem when we move our Western Nationals later in the year, those people that showed those horses the year before have already changed horses or they've changed classes. And now when we come back around to May or June, they've already been

showing their other horses or they've showed they sold the ones they qualified on the year before or they've moved up to the next class.

And we got a lot of shows on the West Coast. So and the Western Nationals didn't count for year-end standings either on the NCHA or the Pacific Coast. So why do you want to go waste runs on those horses if it's not going to count for nothing when you're already started the next year on your year-end run?

Does that make sense? It does. So in order to bring back the Western Nationals, and I was appointed to this task force a couple months ago, Kirby Smith asked me if I would get in on this task force to look into bringing back the Western Nationals.

We're looking at it. We're talking about it. These are the challenges that this task force committee has in front of them.

When are we going to be able to do it? Can we do it early enough in the year so that we'll get the representation? Does it or does it not need to count for year-end standings?

Where does the money go if you count? Does it go anywhere other than your lifetime earnings? These are the questions that we're working on right now.

We've looked at this a couple times before, and then the other thing you've got to look at is what venues are open and what weeks are open to do this. Do we need to try to take on the same format as you all have done in the Eastern? Maybe we do.

Maybe that would really help us. Do we need to go in conjunction with another show that is already producing a show? And just have a certain part of that show count towards the Western Nationals?

These are all the things that we're looking at right now on this task force. Perfect.

[Speaker 9]

I was glad to hear that the task force is up and going, and I think there is some importance in trying to bring that back. A lot of the challenges you described we faced with the Eastern Nationals, and venue is always a problem. The schedule is a problem.

We're always on top of Houston, going into the Super Stakes. There are always challenges, but it really comes down to an additional show to reward the weekend cutters for a year well done. I think it's important.

I know there was a lot of discussions personally, or heartburn, I should say, from people more towards the West Coast that we still have Eastern Nationals. It's called Eastern Nationals, but it is an open Nationals event, meaning anyone in the U.S. that qualifies during their point year can come and show there. If recreating or re-engaging the Westerns helps with that, then I think it's worth looking at, and I'm glad that there's a task force and you're part of that.

I have nothing else, and I appreciate your time.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Wendy. Jason Whitaker?

[Speaker 17]

Hello, Mr. Rock. I appreciate you being on here and talking to us. I've heard a lot of good things and a lot of good ideas, but I guess just in your bag of ideas, do you have anything else that you want to throw out there that you're going to help move the NCHA forward?

[Speaker 1]

Well, that's a good question, and I do have quite a few ideas. I don't know if any of them are any good or not, and I do know this. I'll be happy to throw my ideas out on the table.

If you elect me, I'll throw those ideas out and we can run.

[Speaker 17]

Fair enough. Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Jason. Kevin Hertzke?

[Speaker 15]

I think I'm good right now. Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Kevin. Zeke Entz?

[Speaker 22]

Rock, I want to thank you for putting your hat in and all the time you've spent helping lead our association and being a big part of it in many, many ways. This has been a great discussion. I do not have a question right now.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you, Zeke.

[Speaker 5]

Thanks, Zeke. Dr. Maben?

[Speaker 6]

Hey, Rock. I want to thank you like everybody else has. I'm going to be a little bit like Tony Smith.

Everybody's already covered everything, but I know Wendy will probably, next time I see her, tell me I was chicken to ask a question, but I really don't have anything more than the amateur non-pro situation. It's not really a situation, but the status of everything is one of the big things on my mind, as well as the length of our...somebody mentioned you, I think, the 4,000 riders riding at 8, 9, 10 o'clock at night, and that seems to be a problem. Our shows are so long with so many classes.

I don't know what the answer to that is, but if you have any ideas on that, I'd like to hear, but other than that, I have no questions.

[Speaker 1]

Okay. The last question you asked me, I'll take that one first. I think on the 4,000 limit class, I think something that...and this is something that each individual show producer would have to look at, but if there was a way that we could offer that class a little earlier in the day, that might help entice new membership.

I know it's hard because we give that...a lot of shows give that rerun...that 4,000 limit rerun cattle, but it might be worth looking at some shows. It might be worth trying it, and I'm not saying we need to do it. I'm just saying it's something, but that would come down to the individual show producers and our individual affiliates.

I think that is a part of it right there. The one thing that we do on the West Coast, and I know it's kind of unheard of in a lot of other areas. I know Dave Costello's been trying to do it at Blue Ridge.

On the West Coast, we run two pens. We can do 140, 150 works and be done by 5 o'clock in the evening by running two pens. Our cutters out here on the West Coast, unless a show is going to put on a cutting and run two pens, most cutters won't go, because come 7 o'clock at night, they're done.

They want to go back to their RV, their LQ, or their motel, and call it a day. So, that's what we've had to do out here on the West Coast to accommodate our membership and our customers that come to our private produced events and our affiliate events. Or we'll do the one-day shows.

Those are two things that we have had to do out here to accommodate us. I'm sorry I got carried away. Your first question was?

[Speaker 6]

It wasn't a question.

[Speaker 1]

About the non-pro and the amateur?

[Speaker 6]

About the non-pro amateur situation that we've already discussed, so I didn't expect an answer for that. Your point's well taken on this other. We've tried that in a lot of places.

A lot of places over here don't have room for two pens. It makes it a problem. Whether it's the 4,000 or whatever classes last, the rerun classes where we get new people seem to be so late in the day that it just makes it hard to keep them interested.

So, that was the crux of the question. I think you've answered it sufficiently, and I do appreciate your time and your efforts through the years and for answering me. Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you. Thank you, Mabin. Let's go to Jan Gandy, please, of Region 6.

[Speaker 4]

Whoops, sorry. Let me get off mute. Hey, Rock.

Thank you for throwing your name in the hat. I have a little experience after last year with the effort that it takes and the time that it takes, so I appreciate you for agreeing to run. I have to ask this since the last five years, probably, 19, 20, whenever it was back in 2019, when you were on the EC and the non-pro committee made a recommendation without consulting the biggest division in the NCHA before they made the recommendation to collapse the amateur into the non-pro thereby putting trainers' kids, trainers' wives, all of us lumped together showing against each other when the trainers were absolutely responsible for the second unlimited amateur class we have by coming out at the 13 convention and saying our customers should not be showing against our kids and wives. That's where it started. Back to the question.

When that committee came to you and made the recommendation without consulting the biggest division, the amateur division, you made the recommendation to send that proposal to the competition committee. It did by majority vote, passed to go the competition committee with the exception of three of the members on the EC. And so I guess I have to ask you that we have procedures in place that if there are recommendations going out that every division it affected should be consulted.

So why back then did you make the recommendation, it's in the minutes, to send the non-pros recommendation to the competition committee to look at collapsing the largest division into the non-pro?

[Speaker 1]

That's your question? Yes, sir. Okay.

Well, I did make that recommendation and at that time we had the competition committee in place and I felt at that time by sending it back to the competition committee was the best place it could go to get fully vetted. A lot of times we might disagree with a motion and vote no on something because until you sit in that room and you hear all the discussion, it might not be what I want to do, but it has to go somewhere. Therefore, by sending it back to the competition committee, I'm sending it where it can go get looked at again, fully vetted, and then come back to us.

So if I made that wrong, I'm sorry. And I don't have all the answers. And I'm going to make mistakes.

And if I'm misunderstanding you and you're looking at this as I made a mistake by trying to send a motion somewhere else, I'm sorry.

[Speaker 4]

Well, I guess what I'm doing is questioning the fact that the proper procedure in my eyes should have been for the EC at that time and your motion should have been to send it back to the non-pro committee and say you need to talk to the other committees and include

them in this before you come and make a recommendation to this magnitude. And I was disappointed in you and the others at that time that why in thearnation would you send a recommendation without that committee even speaking to the amateurs and they got totally blindsided by it. And as you well know, that that recommendation ended up going no place because the amateurs found out and just had an uprising.

And then when your committee ended up rescinding it, you know, and it was for that reason, let's go through the proper procedures. And so I'm just hoping that if you're elected, that all of the EC says that this needs to go to the committee before you bring us a recommendation.

[Speaker 1]

At that time, Jan, was there not members of the amateur committee on the competition committee?

[Speaker 4]

There were no amateurs. There were no amateurs on the non-pro committee. The amateur committee had no, no, we didn't even know what I'm asking.

[Speaker 1]

What I'm asking, Jan, is when we put that competition committee together, there were representation from all of our standing committees on the competition committee. If I remember correctly, now I could be wrong, but by me sending it back to the competition committee, I felt it was sending it to that committee where it could get fully vetted by more or all of the committees or more of the committees, especially the committees that had the biggest interest in it. Now, if, if I did something that you disagreed with, I'm sorry.

At the time, I felt I was sending it to the proper place, but in your eyes, I was wrong. And for that, I'm sorry. Like I said, I don't have all the answers and I'm probably not going to make all the best decisions.

[Speaker 4]

Okay.

[Speaker 1]

I'm human.

[Speaker 4]

Yes. No, no, I totally understand that, but it doesn't give me a whole lot of confidence that if a committee brings something to you and especially back, I mean, that the decisions that were made back then probably caused one of the most un, a very dark time in the NCHA and for you to make the recommendation to even send it to the competition committee before the amateur committee even had a chance to look at it, I just felt was maybe a misjudgment and, and I just want to know what you, you know, how we can trust you when you're coming forward that you're going to be responsible for making decisions like that. Again, what can you say to the membership that's going to especially the portion of the membership that was very hurt and angry at how that all went down?

[Speaker 1]

Jan, all I can say is I'm sorry that the membership and, and you and all the amateurs felt that way. That was poor judgment on my part. I'm sorry.

[Speaker 4]

All right. Well, I appreciate that. Do you feel that the organization should remain a, it's, it's really a four division organization, open, non-pro, amateur, and youth?

[Speaker 1]

I feel that we need the open. We need the youth. If there need to be changes made in the amateur, that needs to come from the amateur committee.

If there need to be changes made in the non-pro, that needs to come from the non-pro committee. And once those have been fully vetted and both amateur and non-pro agree on the changes, because at the end of the day, you're non-pro amateur, then it could go forward to the next level. Okay.

[Speaker 4]

All right. I, I appreciate that very much. Thank you, Rock.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Jan. Mark Senn we're going to go to you.

[Speaker 10]

Okay. Hey, Rock. I appreciate you running.

I know it takes a lot of your time and effort and appreciate everything you've done in these, on the EC and on your committee appointments. My question, and it may have been covered earlier, I apologize if it was, because I got a little late, but you know, as your, as vice president and president elect, and then president, you served for three years during that time, you can have a lot of influence on what goes on and what's accomplished on, as it relates to, as the, as it relates to the EC, because as you turned president, you also set the agenda for the meetings.

But my real question is, is, you know, the president sets the goals and objectives along with the EC for, for what, what you want to accomplish. And it's up to Jay Winborn and his staff to implement those goals and objectives. And you're there pretty much for three years to try to help that agenda along, whatever those goals and objectives are.

And I guess my question to you is, if you have, do you, do you have like one or two goals or objectives that you'd like to accomplish during your term as soon as vice president, president elect, and president?

[Speaker 1]

Well, Mark, I want to thank you for serving your time on the EC at NCHA and, and, and being president. And I appreciate that question. I do have, the big thing that I look at, Mark, is I feel the NCHA needs to become more transparent and we need to reach out to our directors and we need to be able to give our directors the information that they need to go back to the membership so that the membership feels like they're involved.

A big thing I've heard for the last few years, when you talk to directors, why am I director? I don't know nothing. We need to make it more prestigious for our directors to be directors and our directors need to have the information so that they can report to the membership.

So the membership feels like they're a part of it also. That is my goal.

[Speaker 10]

Thank you, Rock. I appreciate it and best of luck. Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thanks, Mark. Barnwell Ramsey.

[Speaker 7]

Hey, Rock. Hey, I certainly, you and I talked before, so I certainly appreciate, you know, you're throwing your hat in there. Obviously, I was in your shoes basically three years ago.

I recognize the difficulties, the hardships, and the long hours and days that it takes to accomplish that. So I certainly appreciate you making the decision to help us in that respect. A couple of things just for what it's worth, and this is just back to some of the conversations during this call to make your life easier.

Back to not knowing how members, you know, no longer renew. Julie Davis is who you need to touch base with because she for years has touched base with every person who didn't renew. It's also been dropped down to the Growth and Development Committee that they call everybody who does not renew.

There are postcards being sent out. So a lot of those things are happening. So I think what you're talking about, you can certainly enhance, you know, in that direction.

The other thing I think you're going to be surprised at is that there are some significant long-term goals out there. If you sit down with Jay and he shared them with the EC and in the process of putting them together, there's some pretty significant things that are going to take place as far as those three and five-year plans. So I think that's going to make it easier for you to, you know, put in place some of the things you're talking about.

From a question perspective, I'm pretty much on the downhill slide. You know, I've got three and a half, maybe three months left before the convention. When you're basically in my position, if you're three years from today, what are you going to look back on and say you are proud of happening?

[Speaker 1]

Well, I'm not real good looking that far down the road. I do have some thoughts. But the one thing I'll tell you this, I am so proud of the years that I've spent involved in this association and the time that I've spent on all the different committees and the task force.

And I could not be more proud of being a part of this association going forward. And I believe I will feel this same way three years later because I love this association.

[Speaker 7]

Yeah, because I think, you know, you need to be commended for, you know, being on the EC during some of those lean and difficult times and getting us through those to a certain extent. But so, in all fairness, again, thank you for running. Appreciate all you're doing now, all you've done in the past, and what you're going to do in the future.

I do appreciate you being a part of the NCHA. Thank you, Rock.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you, Barney.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Barney. Is there anybody else from Region 5 that we haven't heard from before we go to Ora? Okay, Ora, it's all you.

[Speaker 3]

Rock, they say the best for last. Are you ready for this? We have been through it, son.

We have started in the gutter and we're up there on the high horse right now. After serving for six years on the EC, what would you say is Rock's greatest accomplishment that you fostered while serving on the EC? And then I'm going to ask you, what's your biggest regret?

So, it's a two-part question.

[Speaker 1]

Okay. I think one of the biggest things that I fostered while I was on the EC, number one was the hiring of Jay Winborn. Number two, I was part of the leveling when we brought that into play.

Number three, it was just being a part of the whole system and how it works and how much I enjoyed being a part of it. What I learned while I was on the EC, and it was just great for me to be a part of and enjoy it. I'm at a point in my life now where I can give back a little more to this association and that's what I want to do.

Being chairman of the judges committee, judges rules committee, being involved in the hiring of a couple of different directors of judges has been good. I've enjoyed it. I've learned a lot and I'm always learning.

And then the second part of your question was the negative part of the EC. Is that it, Ora?

[Speaker 3]

Yes. Yes. What if you had a regret that you wish you could have changed or fixed or whatever?

[Speaker 1]

I wanted three more years. I wanted to stay on it longer.

[Speaker 20]

I got you. I got you. I got you.

You're just getting primed and then you have to leave, right?

[Speaker 1]

There you go. The first year I sat on, I was scared to death.

[Speaker 25]

Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

I got you. You were definitely. I didn't know whether to raise my hand when I had to go to the bathroom or just get up and go.

I didn't know. I didn't know where to sit. First day I walked in the room.

[Speaker 3]

Yeah. We've had books thrown at us. We've had a lot of things happen on that EC.

We've come a long way, a long, long way. That's great, Rock. Thank you.

And I appreciate you putting your hat in. I know what it takes and I thank you. Thank you.

[Speaker 1]

And I commend you for the time you spent there as president, Ora. You did an outstanding job. Thank you very much.

[Speaker 3]

Thank you. I'm going to let you, if there's nobody else, I'm going to let you go ahead and wrap up and we'll get on to the next one. Thanks, Rock.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you, Ora. I want to thank you all again for considering me as the NCHA vice president elect. I'm sure you all know by now that I am, I love the NCHA.

I want to see it go. I want to see it prosper and I want to see it stay around for many, many, many years to come. This is my life.

This industry allowed me to have a career, raise a family. I raised a son that started off as a youth, became a non-pro, and now he's a very successful young trainer and I could not be more proud. And I have to thank NCHA for that.

With that, I will close and I'll ask you all to vote for me and thank you very much.

[Speaker 3]

Thanks, Rock.

[Speaker 25]

Thank you.

[Speaker 3]

Cathy Marie, you there? Yes, ma'am.

[Speaker 20]

I already picked. Okay, perfect, perfect.

[Speaker 3]

All right, you guys, are y'all ready for some more questions?

[Speaker 2]

Hey, Cathy, I'm here.

[Speaker 3]

Thanks, Chase. Hey, Chase. Welcome.

[Speaker 2]

Hey, Ora. Thank you.

[Speaker 3]

This is home week. This is the fun one that you get to do.

[Speaker 2]

Good. Everyone be easy on me then.

[Speaker 3]

Yeah, there you go. There you go. Welcome.

Welcome. We've got a good group here tonight. Cathy Marie's going to go around the room and you kind of know the drill.

And thank you very much, Chase. For all of you guys that didn't know this, when we found Chase, he told me at first, he said, I'm 99% sure that I don't know that I'm ready for this. And I told him, I said, well, at least I got 1%.

You'll at least think about it. Right. And he did.

He came back and told me that he would at a time where he could do it. And here he is, he is one of our own, and I am going to turn it over to him and let him tell you a little bit about himself and we'll go around the room.

[Speaker 26]

All right.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you. Thank you, Ora. I appreciate it.

I won't go into too much bio. I know pretty much everyone on here knows me, but just briefly, I'm from Burlington, North Carolina. I've been a member since 2013 and I'm currently a North Carolina director and also serve on the limited edge committee.

A little bit about my business background. I have a company that works in the construction industry, operate across the Southeast. Any given day, managing 200 plus people and have about 10 projects going on at any given time.

Most of those projects last about a year to two years. Very fortunate to have a great staff around me. I believe in surrounding myself and people that are better than me.

And with that, I feel like we have established a culture that is goal oriented and everyone buys in, which I feel like is very similar to what Jay does with his staff. And I think it aligns with me well. Since I do have such a great staff around me, this does afford me the opportunity to go to horse shows and give me the time to run for this position.

Just to speak briefly to what Ora just said, I was very much on the fence. I wanted to make sure my employees were okay with me taking the time to do this and it's been great to have the support from them as well. A little bit about my competition background.

I actively show in the non-pro, the amateur, have horses that show in the open, done the weekend shows, do the limited age events, and I've hauled for the world a couple times. I'm running because I believe this moment matters. I want to help protect NCHA and keep us moving forward and making sound business decisions.

And I believe that my business experience, along with showing NSBA, AQHA, and NCHA, gives me an incredible combination to make very good business minded decisions with a strong understanding of our equine industry. So, with that, welcome to questions and thank you very much.

[Speaker 3]

Thanks, Chase. Cathy Marie, I'm going to let you take us around the room. Perfect.

[Speaker 5]

All right, let's get started with Andrew Sligh.

[Speaker 25]

No, I can't.

[Speaker 5]

Andrew, do you have any questions? Oh, yes, thank you.

[Speaker 23]

Okay, Chase, I appreciate you running. I'm a buddy of yours. Appreciate your time.

I don't have any questions for you. You've taught me many times and I appreciate what you're doing.

[Speaker 2]

Absolutely. If anything comes to mind, please don't hesitate to reach out.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Andrew. Brittany Overstreet.

[Speaker 16]

Hey, Chase. I appreciate you. You know that.

And I feel like I've asked you a gazillion questions at the circuit final, so I think I'm good right now.

[Speaker 2]

Okay, thank you so much. I appreciate the time we spent together. And again, same as Andrew, if I can answer anything, please don't hesitate to call me.

[Speaker 16]

Okay, thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Brittany. Pam Scott, are you with us? Okay, let's go to Sandra Lines, please.

[Speaker 18]

Hey, Chase. I know we've talked a lot and stuff, but I am just curious, like, how exactly will you represent the amateurs during your time on the EC? My question.

[Speaker 2]

Sure. Well, I believe we are very much a four-division system. I know a lot of people call it a three-division.

I call it a four. I think the youth are extremely important to include. With that in mind, I believe that the amateurs play a huge role with NCHA.

And it's vitally important we protect each division for what it provides. I mean, financially for NCHA, we're in the best place we've ever been. You know, Jay and his team have done a great, great job, but our structure is a big part of that as well.

You know, we should not look to make any adjustments to our structure without a true plan and something we could actually vet with data to support it. So, I'm a big supporter of our structure as it is because I believe we have to make business-minded decisions. And without the data to back it up, I kind of relate it to my work.

You know, you don't go change something that is working so well without an awful lot of data to back it up. So, I believe I would be very supportive of the amateurs. And I think my track record provides that as well.

I mean, I've been a long-time sponsor of the Mary Kingsbury Award, which is the amateur sportsmanship award. And I've, for a long time, tried to donate and sponsor and host classes that helped drive entries for both the amateur and the non-pro divisions. So, I hope that answers your question.

[Speaker 18]

Yes. Thank you very much.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Sandra. Sharon, over to you.

[Speaker 11]

Yes. Am I on? I'm never sure about this phone.

Chase, thank you for your time and for throwing your hat in the ring. I know it's a big commitment. I look at the NCHA, and I know our overwhelming problem is cattle, and we can't fix that.

I also know that we have a problem with growing the non-pro and amateur issues, and we're working on that. And we don't know how we're going to solve that yet. But in those two things aside, we are the only western equine association not growing.

Team rope and barrel racing, it's all exploding. They have figured out a way to get people into their sport, how they can, the ease of entering, the ease of becoming a member, the ease of owning horses or not owning horses. Do you have any thoughts on some way or another we can address how to get people in off the streets to try our sport, stick around, and basically revolutionize how we get members to come in?

[Speaker 2]

I think that's an excellent question. And I don't know if you've followed along much on a lot of my social media posts and the ideas I've been talking about. I've been doing a lot of podcasts as well.

And I feel like we have a lot of opportunity for growing NCHA and bringing in new members. I think there's multiple things we can do. One, for starters, is an app.

NCHA does not have an app. We need to play catch up and make sure we're not the dinosaur in the room. I think younger individuals and our youth expect something like that.

I mean, they pick up their phone and they have an answer in 10 seconds to any question. We don't even have an app where they could ask the question. So let's create an app that will help get our younger membership engaged and also provide ease of use.

I mean, even on that app, we could have a way to make our entries. I think that makes things way simpler. And also investing in our marketing.

I mean, we're on the downhill slide of Yellowstone, and it was great for us. But we are going to have to, as an association, figure out what's next for us. And investing in our marketing, creating reels, getting it on social media, Facebook, Instagram, all those things.

If we can get it in front of new eyes and new viewership, I believe we have that linked to our app. They can watch the reel, click the link, download the app. On the app, you should be able to see a location finder and see that there's a horse show right down the road from you.

Say it's 30 miles down the road and it's happening in two weeks. Well, now we've created a situation where we got them from just seeing it on their phone all the way to the horse show. And let's have an ambassador program.

Or even if it's just individuals through our directors, or if it's just individuals that want to donate their time and go talk, we're going to have to engage our membership to go talk to the new people in the stands. We need to be actively talking to them. This is a way to give our directors a job.

Let's give them something that means something to NCHA. So let's engage those people, introduce them to exhibitors. Let's introduce them to the trainers.

That's how we grow this sport. And I'll say, you have the roping and all the things. That stuff's pretty tough to do at the start.

We have a distinct advantage in NCHA that you can take someone from sitting on the couch to horseback to flagging about as easy as any other sport out there. And we all know how adrenaline packed this is. You get on the flag, we're going to hook them.

I mean, they're in. So I believe there are lots of things we can do from a marketing standpoint to bring them in.

[Speaker 11]

Okay. Thank you.

[Speaker 2]

I hope that answers your question. Yeah.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you. Thank you, Sharon. Alison Howell.

Hey, Chase. Thank you for running. We appreciate your time.

My only question is, you mentioned protecting each leg of the NCHA. What are your thoughts or ideas moving forward? We all know the non-pro is suffering.

Do you have any ideas on how to protect the non-pro moving forward? If we continue at the rate we're at, do you have any thoughts, any ideas? What can we do to get more members, non-pro members?

What can we do to, I mean, I know we did the unlimited to help on the weekend level, but you know, that's helped some, but I know it's, what's your thought?

[Speaker 2]

Well, you know, obviously the non-pro is a struggle and it's struggling. And by definition, it's always going to be a little smaller than the amateur. But I do think there are things we can do.

First of all, we need to look to our rule book. I believe, I mean, our rule book's like a phone book. We have so many rules in there that I think make it difficult for us to grow.

The first thing that comes to mind for me is something like we have a amateur cap, if I'm not mistaken, I believe it's \$250,000, where you have to make a decision if you want to continue to show in the amateur or you want to show in the non-pro. That to me makes no sense. I

don't know why we would tell someone, hey, we don't want you to enter in one class or the other, especially when they're choosing, many do choose to show strictly in the amateur at that point.

We're taking away non-pro entries. So I think we need to look to our rule book and I think we need to challenge both the amateur and the non-pro committee to go through and come up with, say, five rules that they believe, even if you can come up with three, that they believe could help grow or take the handcuffs off of us for our potential for growth. I think that would be a great place to start.

There's been a lot of conversation at the limited age major events about potentially breaking apart the non-pro. It sounds like the amateur does have an appetite for entering in some of those classes and maybe the non-pro committee needs to go back and revisit that and see if that's a viable option for them. But I do think there are a lot of areas that we can work on.

[Speaker 5]
Thank you.

[Speaker 2]
Thank you.

[Speaker 5]
Thanks, Alison. Ryan Howell?

[Speaker 14]
Oh, sorry. Chase, good buddy of mine. Thanks for running and putting your time in.

I know it's probably stressful and a lot of time, but we all appreciate it. Thank you. I was kind of wondering what your plan or your priority, if you were to be elected, first thing going in, what is your priority or your plan when you first get in?

What's going to be the first thing, the most important thing for you to grow?

[Speaker 2]
Well, I think twofold. I think first priority, as always, is to protect and make sure we're making decisions that protect our financial position. And we want to look to grow and create more opportunities for ourselves.

I believe growth is the name of the game for us right now. We've been stagnant for years. We had a little bubble there during Yellowstone, but it trended back down.

Some of that's from pre-membership we offered. It got counted, I believe, for a couple of years, if I'm not mistaken. But yes, growth.

And kind of like I just discussed, I think an app is going to be a big part of us moving forward and creating opportunity for ourselves. A lot of it's going to be done through the marketing. And also, I had a thought that doing some membership retainage would be amazing for the youth.

We have youth kids that show, and then when they get to college age, they just go off. A few of them continue to show through it, but they're either showing in the non-pro or the amateur. Why don't we have a collegiate program where if you are attending college, you can come participate.

And this could run maybe when the Youth World Finals go on, just as a starting point. And invite these kids back to continue to show, so we don't lose them for that four to six-year period and try to retain them, so they'll continue to participate at NCHA. I just feel like that's one of the opportunities we have to help with our growth and our retainage.

[Speaker 14]

I appreciate it. Thank you.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Ryan. Garry Merritt.

[Speaker 12]

Okay. Hey, Garry. How you doing, boy?

I'm doing great. Oh, you know, I could say a whole lot, but I'm not. When I was 18, 19 years old and got in the quarter horse business, there was this guy named Norris Lackey that was a big mover and shaker in North Carolina.

Yeah, I know him. He built a quarter horse business. That's Chase's grandpa.

Yes, sir. He served as president of North Carolina. Yes, sir, for a while.

And then there's this guy named David Lackey that's my age, and we showed against each other all the way through those years. And now Chase is there. So Chase is not a stranger to equine organizations and how they work and what happens.

He grew up in it. The other thing is that 60 days ago, there ain't many people outside of Region 5 know who you were. But my John Brown phone is rung off the hook.

Who is this guy from over in your country that's running? So you've done a good job campaigning. You got them talking about you, and that's what's important.

Thank you, sir. You know, and I told you when you decided to do this is it might take two years to get it done. I don't think it will.

And when you're there, you've learned a lot. Your judgment will be fine, and I think you'll do a good job. Good luck.

Thank you, buddy. Thank you so much, Garry. I appreciate that.

[Speaker 5]

Thanks, Garry. Bob Meyer.

[Speaker 8]

Evening, Chase. Thanks for your time. I'm on the Drugs and Medication Committee with NCHA and this past year, we had both at the 2025 Futurity and World Finals, there was no violation for prohibited substances.

And so, you know, we feel like we're making progress. And, you know, the rules apply to all NCHA shows, but it's only enforced at NCHA produced shows. And just wondering if you had an opinion on whether or not there was any necessity or urge to move that testing or enforcement outside of just, you know, our major NCHA events.

[Speaker 2]

Okay. I guess you're probably referencing something similar to what AQHA does, where they do some random testing at their local shows?

[Speaker 8]

Yes. And, you know, it would be at this point, there's no way for us to do that because of the logistics of it. You know, it takes like a network of thousands of testing veterinarians.

That's why that's what's kept us from, you know, getting past our own shows. And so, it would have to be incremental, you know, it'd have to be first, you know, limited age events that offer more than, you know, 100 or 200 or, you know, you'd have to pick a number. But, you know, the rules are the same from coast to coast, unless you're in California, in which case they're tougher than ours.

But, you know, we only enforce, they're only enforced at the events that NCHA produces. And so, just wondering if you had an opinion about, you know, enforcement past those big events.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah, I appreciate what you do on that committee. And it sounds like we're doing a lot right. You know, if we had no violations, that's a pretty big deal.

It sounds like we're doing our job on that part. I believe we need to be sure we're keeping our records for that. We want a track record that shows NCHA is compliant.

You know, there are plenty of organizations out there that could jump in there and make things difficult. And we want to do the best we can to protect the welfare of our animals. But I believe that we need to look at that and see if that needs to come out of a committee, if we need to expand that.

But it sounds like we're doing a pretty dang good job right now.

[Speaker 8]

Yeah, I mean, we're really happy. But, and I think, you know, our hope is that it trickles down, you know, to the next level of aged events and to the weekend shows. And, you know, truthfully, at least as far as following the rules, you know, I feel like, you know, that, you know, no medications under the show pen and things like that, you know, just in the short period of time, I think that, you know, there's been significant improvements there.

Yes, sir. Very good. Thank you, Bob.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Bob. Tony Smith.

[Speaker 19]

Hey, Chase, how you doing? Hey, Tony.

[Speaker 13]

If Jan Gandy is still on the line, Jan, I'm going to apologize in advance for what I'm fixing to talk about. Chase, you and I sat down at the Superstakes and we've had this discussion a couple years ago, kind of about the nonpro and the amateur and talking about combining and stuff like that. And I just wanted to share.

I don't have a question. I just mainly wanted to share for the people on the line, something that you said that I really thought a lot of, you know, I'm very open to looking at this combination of the open nonpro. I mean, excuse me, nonpro amateur.

I don't know if it works. I don't know if I'm actually for it, but I am very open to investigating it and looking at it. And I really want to thank Aura for the work that she's putting in to leading that up.

So, but one thing we've talked about in the past and, you know, you had an opinion, I had an opinion, they might not have agreed. And I asked you to Superstakes, I said, what's your opinion on that? And you told me something that I thought was pretty good.

You said that it's no longer about your opinion. It's about what the general membership wants. And so I just wanted to let everybody know that and let you know that I respect you for standing on that.

And so I wish you well and thank you for your time and willingness to serve.

[Speaker 2]

Absolutely. Thank you. I think it's important every division is represented and we look at things from a business standpoint.

I mean, let's make no bones about it. NCHA is, it's a business and it's a big one. So any decisions we make need to be thoroughly vetted and we need to have a deep understanding of how that affects us on a financial level.

So I think that's the biggest thing and it's an asset I feel like I bring to the table for this position. So I'm looking forward to have an opportunity to do that.

[Speaker 13]

Well, thank you very much. And another thing we talked about there and I really hope that if you do get elected, you get done is to put our rule book online so that we can find it without having to flip through 400 pages. So we're going to get that done.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Tony. Wendy Warne.

[Speaker 9]

Hey, Chase. Hey, Wendy. So just to be fair, because I did ask questions of Rock, near and dear to me is the Eastern Nationals.

And so with that also comes the Western Nationals and possibly bringing that back to life. What are your thoughts on the Eastern Nationals the last couple of years? And then any thoughts on helping to get the Westerns back online and give those guys a platform to show at?

[Speaker 2]

Sure. Yeah. Thank you for the question.

And I appreciate all the collaboration we've done over the years working together. I think the Eastern Nationals is a great show. I believe it is something our membership wants and we seem to have created a way to make that sustainable.

I got the opportunity to spend quite a few days at the Eastern Nationals this year. It was an incredible show. I mean, kudos to you and the rest of the special committee that helped make the adjustments needed to really bring that show along.

Big thanks to Mark Sinn too for hosting the weekend part of it. I think that helped as well. It seems like we've created a recipe that is going to work.

And I want to continue to support that from talking to all our membership, traveling around. They like that show and they want to continue it going on. And as far as the Western, I would love to see that come back.

I actually had that conversation with a few people while I was at the Super Stakes that were from the West Coast. And some of them weren't even aware that we do have a task force out there that is actively looking to try to find a way to bring that back. I really hope they are able to do that.

And if there's something I can do to help, I'm always willing and able to do that as well. Really want to encourage that because I feel like our membership wants it.

[Speaker 9]

I appreciate it, Chase. And I appreciate you taking the time out of your life and running for this VP elect and wish you all the best.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you, Wendy.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Wendy. Jason Whittaker.

[Speaker 17]

Hey, Chase. Hey, Jason. Hey, just a question for you.

I had the same question for Rock. You know, we hear these ideas and the questions that we're asking you, but what ideas do you bring that you think will move the NCHA forward? Something that we've not heard you say, just any kind of idea that you possibly got.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah, you know, I think I've discussed quite a few of them tonight. I mean, I want to see us create an app. I think there's so much opportunity for that.

I believe that we can look into the reels and our marketing and pushing on that as well. We also need to look into a collegiate program. I think there's opportunity there.

And all these ideas need to be vetted and make sure we're doing everything in a fiscally responsible way. A big idea that I do have, and it's not something that happens overnight, is a long-term idea. But I think we need an NCHA horse registry.

It would operate similar to AQHA horse registry. It's an opportunity for us to create a really strong revenue stream, and it will help us provide money to needed areas. It's something that could help our world finals.

I mean, with a revenue stream like that, I mean, you could be looking at millions. And that's something that closes the gap on our world finals cost that we struggle with some. It would help add to our payments at the international circuit finals.

It's something that could help us pay way bigger purses at our Triple Crown, provide better awards to our weekend cutters. It would have endless possibilities for us, and I would really like to see us investigate that idea and see how we could make that a viable option for NCHA. Thank you, Chase.

Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Jason. Kevin Hertzke.

[Speaker 15]

Hey, Chase. This is Kevin. Hey, Kevin.

So it kind of sounds to me like a lot of what you're talking about has a lot to do with technology. Yes. Whether it be growth or other ideas with marketing stuff.

So is that kind of you want to use the technology that's available to us nowadays to start looking at these things and how we can grow and other issues that we have? Is that right?

[Speaker 2]

I think there are a lot of things we can do that are technology-based, absolutely. I also kind of talked about some of the rulebook things. I really believe we need to go back to that and investigate our rulebook, try to simplify some of it.

I mean, every rule in there tends to have a name attached to it of why we created it. And a lot of it's just not relevant anymore. And I believe that we need to go through our rulebook

and try to find ways to unhandcuff ourselves so that our industry can operate a little more freely.

[Speaker 15]

Okay. So going back to the registry thing, can you explain a little bit about that? Because I think that's a pretty strong idea.

[Speaker 2]

You know, I think it's going to need a lot of time to vet it and figure out exactly how that works. But I think a high level of how that could potentially work is we would start with probably a small amount of seed money where it would be an incentive added to some select shows to encourage people to register their horse with NCHA. And if you registered your horse with NCHA, you're eligible for that incentive, much like the stallion incentives work.

So I believe if you do that and it's going to be a significant amount of money, people are going to start signing up. And as we do that, we're going to start to create a revenue stream where we can do more and more with it. I believe that's on a high level of how that could begin.

You know, I look at it as we spend money with AQHA for membership and registration and NCHA doesn't necessarily get a lot for that. How can NCHA invest in themselves so that we can in turn take that money to invest in ourselves again?

[Speaker 15]

Yeah, I think that's a great idea. And again, that comes back to the technology part of it. So I love it.

So thank you for doing this and taking the time to do this. Thank you, Kevin. Appreciate it.

[Speaker 5]

Thanks, Kevin. Zeke Entz.

[Speaker 21]

Thank you for running. And I think you have some great ideas. I don't have a question, but I sure enjoyed listening and I like what you're thinking.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you, Zeke. I appreciate it. Really appreciate your opinion.

If anything comes to mind, you have any questions or thoughts, please reach out.

[Speaker 21]

I appreciate that. Thank you again for running. Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thanks, Zeke. Dr. Maben Thompson.

[Speaker 6]

Hey, Chase, how are you?

[Speaker 2]

I'm doing well. Hope you are.

[Speaker 6]

Thank you. Thank you, as everybody said, for running, taking the time, being willing to give your time. I really didn't have a question for you until your conversation with Chase just now when you mentioned the incentive attached to a possible registry.

And I'm all for the incentives, so I don't want this question misunderstood. But what I'm seeing when you go to buy a horse these days, unfortunately, one of the only parameters we have is how much money that horse has won in the show pen. And that leads to some of the valuation of those horses.

Have you thought about, has it crossed your mind that all this incentive money is artificially blowing up the ability of some horses because they happen to be lucky and were either bred at the right place or this or that? I'm sure they're all good horses, but it goes to lifetime earnings on those horses. And we have horses winning \$400,000 as four-year-olds who, really and truly, it should be \$175,000 or \$150,000 or whatever, which is still a hell of a lot of money.

And they're going to go well, but has it crossed your mind or have you had any thoughts about that being a problem and any kind of solutions, such as putting an asterisk in their money won, saying this amount is incentive money from such and such an incentive, where when you look up a horse, you get a little better idea of what he is won compared to what he just happened to be bred at a certain facility or born in a certain state or this or that.

Does that question make sense?

[Speaker 2]

I think I understand the question. It sounds like you're asking, do we need to separate incentive money from money earned? Yes.

Maybe is kind of what you're asking.

[Speaker 6]

Well, yeah, it can still be lifetime, but at least point out that a certain amount was incentive money. But basically, yeah, that's the simpler way of saying I'm usually long-winded.

[Speaker 2]

Not a problem at all. We appreciate having you back. Oh, yeah.

Thank you. I don't know that I have an opinion on that at the moment. I think I would like to pull more thought into that.

[Speaker 6]

Well, that's what I wondered. Most people I bring it up to, it hadn't even crossed their minds. And I just didn't know if it had yours by any chance since you brought up an incentive.

And like I say, I'm for everybody being able to win all they can win. I just think that there should be some explanation of where all these big numbers come from. For those people who are trying to buy that horse and say, well, you know, golly, he must be awesome.

He won \$400,000 as a four-year-old. Well, yeah, he had a little help winning that.

[Speaker 2]

Right. And the first thought is the concern, the burden on the office to track something else and separate it and just have to create something. They track the incentives.

And they do. And it's added to that lifetime, but just having to separate it all and redo that, which is doable. And it's something we could certainly look into.

I believe my thought process on the horse registry is there are all these incentives out there. And I think it's important that NCHA stays the star of the show. And if we have something like a horse registry that can provide additional purses and payouts and help us with awards and all the things across NCHA, that's a benefit to us.

And I believe it makes NCHA a priority.

[Speaker 6]

No doubt. I agree with that part.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah. Yeah. But I'd be happy to talk with you, but I don't want to tie everyone up for an hour.

[Speaker 6]

Yeah, I don't either.

[Speaker 2]

I'd be happy to call you on that and talk a little more, because I'm curious your thoughts. And let's talk about it.

[Speaker 6]

Well, I threw that out for everybody to kind of think of, because most people I talked to have never even looked at it that way. But even if you're trying to sell a horse and your horse has only won \$80,000, and yet it's being compared to one that has \$200,000, and half that money is incentive money, then it's not comparing apples to oranges for the new buyer or for the seller. It penalizes the seller who didn't breed his horse at the right place, et cetera.

Right. Thank you. That's all I had.

Didn't mean to tie up everybody.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you. Thank you. And if it's something we need to set up a committee or a special task force to look at, maybe that's something we can do.

[Speaker 6]

Well, it's just something to think about. Yeah.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah. Thank you. I appreciate that.

[Speaker 6]

Yeah.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Maben. Chase, we've got Jan Gandy on from Region 6. We're going to give her the floor.

[Speaker 4]

Okay. Thank you very much. I appreciate you allowing me to get on this call.

I am not going to be able to make my region's call tomorrow. Chase, first of all, I want to thank you very much for agreeing to run for this prestigious three-year commitment. It's a big commitment, and I'm glad that you are in a position, and that your family supports you to give you the time to put in the necessary hours that it takes.

So thank you very much for that, and thank you for your family. I don't really have a question, but I do have a couple of comments. I've visited with Chase at length many times.

We are friends. We go to dinner together at shows, and we talk on the telephone, and I'm a big fan. And his family has sponsored the Mary Kingsbury Sportsmanship Award at the amateur level for many years.

I was honored to have been selected a few years ago for that honor. So thank you to your family for continuing to do that. Absolutely.

I love your new video that you just came out with, because it's something that I have wondered about, and I have been vocal about, the fact that the membership has not been privileged to hear what 119 of us have been allowed to hear. And I know that you are doing everything in your power to be able to do something this year so that the actual membership can tune in and listen to the conversations and the questions and answers that both candidates have answered. So for that, I thank you very much.

[Speaker 2]

Yes, ma'am. I am very proud to say that we've made the request for these calls to be published, and I think transparency is extremely important. I was able to bring that up to Barney, and both candidates agreed to do it.

But I think it's vitally important we get our general membership involved, and they rarely get to hear much of the information that takes place here. And I think it's important that they understand how each candidate would represent them if they were elected. So I think this does provide some insight to it.

So thank you for bringing that up.

[Speaker 4]

You're welcome. And for those of you who don't know, that just came out on his Facebook page, so you can view it there. A lot of your ideas that you have presented on your videos and on your calls tonight are intriguing.

Will they work? I don't know. But I think the fact that you are always thinking and always coming out with trying new ideas or at least putting together task force or roundtable discussion on would this work or wouldn't this work.

And to me, it's encouraging and it's invigorating that we have a candidate that is thinking the way that you're thinking, at least throwing out some ideas. So I appreciate those very much. I personally think that you would be a very good candidate for your role.

You're innovative, you're energetic, you know, and you don't let the past dictate, you know, maybe your decisions that you might make in the future. Fresh, you're fresh and we need fresh blood, y'all, on this organization. I'm sorry.

And I feel that Chase would be a valuable member of the team that's in place to lead us financially, more importantly than anything else, into the future. And that's all I have to say.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you so much for the kind of words, Jan. I appreciate that. And I hope I do get a chance to represent everyone and help advance NCHA.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Jan. Mark Senn. Mark, are you still with us?

[Speaker 10]

Yeah, I am. Hey, yeah, thanks. And Chase, I appreciate you running.

I'm asking the same question I asked Rock. But I will say that for the Augusta Futurity, you and your family, y'all have sponsored the 35 and the 50 at different times. And we've appreciated it.

But it's also what you said earlier, you have sponsored entry classes to encourage people to get in and cut. So we do appreciate that. And I know you sponsored other shows as well.

If you were elected, I think your business background and the fact that you do run a company would be invaluable to the organization because it is a multi-million dollar organization. It needs its assets invested properly and it needs to be run properly. So having you on board would be great.

I think my question to you is this, is that you'll be in a position for three years along with the EC to set the goals and objectives of what Jay and his staff implement. And during that time, is there any particular items and you may have already covered it, but are there any particular items that at the end of that time you'd like to sit back and know that you were able to implement them? Is there any items or any things that you'd like to see go forward during your term as vice president, president-elect and then president?

Yes.

[Speaker 2]

I think first and foremost, the financials. We need to make sure that we continue to grow them and protect them and insulate ourselves from potential issues that come along. So I want to make sure that that is number one on my mind is making business decisions.

We have committees and all the members to help advance some ideas and come up with that and come through our convention. But I feel like from an EC level, we very much want to protect ourselves, make sure we are operating on a zero balance based budget. We're not spending more than we're making.

I think those things are important. And then secondary to that, I want to know that NCHA has grown and I want to see us advance and grow and become the best sport in everyone's eyes on dirt.

[Speaker 10]

Okay. Thanks, Chase. Appreciate it.

Best of luck.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Mark. Barnwell Ramsey.

[Speaker 7]

Hey, Chase. You and I have talked a lot. Again, I was in your shoes three years ago, so I know exactly what you're going through, the hard work.

We talked this afternoon. And yeah, lack of sleep is something you're going to maybe learn to live with in that respect. It's interesting because on the previous call, I found myself educating a little bit.

Maben, to your question about incentives, it is something that is starting to be looked at. The first time that has to come up across the EC table is in relationship to Hall of Fame. And what happens is now the Hall of Fame criteria for a horse is \$400,000.

But Beau's horse damn near won that in stallion incentives at the Futurity. So the first place it's been looked at today is the Hall of Fame committee and whether or not and how those tagging incentives or those additional incentives or those state incentives are impacting the horses. The only decision made today is that stallion incentives will still count in regards to the Hall of Fame.

But your point is well taken as to whether or not those incentives are there or not. They need to be noted that they're there. They need to be highlighted so you can do a true comparison of where the dollar figures come.

Lifetime earnings will always be lifetime earnings and those count towards that. But you're correct in saying there needs to be a way to distinguish between the two. Show earnings versus being born in the right time and right time of year and right state.

So that is being looked at. It's really just sort of being glanced at right now, but it is part of what the EC is looking at. So it's there.

So you're a little ahead of the curve, but we expect you to be ahead of the curve maybe. So now as far as registry is concerned, Chase, and you're right, I think that is a big thing that's going to happen. We all know that today you can register a horse with NCHA in light of not being registered with AQHA or APHA.

Occasionally it happens when you find a horse that's not registrable, but we need to be able from the NCHA to be able to chase it down and track it down. So you can do that. What you're talking about, Chase, is a significant growth of that.

And I agree with you. I think that has a lot of potential, and I think the organization agrees with you in that respect. So that's my educational statements right now.

Yeah, and I can probably be wrong, but hopefully not. Chase, like I've told earlier, I'm on the downhill slide as far as president. I've been there three years.

It's really been a great experience. I know you're going to say the same thing, but three years from now, if you're in the position that I'm in, I'm going to ask you to look sort of backwards. What would be the one thing you'd like to say that you felt about your three years as VP, president-elect, and president?

[Speaker 2]

I like that question. That's the first time I've had this one so far. I believe I would like to be able to look back and say I left NCHA better than it was.

I'm fortunate to be coming in or potentially coming into an NCHA that's in great shape. Financially, we're strong. I would like to be able to say I helped make it even better.

I believe that would be my biggest takeaway is saying I left it better for the next person.

[Speaker 7]

Perfect. All right. Again, Chase, thank you for your time.

Thank you for your time tonight and for the time in the future. I wish you the best of luck.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you, Barney. I appreciate it.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Barney.

[Speaker 3]

Ora Diehl? I am going to tell you two things, Chase. I'm proud of you.

I'm proud of what you have. Just like Garry Merritt said, they didn't have a clue who Chase Lackey was in other parts of the country. They do now.

You've been a quick learner. You've done it well. I'm very proud to tell you that I know that you can do this.

I know after these few weeks of visiting mostly on a daily basis with you that you are ready for this. I'm proud to tell you that our region is very supportive of our candidates. We've had Mark.

We've had Sharon on the EC. We have had Barney. Garry Merritt with our finance committee.

Denise as our treasurer. We have a lot of talent. You are among all of us.

I want to just tell you how proud I am of you. That's really all I want to say. I'm going to give you a chance right now to wrap this up because we've got to get on another call here shortly.

I'm going to turn it over to you, Chase.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you so much, Ora. I really appreciate those kind words. I do feel extremely prepared for this position.

Thank you, everyone, for the time, the thoughtful questions. I truly look forward to working together to continue to grow NCHA. I kindly ask for your vote.

Thank you, everybody.

[Speaker 3]

Thanks, Chase. Hey, guys. I'm going to be sending out a newsletter, so be ready for it.

I need some input for our last May meeting, but other than that, you guys take it easy. Thank you all for being on our call. I appreciate you.

Thank you, guys.

[Speaker 19]

Thank you.

[Speaker 3]

Thank you.

[Speaker 19]

Thank you. Thank you, everybody.