

## **OHJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

### **MINUTES FOR FEB. 26, 2007**

Members Present: Anne and Skip Thornbury, Kathy Valentine, Tammy Turner, Frankie Stark, Matt Payne, Erica Staib, Maureen Fagan, Jamie Barkhau, and Scott Dehelian.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

The first topic of discussion was the procedure for changing general rules. This topic was brought up at the general meeting and was tabled until this meeting. Currently, in the OHJA rulebook, there is no set procedure for changing rules. In the past, rule changes have always been done at the discretion of the board of directors. Mindy Darst asked that we look into setting up a written procedure for changing rules that would allow general member input prior to finalizing a rule change.

The first thing we did was look up several other state organizations and how they dealt with rule changes. Most of the organizations did not address this at all. Indiana H/JA was the only one with a set procedure and time frame in which rules could be changed. All other associations such as KHJA, Arizona HJA, MHJA, HJAM, WTHJA, and a few others leave the rule changes up to the board and may be done whenever the board feels it is necessary. The OHJA has protocol for changing amendments of the constitution but no set procedure for changing regular rules. The board is in agreement that member involvement and input is important and after much discussion has come up with a viable rule change procedure. This procedure will be as follows: Any possible rule changes must be discussed in a board of directors meeting. The minutes from all board of directors meetings will be published and put on the website within five working days of the meeting. Members can then read the minutes and have thirty days from the point of publishing to submit any comments or suggestions. These suggestions will be sent to the appropriate board member via a form that will be available on the website. The board will review any suggestions received at the next scheduled board meeting and will take these suggestions into consideration before voting on the proposed rule change or new rule. This procedure will be inserted into the rulebook for 2007. Kathy will ask our webmaster if it is possible to send a mass e-mailing to all voting members to let them know that the new minutes are ready for review.

The next topic of discussion involved Mindy Darst's concern over apparent inconsistencies she noted in the minutes. This subject will be addressed by writing more detailed minutes with a more detailed time line. The major rule change made this year over the multiple day horse shows was discussed over several meetings and was not done arbitrarily as it may have appeared in the minutes. Many of the discussions were held "off the record" at the horse shows in general conversations with other members. That

issue had been brought to our attention many times over the past two years. We attempted to “fix” it once and at a subsequent meeting decided that the original “fix” was not enough of a change and made the current rule change in December 2006. The other problem with some apparent inconsistencies involves some board members not always attending meetings and/or not reviewing the missed meeting minutes and therefore becoming misinformed and then in turn misinforming others. We feel strongly about board members attending all conference calls and staying on top of discussions to stay informed.

Mindy Darst also brought up the need to do some “housekeeping” on the constitution. Some of the language is antiquated and needs to be updated. This can be done at the next general meeting in accordance with our constitutional rule change procedure.

We also discussed the possibility of giving points for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> place the same way USEF does to count toward year-end points. Kathy said her point program should be able to do that. We felt that we do not want to require all shows to give ribbons to 8<sup>th</sup> place but if the shows award it, we will award points for it according to the appropriate point table. This change will not go into effect until the 2008 point year. The board hopes that members will send in comments as to this potential rule change. The board also talked about giving “A” shows more points than local shows. This idea still meets with a resounding “no” from all the board members. We feel the majority of the members attend the local shows and should get just as many points at the local shows as those members that go to the “A” shows.

Erica Staib brought the Zone V Scholarship fund up for discussion. She brought up the point that many people showing at the local level may have difficulty seeing the “vision” and wanted to know how Zone V could reach out to that group. She asked if anyone had thought of funding other ideas such as more “Ask the Judges” clinics or other areas of member’s interest rather than limiting it to the scholarship only. The board cannot speak for Zone V but Anne felt that the scholarship fund was a starting point and that anyone with other ideas should certainly contact a Zone V representative. Skip explained a bit about the ideas the USHJA board is working on to reach out to the “grass roots” level as well. Any OHJA members interested in becoming involved with the programs these two groups have to offer should contact the USEF/USHJA office for more information.

The banquet was the next topic of discussion. We all felt the Marriott did a great job with the set-up, the service, and the food. There was plenty of room for everyone and we needed it as this was the biggest banquet to date with 315 reservations. Dan McCarthy kept everything moving along well as MC. Maureen will check into date availability for 2008 at the Marriott and at the Great Wolf Lodge. The tentative dates for 2008 will be 1/19 or 1/26. Several board members were concerned about the lack of adult supervision for some of the children and felt it very inconsiderate to other members to let children run wild all over the stage areas prior to and during dinner. Hopefully, parents will police this better at the next banquet so that everyone can have an enjoyable time.

The perpetual awards were the next topic of discussion. Most of the trophies are in need of being replaced. The board will go to the original donors of the trophies and see if they are interested in supplying a new trophy. If any members are interested in providing a trophy for a perpetual they should contact a board member. The current trophies will be retired to the person that has won that trophy the most times over the years. In order to better preserve the trophies, the real trophy will only be available for photo ops and a smaller “keeper” trophy will be given to the recipient to keep permanently. The OHJA will have the winner’s name engraved on the “real” trophy which will then be stored in the OHJA Hall of Fame. The board would also like to thank Erica Staib for sponsoring the intermediate adult division for the year-end awards. Any members interested in sponsoring a division for the banquet should contact Anne Thornbury.

The voting for the perpetual awards will be modified slightly this year. Since there is a serious lack of interest for the initial nominations, the board members will select a slate of nominees with a short bio of each for the members to then vote on. The nominees will be selected based on merit for the current show year. We hope this will broaden the group of potential perpetual award winners. We will try it this way for this year and see if it works any better.

The final topic of discussion was the review of the rule clarifications that Tammy Turner brought up at the general meeting. These changes will appear in the new rule book.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 9, at 6:30 pm. The teleconference phone number and pass code will stay the same as the previous call.

Tammy Turner moved to adjourn the meeting and Skip seconded at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Thornbury