

OHJA General Membership Meeting

January 27, 2007

The meeting was opened at 5:00 pm. by President Skip Thornbury. Board members present for the meeting were: Skip and Anne Thornbury, Kathy Valentine, Jamie Barkhau, Tammy Turner, Matt Payne, Maureen Fagan, Frankie Stark, and Erika Githens.

The meeting opened with lively discussion from the general members. The first topic from the floor came from member Lynn Dougherty. Lynn suggested that any potential rule changes be posted on the website to allow members to comment before a final vote by the board would be taken. Mindy Darst would also like to see some changes in the rule change procedure. She feels that the rules are changed too arbitrarily and that there is not enough communication between the members and the board before a rule gets changed. The board will address the communication or lack thereof issue at a future meeting.

The next topic of discussion was also brought up by Lynn Dougherty. She is concerned that the point table is not fair. She would like to suggest changing the system so as to more heavily weight points for the "A" shows. Carl Brentlinger spoke up in opposition to this. He manages large local shows in Columbus, OH and feels that the bulk of the membership is more interested in the local level of showing and should not be penalized for not going to the "A" shows by getting smaller point values. The current board feels as Carl does, that the primary interest for the OHJA is the local level. Lynn would also like to see a change in the breakdown of how many horses compete/points earned. Currently, we follow the USEF point table and we feel that although no system is perfect, this seems to work as well as any at this time.

Mindy Darst brought up the next topic. Mindy is on the Zone V committee and wanted to discuss the discrepancies on how the board was handling the scholarship information. According to the Zone V handouts at the USHJA meeting in December, it was said that the OHJA was having trouble "grasping" the concept of the scholarship and the donations that the zone was asking local organizations to consider giving. The board's response to Mindy on this subject was that we were not having trouble "grasping" the subject but that since the information on the program had not been given to us in a timely manner and with little or no information about the needs of the zone for this project we were not able to offer up any monetary donation immediately. We had, however, initiated a voluntary donation program on the 2007 membership forms encouraging the members to donate \$5 to the fund in addition to their yearly dues. At this meeting, Mindy gave us much more information about the program and the requirements for applying for the scholarship. Members interested in more information should go to the USEF Zone V website or talk to a Zone V committee member.

Mindy also brought up some housekeeping issues for the rulebook. She proposed we update some of the antiquated language used in the constitution. She also suggested we scratch the rule regarding checking pony measurement cards as we have no official stewards. The board agreed this needs further discussion. She also asked that we consider following the USEF in giving points to 8th place where entries warrant. This will also be discussed at a future meeting.

Tammy Turner had some rule additions that will be added into the 2007 rulebook. They are as follows:

1. Section I B will have a #9 added that will read: Show management may only have one show per seven day period.
2. Intermediate ch/ad. Eq.: If the intermediate ch/ad. equitation division is offered at a show, riders in this division may not cross-enter into any other age group equitation division.
3. Intermediate Children's Hunter: Change to read: Open to horses and ponies ridden by junior exhibitors who have never shown over a course of fences set at 3'6" or higher (or in OHJA junior or green hunter divisions). Riders in this division may not cross-enter at the same show on any horse into the children's hunter division or any division that requires them to jump fences 2'9" or higher..
4. Intermediate Ch.Ad. jumper: Change to read: To be ridden by an intermediate junior or adult rider as defined by the intermediate hunter division. Exhibitors who have shown in the junior/ amateur or open divisions are ineligible to compete in this division. Cross-entering into the Child/Adult jumper division on any horse at the same show is not allowed.
5. Show Rules Section II E #10: Change to read: Judges should be furnished with cards, class specifications, and courses. Comfortable seating should also be provided. In regards to the walk/trot and cross-rail equitation division, management should review with any judges new to the OHJA the specifications for these classes as written in the OHJA rulebook. These specifications are offered as guidelines and are not intended to dictate how to judge the class.

The Treasurer's Report for 2006 was presented by Kathy Valentine. In summary, the OHJA had a total income of \$30,642.00 and total expenses of \$28,579.43 showing a positive balance of \$2,062.66.

In closing, the board thanked Erika Githens for her participation on the board and welcomed Erica Staib as a new board member.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Thornbury