

**NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 8-10, 2022  
NCHA OFFICE – FORT WORTH, TX**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held Monday through Wednesday, August 8-10, 2022, beginning 8:00AM central time daily.

All Executive Committee members were present: President Ted Sokol, President-Elect Toddy Pitard, Vice President Mark Senn, Kristen York, Rock Hedlund, Kirby Smith, John Lavelle, Sharon Overstreet, Tommy Williams, Skip Jones, Kathleen Moore, Ernie Beutenmiller, Cara Brewer and Casey Green. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Seiz (via phone), Director of Shows Shianne Megel, Director of Membership Julie Davis and Cathy Marie Aleff were also in attendance for this meeting. NCHA Director of Youth Rianna Storey, Youth Coordinator Logan Poole, Stallion Foal/National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker, NCHA Foundation Director Julia Buswold and our NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

**MONDAY – AUGUST 8, 2022**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:05AM and roll call was taken.

President Ted Sokol welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and opened with heartfelt words of prayer. Ted also extended prayer for all the service men and women both at home and overseas.

At Large Director Ernie Beutenmiller addressed the members of the Executive Committee by reciting the NCHA mission statement.

***Mission Statement***

*The National Cutting Horse Association promotes and celebrates the cutting horse, whose origin on Western ranches allows us to support ranching and its Western heritage. By establishing rules for the conduct of cutting horse shows, NCHA strives to give cutters a level playing field and a progressive class structure which accommodates everyone from the beginner to the advanced competitor. NCHA draws on the diverse talents and background of its members and encourages their participation in helping it achieve these goals.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2022, Executive Committee conference call. **MOTION PASSED.**

**PRESIDENT REPORT – TED SOKOL**

President Ted Sokol addressed the members of the Executive Committee with an update of the last six weeks in office. We had a successful convention but there is room for improvements by offering some more educational programs and training modules in class format for the attendees. We need to stabilize the electronic voting to move forward with annual meeting

elections and votes. We need to support and take care of our directors across the eight regions by possibly reducing their cost of registration if we charge at all.

The Summer Spectacular was well attended. The show ran well, trainers seem to be happy with cattle and time wise went smoothly. There are still some items to clean up, but we are making great strides to provide the best experience we can produce for our members.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – JAY WINBORN**

Executive Director Jay Winborn addressed the Executive Committee elaborated on the Summer Spectacular with the highly improved focus on the judging at this show, we still have some work to do but it is far more superior than past. The feedback on the schedule was positive as well. Jay feels as though we need to work on Youth Week and the placement during the show so that it doesn't interfere with the high school rodeo events. Jay would like to see an improved focus on our involvement in the high school rodeo. We should be able to build our schedule out so that each complement each other and there are no conflicts for our members. We also need to talk about where the Bravehearts is scheduled at the show to allow for full crowd participation. Jay also mentioned that there have been discussions on how to increase the payouts for the summer show which will be discussed later in the meeting.

The NCHA staff has had some changes as our Director of Youth, Mike Simmons resigned as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. We have hired two new employees for the Youth Department. Rianna Storey will be our new Director of Youth and Logan Poole will be splitting her time equally with NCHA and the Foundation as Youth Coordinator.

In closing, Jay provided an update on the Weatherford project and announced that David Reeves, Sales Manager with the City of Fort Worth has resigned. Jay recently attended a City Council meeting and found out that WRMC was awarded some funding with the American Rescue Plan Act to make some improvements to the facility which will primarily focus on the air handlers and some plumbing needs.

### **RECAP OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The Executive Committee had a round table discussion about the comments they have received with regards to the Special General Membership Meeting that was held at Will Rogers Memorial Center on August 5, 2022, as noticed at 9:30am central time. Most of the comments were positive with only a few that had any difficulty in getting logged in for the call and to cast their vote. Notes were taken on what to address to make the experience better for next time.

A request was made by President Ted Sokol to place a parliamentarian at our annual meetings and to develop a task force to take a deep dive into our bylaws to help settle some of the discrepancies.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Ted Sokol placed the meeting into executive session.

## **GENERAL SESSION**

President Ted Sokol placed the meeting back into general session.

## **TASK FORCE COMMITTEE UPDATES**

President Ted Sokol welcomed our task force chairs to provide an update from each of the committees.

**Non-Pro Task Force** – Sharon Overstreet provided an update on a recent survey, there were 4,417 surveys issued to all that qualify to show in the Non-Pro and received back 1,190 (26%) with equal regional participation of 18-22% with the largest group to respond being the Unlimited Amateurs. The feedback offered why they were not showing in the Non-Pro and what would grow the division. The consensus on what it would take to get more to show in the Non-Pro was to lower entry fees and offer more added money. The committee is compiling data from the surveys to try and offer some suggestions to better the class participation. As a follow up, the task force committee will be contacting the Weekend Show Committee to discuss options from the feedback provided off the survey. This led into a round table discussion on horse eligibility.

**Western Nationals Task Force** – Rock Hedlund updated the EC that his committee will be ready to report at the October EC Meeting.

**Future Convention Task Force** – Skip Jones informed the Executive Committee on the results of the recent survey that was distributed to all attendees and non-attendees of the 2022 Convention to address how we need to adjust the annual meetings moving forward. Skip presented a list of suggestions for the EC to consider.

After hearing the recommendations that Skip presented from this task force committee, the Executive Committee took action on the following. A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Rock Hedlund to approve a change to the dates of Convention to swap with the NCHA Day Weekend dates which would place the convention on back on the third weekend in June (June 23-25, 2023) and offer some hot climate relief moving NCHA Days to the first weekend in June (June 3-4, 2023). **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

In addition, a **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Toddy Pitard to move the NCHA Annual Convention outside of Fort Worth, Texas for 2023. **MOTION PASSED.**

## **AMATEUR COMMITTEE – PAUL K. SMITH**

Chairman of the Amateur Committee Paul K. Smith addressed the Executive Committee with the recommendations from the Amateur Committee to be considered.

1. Amateur Committee recommends to the Executive Committee to support the Non-Pro Committee and/or Non-Pro Task Force in pursuing a Non-Pro/Amateur combined class with a separate payout for Amateurs at Limited Age and Triple Crown Events. The committee feels this will not only strengthen the Non-Pro/Amateur relationship but will allow Amateurs the opportunity to ride in the Non-Pro while competing against other Amateurs and recognizing their ability to also compete in the Non-Pro.

**The Executive Committee would like to table this recommendation until the Non-Pro Committee has responded. (SEE Non-Professional Committee section of these minutes on pgs. 7-8)**

2. Amateur Committee recommends to the Executive Committee to allow weekend show producers' the flexibility to make changes up to the day of the show relating to running classes concurrently or as a sub-class depending on entries and member demographics.

A **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to approve this recommendation to allow weekend show producers' the flexibility to make changes up to the day on pre-approved classes of the show relating to running classes concurrently or as a sub-class depending on entries and member demographics. **MOTION PASSED by majority with one (1) opposition.**

3. Amateur Committee recommends to the Executive Committee to prohibit Non-Pro Hall of Fame riders regardless of age from rolling back/dropping down to the Intermediate Amateur at Limited Age events.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to approve this recommendation to prohibit Non-Pro Hall of Fame riders **up to the age of 60** from rolling back/dropping down to the Intermediate Amateur at Limited Age events. **MOTION PASSED by majority with one (1) opposition.**

## **STALLION OWNERS AND BREEDERS COMMITTEE – MICHELLE COWAN**

Vice Chairman of Stallion Owners and Breeders Committee Michelle Cowan addressed the Executive Committee with the recommendations from their committee to be considered. NCHA Manager of the Stallion Foal Program Allison Walker was also present to support the committee during the presentation to the Executive Committee.

1. Increase the weanling foal nomination from \$200 to \$250.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to approve this recommendation to increase the weanling foal nomination from \$200 to \$250 effective in 2023 for the 2027 point year. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Increase the yearling foal nomination fee from \$600 to \$1,000.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller to approve this recommendation to increase the yearling foal nomination from \$600 to \$1,000 effective in 2023 for the 2026 point year. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Change sire and foal awards from 15% to a flat fee totaling \$46,500.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller to approve this recommendation to change sire and foal awards from 15% to a flat fee totaling \$46,500 with implementation for 2027 point year. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **YOUTH COMMITTEE – AMY LIPPINCOTT**

Chairman of Youth Committee Amy Lippincott addressed the Executive Committee with the recommendations from the Youth Committee to be considered.

1. The NCHA Youth Committee recommends minor changes to the NYCHA Hall of Fame.
2. Recommendation to make changes to the LEAP (Levels of Excellence Award Programs) Form for the 2023 year. Re-Evaluating the point system and categories within the LEAP form and balance the program using the following criteria:
  - Competition
  - Education
  - Leadership

**Youth Committee has requested to be placed on the October EC Meeting agenda as these forms are still a work in progress.**

### **CATTLE COMMITTEE (SUB UNDER LAE) – JAIME SNIDER/BRONC WILLOUGHBY**

NCHA Cattle Manager Bronc Willoughby and Cattle Committee member Jaime Snider addressed the members of the Executive Committee with updates from the Cattle Committee.

1. Recommendation was made to consider restructuring the Cattle Committee of which currently resides as a subcommittee under the Limited Aged Events Committee to provide more continuity.

**The Executive Committee made the decision to disband the current Cattle Committee to allow Show Management to develop a task force to address cattle at our NCHA produced shows moving forward.**

**GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – DEAN REBHUHN**

Growth and Development Committee Chair Dean Rebhuhn presented the recommendations from his Growth and Development Committee. Dean updated the attendees with a recap of the positive convention meeting his committee had and expressed his appreciation for taking quick action with the implementation of the Future Task Force Committee. At this time, the Growth and Development Committee does not have any recommendations for the Executive Committee to consider at this time.

President Ted Sokol assured Chairman Dean Rebhuhn that the Executive Committee will be providing a directive(s) for his committee to work on in the months to come.

**NATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM – ALLISON WALKER**

Manager of Circuit Program Allison Walker updated the Executive Committee with a recent task force meeting and provided some updates on discussions focused on joint circuit approvals, National Circuit Finals location and many others. **(SEE National Circuit Program Continuation on pg. 8)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A **MOTION** was made by Toddy Pitard and **SECONDED** by Mark Senn to adjourn the first day of the meeting and reconvene Tuesday, August 9th at 8:00AM central time. **MOTION PASSED.**

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**TUESDAY – AUGUST 9, 2022**

The Executive Committee meeting reconvened and was called to order at 8:02AM by President Ted Sokol.

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – SKIP JONES**

EC Liaison and member of the Governance Committee Skip Jones addressed the Executive Committee with their recommendations to be considered.

After the convention, an immediate initiative was put forth by President Ted Sokol appointing a Future Convention Task Force that included members from the Governance Committee, Growth and Development Committee and NCHA staff to develop and initiate a survey that went out to both attendees and non-attendees of the convention for results from the members on how they would like to proceed with future conventions. **(SEE actions under Task Force Committee Updates on pg. 3)**

Due to the outcome of the Special Meeting, the governance committee will need to take a step back and realign some of their action items to report back to the Executive Committee at a later meeting. Skip filtered through the recommendations and presented those items that were not impacted from the Special Meeting for consideration.

1. Recommend the EC direct staff to undertake periodic review of District and Region sizes and recommend updates/changes.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation as this item is operational and managed by the NCHA office. District and regional data were recently evaluated and presented to the Executive Committee showing little to no change from the last recorded status.**

2. Recommend that Finance Committee provide a budget to hire a dedicated parliamentarian as an independent third party to evaluate our constitution and bylaws to identify where there are conflicts to help regulate any inconsistencies performed by the association.

In closing, Skip Jones discussed the training modules that were presented at the convention of the Board of Directors and the Standing Committee members. Feedback was positive, there was a request to provide more demonstrations on how to properly conduct some of the standard actions that take place in meetings. A suggestion on how this concern could be addressed has been submitted but coordination efforts have not been finalized at this time.

### **NON-PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE – SHERRY GRAHAM**

Chairman of the Non-Professional Committee Sherry Graham presented her committees recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.

1. Recommend to the Executive Committee to change rule 50.d.6 (weekend LAE) rule to mirror the leveling \$250,000 cap for Non-Pro showing in the Open to \$250,000 Open LAE money.

A **MOTION** was made by Rock Hedlund and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller to approve the change rule 50.d.6 (weekend LAE) rule to mirror the leveling \$250,000 cap for Non-Pro showing in the Open to \$250,000 Open LAE money. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **New Rule: STANDING RULE 50.d.6.**

Once a Non-Pro has won \$250,000 or more in Total Open LAE money (excluding shows with less than \$10,000 in added money), they **MUST** make a choice:

1. to remain a Non-Pro and compete exclusively, during the current competition year in the Non-Pro Division
2. to compete in the Open Division

Open competition defined as Open and Novice Horse classes at Limited Age Events.

2. The Non-Pro Committee is working on a Non-Pro incentive program to test at the Bash in the 5/6 year old Non-Pro, then to the Triple Crown at the Super Stakes. Any Amateur competing in the Non-Pro would be eligible.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to support this Non-Pro incentive program as presented that was also recommended and supported by the Amateur Committee. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Non-Pro Committee is currently working with the Executive Committee appointed Non-Pro Task Force for solutions to enhance and increase Non-Pro entries and may have further recommendations after the task force reviews the survey results and determines any actions moving forward.

### **NATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM (CONTINUED) – ALLISON WALKER**

Manager of Circuit Program Allison Walker continued with her presentation and updates from the latest Circuit Program Task Force Committee Meeting.

**After much discussion with regards to the process of the joint circuit approvals, the Executive Committee decided to table this issue and suggested that the Task Force formalize a recommendation on how to process the joint circuit approvals and bring it back to the Executive Committee for consideration.**

**President Ted Sokol appointed Kirby Smith out of Region 3 to the National Circuit Program Task Force Committee effective immediately.**

### **JUDGES RULES COMMITTEE – TIM SMITH**

Chair of the Judges Rules Committee Tim Smith addressed the Executive Committee with recommendations brought forth from his committee.

1. Recommendation for the officiating Judges at an LAE Major event or 100k added money show be compensated \$1,000 if it is cancelled for any reason.

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by John Lavelle **to REJECT the recommendation** for the officiating Judges at an LAE Major event or 100k added money show be compensated \$1,000 if it is cancelled for any reason. **MOTION PASSED by majority with three (3) abstained.**

2. Recommend using a revised Judge's Card that breaks down the "cow-by-cow" system better. This would be introduced and used to train the judges during the 2022 judge seminars, then established as the official Judges Card in 2023.



A **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to approve the utilization of the revised Judge's Card as presented for the 2023 point year as the official NCHA judges card. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Recommend making it mandatory for NCHA Judges to judge at least 2 cuttings a year to remain an active judge.

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to approve making it mandatory for NCHA Judges to judge at least 2 cuttings a year to remain an active judge. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Recommendation for a paralyzed rider to use a riding crop during NCHA classes.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation.**

5. Recommendation to continue the High School/ Collegiate Judging Contest at the 2022 NCHA Futurity.

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Kirby Smith to continue to support the High School/ Collegiate Judging Contest at the 2022 NCHA Futurity. **MOTION PASSED.**

6. Recommendation was made by the Judges Rules Committee and Judges Department to clean up some of the language with examples in Standing Rules 27, Judges Rule 3, Judges Rule 21, Standing Rules 12-29: Related to Judges and Judging Rule 8 as presented. (SEE BELOW)

**Standing Rule 27: a., b., c1., c2. Page 51,52**

a. "4A" Judge: This judge's lifetime credits will be divided by the number of valid protests to determine if that number is 50 or more, and this person has been evaluated by the Monitor System in the past 60 months.

To maintain this rating a judge must obtain **two (2) credits per year**. If the judge does not obtain two credits, then the judge is subject to additional recertification testing. If the recertification testing is failed, there will be a reduction in rating for a period of twenty-four months. **4A judges may officiate at any NCHA approved or sponsored event up to \$2,000-added by themselves. When added money is over \$1,000 the judge must be approved by the Director of Judges.** 4A Judges are required to achieve a minimum of 75 points in all classes reviewed.

b. "3A" Judge: Minimum lifetime total credits of twenty-five (25) shows.

To maintain this rating a judge must obtain **two (2) credits per year**. If the judge does not obtain two credits, then the judge is subject to additional recertification testing. If the recertification testing is failed, there will be a reduction in rating for a period of twenty-four months. **3A judges may officiate at any NCHA approved or sponsored event up to \$2,000 added class by themselves. When added money is over \$1,000 the judge must be approved by the Director of Judges.** 3A judges may officiate at any NCHA limited aged event. 3A judges are required to achieve a minimum of 75 points in all classes reviewed.

### **Standing Rule 27: a., b., c1., c2. Page 51,52**

c1. "2A" Judge: To maintain this rating a judge must obtain two (2) credits per year. If the judge does not obtain the credits, then the judge will be required to do a recertification workshop with their weekend monitor or set in the 6th box of NCHA produced shows. If the recertification testing is failed, there will be a reduction in rating for a period of twelve months. 2A judges may officiate alone at any NCHA approved or sponsored event having an added purse of \$500 or less. 2A judges may officiate at any weekend contest having an added purse of \$1,000 or less with a 3A or 4A judge. 2A judges may officiate alone at any NCHA approved or sponsored event having an added purse of \$500-\$999, provided the judge has minimum of fifteen (15) lifetime judging credits. 2A judges are not allowed to judge a limited aged event with more than \$10,000 total added money. 2A judges are required to achieve a minimum of 75 points in all classes reviewed.

c2. "1A" Judge: To maintain this rating a judge must obtain two (2) credits per year. If the judge does not obtain the credits, then the judge will be required to do a recertification workshop with their weekend monitor or set in the 6th box of NCHA produced shows. If the recertification testing is failed, he/ she will be removed off the judges list. 1A judges may officiate alone at any NCHA approved or sponsored event having an added purse of \$300 or less. 1A judges are not allowed to judge a limited aged event with more than \$300 total added money. 1A judges are required to achieve a minimum of 75 points in all classes reviewed.

**NOTE:** 1A and 2A judges can receive a credit for judging an unapproved cutting, if the cutting is videoed and of acceptable quality for education. The judge will follow all rules associated with the weekend monitor program. The judge must notify the director of judges of their judging assignment. The judge will send all judge's sheets and videos to the judge's weekend monitor for approval and credit.

### **Judges Rule 3: Ruling page 132, 133**

**Ruling:** If both are sufficiently loose so that the horse is not influenced, then cutter A and cutter B have satisfied their requirement of riding with a loose rein. If cutter B's reins were tight enough to attract the judge's attention, even though the bits were not bumped, put a minus in the loose rein column and take one point off for each cow that they were tight on. And take those points off at the end of the run just like a major penalty. This is the only case which we take 1- point penalties off at the end of the run, to increase the severity of this rule infraction. Remember riding with loose reins is a requirement.

### **Judges Rule 21: Note, (A, B) pg. 158 and 159**

**(A)** Run content is a numerical evaluation (60 to 80) based on a running analysis of what occurs during the work.

**(B)** Guideline for evaluating a work. The judge will start judging each horse when the cutter's time begins, and each run will be started from a median score of (70). The run will conclude at

the first sound of the buzzer. The cutter's run content will be based upon compliance with credit situations and 1-point penalties. Run content may be decreased without occurrence of a penalty and 1-point penalties can be overcome if more credit is earned. 1-point penalties will be deducted on a cow-by-cow basis. Occurrence of major penalties will only be deducted at the conclusion of the run.

**(C)** Judge the 1st cow and give a value consistent with run content minus 1-point penalties (this is the value of your 1st cow score). Judge the 2nd cow and give a value consistent with run content minus 1-point penalties (this is the value of your 2nd cow score). If only 2 cows are worked the judge will average the 2 cow scores to determine final value of the run. If the cutter cuts a third cow the judge will use common sense and run content to decide how much to increase or decrease the value of the run.

### **Judges Rule 21: Example 2: pg. 159**

**Example 2:** Based on run content and 1 -point penalties, the judge has a value of 74 on the 1st cow and a value of 70 on the 2nd cow. The value of the run at the conclusion of the second cow will be a 72. If the cutter cuts a third cow the judge will use common sense and run content to decide how much to increase or decrease the value of the run.

### **Standing Rules 21-29 - Related to Judges**

#### **STANDING RULE 21.**

Any person applying to be a judge or designated a judge must demonstrate a high degree of integrity in all aspects of their conduct related in any way to involvement with the NCHA as a NCHA member, contestant, judge, or other conduct which reflects on the NCHA. The Director of Judges or the Judges Rule Committee, in its sole discretion of either, may determine that any conduct of a person is a basis to deny or revoke that person's privilege to serve as a judge. This determination may be made with or without notice or hearing, subject only to a review of the Executive Committee on such terms as the Executive Committee, in its sole discretion, may from time to time designate. Active members of the Association over the age of 19 may be added to the NCHA Approved Judges List upon satisfactory completion of all stated requirements. Each NCHA judge applicant and approved NCHA judge is required to sign the Judges Code of Ethics. All judges are required to sign the code and return it to the NCHA Office.

a. Application for NCHA approval as a judge shall be made on a form provided by the Association.

1. Each application must be endorsed by one (1) current Director of the applicant's region, who is not a member of the applicant's family; and three (3) current NCHA approved judges. The necessary form and return envelope will be provided for the three (3) judges' use.

b. Any person seeking approval as an NCHA judge shall have been a member of the Association continuously for a minimum of five (5) years, including youth or family membership, and shall have no record of suspension, probation, or reprimand by the NCHA for the three (3) year period immediately preceding the application. Applicant must have been an active competitor during the past three (3) years and must have won a lifetime minimum of \$10,000 to become a 1A, or \$50,000 to become a 2A judge in approved NCHA cutting competitions.

c. All applications will be reviewed by the Director of Judges and a Rules sub-committee. If application is approved, applicant will be invited to attend an NCHA Judge Applicant Clinic for testing purposes.

***d. Judge applicants must score eighty (80) on the written test and a minimum of seventy-five (75) on each of the live or video judging tests. If these scores are attained, applicants will receive an Approved NCHA Judge rating. Judge Applicant clinics will be held at any time there is a need. The Director of judges must approve it and there will be an application fee.***

***e. Approved Judge Recertification tests are held every other year beginning in 2019 and are mandatory (except as provided below) and will be conducted in one of the following formats:***

***(i) in-person testing conducted by the Director of Judges; (ii) clinical testing conducted the Director of Judges; or (iii) by a video clip and written test emailed to each NCHA Judge. Recertification tests taken under option (iii) must be returned to their assigned Monitor within 30 day of receiving to be graded and pass to remain active. All testing conducted under options (i) or (ii) above must receive prior approval from the Judge's Rules Committee and there will be an application fee. Judges that have judged an NCHA Monitored event with \$100,000 added or an NCHA Produced event within the current or past year will be considered recertified with the Director of Judges' approval. Therefore, these specific judges will only need to provide the application fee to NCHA to remain an active judge. New applicants applying to be an NCHA judge will test any time there is a need and approved by the Director of judges. Either in an applicant seminar or the 6th box, depending on their lifetime earnings.***

f. The Director of Judges is authorized to test and certify people on an individual basis, in the 6th box during a final or otherwise, who have won \$100,000 or more. These applicants will be approved as 2A until they successfully judge 6 shows or 6 credits without a valid protest, at which time they will be advanced to 3A.

g. Foreign Judge Applicants must be a member in good standing for a period of three years. The score on their applicant test will determine their rating (2A to 4A). A score of 75 or higher out of 100 will pass. An applicant score of 75-80 will earn a 2A rating. A score of 81-95 will earn a 3A rating and 96 and higher will earn a 4A rating.

#### **STANDING RULE 22.**

Each judge must sign their score card, and the Show Management shall post same in a conspicuous place immediately following each go-round and finals. There must not be any consultation between judges until after score cards are turned in; and after cards are turned in, there will be no changes.

#### **STANDING RULE 23.**

When two or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest and one or more judges cannot complete judging of the go-round, the score or scores of the remaining judge or judges who complete the go-round will be the sole basis of computing the go-round. Each judge must score each horse individually, and if any one of their scores is counted in a go-round, all of their scores must be counted except as provided herein; where five or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest, the highest and the lowest scores for each horse will be discarded and the accumulated scores of the remaining judges used to compute the go round. This rule shall also apply to finals.

a. When two or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest of more than one go round or with finals and one or more judges becomes unable to continue between the go rounds or finals, said judge or judges shall be replaced first by the alternate judge named for the contest

and second by a judge acceptable to the majority of the contestants and to the show management. If the alternate judge is unavailable, the second option shall be used.

**STANDING RULE 24:** These rules are applied while judging within a **NCHA monitored event:**

#### **MONITORED EVENT**

A judge may not judge their parents, children, spouse, spouse's parents, relatives of either the judge or their spouse if they live in the same household; nor may they judge their employer or employees. A judge may not judge a horse that they have owned, exhibited, trained, managed, or sold for direct or indirect remuneration within the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding any NCHA approved or sponsored event at which said judge is officiating in full or in part.

Judging Rule 8 description and Example 3 and ruling Page 138

#### **JUDGING RULE 8**

While working, a horse will be penalized one (1) point each time the reins are used to control or direct (to rein) the horse. A one (1) point penalty shall also be charged whenever a horse is visibly cued in any manner. If the reins are tight enough that the bits are bumped at any time, they shall be penalized one (1) penalty point (B) per occurrence per cow in the 1-point penalty column, even though the hand of the rider does not move. In addition, put a minus in the loose reins column per cow and take off at the end of the run to increase the severity of this rule infraction.

**EXAMPLE 3:** The Cutter is working with their hand held low. His/her reins are adjusted short enough so that the bit is bumped two (2) different times during their run. Once on the first cow and once on the second cow. The cutter only worked 2 cows.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty (B) in the 1- point penalty column for each time the bit is bumped and take that off your cow score. In addition, put a minus in the loose reins column per cow and take off at the end of the run to increase the severity of this rule infraction.

After much discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Rock Hedlund and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller to approve the above recommended changes to the verbiage in the Judging Rules as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

#### **LIMITED AGE EVENTS COMMITTEE – CULLEN CHARTIER**

Chair of the Limited Age Events Committee Cullen Chartier was unable to attend so Director of Shows and Staff Liaison Shianne Megel presented the recommendations brought forth from the Limited Age Events committee.

#### **Triple Crown Entry Format**

The Committee supports the continued use of the existing entry formats for all Triple Crown Events.

A motion was made and seconded to consider isolating the Limited Amateur divisions.

#### **Practice Pen Processes**

The Committee supports the continued use of surveillance systems in the practice pen areas.

### **Mouthing Procedures**

A motion was made and seconded to discontinue the use of the historic mouthing process and use registration papers and health certificates to confirm the age of all horses entered at a Triple Crown event.

**The Executive Committee took no action and made the decision that these are operational issues to be addressed by show management.**

Shianne Megel also added that the Futurity schedule will be increasing two more days at the beginning of the show totaling 27 days instead of the 25 days.

### **AFFILIATE OFFICERS/SECRETARIES COMMITTEE – KIM COX**

Chair of the Affiliate Officers/ Secretaries Committee Kim Cox addressed the Executive Committee with recommendations brought forth from her committee.

1. Discuss 50,000 Amateur/Unlimited Amateur class w/class or concurrent

Recommend requiring show producers determine class format (running separate, concurrently or combined) within the 30 day deadline for changes.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation as it has already been addressed.**

2. Discuss Standing Rule 12 review per Executive Committee

Recommend allowing Show Producers to determine whether or not they will accept late entries. That decision must be indicated on the Show Approval Application when submitted to the Office.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to approve this recommendation of allowing Show Producers to determine whether or not they will accept late entries and it must be determined on the show application. **MOTION PASSED by majority with one (1) opposition.**

3. Discuss and review of the AED/CPR Program - No Action

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation.**

4. Discuss and review the Circuit Program

Recommend an annual appointment of a Circuit Liaison (convention election) to approve or deny joint circuit requests.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation.**

5. Discuss Standing Rule 14 maximum entry fee % based on added money

Recommend approval of the proposed Rule 14 change of maximum entry fee percentage based on added money.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation as it has already been addressed.**

6. Discuss Standing Rule 13 \$5,000 and more in added money

Recommend approval of the proposed Rule 13 change as presented.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation as it has already been addressed.**

7. Discuss and review NCHA Secretary Certification criteria for new applicants

The Committee agreed to take no action and defer to staff to implement new processes.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation.**

### **WEEKEND SHOW COMMITTEE – BRADEY DAVIS**

Weekend Show Committee Chairman Bradey Davis presented the recommendations from his committee.

1. Discuss Standing Rule 6.e cattle charges

Recommend in Weekend Championship classes with added money must not exceed the recommended percentage of the entry fee. However, a special exception may be granted by the Executive Director for classes with added money of \$5,000 or more. No added money (jackpot only) the cattle charge may only exceed the jackpot portion of the entry fee if there are some fresh cattle provided. Under special circumstances, a cattle surcharge may be added to any class if approved in writing, IN ADVANCE of the show by NCHA.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to approve Weekend Championship classes with added money must not exceed the recommended percentage of the entry fee. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Discuss Standing Rule 12 review per Executive Committee

Recommend accept the rule clarify the draw on late entries arriving simultaneously.

At all NCHA approved Weekend Shows and Limited Aged Events (with \$9,999 or less in added money) late entries received after a posted date/time must be accepted until the first horse in the class starts to work.



Any late entry so accepted must work last in the first set of cattle. **When two or more late entries arrived simultaneously, a draw will be held by the officiating judge and said entries inserted in the next subsequent groups of cattle with (1) one entry being placed in each group.**

If the number of late entries exceeds the number of cattle changes, additional late entries will start with the first group. An additional fee may be charged by show management for late entries. Any show requesting an exemption to this rule must apply on the Weekend/LAE show application and the exemption will be posted on the NCHA website.

- 1<sup>st</sup> group – late entry A
- 2<sup>nd</sup> group – late entry B
- 3<sup>rd</sup> group – late entry C
- 4<sup>th</sup> group – late entry would be added to the first available group.

An amended **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Mark Senn to approve this recommendation by including an initial sentence at the beginning...If a show has been approved to accept late entries, the following shall apply: At all NCHA approved Weekend Shows and Limited Aged Events (with \$9,999 or less in added money) late entries received after a posted date/time must be accepted until the first horse in the class starts to work.

Any late entry so accepted must work last in the first set of cattle. When two or more late entries arrived simultaneously, a draw will be held by the officiating judge and said entries inserted in the next subsequent groups of cattle with (1) one entry being placed in each group.

If the number of late entries exceeds the number of cattle changes, additional late entries will start with the first group. An additional fee may be charged by show management for late entries. Any show requesting an exemption to this rule must apply on the Weekend/LAE show application and the exemption will be posted on the NCHA website.

- 1<sup>st</sup> group – late entry A
- 2<sup>nd</sup> group – late entry B
- 3<sup>rd</sup> group – late entry C
- 4<sup>th</sup> group – late entry would be added to the first available group.

**MOTION PASSED by majority with one (1) opposition.**

- 3. Discuss 50,000 Amateur/Unlimited Amateur class w/class or concurrent

Recommend to leave up to Show Management.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation.**

- 4. Discuss Lifetime cap \$5,000 Novice/\$5,000 Novice Non Pro class - NO ACTION

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation.**

- 5. Discuss Standing Rule 14 maximum entry fee % based on added money - COMPLETED



Recommend accepting the proposed Maximum entry fee percentage based on the added money.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation as it has already been addressed.**

6. Discussion and review of Circuit Program – Current Rules regarding “Out of Border” mileage requirements and approval process. Proposal for change in mileage and/or approval process by Tracy Barton. - COMPLETED

Recommend leaving current rules in place and address next year.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation as it has already been addressed.**

7. Discuss Standing Rule 13 \$5,000 or more in added money

Recommend accepting the proposed rule change.

A Weekend/Championship class may be offered with multiple go-rounds. When a class has more than the standard go-round, a final must be held. The finals may be working or non-working.

In all cases, the number of places paid AND the number taken to any final must be based on the Weekend Mandatory Payout Scale.

For classes held with a 1 go and a final (working or non-working) the payout must be calculated in one of following two ways:

- a) Available purse is split in half. 50% paid in the go round and 50% paid in the final OR
- b) Available purse is paid 100% in the final.

For classes held with 2 or more goes and a final (working or non-working), the purse must be split evenly between all goes and the final. Example: 2 goes and a final, purse would be split 3 ways – 33% to each. For 3 goes and a final, purse would be split 4 ways – 25% to each, etc.)

Exceptions to the above may be granted to state, regional or county fairs or in the case where a government agency stipulates how its money should be paid.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation as it has already been addressed.**

8. Discuss how to better serve Circuit Awards – NO ACTION

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation.**

9. Discuss European Events only

\$25,000 Amateur instead of \$50,000 Amateur  
Allow riders to ride two horses in the Non-Pro  
Establish a European Circuit

Recommend leave NCHA rules in.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation as a portion of this has already been addressed.**

### **APPROVED LAE/SHOW PRODUCERS COMMITTEE – COLETA ROSSON**

Chair of the Approved LAE/Show Producers Committee Coleta Rosson addressed the Executive Committee with recommendations brought forth from her committee.

1. Discuss deadlines for applications & approval for new and existing shows

#### EXISTING (Page 124)

...An application for approval, together with all rules for the event, must be submitted to the NCHA by June 1<sup>st</sup> of the preceding year for shows that will be held between January 1 and May 31, and by January 1 of the given year for shows that will be held between June 1 and December 31 of that year.

#### PROPOSED

...An application for approval, together with all rules for the event, must be submitted to the NCHA by **May 1<sup>st</sup>** of the preceding year for shows that will be held between January 1 and **April 30**, and by January 1 of the given year for shows that will be held between **May 1** and December 31 of that year.

#### EXISTING (Page 127 2-3)

2. Approval deadlines for shows held the first six(6) months of the year: Pre-existing Limited Age Event shows whose applications are due in the office May 1, of each year will be approved or denied by July 1, and/or in time to be published on the NCHA website. Applications for new Major Limited Age Events will be accepted until August 31 and will be approved or denied by September 30.

3. Approval deadlines for shows held during the second six months of the year: Pre-existing Limited Age Event shows whose application are due in the office January 1 of each year will be approved or denied by February 1 and /or published on the NCHA website. Applications for new Major Limited Age Events will be accepted until March 31 and will be approved or denied by April 30.

#### PROPOSED

2. Approval deadlines for **existing and new** shows that will be held between **January 1 and April 30** of each year, **and due in the office by** May 1, will be approved or denied by July and /or in time to be published on the NCHA website.

3. Approval deadlines for **existing and new** shows that will be held between May 1 and November of each year, will be approved or denied by February 1 and /or in time to be published on the NCHA website.

Recommend accepting the proposed deadline changes as presented.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to approve proposed changes on deadlines for applications & approval for new and existing shows as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Revisit the nonpayment/bounced check issue Standing Rule 4

This item was tabled so that recommendation from previous minutes could be reviewed with legal counsel.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation.**

3. Discuss request from EC to help come up with wording to put in place new policies for LAE dates that are vacated and/or new show request.

Page 126 – “Additionally, any dates released will return to NCHA.”

Revised verbiage: Any dates vacated or made available will be reviewed by the LAE Show Producers Committee and forwarded to the EC for final determination.

The committee executed a vote of affirmation of previous committee decisions that no dates that are vacated will not be filled with a new show. The dates will be made available to existing shows to allow schedule expansion as available.

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to leave the verbiage as is with no change to vacated LAE show dates. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Discuss existing Premier Shows who might need to make date adjustments in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the point year to help with long days on their schedule.

Recommend approval of first 6 month 2023 LAE Calendar as presented, with the added days for Ardmore and the Cattlemen's.

A **MOTION** was made by Rock Hedlund and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller to table this consideration of approving the LAE show calendar until the EC gets input from the Professional Trainers Committee. **MOTION PASSED.**

5. Discuss the possibility that the EC would grant this Committee the authority to approve minor changes to existing LAE's without going through the EC. Example shift one day earlier or add a day to the schedule if there are no conflicts with another show.

Recommend to form task force to address the minor requests from LAE show producers to make decisions necessitating a quick turnaround that would be approved for one year only consisting of Shianne Megel, Cheryl Callis, Linda Smith and current serving Chairman of this committee. If the show is granted approval, any permanent request should be submitted on the following year's show application.

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by John Lavelle to approve Director of Shows, Manager of Approved LAE Shows, Chairman of Approved LAE/ Show Producers Committee and responsible party for creating the LAE calendar the authority to make decisions necessitating a quick turnaround that would be approved for one year only. Any permanent requests exceeding one year would be required to approval by the Executive Committee. **MOTION PASSED.**

6. Discussion and review of Circuit Program – Current Rules regarding “Out of Border” mileage requirements and approval process. Proposal for change in mileage and/or approval process by Tracy Barton. – NO ACTION

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation.**

7. Recommend the approval of the 2023 January-April requested dates per attached calendar and copy of letter from Augusta Futurity (for 2023 only).

A **MOTION** was made by Rock Hedlund and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller to table this consideration of approving the LAE show calendar until the EC gets input from the Professional Trainers Committee. **MOTION PASSED.**

**SEE Approved LAE Calendar motion under show department updates on page 23.**

8. This Committee is asking for an exception to the rules/guidelines for the appointments on this committee. All approved Premier Aged Events should have representation on this committee regardless of Region balance. If no Premier event in that Region a representative will be appointed. Also disregard term limits.

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Kristen York to take no action on this recommendation for committee guideline changes. **MOTION PASSED by majority with one (1) abstention.**

### **PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS COMMITTEE – CARA BREWER**

EC Liaison of the Professional Trainers Committee Cara Brewer presented the recommendations brought forth from this committee.

1. Recommendation to shorten the LAE events:
  - Move all 3 Limited Divisions to the Watt arena at triple crown events in Fort Worth, TX. With the Limited Finals in the Will Rogers Coliseum.
  - Show Producers cap entries at 150 head of horses per day at events.
  - Cap settling the herd time.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation as this has already been implemented.**

2. Discussion of Standing Rule 50.d.6: - NO ACTION

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation as this has already been addressed.**

3. Recommend leveling the horse instead of the rider in the Open Classes at all Premier events.

Combined with #4

4. Recommend limiting the number of horses, mirroring the triple crown events or in talking with the show producers devising a plan that will work throughout the NCHA.

Kenny Platt made a motion for recommendation #3 and #4 that a Novice horse cannot have won 10k from January 1 through June 1<sup>st</sup>, 25k after June 1<sup>st</sup>. Show Producers to limit the number of horses in the Open and Novice classes. 5 horses in Novice and 5 horses Regular Open at all 100K added events.

**The Executive Committee took no action as this recommendation is still a work in progress for further research by this committee.**

5. Recommend having a Continued Educational Judging video sent out to all NCHA Professional Trainers to review to gain a better understanding of the judging system.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation but suggested that maybe this would be a great seminar at the next convention.**

6. Recommend a hospitality person to direct contestants at Triple Crown Events in Fort Worth, TX. Help find stalls, give map, etc.

Combined with #7.

7. Give a discount/coupon book to contestants to help alleviate all the small fees.

**The Executive Committee took no action on this recommendation.**

8. Recommend giving Trainers Code of Ethics with implementation plan.

**The Executive Committee took no action as this recommendation is still a work in progress.**

### **FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – STEVE SMITH**

Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee Steve Smith addressed the Executive Committee with the recommendations from the Finance and Audit Committee to be considered.

Steve brought the committee up to date on a recent Fiserv proposal offering suggestions on charges for credit card transactions.

1. Fiserv Representative Jeremy Tucker provided an updated presentation to the Finance Committee on a cash discounting method that would add a 3% cash discounting fee to all transactions that are made by a non-cash payment method. There was also a discussion that debit card transactions should not be allowed online in order to avoid confusion. MOTION was made by Garry Merritt and SECONDED by Barnwell Ramsey to approve the Fiserv proposal as presented and to not allow the use of debit cards for online transactions. The expected implementation would be January 1, 2023. MOTION PASSED. Further discussion on details to follow at later meetings.

A **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to adopt the Fiserv proposal as presented. **MOTION PASSED by majority with one (1) abstention.** This new process when implemented will also include an ACH option by means of electronic check for online transactions.

In closing, Steve alluded to the fact that the Finance and Audit Committee welcomed all the NCHA officers on their monthly calls with full attendance.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A **MOTION** was made by Toddy Pitard and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to adjourn the second day of the meeting and reconvene Wednesday, August 10th at 8:00AM central time. **MOTION PASSED.**

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### **WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 10, 2022**

The Executive Committee meeting reconvened and was called to order at 8:01AM by President Ted Sokol.

### **JUDGES DEPARTMENT – SAM ROSE**

Director of Judges Sam Rose addressed the Executive Committee with updates from the Judges Department.

#### **Recertifications**

The recent five (5) recertification clinics have been well attended with three (3) remaining to host in the United States and one (1) left in Italy.

#### **Judges**

NCHA has 323 total Judges which are 273 United States, 50 Foreign, with 11 new judges to the system.

#### **Protests**

In 2022, NCHA had three (3) valid and two (2) not valid with two (2) inconclusive.

### **Spot Checks**

In 2022, NCHA had one (1) valid, zero (0) not valid and five (5) inconclusive.

Sam demonstrated the new and improved judges' education section on the NCHA website.

In addition, a **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Rock Hedlund to add to the show rules in the Futurity book under Rule 22.C.1 that SAMS may be utilized as the "Review" on the 5 Judge System for a trial period at any premier event (with two Monitors present), at the sole discretion of the Director of Judges. The Director of Judges may also determine when the trial period will end. **MOTION PASSED.**

Efforts are in place to evaluate the monitors compensation.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (CONTINUED) – JAY WINBORN**

Executive Director Jay Winborn updated the Executive Committee and elaborated more on the preliminary discussions of the Weatherford project. Jay welcomed Angie Highland of Highland Market Research to present a feasibility study regarding this proposed concept.

### **SHOW DEPARTMENT – SHIANNE MEGEL**

Director of Shows Shianne Megel addressed the members of the Executive Committee with updates from the Show Department.

Shianne introduced Charly Petrek as the newest member of the NCHA Show Department. Charly was hired as our Manager of Shows and came to us from Will Rogers Memorial Center. Her talents will be leveraged to bridge the connection with our show secretaries to establish a better means of communication on those weekend relationships.

### **NCHA Days**

A **MOTION** made by **Skip Jones** and **SECONDED** by John Lavelle to swap the weekend dates in June with the NCHA Days and the Annual Convention. Results being that the NCHA Days weekend dates are set for June 3-4, 2023 and the NCHA Annual Convention will be held on June 23-25, 2023. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **Approved LAE Show Calendar**

After discussions, a **MOTION** was made by Kristen York and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to approve the Approved LAE Calendar for January – April of 2023 as amended for the Arbuckle Mountain Futurity dates to reflect February 16-26, 2023, with no additional classes. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **Summer Spectacular Updates**

Shianne started with her appreciation of all that helped at the show from the staff members jumping in where needed to the Executive Committee providing updates and suggestions along the way. The "above and beyond" mentality contributes to our success.

Preliminary numbers look good at this time. Once Shianne has final numbers, she will gladly update the Executive Committee with those results.

### **2022 Futurity**

At this time, we have 707 Open horses entered, 285 in the Non-Pro and both the Intermediate and top level Amateur have over 200 entries. To date, there are 1,465 unique horses entered for the 2022 Futurity. **Shianne also announced that 2 days are being added to the beginning of the Futurity to reflect the following dates as November 14 – December 10, 2022.**

### **MARKETING DEPARTMENT – CARLEY MYERS/TAYLOR BREEDING/ANNA LAURENT**

NCHA Business Development Manager Carley Myers alongside the Managers of Marketing Taylor Breeding and Anna Laurent updated the Executive Committee with a general overview of their department.

#### **Brand Guidelines**

Taylor presented the new brand guidelines established by the Association last Spring 2022. These guidelines provide a unified look for the brand and ensure that everything that leaves the office has a consistent look and feel.

#### **Chatter**

Taylor also provided some exciting updates to the production of the Chatter. Beginning with the Fall issue, the focus of the Chatter will be shifting to more of the cutting lifestyle. Cover photos will be more editorial and emotional versus the historic action shots.

#### **Social Media**

Anna expanded on the same focus as the Chatter changing to more emphasis on social media to the lifestyles with more video content and member photos with themes around the NCHA Family.

#### **Partnerships**

Carley updated the Executive Committee that the partnerships have increased over 9% this past year in sponsorship revenue with more being negotiated.

#### **Spectrum Streaming**

The marketing team is happy to announce the launch of a campaign that airs our 30 second commercial across streaming platforms in the greater DFW and Houston areas of Texas. This non-skippable commercial will be utilized as a goal to grow awareness of the NCHA and encourage fans to become members.

#### **Cumulus**

Carley added with the help of Cumulus, a media company that NCHA is working with on advertising platforms, we initiated some radio spots with local stations during prime times. This relationship also opens up opportunities for geofencing and retargeting.

In closing, Marketing has been collaborating with several videographers from around the region to capture membership testimonials, event coverage, and general NCHA content. Also, sending



out more press releases to local newspapers and community businesses. The marketing team continues to engage special events at our shows to increase the flow of traffic.

### **MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT – JULIE DAVIS**

Director of Membership Julie Davis addressed the members of the Executive Committee with updates from the Membership Department. We are retaining 38% that joined this year from the free membership they were given last year.

Julie highlighted some positive comments with new members signing up that were contributed to the attraction of the western lifestyle, Kubota sales, previous members coming back and the circuit involvement, among others. Some of the concerns from members were contributed to the summer heat, the cattle, cost of showing and availability of shows in certain areas.

The current membership count as of July 31,2022, is 13,244 members, an increase of 1,159 members since this time last year.

After presenting the membership numbers with and without the impact of the free members, Julie provided a quick update to the other projects that her department is working on, the rulebook committee is getting ready to meet for edits to the 2023 version of the rulebook as it will go to print in late October. Also, new membership cards have been well received and will continue for 2023.

Just as a reminder, a postcard will go out to all 5066 Amateur members about the new rule that will go into effect for 2023 about the pure 50 Amateur class.

### **MEDICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE – JULIE DAVIS**

Staff Liaison Julie Davis provided an update on a recent decision that was made at the EC meeting before the convention with legal counsel under executive session. This issue needs to be captured and recorded in the official minutes. This issue relates to the options on how to address the rule on forfeiture of winnings when there is a medication violation proven for use of a prohibited drug.

### **OPTIONS FOR RULE ON FORFEITURE OF WINNINGS**

**1. OPTION 1\*:** This is the option recommended by the Medication Review Committee.

#### **“Rule 40:**

In any instances in which winnings, awards and/or titles won at an NCHA approved or produced event are forfeited as a result of disciplinary action taken by the NCHA for a violation of NCHA rules, such forfeited winnings, awards and titles that are actually returned to the NCHA shall (to the extent applicable) be redistributed among the contestants who actually showed in finals of the class in which the forfeiture occurred. No additional horses or riders will be moved up in the standings from outside of the original finalists in that class as a result of any such forfeiture and contestants who did not participate in the finals of that class shall not be entitled to participate

in any of the forfeited winnings, titles or awards.”

**Key Features of Option 1:**

- All forfeited and returned winnings get returned to purse to provide maximum benefit to members;
- All forfeited and returned winnings redistributed only to finalists who actually competed in class for which monies were forfeited. No horse/rider moved up into finalist class as a result of forfeiture;
- Pros of this approach is that it honors the purse and maximizes dollars for the benefit of the membership. Cons of this approach is that the NCHA will incur administrative time/ expense associated with recalculation/redistribution of returned monies. However, staff advises that those are minimal.

**2. OPTION 2\*:** This option addresses the potential of limiting redistribution of forfeited winnings below a certain threshold amount. (\$1,000.00 was used as an example amount)

The wording of the rule would be the same as Option 1 with the following restrictive language added:

“. . . such forfeited winnings, awards and titles that are actually returned to the NCHA that come to an amount equal to or greater than [\$1,000.00 or some other threshold amount] shall (to the extent applicable) be redistributed among the contestants who actually showed in finals . . . .”

**Key Features of Option 2:**

- Only returned winnings that exceed \$1,000.00 (or some other threshold amount) are redistributed to finalists who actually competed in class for which monies were forfeited. No horse/rider moved up into finalist class as a result of forfeiture;
- The first \$1,000.00 (or some other threshold amount) in returned winnings would be returned to office will be put toward administrative costs;
- Pros of this approach are that it insures that NCHA will not be out of pocket for administrative time or expense associated with redistribution of small dollar amounts (although such administrative costs are estimated to be minimal). Cons of this approach is that it does not maximize purse for the participating members.

**3. OPTION 3\***

- Use the wording in Option 1, however, make concurrent changes to Rule 35A.8(d) to increase the recommended fines for use of prohibited drugs to the amounts previously proposed by the Medication Review Committee which were as follows:

- 1st Offense = \$5,000
- 2nd Offense = \$10,000
- 3rd Offense = \$15,000

- This approach honors the purse, maximizes the dollars for the benefit of the membership and puts the financial burden on the offending parties. The increased fines should be sufficient to deter future violations and to cover any related administrative time/expense. It combines the benefits offered under Option 1, while minimizing any potential out of pocket costs to the NCHA as sought in Option 2.

**\*Notes for all options: If hearing is requested and contestant does not prevail at the hearing, the fines associated with the violation as listed in 35A.8(d) can always be increased by the Hearing Committee to cover the hearing costs.**

After review, a **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Rock Hedlund to adopt option 1 recommended by the Medication Review Committee in conjunction with Option 3 retroactively effective as of June 2, 2022. **MOTION PASSED.**

In closing, Julie informed the Executive Committee that the **Medication Review Committee has agreed to add dantrolene to the list of permitted therapeutic medications to be compliant with the industry standards.**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT – DENISE SEIZ**

NCHA Treasurer Denise Seiz addressed the Executive Committee with our current state of the May financials for the association.

National Cutting Horse Association  
Finance Commentary  
May 2022

#### **Statement of Position**

The Association ended the month with total assets of \$21.3 million which represents an increase of around \$660K from the previous month. Below is a summary of what constitutes this increase:

Cash had an increase of \$1.2M in Operating and an increase of \$5K in Stallion Foal

The primary reason for the increase in operating cash is due to the intake of entry fees for Summer Show. The primary reason for the increase in Stallion Foal cash is the receipt of foal nominations during the month.

Investments decreased in both the main investment account as well as the stallion foal account by \$96K and \$24K, respectively.

This decrease is due to the current market conditions as well as the loss on the sale of investments.

Accounts receivable decreased by \$640K

The decrease in accounts receivable is primarily due to the receipt of our MERP receivable from 2021 Summer Show of \$612,395. We additionally received our \$25K from Discover West Monroe for their added money towards Eastern Nationals.

Prepaid expenses increased by \$226K

The increase in prepaid expenses is primarily due to amounts paid for convention. The largest being \$50K towards Gala. There were additional amounts paid for convention as

well, including printing, supplies, & signage. The Association additionally purchased \$31K in awards for Circuit Finals and paid show staff/judges who were scheduled to attend Westerns in the total of \$42K. Lastly, the Association has paid \$52K in subsidy payments for NCHA weekend.

Total liabilities increased \$824K from the previous month. The majority of the increase was due to the receipt of entry fees for Summer Show. Accounts Payable were down due to last month being a show month so it included a large batch of show related checks that were paid out during the current month. Accrued Expenses were down mainly due to the payment of the Futurity facility bill (\$448K) as well as a few Super Stakes related expenses (mainly hotel & saddles). The Association also paid our audit fee to SFC that we had been accruing for. Sponsorship deferred revenue is up due to the receipt of the \$30K Youth Week sponsorship from the Foundation as well as various wall sign sponsorships. There was a \$48K increase in the PAC fund due to the receipt of PAC fees with the Summer Show entry payments.

Net assets decreased by approximately \$164K which represents the net loss for the month of May.

### **Statement of Activities**

Through eight months of FY 2022, the Association has posted net income of \$2,379,209 which is \$1,490,773 or 167.80% better than budgeted YTD income of \$888,436.

For the month of May, the Association posted a net loss of \$164,189 while the budget anticipated a net loss of \$111,683. As such, the Association's net loss for the month was less favorable than the budget by \$52,506.

The unfavorable position for the month was driven by a couple of things. The main factor was the \$126,332 loss on the sale of investments that was not budgeted for. There was a favorable variance of \$75K in approved shows revenue which is due to more participation than expected. The remaining revenue streams remained fairly consistent with our original budgeted expectations.

From an expense standpoint, there were a few variations from budget. Awards expense showed an unfavorable variance of \$13K due to the timing of purchasing circuit awards. Show marketing expenses show a favorable variance of \$22K due to the marketing department not incurring costs they had budgeted for. Legal expenses show an unfavorable variance of \$14K which was due to budgeted expectations of reducing legal fees each month. However, the amount paid is the same retainer we have been paying. The remaining expenses remained fairly consistent with budgeted expectations and total expenses are within \$3K of budgeted expenses.

Denise added that NCHA is finalizing the annual renewal for the line of credit with Frost Bank under the same terms as previous with a \$2M limit with a variable interest rate of prime plus zero (0) and collateralized by the NCHA long term investment account, nothing related to the Stallion Foal Program. There are no intentions to date for a plan to draw on this line of credit.

### **YOUTH DEPARTMENT – RIANNA STOREY/LOGAN POOLE**

Director of Youth Rianna Storey and Youth Coordinator Logan Poole addressed the Executive Committee with updates from the Youth week during the Summer Spectacular.

After a summary of their backgrounds, Rianna and Logan announced the new National Senior Officers of the NYCHA for 2022-2023.

- President – Wyatt Lewis
- Senior President Elect – Breanna Collier
- Vice President – Riley Farris
- Secretary/Treasurer – Aden Bernhagen
- Reporter – Annie Kate White

### **Youth Week 2022 in Review**

- Youth World Finals
  - Senior World Champion - Emma Rapp, Weatherford, Texas
  - Junior World Champion – Aden Bernhagen, Corsicana, Texas
- NCHA Foundation Youth Scholarship Cutting
  - Senior – Ryan Packard – Mineral Wells, Texas
  - Junior – Jack Bell – Duluth, Minnesota
- NYCHA Hall of Fame Inductees
  - Ryan Rapp
  - Claire Shelton
  - Cash Carpenter
  - Colton Cogdell
  - Jessica Pietrafeso
  - Gianna Pietrafeso
  - Jason Simmons
- NYCHA Horse Hall of Fame
  - Dry Oil
  - GS Zans Cat
  - Nutn Buta Hounddog
  - Smart Frosty Cat
  - Cats Rascal
  - Works Smooth
- NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout
  - US Veterans competed in the Watt Arena showcasing their newly acquired talent on the cutting horse with the help of our NCHA Trainers and NYCHA participants.

After experiencing youth week, Rianna and Logan hit the ground running to focus on some key elements in the future vision of the NYCHA. They will be focusing on working through scheduling conflicts with other youth events, especially the NHSRA.

As Director of Youth, Rianna's efforts moving forward will consist of working with programs and strong communications with the youth committee members, Logan as the Youth Coordinator will be forward facing with the youth members and manage the social media accounts along with assisting Rianna with fundraising efforts and the NCHA Foundation.

## **REGIONAL REPORTS**

President Ted Sokol welcomed the each of the members to report on their regional updates.

**Region 1** – **Kristen York** recited a letter from a member in Region 1 that was a past Director that expressed his appreciation that NCHA hosted a virtual meeting. Region is getting ready for the Cascades Futurity with hopes for a great turnout.

**Region 2** – **Rock Hedlund** reported that cuttings on the West Coast are hit and miss, some club cuttings are dealing with inconsistencies due to prices of diesel and cattle. Region 2 Directors were disappointed with the Special Membership Meeting and concerned as to why we had to redo the votes from the convention.

**Region 3** – **Kirby Smith** emphasized that a recent youth cutting in May went well followed by NCHA Days in Topeka, KS that had a good turnout. The American Royal is coming up with hopes for a good turnout. Region 3 has had great participation with a lot of new members.

**Region 4** – **John Lavelle** provided an update that his region is appreciative for the return of NCHA Days. All American Quarter Horse Congress has cancelled but they were working on an alternative event that has had to cancel as well due to lack of amenities and scheduling conflict. The region is excited to work with Allison Walker on the circuits after meeting her in person at the convention. In summary, cuttings are good, and all are looking forward to the circuit finals.

**Region 5** – **Sharon Overstreet** reported that Region 5 has had a numerous amount of shows this year. They had to cancel the NCHA Days due to concerns of heat for the cattle which is rescheduled to take place in October. Affiliates in this region are strong, and all are looking forward to the show in Perry, GA.

**Region 6** – **Tommy Williams** stated that North Arkansas is trying to revive cutting in that area. Louisiana and Mississippi seem to be doing well with shows although they are dealing with some effects of droughts. Emphasis is on the East Texas to help initiate some cuttings in that area.

**Region 7** – **Skip Jones** expressed that Region 7 was extremely grateful for the extra funds for the NCHA Days, they ended up using it on cattle since their current supplier backed out due to the heat. Replacements costs more but were available due to that stipend received. The bridled class at the NCHA Days was a huge success. Shows in Region 7 are not as big but still well attended. Directors in Region 7 were not in support of the Special Membership Meeting.

**Region 8** – **Kathleen Moore** reported that cuttings in Region 8 have been going strong, weekend events have been well attended. There are concerns with the payouts at the Triple Crown events from trainers and owners. Region 8 Directors were upset with the results of the Special Membership Meeting.

**At Large** – **Ernie Beutenmiller** emphasized that weekend show activity is trending down due to the heat and lack of cattle. Ernie stated that he was in support of the Weatherford project and the vision that Jay has for moving our association forward.

**At Large** – Cara Brewer had nothing to add at this time.

**At Large** – Casey Green reported that he heard a lot of negative feedback as to why we need Directors as a result of the Special Membership Meeting. Cuttings seem to be strong with a lot of involvement on the youth side. The new coordinator seems to already be making positive waves with youth members and excitement is stirring in the right direction. We need to extend respect and consideration for our past presidents and not forget where we came from when we're going where we're going.

**Vice President** – Mark Senn conveyed that he met quite a few members on his campaign trail and of those Directors he met, a lot are confused as to what they are here for and what their responsibility is as they serve. Mark suggested that we take a long look at what the roles and responsibilities are as Directors and let us clarify that to those that spent good money to attend the convention and cast their votes.

**President-Elect** – Toddy Pitard reported that he had a lot of positive feedback about the Special Membership Meeting that NCHA was moving more towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century in conducting business. The age demographic of our membership is one to be honored and respected, although the electronic voting is best for some, we need to cater to those that it does not work well for as well offering paper ballots. We are a membership driven organization and after that the board of directors is above the Executive Committee. It is our duty to listen to what they have to say as some region's needs are different than others.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Ted Sokol placed the meeting into executive session.

## **GENERAL SESSION**

President Ted Sokol placed the meeting back into general session.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by John Lavelle to hold the National Championship Circuit Finals in Fort Worth, Texas during the Super Stakes in 2024 and 2025 for the 2023 and 2024 point years with the location for following years to be determined at a later date. **MOTION PASSED.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

After much discussion, suggestion was made to add more money to the purse at the Summer Spectacular for next year. Looking at around \$200K between the 5/6 year old and the 4 year old classes.

The Executive Committee is considering on adding a breakdown of \$525K with the following breakdown of \$350K to the Summer Spectacular, \$175K for the National Circuit Finals (\$12,500 per circuit) and to consider the possible removal of 8% that affiliates pay for the NCHA Days event. This added money concept will be recommended to the Finance and Audit Committee for consideration.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, a **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Cara Brewer to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**