

NCHA Welcome Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2026 • 7:00 AM – 7:45 AM
Showroom
South Point Hotel • Las Vegas, Nevada



The 2026 NCHA Annual Convention began with a welcome meeting for all attendees held at 7:00am Pacific Time on Friday, June 19, 2026, at the South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

President Barnwell Ramsey called the meeting to order at 7:05am Pacific Time and welcomed everyone to Las Vegas for the 2026 Annual Convention.

OPENING REMARKS – BARNWELL RAMSEY

President Barnwell Ramsey connected with the audience by stating that no matter what part we play in the cutting industry, we are all bound by our shared love of the horse and rich Western heritage of our sport. He claimed that cutting has always been a testament to partnership, a beautiful dance between a horse, a rider, and the equine that relies totally on natural cow sense, and years of dedicated training. But just like the sport requires a horse and a rider, a complete partnership to move as one, our association requires all of us to work together just as the horse and the rider do. We have the perfect example of a horse.

This weekend is your opportunity to shape the future of our sport. He encouraged all to be active participants in their regional director meetings, share ideas, engage with committees, and get involved in the growing of the NCHA for the next generation. Your voices are vital, and it's through your passion and dedication that our association continues to thrive.

Thank you to all the sponsors, committee members, and staff who have worked tirelessly to put this year's convention together. Let's make this an incredible event, and let's keep driving the NCHA forward into another great year. Thank you and enjoy the convention.

OPENING PRAYER – BARNWELL RAMSEY

President Barnwell Ramsey led the meeting in prayer with emphasis on foresight to plan for the future, the confidence to explore new possibilities, and the wisdom to discern what is right and good, so that our decisions may honor our mission and those served in this association.

NATIONAL ANTHEM – KELLEY HARTRANFT

President Barnwell Ramsey welcomed everyone to stand and join NCHA Data Technology Administrator Kelley Hartranft as she sang the National Anthem to kick off the 2026 NCHA Annual Convention.

MISSION STATEMENT – BARNWELL RAMSEY

President Barnwell Ramsey led the attendees of the meeting in 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.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER – JAY WINBORN

Executive Director Jay Winborn addressed the members with appreciation for their attendance. On behalf of President Ramsey, the Executive Committee, our Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your continued commitment to the National Cutting Horse Association.

The definition of convention is an assembly of people met for a common purpose. That definition perfectly describes why we are here.

Over the next few days, we will come together with a shared purpose to ensure that the NCHA is the best it can possibly be. As we work through our meetings and discussions, it is important to remember that the NCHA is built for the whole, not the part. The strength of this association comes from members who are willing to look beyond individual interests and focus on what is best for the long-term success of the organization and the sport we all love.

Our mission over the next few days is to not determine what is best for a particular group, but rather what is best for the NCHA as a whole, and for the generations that will follow us. If we keep that principle in the forefront of our discussions, he is confident that we will continue to move this great association forward. There will be many important discussions, and first and foremost, several new ideas will be presented for consideration.

Winborn commended the individuals that are bringing forth some of the ideas for the Non-Pro/Amateur Division, and he asks that all listen with open minds. And he also wants to assure you that no changes will be implemented without thorough vetting and support and acceptance of the membership as a whole. As you will see throughout the weekend, the NCHA is in the strongest position it has ever been.

Our Triple Crown events continue to thrive, our financial position is stronger than ever, and we are fortunate to have a dedicated staff that is deeply committed to serving our members and advancing this association. We are excited to begin this year's convention with a speaker whose message extends far beyond the arena. Dr. David Cook is a nationally recognized sports psychologist, performance coach, author, and educator who has spent more than four decades helping elite athletes, coaches, teams, and business leaders perform at their highest levels.

His work has influenced competitors across numerous disciplines, including many within the Western performance sports industry. His message on leadership, mindset, resilience, and the pursuit of

excellence is one that Winborn believes will resonate with each of us both personally and professionally and will serve as a fitting way to begin our time together. In 2006, Dr. Cook released his best-selling novel, *Seven Days in Utopia: Golf's Sacred Journey*. This book was made into a movie, *Seven Days in Utopia*, starring academy award winners Robert Duvall and Melissa Leo and was released in theaters across the country Sept. of 2011. He served as Executive Producer and screenwriter on this project. He is also the author of "Greatness" published in 2021.

Please join me in giving a warm NCHA welcome to our guest speaker, Dr. David L. Cook, PhD.

GUEST SPEAKER – DR. DAVID COOK

After greeting the audience, Dr. Cook's powerful message centered around one clear idea, "Paint A Masterpiece."

[Performance = Potential – Interference]

The "interference" is fear, doubt, pressure, distractions, expectations, past failures, and the tendency to focus on what we don't want to happen. Dr. Cook replaced that interference with a vivid picture of what you do and want to happen.

Cook's presentation provided experiences pertaining to these main lessons:

- Paint what you want, not what you fear.
- The defining moment is 20 minutes before the trophy celebration.
- Return to your identity.
- Replace negative thoughts rather than trying to suppress them.
- Success itself can create interference.
- Leadership means believing in people before they prove themselves.
- Prepare for the emergency.
- Greatness is ultimately selfless. Use exceptional gifts to help those around you rise.

When the pressure comes, do not let your mind paint the disaster, paint the masterpiece you came to create.

CLOSING REMARKS – BARNWELL RAMSEY

President Barnwell Ramsey thanked Dr. David Cook again for speaking at the convention and recommended to the audience that they should become familiar with his best-seller "Greatness," the Executive Committee all received a copy last year.

As we look forward to the next days ahead, let us remember our roots on the western ranches and the incredibly fine athletes that bring us together.

Please keep this one reminder in your head. Uphold our standards. Let's ensure a level playing field. Prioritize top tier horse care and treat all competitors, livestock, and officials with the utmost respect.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Welcome Meeting adjourned at 7:57am Pacific Time.